

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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The Third Day

It is interesting to me that when our Lord was crucified and buried in the tomb, his enemies were watching the grave, rather than his disciples. After all, his disciples were told many times by their Lord that he would be killed and raised again on the third day. He told the Pharisees that if they destroyed "this temple", He would raise it up on the third day. Despite His many declarations, His disciples deserted him and were hiding after he was in the tomb. His enemies, however, took a different approach.

The Pharisees complained to Pilate that Jesus had predicted while He was still alive, that on the third day he would rise from the dead. They asked for a Roman guard over the tomb, so, (their explanation) "his disciples might steal the body and claim Jesus had risen from the dead. His enemies were nervous. His enemies "expected" him to rise, but not his disciples. There was no planned attack on the tomb by His disciples. They were hiding in fear. And so strangely enough, there were soldiers guarding a dead body. Jesus' heart was not beating, his blood was not flowing, there was no brain activity. The chill of death filled his body with the cold. It was dark within that tomb. Jesus had died.

The first day passed. The second day passed. On the third day, the most wonderful thing happened inside that tomb. The Spirit of God entered that tomb and into the body of Jesus. Once again, Jesus became a living soul. His heart started beating, His blood started to flow, His brain started working. His body lost the chill of death, as "Spirit and Element became inseparably connected." He

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TESTIMONIES AND SERMON NOTES

Remember Why This Is Such A Special Day

Seventy Ronald Smith greeted the congregation expressing his pleasure at being there to share with all and to have this opportunity to remind us of why this is such a special day. Now, Tyler would tell you that this is a special day. "Why is that, Tyler?" Tyler responded, "Because it is Super Bowl Sunday."

Ron repeated, "Because it's Super Bowl Sunday", and there are lots of people getting together for the Super Bowl. But there are other reasons why this is a very, very special day. One of those reasons is that this is the day we get together to remember what Jesus has done. While we are supposed to remember that all of the time, and we are supposed to remember to walk with the Lord all of the time, and we are supposed to remember the things that He said and the things He has done and how He would act and how He would have us act, we find that it is still special to get together to remember the things that He has done.

This day is special not just for the things we get together once a year to do, like the Super Bowl, or the things we get together once a month to do like the Communion, but also because this is the first day of the rest of your life. That happens every day, of course, because every day is the first day of the rest of your life. Sometimes we forget the significance of those things that happen all of the time. The scriptures tell us that time is a gift from God! The opportunity to be different tomorrow than we were yesterday is a gift. You see, God is the same yesterday and forever. He never changes! He's outside of time. What would it be like if we were condemned to be the same tomorrow as we were yesterday - if that was the way that it was for us? God has made it so that we can be different. Listen to what Lehi tells his sons in 2 Nephi 1:68-75. "The law is given unto men. And by the law, no flesh is justified; or, by the law, men are cut off. Yea, by the temporal law, they were cut off; and also by the spiritual law they perish from that which is good, and become miserable for ever. Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the holy Messiah: for he is full of grace and truth. Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered.

“Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the holy Messiah, Who layeth down his life according to the flesh, and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit, That he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise.”

I don't have time to say everything about the atonement that I would like to have you understand, but Lehi here tells us that it is of great importance to make these things known to the inhabitants of the earth that they will know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God save it be through the merits and the mercy and the grace of the holy Messiah.

I will be the first to admit that I don't know exactly how that happens. But according to the scriptures, we know that we were physically cut off from God's presence. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God. Later, they were physically cut off from God's presence. They were also spiritually cut off from his presence, and so today we don't usually recognize the spiritual part of ourselves.

We are pretty familiar with the physical. We know that we get tired and have to go to sleep. We know that we get hungry and have to eat. We know we get hurt and we suffer pain. We are aware of that part of ourselves. But we are not always aware of the spiritual part of ourselves that gets hurt when we don't keep the commandments of God. I believe the scriptures are trying to tell us is that there is a law given, just like the law of gravity. When you fall down, which I do once in awhile, you get hurt. Now the law of gravity is there, not to hurt us but to keep the world together - to make things work. But when we act as if the law weren't there - when we transgress the law - we get hurt; and there is pain and there is suffering, and we have to go through a healing process.

It's the same way with the spiritual law. When we act as if the spiritual law weren't there, we hurt. We damage our spirits somehow. But we are dead to that spirit. We don't recognize the hurt, and so we kind of enjoy transgressing the law when it comes to spiritual things. We think that if we lie a little, it will help us out a little bit. If we steal a little, it might just make us a little bit richer. If we cheat on our wives or not love them, that maybe we will somehow have some happiness or revenge or whatever else it is that we are trying to obtain. If we watch television or movies at all, we see and hear the whole world telling us that it is OK to transgress the law of God. Be nasty to your parents - rebel - be yourself - do your own thing - flaunt the ways of God - you deserve it.

But the scriptures tell us that there is no way to dwell with God if we do that. And this isn't just talking about after the resurrection from the dead. This is talking about now. The only way that we can dwell with God is to be different than we are now, relying on the grace of God through Jesus Christ. We can be different than we were before. We can decide that the things that we are going to do tomorrow will be in accordance with God's Spirit if we wish. He allows us that opportunity, and He sustains us from one moment to the next and gives us breath. He lets us breathe and lets us use His world as we will in spite of the fact that most of the time we use it against His will. He allows us to do that, and He says that if we will come to Him, He will take on Himself the spiritual damage. He will do the hurting. He will do the healing, if we just repent and come. And so today He asks us to remember. That's all He asks is that we remember what He has done, and the grace and the goodness with which He takes on our sins and our iniquities. The scripture says

that all of our sins and all of our iniquities He has taken. He is marred more than any man could ever be marred because of the things which He has done for us. And we remember it in the taking of the bread and the wine. If you have been baptized according to the covenant, we would ask that you would remember that covenant that you made, and that as you take the bread and the wine you witness that you are willing to take His name, and remember Him, and keep all of His commandments. That's all! And if you will do that, He says you can have His Spirit to be with you. And if you have His Spirit to be with you, then even death won't overcome you. And those who have His Spirit with them will be raised to continue to have His Spirit with them when the time comes that we don't have an opportunity to change any more - the time when we will be just like we always were. But it will be just like we always were under the blood of Christ. With His atonement, we can be in the presence of God.

That's what this day is about! Is it a special day? Yes! Not because of the Super Bowl, but because we have the opportunity to once again come into the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, partake of His flesh and blood and witness that we are willing to remember Him.

If you haven't been baptized yet, I hope that you will listen to the words and hear what Jesus is saying. And if you are earnestly seeking the Kingdom of God, I hope that you will ask for baptism and that you will repent and make that covenant soon.

If you have anything against anyone, you need to go to that person and you need to make it right. If you have been abusing your spouse, you need to make that right. Let us repent and do the things which He has asked us to do so that the world may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God save it be through the merits and mercy and grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May God Bless you!

After the sermon, we were offered the opportunity to assist in the work of our Savior by making our oblation offering for the sake of the poor. Before calling for the gathering of the funds, Brother Alan Smith shared the words of the hymn:

“Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small.
Washing tired feet and lifting those who fall.
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

“Take my hands, Lord Jesus. Let them work for you.
Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.
Touch me with your Spirit 'til I'm gentle, too.
'Til my hands are kind hands quick to work for You.”

Brother Smith called two young men to come forward for the oblation offering “where we remember the work that Jesus wants us to do with those who stand in need as well as for the ongoing work around the world.” He then offered a prayer offering up not only our financial contributions but our lives to the Father as we prepared to partake of the emblems of His sacrifice.

Kathleen Myers sang a medley of two beloved hymns:
“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings. I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

“He is here! Hallelujah! He is here! Amen!

He is here! Holy! Holy! I will bless his name again.

He is here, listen closely. Hear Him calling out your name.
He is here! You can touch Him. You will never be the same.”

After the sacramental prayers were read and the emblems served as the Lord has commanded, our presider instructed us: If today is really the first day of the rest of your life, as Ron suggested for today, I would like you to take just a couple of moments to think about that. What’s different about you now that you have shared these emblems? What difference is it going to make in your life this afternoon that you were here and you remembered Him and His gift to you? Can you think of one thing that you want to be different in your life because of what happened this morning - because of what we have shared in? I am going to give you a couple of minutes to think of that, and then I would like to offer a prayer for you that that promise of His Spirit to be with you in what you want to do and who you want to be will bless you today. Will you think on those things and tell the Lord silently what it is in your heart this morning that will makd this be the first day of the rest of your life?

Kind and loving Heavenly Father, as we come before You this morning, remembering that we have promised to be Your people, we recognize in our lives that there is response we need to make to you which we haven’t made to this point in our lives . And we know that the promise is that as we come to You this morning, that Your Spirit can rest with us and help us be who we need to be for You and Your Kingdom.

Father, there are those of us here in this congregation, in our fellowship and in our families who need the gift of healing of their physical bodies that they may again work as they are designed of You to work. We would especially lift up our sister Barb to You this morning knowing of her prayers and her concerns, of her pain and her uncertainty. May her heart be flooded with Your Spirit at this moment. May she know in no uncertain terms, that You are with her - that she is Yours! And I ask that we may be given the gift of healing and the gift to be healed which are promised in Your scriptures that if we bring our physical imperfections to You, You can make us whole.

And, Father, there are relationships among us which need to be healed. The hearts of children need to be touched in their relationship with their parents. There are hearts of parents which need to be touched this morning, Father, in their relationship with their children. We yearn to be of one heart and one mind in our families and that that heart and that mind is Yours, and not our own.

And we would pray for this relationship in the congregation and in the church -- that we would give up our prejudices -- that we would give up anything which would separate us from Your work and You that we may be a part of Your Kingdom here on this earth. Father, there are those of us who continue to find ways to seek to destroy our spiritual being, for all of us fall short of that glory. We need Your Spirit. As we come before You this morning, Father, may your Spirit rest with us that we may be strong of mind and body and spirit, for we recognize the days in which we live and know how important it will be for us to be people of faith -- people of knowledge -- people of conviction -- Your people!

May Your Spirit guide us and make us ready for this task of helping call Your creation to You in preparation for Your coming. We know we are weak. We know that without You, there are many things which are impossible; but we know when we respond to Your leadings and seek to do Your will, the impossible becomes possible and the possible becomes reality! May our response this morning to You, Father, be of such a measure that not only will our joy be full

in this Spirit, this love, this relationship with You, but Your joy may be full in our response. We pray these things in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the same Spirit, we sang the dedicatory hymn, “Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated, Lord to Thee” offering all we have or are to the work to which we are called by the sacrifice of our Lord. We were dismissed with thanksgiving for the Lord’s Spirit, the opportunity to gather in that Spirit so we are witness to others and others are witnesses of that Spirit among us; and with thanks to the Father for the opportunity to make our spiritual life whole so that one day we can see Him.

Special Prayer Service

When the congregation assembled February 13, the scheduled speaker was not present. Elder Steven Smith was at home, seriously ill. Norman Nelson, the Elder in charge of the service read, Moroni 6:9: “And their meetings were conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach or exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done.” He then announced, “In case you don’t recognize it, that’s where we are today.” Steve isn’t here. He’s sick.

“We have a very special need. We are asked to pray for Barbra. She is very frightened. We need to know, of course, that it doesn’t matter where we are - whether we are here or on the other side, we are in His care, and we are His children, and He will do the best for us that He can. So we need to join as a group and pray for Barbra and give her strength to understand what the Lord has in mind for her. Let’s start by singing the hymn “Since God is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?”

The call to worship came from Moroni 7:35-36: “And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. And he hath said, Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved.”

Our presider than commented, “I was interested in the study we were doing this morning where, in the book of Helaman, it is told about the three hundred people that came to kill and murder and in an instant were changed through the very powers of heaven. ‘Not by power or might, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord.’ and that’s what we have to have if we are going to accomplish what we want to do. Now, we don’t know what God’s plan for Barbra is, but we can have faith, and He says, “Ask and ye shall receive”.

Another concern for the day is preparation for the April 6 assembly at the Auditorium in Independence. Elder Nelson announced that the instructions that tell what scriptures we should be studying each day in preparation are available. “They actually started last Friday, so we are already two days late. Use those, please, and along with them, please choose a song every day. The Psalms that we have are just some that David and Solomon and some other people made up to offer to the Lord - songs of faith, and they are very important for you today, as are all songs of faith that you have learned. I studied German a long time ago, and I have forgotten most of it, but I can still remember the songs that we sang in German. In all my time of trial, those songs I had learned in Sunday School were the ones that kept me going. Every day, the Lord gave me a new song, and as I sang that song during the day, my faith was increased.

“You know, it’s interesting. We are so proud and have so much

that, we think we don't have to have faith; but without faith, nothing can happen. And this is why the Lord has so often almost destroyed people so they could understand that the only source of power and the only source of life is in Jesus Christ and our faith in Him. As long as we have all the things that we have, and use them so poorly, we don't have to have that faith, and we don't have that faith; so we don't have the power or the ability to do the things of Christ. We must begin to recognize our day - the day He has given us - to do His work - nothing else - nothing else - His work! His glory! His Spirit! We need it badly! Let's sing - "The Love of God is wide as beach and meadow. Wide as the wind and an eternal home," and then let's start by having prayers for our church, for our faith, and for our friend Barbra."

There followed a number of earnest prayers for Barbra, for the strengthening of all our faith, for the casting out of all fear, for the presence of the Lord in the church in its efforts to build the Kingdom and in the church's coming assembly.

At one point, brother Nelson said, "My friend, the Spirit is here among you. Do not quench the Spirit. Give voice to it as it moves upon you. You can make bad mistakes if you don't respond to what is on your heart now."

We sang the hymn, "Let us pray for one another" and turned our attention to testimony as well as prayer. After two testimonies, Brother Nelson said, "I had hoped you would all recognize the Lord is here now. He asks you to respond, to feel that Spirit and to testify of that feeling that you have. Are there any who would like to do that? This is the time."

Response was given in testimony and scripture showing that it is Jesus Christ with whom we have covenanted. It is He who is the head of His church and has always been, and that we have nothing to fear if we are willing to follow Him and make those sacrifices that He requires to bring about His Kingdom on this earth. 3 Nephi 9:60-64 was read. "Behold, I am he of whom Moses spake, saying, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me, him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that prophet, shall be cut off from among the people. Verily, I say unto you, Yea; and all the prophets from Samuel, and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have testified of me. And behold ye are the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed, shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed; The Father having raised me up unto you first, and sent me to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the children of the covenant."

The Michael Jordison family took its place behind the special microphone and Michael announced that they were going to share their testimony in song. "Norman talks about seeing Jesus," Michael said. "Norman is not the only one who talks about seeing Jesus, but Norman's testimony is that he has seen His face. This song speaks about seeing Jesus' face and the love and blessings that come from that experience."

The song is a medley of two songs, "Turn Your Heart Upon Jesus" is the title of the verses and "Jesus My Jesus", the title of the chorus.

Jesus, my Jesus. Your love means so much to me.
Jesus, my Jesus. Your love is all that I need.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Jesus, my Jesus. Your love means so much to me.
Jesus, my Jesus. Your love is all that I need.

Turn your heart upon Jesus. Let Him fill your soul with His grace.
And your life will spring forth with heaven's rays
From the glory that shines from His face

Jesus, my Jesus. Your love means so much to me.
Jesus, my Jesus. Your love is all that I need.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Brother Nelson spoke again. "I want to remind you of what you did last Sunday. You made a promise and a covenant. Today is the time to keep it and to turn your life entirely over to Jesus."

Ron Smith spoke saying he has been impressed with the scripture from Isaiah 53:4-5. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Then he added that in the Book of Mormon the rendition of that same scripture says that He has borne our sicknesses and afflictions, "And it is Jesus who brings healing. And as we know, our transgressions and our iniquities are laid on Him, and He does bring that healing."

We sang together, "Lift your glad voices in triumph on high, for Jesus has risen, and we shall not die." and were dismissed with prayer. No offering had been taken, so we were invited to leave our offerings in the plates at the rear of the sanctuary.

What Spirit Do You Feed?

Priest Rodney Bastow first called to the attention of the congregation a number of birthday celebrations that had been missed by the congregation for various reasons, and that mistake was quickly and happily corrected.

The reading of Matthew 6:10-17, 19-24 followed:

"Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, who trespass against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

“The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single to the glory of God, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light which is in thee be darkness, how great shall that darkness be. “No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.”

Our speaker commented on the enjoyment that he experienced from last week’s special prayer and testimony service saying, “I think sometimes we are so tied to tradition that maybe we don’t follow enough what the Spirit wants us to do. I remember growing up, it was tradition that on Communion Sunday, we didn’t have a preaching service. It was a prayer and testimony service, and I remembered how much I enjoyed that, even at a young age. It seems like there are so many that we know just in our congregation that need our prayers and could use a blessing of healing and comfort. We have to remember that, and I hope we will continue to remember them in our prayers.

Where I live - the school where I teach - it’s like we have been under a dark cloud or something. You may remember that I mentioned to you earlier this year about losing one of the parents. A few weeks ago our math teacher lost his wife. Just after that an English teacher who had worked there passed away. A week ago, the family that lived right across the street from the school lost their house in a fire. And this week another one of our students lost his Mom. I know your prayer list is long, but I ask that you might keep the Money family that lost their Mom this week in your prayers. and also the Mace children who have lost their home and have some other problems as well. They could use a blessing.

And I would pray this morning that we would be led by the Spirit to do what is right; and that I will say the things that He wants me to say and that we will become more united by God’s Spirit here this morning so that we will be the people God wants us to be. And I pray that when we leave here, we will leave praising His name. Brother Bastow told us that again, before he knew he was scheduled to speak, he had a dream that he was scheduled to preach and didn’t know what to say. But when we got the Newsletter, saw the calendar, and began to think about his sermon, he remembered a reading that had caught his attention as something he would like to talk about. After a thorough but unrewarding search at home and at school, he remembered that part of it was, “The wolves within us,” and finally found it on the internet at a site he recommended as filled with good devotional materials.

“The wolves within us. That sounds like a funny thing to be talking about today, but that was what it was. It’s a Native American tale that was told many times around the sacred fire, and it’s called, “The Wolves Within!”

“An old grandfather, whose grandson came to him with anger at a schoolmate who had done him an injustice, said, “Let me tell you a story. I, too, at times, have felt a great hate for those who have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times.”

He continued, “It is as if there are two wolves inside me; one is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will fight only when it is right to do so, and in the right way.”

“But the other wolf, ah! He is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no

reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is hard to live with these two wolves inside of me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit.”

“The boy looked intently at his grandfather’s eyes and asked, “Which one wins, Grandfather?”

“The grandfather solemnly said, “The one I feed.”

We Help or Hinder Our Spirits

The other version of this talks about demons inside of us. I prefer to think of it as spirits inside of us. We discussed that a little bit this morning, but I think that in all of us, there is a spirit that helps us to do good and a spirit that helps us to do evil. As I was trying to find the words that would go along with this, I knew the words but to be able to put them in the order in the way that I wanted to present them this morning, I was made aware that no one can force us to be loving, or to be kind. No one can force us to follow God’s laws and to love Jesus Christ. It is our choice to do this. Even if we have a calling from God, it is our choice to follow that calling.

I also believe that no one can force us to be angry or to hate those that we feel have done us an injustice. No one can force us to worry or to give up hope. No one can force us to feel bad about ourselves or to feel sorry for ourselves. Not even Satan can force us to be angry or to hate. It’s our choice. We choose to be like this, and no one can stop us from feeling this way. I do believe there are things around us that can effect how we feel and how we behave. This week I have been more aware of that, especially as I watched TV. I sat watching TV one night and I thought, “This isn’t feeding the spirit of love! It’s not feeding the spirit of kindness. This is feeding the spirit of anger and of hate!”

I have always known - I think Norman mentioned it last week - that reading a Psalm or singing a hymn affects me. It helps me when I am trying to prepare for something like this. When I am in a bad mood, it puts me in a better one. I also am aware that the things that I read will either lift me up or bring me down. You know, when I have done these things, I wonder, “Which Spirit am I feeding? Is it the spirit of love and hope or am I feeding the Spirit of hate and despair?” And I have realized that it is up to me. It’s my choice as to which one I will feed.

I have also been aware this week that the people I to whom I talk or the people to whom I listen can affect the way that I feel. I have certain people that I eat lunch with every day, and some of them will talk about other people and run them down. Some of them will talk about things that I know are not morally right. And some of them will talk about how sometimes the use of profanity can be a good thing. I don’t agree with any of this, but when I hear that, which spirit is it feeding? It’s not feeding the spirit of love, and I can make a choice there. I can make a choice to either tell them that I don’t want to hear it - which takes a lot of courage - or I can just try to avoid this type of people. But it’s up to me to make that choice and to decide how I will react in those situations.

You know, I also know that the way that I talk to my students when I tell them things to do, the way that I deal with them in the class can affect not only them, but it can affect me. If I am being kind and compassionate, if I am praising them for doing good work, it will make things better not only for them, but also for me. And I know also that when I react when I am told what to do, that the way I react to that can make a difference in which spirit I feed.

I have a lot of different readings for you today, and I hope this won’t be too tedious. I found one this week that says, “If you can’t say anything nice”: “Sticks and stones will break your bones, but words will never harm you.” Not so, according to Joseph Telushkin

in a profoundly impactful book titled *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal*. The truth is that harsh criticism, snide sarcasm, nasty nicknames and thoughtless gossip and rumors can inflict deep and lasting harm on individuals and their relationships. In fact, some of the worst and most enduring pains we've suffered were caused by words. What's more, Telushkin says, most of us say hurtful things about others much more than we realize. He challenges readers to go 24 hours without saying an unkind word to or about anyone." (I haven't tried that, but this guy did and he flunked! I was probably afraid to try it!)

"Telushkin is particularly down on gossip. Though we justify it as harmless and entertaining chatter, many things we say about others are fundamentally unkind and very often unfair. Even worse, as anyone knows who has been the target of someone else's digs, jabs and judgments, whether the gossip is innocent, insensitive or malicious, the result is often the same - damaged reputations and relationships and hurt feelings. Next time you are tempted to say unkind things about another, either to them or behind their back, ask yourself, 1. What is your point and purpose. Is there any good that can come of your remarks? 2. Could your words create or reinforce negative opinions that would be harmful or hurtful to the person you are talking about? 3. Would you be comfortable if the object of your gossip overheard your comments? Tact, timing and tone are all important. When we start being more responsible for our words, we realize the wisdom of the old adage, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

We Make The Choice

But that's our choice. We choose whether we want to say something like that or we don't, and when we do, which Spirit is it feeding?

Sometimes a card or a call from someone in my church family can affect the good Spirit in me. These people may not even know it. They may not realize how much their kind words have meant to me, but it helps and I actually try to be a better person and to do a better job. I can choose to do that, too. If I do, it will also feed that good Spirit.

I told you that our math teacher lost his wife a few weeks ago. The math teacher's name was Bill Hann. Bill has taught math for forty eight years, which in my opinion is quite an accomplishment. He retired several years ago but now he teaches half time. He's a really intelligent guy, and probably his biggest short coming is that he's a KU fan, but we try not to hold that against him. His wife passed away here a few weeks ago and it was a tough situation. I worried a lot about Bill, but he has been a real tower of strength. Right after she died, a lady that he had taught with for thirty years, and who I taught with three or four years, went in for major heart surgery, and she didn't make it. She was a really great lady, too. She was really quite a character. About three days after the funeral for Bill's wife, he got a card from Pam in her handwriting, sending him condolences. Bill said, "It darn near knocked the pegs out from underneath me!" I just thought, "Wow! Someone in that situation, with their own health problems, this person took time to do that for someone that they loved!" When we make a choice to do something like that - to think more about others than we do of ourselves!

I have a little girl in my seventh grade math class who is one of the sweetest little girls I have ever known. This girl always has a smile. She is so sweet, and you know that she is being raised right because even when she answers a question, or even when she doesn't know the answer to a question, she comes out with that smile. I have read that there is no better testimony of God than a

smile that can't be taken away. When I see her and see that smile, she feeds that good Spirit that's within me.

Smiles and Laughter Help Greatly

I don't normally read *Red Book Magazine*, but when I saw Hillary on the cover, Hillary Swank, I just had to get a copy and read the article on her. But in that magazine, you might want to get it, it had ten ways for instant happiness. I'm not going to use them all, but the first one said, "Smile even if you have to fake it!" It says, "On your way to work, smile and say 'Good Morning' to every one you pass - yes everyone! And here is how it works: The simple act of smiling, which causes 43 muscles to contract and relax, alters your brain chemistry making you feel more cheerful, according to research conducted at the University of Michigan, which means you won't be faking it for very long. And since, according to our own entirely unscientific research, smiles are contagious, you will be spreading good cheer to your car pool buddies, the Dunkin' doughnuts cashier, maybe even to the employees at the Department of Motor Vehicles."

I kind of like that!

I think there is something else that we do every day that I think is important; and this is your choice also. I think that laughter is really important. I think that we should find something to laugh about every day. I found another article. This was from the American Cancer Society, and I have known this to be true before. This article says: "Although there is no scientific evidence that laughter can cure cancer or any other disease, it can reduce stress, promote health, and enhance the quality of life. Humor has physiological effects that can stimulate the circulatory system, immune system, and other systems in the body.

"There is no scientific evidence that humor is effective in treating cancer or any other disease, however, laughter has many clinical benefits that include positive physiological changes and an overall sense of well being. One study found the use of humor leads to an increase in pain tolerance. It is thought that laughter stimulates the release of special neurotransmitter substances in the skin (called endorphins) that help control pain. Another study indicated neuroendocrine and stress - related hormones decreased during episodes of laughter, which provides support for the claim that humor can relieve stress. More studies are needed to clarify the impact of laughter on health." I rememberer - it has been a long time ago - I heard about a man who was diagnosed with cancer or some fatal disease. The doctors hadn't given him any hope. So he went out and rented, I think it was a Three Stooges movie or something like that, that for him would have sounded funny. He watched this movie over and over and over and over again; and did this for a long period of time. When he went back to the doctor, he was healed, and he credited it to the laughter and to the feeling that it caused.

You know, my Dad - one of the last memories that I have of him, and I think it was Gordon who told me. It was probably a day or two before he died. Gordon or somebody went in and said, "Charley, how are you feeling?" And Dad said, "With my fingers!" You know Dad lived to be ninety three, and maybe part of the reason for that long life was the happiness - the joy that he had in his heart, and his ability to laugh.

We have gathered here this morning, hopefully, to feed that Spirit that helps us to do good. We can choose to ask to be forgiven, and we will be. God can lift our guilt and our cares from us if we will let Him do that. He will bear our burdens if we will let Him. We can choose to serve God and help build His Kingdom.

There is a scripture that I intended to read, and I forgot to read

it. It has to do with putting on a cheerful countenance. Since I didn't read it this morning, I had better read it now. It's in Proverbs the fifteenth chapter first through eighteenth verses. It talks a lot about what I have said this morning.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright; but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life; but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. A fool despiseth his father's instruction; but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. In the house of the righteous is much treasure; but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. The lips of the wise disperse knowledge; but the heart of the foolish doeth not so. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord; but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness. Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way; and he that hateth reproof shall die. Hell and destruction are before the Lord; how much more then the hearts of the children of men? A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him; neither will he go unto the wise.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. All the days of the afflicted are evil; but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. Better is little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."

I like that scripture a lot. In fact, I got a little book, a really good thing, I think - Wisdom From the Proverbs. It has been a good investment. It had a lot of good things in there - a kind of a day by day thing.

What Really Matters

I have one last reading, and then I will close. I am not sure if it goes with this, but I think it does. It is entitled, "What Will Matter" by Michael Josephson:

"Ready or not, some day it will come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you have collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else. Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance. It will not matter what you owned or what you owed. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear. So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire. The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away. It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end. It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant. Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

"So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

"What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave. What will matter is not your success but your significance. What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

"What will matter is not your competence, but your character. What will matter is not how many people you knew but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone. What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you. What will

matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what. "Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters."

After the close of the sermon, time was given for prayer for all those for whom Brother Bastow asked prayers. Others in need were also included in the prayers.

Believe in God

Elder Gerald Bolingbroke brought the message to the congregation on February 27. His understanding of science helps us to understand how God created the laws of science as He created our universe. As our society learns the answers to more and more questions pertaining to how our world works, we can clearly see God's hand in everything. Brother Bolingbroke began by reading from the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 5:4-5b. Verse 5b reads: "And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments."

He went on to tell the congregation how wonderful it was to be at church that morning. We are approaching the spring of the year, and in just a little more than one month, many of us will be traveling to Independence to take part in at least one meeting with other saints who believe as we do. This next month will be a time of preparation for that meeting. Brother Bolingbroke believes it is important that we strive to be more like Christ in all facets of our daily life. His hope was that the message he was about to bring us would help us align our lives with Christ.

Most people want to believe in God or some deity. Most people in the course of living, each man and woman at one time or another is brought to seriously think about the meaning and consequences of death. Often this anxiety comes to them in an hour of physical or spiritual crisis. They may think about their own death, the death of their companion, of their child, or one of their friends.

It causes them to think about death. Usually at the heart of concern is Job's 2500 year old question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Job 14:14.

Men and women want desperately to believe that it is so; that we do live again. They want to believe that someday they will inherit a better life, a life which is better than their present life.

We know that their hopes are justified. There is a life which follows this mortal existence. "Near death" experiences have verified that life continues. We are now living in part of eternal life. Christ wants every living soul to understand this. He urges them to follow him, but will not force them to do so. They must voluntarily believe in God, to learn of Him, and heed His counsel.

I Corinthians 2:14 reads: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

This is similar to the scripture found in the Book of Mormon in Mosiah 1:118-120 which is a chiasm (a Hebrew style of writing): "But men drink damnation to their own souls, except they humble themselves, and become as little children, and believe that salvation was, and is to come, in and through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent; For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble,

patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.”

And from the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 85:23b, “That their souls may escape the wrath of God, the desolation of abomination, which await the wicked, both in this world, and in the world to come.”

As a physicist I can see that the atoms reveal a God. When God united spirit and body to create mortal man, He was perfectly aware that man’s belief in eternal life would depend on his belief in a Supreme Being. He wanted man to believe in Him and thus prepare for immortality. He provided “a cloud of witnesses” to his existence, nature, and purpose.

The scripture in Hebrews 12:1 means that all things created, from the very small to the greatest, seen and unseen, living and inanimate, witness that there is a God. One witness is the fact that atoms do exist, and they are obviously carefully designed. Even the carbon atom which is so necessary for life is forged inside a star with a resonance that allows it to be made. The forces in nature testify of him. Take the electromagnetic force which holds all matter together. It is carried by the photon which is the light of Christ, as is stated in Doctrine and Covenants, Section 85. Consider the nucleus of an atom. It would fly apart by the electromagnetic force because of the positive protons except there is a short range force called the nuclear force which is stronger.

Consider chemistry, where atoms come together. Scientists have understood the means by which they combine and have made new materials with this understanding. God put atomic particles together in a way to make the elements. Our human bodies depend on some elements which alone are toxic, but in combination they are safe for consumption. For example, common table salt is a compound of sodium and chlorine. Sodium is a soft, silvery metal and chlorine is a toxic gas. But when they are combined the two become a flavoring which gives our food a desirable taste and sometimes is used to preserve it. Another example is fluorine, a deadly yellowish gas which is put in water to protect teeth from decay. In small amounts it is a helpful element to people.

We might wonder why black holes are needed in galaxies. M83 is a massive galaxy with a billion solar mass black hole in the center of it. This black hole is as large as a large city. We now know that they are needed in the center of galaxies. There are black holes that have a mass of a million suns in the center of galaxies. They are needed to hold the galaxy together with their strong gravity. Without them the stars would not be held to the galaxy.

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 90:5 speaks of the elements, “Man was also in the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also, otherwise there is no existence. Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man, because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not the light. And every man whose spirit receiveth not the light is under condemnation, for man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receiveth a fullness of joy; and when separated, man cannot receive a fullness of joy. The elements are the tabernacle of God; yea, man is the tabernacle of God, even temples; and whatsoever temple is defiled, God shall destroy that temple. I am over all, and in all, and through all, and searcheth all things; and the day cometh that all things shall be subject unto me. Behold, I am Alpha

and Omega, even Jesus Christ.”

And in Doctrine and Covenants Section 85:2a we find these words: “This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom; which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of all, through Jesus Christ, his Son; He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth, which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ. As also he is in the sun, and the light of the sun, and the power thereof by which it was made. As also he is in the moon, and is the light of the moon, and the power thereof by which it was made. As also the light of the stars, and the power thereof by which they were made. And the earth also, and the power thereof, even the earth upon which you stand.”

And again in Doctrine and Covenants 85:9-10 we read: “All kingdoms have a law given: and there are many kingdoms; for there is no space in the which there is no kingdom; and there is no kingdom in which there is no space, either a greater or lesser kingdom.”

We now know that space is not empty but filled with virtual particles

“And unto every kingdom is given a law; and unto every law there are certain bounds also, and conditions. “All beings who abide not in those conditions, are not justified; for intelligence cleaveth unto intelligence; wisdom receiveth wisdom; truth embraceth truth; virtue loveth virtue; light cleaveth unto light;

In Ephesians 4:6 we are told, “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

The scriptures state that space with its innumerable host of stars, planets, and gas and dust is infinite, as is stated in Doctrine and Covenants Section 22:21a-b “And the Lord God said unto Moses, For mine own purpose have I made these things. Here is wisdom, and it remaineth in me. And by the word of my power have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth. And worlds without number have I created, and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten. And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many.”

When one considers the why of it all, the only answer points to the existence of a mind and a being who is infinite and omnipresent. This eternal living mind we have called God.

Consider life. Man has tried to create it and has failed. Something must be added to the physical elements to make life. It is evident that what is added is the spirit which comes from God. It is wonderful how atoms can come together in molecules to form a human being. The scientists have tried to create life, but they have failed. This is true for all forms of life whether they be animal or plant.

The spirit and the body is the soul of man. Doctrine and Covenants 85:4 reads: “Now, verily I say unto you, that through the redemption which is made for you, is brought to pass the resurrection from the dead. And the spirit and the body is the soul of man.”

The human soul is a miracle. It is the work of God, where He ushers a living spirit into a tabernacle of elements and the two become inseparable. It is a wonder of an infinitely purposeful design. Just how God assists an individual spirit to sort out which individual atoms work in harmony with each other is a mystery. Obviously we see infinite intelligence, which is God’s intelligence. There is purpose in the life of men and women, and they will be held responsible for how they use the gift of their existence.

Brother Bolingbroke continued by sharing a story about an elder in the church as told by James Daughtery entitled "Ye Must Be Born Again". The elder's name was William Greenwood, and at one point he found the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord called him to be an elder. The responsibility was his to lead the church group in Manchester, England. Brother Greenwood tried to be the best elder he could be.

Manchester, England, was a very large city and though Brother Greenwood struggled, no one would listen to him. They would look at him and say, "The boy is trying to preach to us again. What does he know?!" Brother Greenwood lived in a period of time when if you didn't have a big bushy beard of facial hair, you just weren't wise enough to do anything. He struggled and struggled, but no one would come to his church. He kept trying to lead the little handful of people already attending and do the Lord's will.

There was a famous evangelist at this time--- a Christian evangelist, a "Billy Graham." He was probably the most famous of his time. His name was Edwards. It was announced that Edwards was going to come to Manchester. It was printed in all the papers that this famous person-- this "Billy Graham" type of man -- was going to come to Manchester, England. The people in charge rented the St. James Hall (which would be like the Kemper Arena). It seated 11,000 people. They had 200 Protestant ministers sitting in a semicircle around Edwards as he presented his speech and his sermon on the Christianity of Christ.

Brother Greenwood, not having any success drawing people to his meeting, canceled it and decided to go listen to this great evangelist. Maybe he could learn something. As he sat among those 11,000 people, he heard this man with the silver tongue talk about atheists and atheism. Brother Greenwood said, "Oh, he just blew them out the water, those atheists. The man just flowed right in with the whole group of people. You could hear them saying 'Amen' and 'Hallelujah' and cheering him on. He was really worked up."

Then Edwards pounded the pulpit and said, "It is not necessary to be baptized by water. All you need is to have the Spirit of God with you, and the spiritual gifts will be manifest, Baptism isn't important."

Bill Greenwood sat back in his seat, turned to his wife and said, "That man is preaching false doctrine!"

"Well, be quiet," she said. "I won't be quiet," said Bill.

After this great evangelist finished his sermon on the Christianity of Christ, the man in charge of the service got up and asked, "Is there anyone here that wishes to comment?"

Way from the back, Brother Greenwood stood up and said, "I do." He walked on down to the front, where there were policemen surrounding the front of the podium. "What do you want, boy?" they asked. He said, "I want to say a few words."

The police officer-- this bobby-- just picked him up and set him right on the stage. Brother Greenwood walked up to the pulpit, took out his Bible, and turned to the third chapter of John. He started reading and preaching. He stood right there in front of 11,000 people and 200 Protestant ministers and told that man just how wrong he was about baptism.

Some of the people started shouting, "Sit down." The other half were saying, "Let this boy speak." A riot broke out. The police had to settle the people down. The newspaper men were all there and heard this young man, this boy who was standing there.

Finally, they restored enough order that he was able to continue, and he said, "I want to ask this famous Christian evangelist,

Edwards, three questions, and I want him to answer. The first question is: Was Jesus a proper authority to lay down the conditions for entrance into the kingdom? The second thing I want him to respond to is this: Can God change the plan of salvation even when he said, "I am God, I change not?" And the third question that I want to ask him is: By what authority are you able to say that baptism by water is not necessary?" Then he took his seat.

The famous Christian evangelist stood up and talked, but it was obvious that he wasn't going to answer any of the three questions. The people in the hall who were used to debate knew what logical fallacies were and knew when someone was trying to evade the truth. They started shouting from the floor, "Answer the boy's questions, answer them." Finally, they became so unruly that Edwards headed for the back exit and never again set foot in Manchester, England.

Now you know how the branch in Manchester, England, got started. People came to that young man and said, "We were there" or "We heard". He was able to teach them the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ whereas before, he couldn't even get them to come in the door. Bill Greenwood was ordained a President of Seventies and served his life with distinction in the church.

Another story which Brother Bolingbroke shared with us is called Perfect Freedom by Charles W. Colson, the same Charles Colson who served time in prison due to his involvement in Watergate.

As one who has served time in prison and has since spent most of his life working in them, Charles will never forget the most unusual prison he ever visited. It is called Humaita Prison, in Sao Jose dos Campos in Brazil. Formerly a government prison, it is now operated by Prison Fellowship Brazil as an alternative prison, without armed guards or high-tech security. Instead, it is run on the Christian principles of the love of God and respect for men.

Humaita has only two full-time staff; the rest of the work is done by the 730 inmates serving time for everything from murder and assault to robbery and drug-related crimes. Every man is assigned another inmate to whom he is accountable. In addition, each prisoner is assigned a volunteer mentor from the outside who works with him during his term and after his release. Prisoners take classes on character development and are encouraged to participate in educational and religious programs.

When Charles visited this prison, he found the inmates smiling - particularly the murderer who held the keys, opened the gates, and let him in. Wherever he walked, he saw men at peace. He saw clean living areas. He saw people working industriously. The walls were decorated with motivational sayings and Scripture. Humaita has an astonishing record. Its recidivism rate is 4 percent, compared to 75 percent in the rest of Brazil. How is that possible?

He saw the answer when his inmate guide escorted him to the notorious cell once used for solitary punishment. Today, the guide told him, it always houses the same inmate. As we reached the end of the long concrete corridor, and he put the key into the lock, he paused and asked, "Are you sure you want to go in?"

"Of course," Charles replied impatiently. "I have been in isolation cells all over the world." Slowly he swung open the massive door, and he saw the prisoner in that cell: a crucifix, beautifully carved - Jesus, hanging on the cross.

"He's doing time for the rest of us," my guide said softly.

This is a very touching and meaningful story for those of us who love the Lord and realize what a sacrifice He made for each of us.

It's important what we believe about God's plan for salvation. It's important that we believe the Scriptures are true, that the priesthood has authority, and that God does not change the plan of salvation which he has set forth. He needs a people with new hearts with which to build the kind of kingdom that He has designed. Newness cannot come except through obedience to His words and His commandments. God needs people who are striving towards perfection by praying, fasting, and studying the scriptures. The plan which the evangelists have set out for us to follow between now and the first week in April is a good plan. Brother Bolingbroke closed by expressing his hope that all of us will work diligently to make the necessary changes in our lives to further God's Kingdom.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Continued from front page

reached up and pulled the cloth off his face. He got up and unwound the cloth, folded it; like you would make your bed at home. The stone rolled from its place and Jesus was gone. The tomb was empty.

Apostle Paul was not a witness of these things, but was a witness of a Christ that was raised by the power of the resurrection. He said, "and if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you". (Romans 8:11) Think of it! The same Spirit that entered that tomb and resurrected the body of Jesus, lives in us. If that Spirit can raise Jesus from the dead, it can also do miracles in our lives. It can rest "on us", (2 Cor 12:9) and "reside in us" (Romans 8:9)

We have been called to eat the bread of life and drink of the water like unto a well of water springing up into eternal life. (JN 6:16, 35) Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and the that believeth on me shall never thirst." Will you be there on the third day?

EASTER SERVICE PLANS

Special services are planned for the Easter season in the Mount Ayr Restoration Branch.

The community Breakfast With The Master series will be held the week of March 21-26 with breakfast at 6:30 a.m. each morning at the First Christian Church in Mount Ayr. Our group will help with the worship on Thursday, March 24.

There will be an Easter breakfast at the church on Sunday, March 27, at 9 a.m. The morning schedule of services will then follow the breakfast.

Plan to share in these celebrations of the death and resurrection of our Lord.

News & Notes

-Fifty Days of Preparation in Progress

At the request of the committee preparing for the April 6 assembly of the Saints at The Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, Fifty Days of special spiritual preparation were begun March 11 and are continuing. Scripture for daily study and meditation are provided in an effort to unify the body so we can come together of one heart and one mind asking for the Lord's direction for the church in this critical time. If you do not have the materials, and wish to have them, please ask for them by calling or writing this Newsletter. The address and telephone number are on the bottom of the first page.

High Priest Robert Rolfe serves on the nine member Restoration committee that is planning both the gathering on April 6 and the Communion service at the Auditorium April 3. Brother Rolfe is in charge of the Communion Service. Both services are in conjunction with the Restoration Elders Conference being held the first week of April celebrating the 175th anniversary of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The year 2005 is also the 200th anniversary of Joseph Smith, Junior's birth.

There will not be services in Mount Ayr either Sunday, April 3, or Wednesday, April 6, so members can attend the services.

Elders Travel to Wyoming to Give Ministry

Elders Norman Nelson and Michael Jordison drove to Torrington, Wyoming to give ministry to the scattered Saints in that area the first week end of February. En route they visited Saints known to be anxious for ministry across Nebraska also. Leaving Lamoni early Friday, February 4, they returned early Monday afternoon, February 7 after encountering fifty miles of icy roads which they traversed with the assurance the home congregation was prayerfully considering their need for safe passage.

Congregation Attends Graceland-Jewell Game

Saturday, March 12, William Jewell's girl's basketball team played at Graceland with Heidi Winkler one of the players. The Mt. Ayr Restoration congregation attended the game then assembled at the home of Ron and Di Smith for dinner and fellowship. Heidi, a freshman at Jewell, did not get to play in that game but since that time has played for significant periods of time in Jewell's winning games. They now go to the Nationals.

Reconciliation Discussions Held

Ronald Smith and Cara Smith are meeting with a group convened by the Community of Christ early in March to try to

reconcile differences between the members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ or Latter Day Saints who are known as Restorationists and those who have taken the name, Community of Christ. The group is chaired by Diane Kyser of the Community of Christ. Ambassador John Menzies and Bill Russell are also participants from the Lamoni area.

Warren Nash Dies

Brother Warren Nash, father of Diane Anderson, passed away at the Anderson home February 22. High Priest Robert Rolfe was in charge of his funeral service, Jan Jordison was the pianist and Ronald and Di Smith sang. After the service at Leon and burial at Elk's Chapel, the family and friends gathered at the home of Ron and Di Smith where the church family provided dinner. Brother Nash, who suffered from the re-growth of a cancerous tumor, had been cared for for a number of months by the Anderson family in their home.

Reunion Registrations Underway

Registrations for the Seventy Family Missionary Reunion, scheduled for June 19 through 25 at Graceland University, have long since passed the two hundred mark. It is well known that only the very early registrants, or those who must have air conditioning for health reasons, get the air conditioned rooms, but fans are provided and they are quite sufficient for most of us. A fifty dollar deposit reserves the room but does not pay the cost. The cost, averaging about \$125 per person, is paid through offerings.

Cheryl Phipps is the registrar. Contact her at P.O. Box 96, Lamoni, Iowa, phone 641-784-6823, or e-mail: registrar@restorationseventy.org. You may register on line at www.restorationseventy.org.

Smith Presents at Land of Zion Family Workshop

Elder Alan Smith was one of a number of presenters who shared information at the Land of Zion Family Workshop held at Center-Place Restoration School in Independence, Mo. February 26. The workshop was sponsored by the Center Place Business Association.

University Student Attends Retreat

Cessaries Galusha, studying at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, was among the older youth who attended a weekend retreat at Odessa Hills Saturday, February 26. Mildred Smith was one of the instructors at the retreat. Brandy Anderson, studying at Central Missouri University at Warrensburg, had planned to attend but was called home for her grandfathers funeral.