

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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### Did You Steal The Car?

There's a story making the rounds about a man being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy street. Suddenly the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The woman following was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, while dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-dirt, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. He ordered her to exit with her hands up and took her to the police station, where he was searched, printed, photographed and put in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk, where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for the mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, gesturing and cussing a blue streak at the driver in front of you. I noticed your "What Would Jesus Do" bumper sticker, your "Choose Life" license plate holder and your "Follow Me to Sunday School" window sticker and naturally . . . I assumed you had stolen the car."

We have promised to take upon us the name of Christ. We profess to be working for the Kingdom. Are we like this woman when we meet the frustrations of life or are we better witnesses for Him?

## TESTIMONIES AND SERMON NOTES

### Jesus Christ, Our Rock

Elder Peter Cornish read 3 Nephi 5:36 and 43: Verily, verily I say unto you that this is my doctrine, and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in Me, believeth in the Father also. . . . Declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth. After expressing appreciation for the singing of "Tenderly, Tenderly, Lead Thou Me On" as an appropriate song for Fathers Day, because he feels that's the way our Heavenly Father is a great father to us, tenderly leading us on in our pathway through life. Peter explained that the scripture he had read was impressed upon his mind and he felt he should share a little relative to it.

I'll bring another related scripture into the mix that I'm going to discuss. I have found that in my life, I'm a little slow at times. When my wife and I are either watching a show or reading something and there is some plot twist, she usually catches on much faster than I do. These two scriptures are definitely related and I'm sure that many years ago you have all connected them, I just am a little slow. Matthew 16:16-19 begins with, "He said unto them . . .", and ends with, "and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." As you might imagine both of these scriptures deal with founding something on a rock. And I could go and read from Matthew the seventh chapter which is similar to the scripture in third Nephi, that again the parable of building your house upon a rock or sandy foundation is mentioned.

I would like to suggest to you this morning that there aren't just two possibilities of building your house upon a rock or building your house on a sandy foundation. To me it seems as though there is a continuum between the two states. It seems that some of us might be on the rock, some of us might be on the sand. But there might be some of us somewhere in the middle that might have a more stable foundation or less than others. It is in this that I think a lot of the problems in the church arise. We are not truly founded upon that rock so that we are all on the same foundation and have the same beliefs and the same desires.

#### Our Foundation - The Root or Core of All our Actions

What do I think it means to be founded upon a rock? One statement my grandfather made which I have said many times and I'm sure many of you have heard me say, is that in his sermons he would say that an honest man is not honest because of what he says. He says what he says because he is honest. An honest man can only say those things which are honest. Someone who is not honest can say honest things, but that does not make him honest. And so I feel that it is from the core or foundation of our lives, of our spiritual lives, that all things come. And I feel that when we are founded upon

the true rock, that only good things can come. And if we are not, there are good things that can come, but there are many bad as well.

This last week I was at home, but the two previous weeks I went to scientific conferences, one in Madison, Wisconsin and one in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. It was a really good experience for me, for my scientific career, because I got to meet a lot of the people that are really important in the field. And the second conference in particular was good because this was a very specific conference and many of the people who have contributed so much to the field in the last 50 years were there. In terms of science, it would be like going to a religious conference and seeing people like Moses and Enoch and all those other people. These were men and women that had published a great deal of research on this particular topic. We in our lab collaborate with one of these people.

So at the first conference it was just myself and another post doc from this other lab that were there and we separated ways and were going to meet again at this new conference. I got there much earlier than he and he was going to join up with the rest of the people in his lab. I was waiting in the hotel lobby and about seven or eight people from this other lab came in and it was one of the person's birthdays so we decided to stay up and talk a little bit more. We went into another place in the hotel and there were three people there talking. So there were about twelve of us, three that were talking separately and then the rest of us. All of a sudden I heard one of these three people talking about a guy by the name of T. J. Hall, which happens to be my boss, and complaining about some of the things that he does. Then he starts talking about this guy, Harry Noler, which is the boss of these other people who are with me. The man was talking, not knowing that eight or so of the twelve people that were in the room were members of these two people's labs.

To stop this from continuing, I went up to the guy and said, "I'm in T. J. Hall's lab." He turned a little bit pale and explained that he loves T. J. and his work and all those sorts of things. We talked a little bit more and he said, "You know, the thing I'm most frustrated by is that the recent publications from this other lab didn't reference my papers". And I said, "Well these people are all from his lab. You can talk to them about that. I have nothing to do with it". He thought he was in an intimate situation talking about things only his friends would appreciate, but then he offended 75% or so of the people in the room. It was kind of an awkward introduction and one of those first impression type things that will never go away. But I realize the situation and maybe you guys have done the same. I've said things about people not realizing they were in the room or that other people there might have been related to them.

What this story to me shows is that there are times in our lives that our true feelings come out; that our true feelings are things that come from within us; that at times we can hide them, and that sometimes we think we are safe in saying things to friends or saying them to other people. When those feelings come out they show what our true foundation - our true beliefs are. So in our spiritual lives we might feel that we are always on guard, if you will, because we have to act a certain way amongst church people. We have to act a certain way amongst friends and family because we know these people and they have a direct influence on our lives. They see us as a representative, if you will, of the church. But then when we go to a different situation, a different surrounding, we might feel that we can let our guard down a little bit and say what our true feelings and beliefs are.

I'm sure none of you have gotten frustrated at you when you are driving down the highway, or in many, many other types of situations, where you do let your guard down. But I feel that if we are truly founded upon the rock, then we can only do those things which come from the Rock. We would never, ever find ourselves in an awkward situation like the one I was in at this conference. If that were me in that situation, then I probably might have said some of the same things he did, because he was a new investigator and

was trying to get established in the field. I might say those things. But if I'm truly founded upon what I should be, I would never have said those sorts of things.

So our foundation is the root or seat from which all of our core beliefs, feelings, and desires come. If our foundation is evil, we can do good things but we are not righteous. If our foundation is Jesus, then we can only do righteous things.

### **A Continuum of Possibilities**

As an example of what I was mentioning earlier, that there aren't just two states, in our research we talk about multiple states. In science, there is a potential continuum between these two states, and I will pull an example from science. If we look at our human existence, our physical existence, most all of our cells contain genetic material or DNA. From this DNA we get all of our proteins, all of our nucleic acids. Everything comes from the genetic material or blueprint of our lives. In the same way this relates to building your house upon some foundation. If our genetic material is pure and unaltered, then the expression of that genetic material will in essence be perfect or what it was meant to be. But there are certain proteins, for instance that aren't necessarily essential for our livelihood that could be changed a little bit, that we might not think are important for our eating or sleeping or walking but they could be mutated. They could still allow us to function and live, but we wouldn't live to the potential for which we were designed. And there are other proteins in our body that if we make a single change, we won't survive. And so I feel like a lot of times in our lives, our spiritual lives, that we seem to allow these sorts of minor changes in our genetic make up, if you will, that don't have a direct effect upon our life while we are in the church, but it does in general.

So a few comments about the scriptures I have referenced. I think they are all great scriptures. We've all heard sermons, and I've probably preached sermons, about all these. This morning I was thinking about a related topic. I remember actually preaching a sermon about it one time when I was in Austin; so I hope this is all new to Cappy and Barb, but we'll see. They can tell me afterwards. (Cappy and Barb were Saints from Texas in attendance.)

The Matthew 16 scripture tells about the exchange between Jesus and Peter and about how Peter had the revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus told him, "Upon this rock I will build my church". He said this meaning that potentially there are other rocks on which we can build our foundation. There might be, you know, a lot of people who don't believe in God, for instance. Their foundation might be atheism or something like that. The foundation for them might be those sorts of things. But upon this Rock, the revealed nature of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, is what we're to build our church upon.

The Matthew 7 parable about building your house upon a rock applies, like I've said previously, in that we can do things in the name of the Lord but not be founded upon Him. If you remember, the scripture talks about, and this is several places in the scripture, that when you get to Heaven there are many people that say, "Lord, Lord", but they will not be allowed into Heaven. They will say, "Have I not done many great things in your name?" "Have I not cast out devils?" (etc., etc., etc.) So there are things that we can do in our lives that we think are in the name of the Lord, but not necessarily because we're founded upon Jesus Christ. We think, or are being misguided or being deceived, into thinking we're doing His work and His will. I think we can all recognize that that does happen in His church.

And it says in the same scripture, the seventh chapter of Matthew, that, "Those who hear and do the things which I say, their house is built upon a rock and those that hear and do not what I say are built upon a sandy foundation." So we, if we are to build our house upon a rock, we need to hear and do the things which Jesus told us to do.

In the Third Nephi scripture, the fifth chapter, it talks about the doctrine of Christ. That doctrine is that we need to repent, We need to believe. We need to repent and we need to be baptized. Doing that will allow us to be founded upon the rock. And if you remember, also importantly it says in that same scripture that those who add more or less to this are deceivers. So, if in times we think we are doing the will of the Lord and we're adding to this doctrine, we are among the deceivers. It says in third Nephi that Jesus tells the people that were adding more or less to that foundation that they were changing it. We think those changes might not be important or they may be important, but they have a direct effect on our lives as individuals and our individual relationship with Jesus Christ. And again, it also has a direct relationship on the church as a whole.

### **Willing to Give Up What He Asks?**

Remember the story in the Bible, in the New Testament, of the rich young ruler that came to Jesus and asked what he could do to follow Jesus? We all know what happened. Jesus told him to sell all that he has and to, "follow Me". And I think that, and I've said many times, that it might have been something else, not just that he was rich. I don't know if he was involved in some sort of activity that was shady or something, that Jesus would have asked him to give that up as well. And I've also said in the past that it's not necessarily the case every time that Jesus asks us to give up something, but we need to be willing to do it. If we are not willing to give up something for Jesus, then we're not truly following Him.

It may be the case in the future that we have to give up something, and I mean not bad things. I mean, you know, God's not going to ask us to necessarily give up our job, for instance, or to do those sorts of things, but he might ask us to. So we always have to be willing to do what God calls us to do, and it might just be that he does ask us for those sorts of things. And if we're not willing to give up what He asks, then we're not truly following Christ; and, therefore, our foundation is not founded upon the Rock.

I feel that this is something that we need to realize and recognize in our own spiritual lives at an individual level. But I think that this is magnified onto the church level. If we can all recognize that since we as individuals aren't founded upon the Rock of Jesus Christ as we should be, or at least I should say I'm not where I should be at this point in my life. You know, I could only speak for myself, but since I recognize that I need to change, hopefully this week there are some things in my life that I could change and become a better person - that I could become more spiritual and a better witness for Jesus Christ in my daily activities. And there are these little things in all of our lives that when we come together as a group they are magnified and it affects us as a whole.

As we find ourselves in the situation of the restoration movement with many different factions and divisions and arguments that we have. I believe and feel that this is the reason that we are not united. And I feel that as we this week talk about "Onward to Zion" and building up Zion, I think that we need to think about changing our lives in this way. When we become founded upon the rock of Jesus Christ we can build Zion, but until we do such, no matter how many things we do, we will not be able to satisfy God and to bring about Zion as the scripture mentioned in the prayer service - the spiritual condition of the people.

### **Faith Of Our Father**

As it is Father's Day, I thought I would mention a few things particularly about fathers. This is not to downplay the importance of mothers. This just doesn't happen to be Mother's Day today. I know that for myself and for Eli, we both have great mothers and they have had a profound impact upon our lives. But our fathers have also had a profound effect upon our lives. For those of us who have known our fathers or known about our fathers, or whose fathers are here - still alive - we can remember things about our fathers and about what they have done for us, because whatever

they have done, they have had an effect upon our lives for good or bad. And I was thinking about this this morning, and I was remembering all the times that I spent with my father when I was a child and even today. I was remembering how many times we went to watch a ball game - Houston Astros. I remember playing catch with him out in back of our house, in the back yard of Master's Lane. I remember he would go stand up on the hill and try to throw the ball up as high as he could so I could catch it and how he would always go on all these boy scout activities with me, even camping. But the thing I remember most about is the dedication he had to the church and about how, whenever we took a vacation, aside from the boy scout activities, we didn't really go a lot of places. When we went it was usually to a reunion or to some sort of retreat. And I know it was with both of my parents, but again it is Father's Day so I'll speak to that. You know, this was a great influence upon my life. It influenced how I have tried to live because it was so important for him. And not only do our fathers influence us in an individual sense, but also the way my father was a father to me influences the way I am a father to my son. And so, it's a very important responsibility for me that when Eli grows up, I am a good father - not just because I represent my father before me but because someday he will be a father as well.

Erin looked up all these stories this morning and she was reading them to me on the way over. There were some stories that were good, but I particularly liked this one and I thought I would read it this morning.

This is a story that Erin found on some web site and I imagine its true. If not, its a great story and some of us will probably cry, like my father. I'm still trying to learn how to handle that part from my dad. I'm doing better, Erin says, about crying but I still have more to learn.

This was online, a story from 1989. In 1989 an 8.2 earthquake almost flattened Armenia, killing over 30,000 people in less than four minutes. In the midst of utter devastation and chaos, a father left his wife securely at home and rushed to the school where his son was supposed to be, only to discover that the building was as flat as a pancake.

After the traumatic initial shock, he remembered the promise he had made to his son: "No matter what, I'll always be there for you!" And tears began to fill his eyes. As he looked at the pile of debris that once was the school, it looked hopeless, but he kept remembering his commitment to his son.

He began to concentrate on where he walked his son to class at school each morning. Remembering his son's classroom would be in the back right corner of the building, he rushed there and started digging through the rubble.

As he was digging, other forlorn parents arrived, clutching their hearts, saying: "My son!" "My daughter!" Other well meaning parents tried to pull him off of what was left of the school saying: "It's too late!" "They're dead!" "You can't help!" "Go home!" "Come on, face reality, there's nothing you can do!" "You're just going to make things worse!" To each parent he responded with one line: "Are you going to help me now?" And then he proceeded to dig for his son, stone by stone.

The fire chief showed up and tried to pull him off of the school's debris, saying, "Fires are breaking out, explosions are happening everywhere. You're in danger. We'll take care of it. Go home." To which this loving, caring Armenian father asked, "Are you going to help me now?"

The police came and said, "You're angry, distraught and it's over. You're endangering others. Go home. We'll handle it!" To which he replied, "Are you going to help me now?" No one helped. Courageously he proceeded alone because he needed to know for himself: "Is my boy alive or is he dead?"

He dug for eight hours . . . 12 hours . . . 24 hours ... 36 hours .



.. then, in the 38th hour, he pulled back a boulder and heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, "ARMAND!" He heard back, "Dad!?! It's me, Dad! I told the other kids not to worry. I told 'em that if you were alive, you'd save me and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You promised, 'No matter what, I'll always be there for you!' You did it, Dad! . . ."

"What's going on in there? How is it?" the father asked. "There are 14 of us left out of 33, Dad. We're scared, hungry, thirsty and thankful you're here. When the building collapsed, it made a wedge, like a triangle, and it saved us."

"Come on out, boy!"

"No, Dad! Let the other kids out first, 'cause I know you'll get me! No matter what, I know you'll be there for me!"

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:5). *From: Chicken Soup For The Soul - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO EVERYONE.*

Obviously this is a story about a father, but it is also a story about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is always laboring to save our souls and He asks us today, "Are you going to help me now?" And many of us at sometimes have said, "It is too late, they are all lost." But God will never give up on us. So we too should follow the pattern of this man's life and work tirelessly to save God's children.

## Our Aim - Be One With Jesus Christ

Elder Norman Nelson chose Genesis 7:39-40 for the opening scripture for his Communion message Sunday, July 1. "The Lord said unto Enoch, Behold, these thy brethren, they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave unto them their intelligence in the day that I created them. And in the garden of Eden gave I unto man his agency; and unto thy brethren have I said, and also gave commandment, that they should love one another; and that they should choose me their Father." Sue Beck sang the prayer hymn, the first stanza of which asks, "Spirit of God, Descend upon my heart. Wean it from earth, through all it's pulses move; Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, And make me love Thee as I ought to love." And Brother Nelson proceeded to address us.

We have just renewed our covenant with the Lord to always remember Him and keep all of His commandments. I have chosen to look at the time when Jesus was here on this continent and He gave His children this covenant. (III Nephi 8: 12-17.) "Behold, now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he looked round about again on the multitude, and he said unto them, Behold, my time is at hand. I perceive that ye are weak, that ye can not understand all my words which I am commanded of the Father to speak unto you at this time; Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand; and prepare your minds for the morrow, and I come unto you again. But now I go unto the Father, and also to shew myself unto the lost tribes of Israel, for they are not lost unto the Father, for he knoweth whither he hath taken them. "And it came to pass that when Jesus had thus spoken, he cast his eyes round about again on the multitude, and beheld they were in tears, and did look steadfastly upon him, as if they would ask him to tarry a little longer with them. And he said unto them, Behold, my bowels are filled with compassion towards you: Have ye any that are sick among you, bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner, bring them hither, and I will

heal them, for I have compassion upon you; My bowels are filled with mercy; for I perceive that ye desire that I should shew unto you what I have done unto your brethren at Jerusalem, for I see that your faith is sufficient, that I should heal you.

"And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth, with their sick, and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all they that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto him; And they did all, both they who had been healed, and they who were whole, bow down at his feet, and did worship him; And as many as could come, for the multitude, did kiss his feet, insomuch that they did bathe his feet with their tears. And it came to pass that he commanded that their little children should be brought.

### Jesus Blesses The Little Children

"So they brought their little children and sat them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst; and the multitude gave way till they had all been brought unto him. And it came to pass that when they had all been brought, and Jesus stood in the midst, he commanded the multitude that they should kneel down upon the ground. And it came to pass that when they had knelt upon the ground, Jesus groaned within himself, and saith, Father, I am troubled because of the wickedness of the people of the house of Israel. And when he had said these words, he himself also knelt upon the earth, and behold he prayed unto the Father, and the things which he prayed, can not be written, and the multitude did bear record who heard him. And after this manner do they bear record; the eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father;

You notice it isn't just, "We heard and we saw". Rather, "We heard and we couldn't write it." Norman resumed reading III Nephi 8: 18-58 and 59-

"And no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak; And no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father.

"And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying unto the Father, he arose; but so great was the joy of the multitude, that they were overcome. And it came to pass that Jesus spake unto them, and bade them arise. And they arose from the earth, and he said unto them, Blessed are ye because of your faith. And now behold my joy is full.

"And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. And when he had done this he wept again, and he spake unto the multitude, and saith unto them, Behold your little ones.

"And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about; And they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself; And they were in number about two thousand and five hundred souls; and they did consist of men, women and children.

### Jesus Instructs On The Way of Remembrance

"And it came to pass that Jesus commanded his disciples that they should bring forth some bread and wine unto him. And while they were gone for bread and wine, he commanded the multitude that they should sit themselves down upon the earth. And when the disciples had come with bread and wine, he took of the bread, and break and blessed it; and he gave unto the disciples, and com-

manded that they should eat. And when they had eaten, and were filled, he commanded that they should give unto the multitude.

“And when the multitude had eaten and were filled, he said unto the disciples, Behold, there shall one be ordained among you, and to him will I give power that he shall break bread, and bless it, and give it unto the people of my church, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name. And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have done, even as I have broken bread, and blessed it, and gave it unto you. And this shall ye do in remembrance of my body, which I have shewn unto you. And it shall be a testimony unto the Father, that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.

“And it came to pass that when he had said these words, he commanded his disciples that they should take of the wine of the cup, and drink of it, and that they should also give unto the multitude, that they might drink of it. And it came to pass that they did so, and did drink of it, and were filled; and they gave unto the multitude, and they did drink, and they were filled. And when the disciples had done this, Jesus said unto them, Blessed are ye for this thing which ye have done, for this is fulfilling my commandments, and this doth witness unto the Father that ye are willing to do that which I have commanded you.

“And this shall ye always do unto those who repent and are baptized in my name; and ye shall do it in remembrance of my blood, which I have shed for you, that ye may witness unto the Father that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you. And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things. And if ye shall always do these things, blessed are ye, for ye are built upon my rock. But whoso among you shall do more or less than these, are not built upon my rock, but are built upon a sandy foundation; And when the rain descends, and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon them, they shall fall, and the gates of hell are already open to receive them: Therefore blessed are ye if ye shall keep my commandments, which the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye are led away captive by him. And as I have prayed among you, even so shall ye pray in my church, among my people who do repent and are baptized in my name. Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you.

“And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto his disciples, he turned again unto the multitude, and said unto them, Behold, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you. Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed.

“And behold, ye shall meet together oft, and ye shall not forbid any man from coming unto you when ye shall meet together, but suffer them that they may come unto you, and forbid them not; But ye shall pray for them, and shall not cast them out; and if it so be that they come unto you oft, ye shall pray for them unto the Father, in my name; therefore hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do.

“Behold ye see that I have prayed unto the Father, and ye all have witnessed; and ye see that I have commanded that none of you should go away, but rather have commanded that ye should come unto me, that ye might feel and see; Even so shall ye do unto the world; and whosoever breaketh this commandment, suffereth himself to be led into temptation.

“And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these

words, he turned his eyes again upon the disciples whom he had chosen, and said unto them, ... . And now behold, this is the commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall not suffer any one knowingly, to partake of my flesh and blood unworthily, when ye shall minister it, for whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul; .....

### **To Be One With Him**

You notice that Jesus prayed unto the Father, but He didn't use the prayers we use because it was Him. But He has given us a model to follow, and we do it always in remembrance of Him, always keeping His commandments, always praying, always seeking to be His children. And if, for some reason, we decide we are not going to do that, then we shouldn't partake of the emblems and say that we will because at that point it becomes worse if we are not trying. But this is to do in remembrance - to remember to try again - to recommit ourselves to keep the commandments of God - to always pray, to seek diligently to be His children.

I look diligently for the day when we can always do this - be one, and have Zion among us. Don't know why we can't do it. We must love one another, but the most important thing of Zion is not that we are one and have everything in common. But the most important part of Zion is that we will be with Christ. He will be with us, and we will be one with Him! We must love each other, but the most important thing we must do is always love our Lord and try to be His.

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: Our Opportunity By Grace**

The Mount Ayr congregation was invited to worship with the Northeast Des Moines congregation Sunday, July 1 and so part of the congregation traveled to Des Moines while the rest shared in Mount Ayr.

Elder Eric Odida of Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa spoke:

It is true to me - I don't know how true it is to you - just like the ordinance of baptism, the ordinance of laying on of hands, the anointing of oil and the laying on of hands for healing - that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper remains to me a mystery. It's just that I am trying to understand it, and the more I feel that I am getting to understand it, the more I feel that I am not able to comprehend what this ordinance means to me. I pray that as I go, that my knowledge of it may be expanded and especially my appreciation if not my knowledge, so that finally I may be there in the presence of my Lord and Savior, so that I may be able to know what this has been all about.

Brother Charles Fry wrote a really inspired hymn based on this very sacrament. The words go: “O Lord, how can it be That I may come to eat with Thee This sacred, heavenly food?”

He looks at himself and says, how can I even come? “My robe is marked with sin, How can I come Thy courts within To eat and drink with Thee?” He looks at the unworthiness that he sees in himself, and he asks, “How is it even possible for me to come close to the table of the Lord?”

As I looked on the program today (referring to the bulletin), I see that there is a picture of what we have been invited for - a dinner; but within those courts of glory. If you see yourself as brother Fry did - yet I don't even think that I can see what brother Fry did, as he was truly in the Spirit when he wrote that hymn. That hymn shows me what is so, and I try to bring myself to the understanding that he had, when he was presented with the occasion to come to the table.

And you look at yourself, and you say, how can I even see myself as equal to the people who should sit there, the members of the church of the firstborn? But of course he goes back and realizes that the Lord Jesus is there. He is able to prepare us so that we can be cleansed, so that we can walk and be able to take our place with the members of the church of the Firstborn, who will be gathered with us here today. In Jesus Christ only do we merit this day to come and reach out our hands and eat and drink with our Lord — only in Jesus Christ. A few thoughts regarding that I will derive from the book of Moroni 4:4 that we are familiar with. It says that we may eat in remembrance of the body of Jesus Christ and “and witness unto thee, O God the eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he has given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them.”

### **To Have His Spirit, We Must Witness to God**

I know as well as you know, that many times when you have felt that you need the Spirit of the Lord to be with you, and you felt like you were lagging behind in that. Sometimes you are trying to study, but your study felt like you are just reading - that you feel like you are not communicating with God. You feel like, “O Lord, how soon will be the next day, so that I may have the sacrament, so that I may have the Spirit of the Lord with me?” Yet before we come to that point where His Spirit may be with us, we don’t go back and look at what is required; that we “witness unto Thee that they are willing to take upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ”. Witness unto God.

It is easy, brethren, to witness unto man, because you can go and talk to them and say, “Brother Ron, Jesus loves you,” and they don’t know the thoughts and intents of your heart. But what does it mean to witness unto God your willingness to take upon yourself the name of His son, Jesus Christ? Because when it comes to this, brethren, we have the prayer that was given to us, that says, that we are dedicating our lives, not just to remember Jesus Christ, but to stand witnessing unto God, that we are willing to take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ. What do you do when you need to witness unto God? Do you make a phone call and say, “Here, God, you know, I am really here, and I am taking upon myself your name now?” Is it just something you do from the outside? Is it an outward thing? Is that what is required of us in order to witness to God our willingness to take upon ourselves the name of His Son? This takes it from the outward thing and returns it right inside us, so that when we speak it, we are speaking of something inside us. This is different, because we are giving a testimony, not unto men, who may not know what our lives have been. You don’t know where I came from before reaching here. You just hear that which I tell you. But witnessing unto God who knows what your every moment has been is a different matter. That is the challenge that we have in coming here. Indeed, we are showing our willingness to go forth. And this is what encourages me. If He was to come and confirm what I have been doing, I wouldn’t dare to come close. But what is encouraging is that we are showing our willingness to go forth from now on. That is the beauty of this. This is more like a starting point for me one more time. And as I come, recognizing my unworthiness, yet I come knowing very well that, as I do this with that good intent, God’s Spirit will be with me. Now let’s just backtrack a little. I am going to II Nephi 13:16. There it is recorded that the man, Nephi, who had this testimony, clearly says this:

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know this” - Note that he says “I know this”. He says, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know this, that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent,” Remember, He says, “I know this.” Let’s go back because these people, who are the covenant people need to go back and

remember the very words of the covenant that brought us into this so that we are a part of this communion with the Lord’s people. Nephi is saying here that “I know this, that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God,” - not before men, before God-”but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father.” Again, witnessing unto the Father comes there.

“I know this.” Nephi says, “I know this.” This is not just something that Nephi is thinking about. So you ask yourself, how do I get this Holy Spirit. Sometimes people ask about that, and they say, how do I know that I have this Holy Spirit? And why don’t I feel like I have the Holy Spirit? Sometimes I say I know that I have it. Even when I can’t say that I feel it, but I know that I have it because I have been baptized and had the hands laid on my head, which is true. But Nephi says that “I know that if you shall come with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God.” He is laying the qualification of having the Holy Spirit on our coming with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy. And there is not a doubt about whether or not you are going to have the Holy Spirit. He says “I know this.” And then he says that as we “witness unto God that we are willing to take upon [us] the name of [Jesus] Christ,” he says he knows that we will have the Holy Spirit.

### **Remembering Our Covenant**

Now when we come forth in a little while for the communion, we are witnessing unto God that we are willing to take on us the name of Jesus Christ. We need to go back to the point of the covenant and find out what Nephi was writing about when he said that I know that if we shall come with full purpose of heart, that we are willing to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ, with real intent to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ, acting no hypocrisy - that we are going to take it here but not there - we are fully and wholly going to give ourselves; that we are willing to do this and we are going to make our every step, our every effort, our every resource, our every deed, we are going to put all that into the business of following after Jesus Christ and the business of taking the name of the Son of God.

King Benjamin, in teaching his people this same thing, in Mosiah 3:11-12, says, “There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ,” again, he says taking upon you the name of Jesus Christ. Remember that at this time the people had given themselves, and said that we are willing to enter into a covenant with God. And he has just told them that this day Christ has begotten you. “You are His sons and His daughters”. Now he is telling them that there is no other name under heaven whereby salvation cometh. “I would that you should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this,” - whoever shall take upon him the name of Jesus Christ, as many who have entered into the covenant with God and are willing to take upon them the name of Christ-”shall be found at the right hand of God for we shall be known by the name we are called. And that name is going to be of Christ.

If you will be willing to take upon you the name of Jesus Christ, if you shall take those steps to witness unto God your willingness, he says, if you do this to the end, it shall be well with you because at the last day you shall sit at the right hand of God. In this life you will be able to know by which name you shall be called, because you will be called by the name of Christ. Now we know why we need to take upon ourselves the name of Christ. We are willing to take on ourselves the name of Christ because on that last day, when you reach it, you must have been able to take on the name of Christ. That is the whole thing, that as you walk in this life here, we are not just demonstrating. We are making efforts and doing those things which make it possible for those things which are carnal in ourselves to go



away so that the name of Jesus Christ can truly be written in our hearts. It says that we shall know as we are known. We shall be known by the name that we are called. And that name is going to be Christ.

Now we won't understand why we need to witness our willingness to take on us the name of Christ. This is because this is the requirement for the sons of God. This is the requirement for those who are going to be there on that day. So you and I can truly say that we belong there because on that day it is only the children of Christ, his sons and daughters, because there is no other name whereby salvation cometh. And only those who are found with His name written on their hearts will be there at that day.

Paul writing in II Corinthians 5:14 shed some light on this. He said "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then are all dead." That means to me that if Jesus died for me, then I am dead. It means that the person existing before you right now should not be me, because the wages of sin is death, and I committed sin, and therefore, I died. But he goes ahead to say, "And he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Therefore you and I will live, if He died for us. It means that if you and I are to be alive now, we can't live for ourselves anymore, because we already died. Having earned our wages from sin - death itself. If we are to be alive today, we cannot be alive for ourselves anymore. We must be alive for Him who died for us, Jesus Christ himself. So that Eric Odida's friends, they lost their friend in death when Eric died. Eric Odida's family lost their family member, their husband and father, in death from sin. The only person they have today is that person who has been changed because this Jesus Christ is alive now. This Jesus Christ is supposed to be alive in me. This is the challenge that I have, brothers and sisters, that I died and Jesus lives. Now your words must be out of the intent of your heart. They must be the words of Jesus Christ. Your actions must be the actions of that person who dwells in you, who is alive.

### **To Let Christ Live in You**

You recognize this is not something that we can achieve in one day. We must bring ourselves under those laws, the laws of Christ - those laws that can lift us unto the person of Christ. If we allow ourselves to be ruled by those laws which make the carnal body - to be subject to that body - then we will remain at this level. But if we want to rise up to the person of Christ, to be a brother with Him, to allow Him to dwell in us, so that we can dwell in Him, so that me and Jesus and God can be one thing, then we must allow ourselves to be subjected to those laws that can perfect us, that can sanctify us, that can lift us to the place where Jesus and God wish us brethren, to be of Christ.

We cannot see that we desire to be people who are going to belong to the Celestial kingdom if we do not allow ourselves in this life to be subjected to the celestial laws. It will not be possible, because we will not be familiar with those laws. We will not be able to bear that presence at all. Section 85:8a says, "That which is governed by law, is also preserved by law, and perfected and sanctified by the same." So that law must be the one that will be able to lift us up to the person of Jesus Christ, to his own brothers, to his own sons and daughters. It is that law we must aspire to bring ourselves under. Then we are being told that those who are not able to bear the Celestial glory must settle for another glory because they are not willing to have that which they could have had.

If you are a teacher, you probably know of many bright students who do not perform as well as they could. How many of them could have done better? How many of them could have made a big difference in their lives in school? They had everything which would have enabled them to get that which they needed, but no. They were willing to receive only that which was lighter, which was

less, and that is what they end up with, unfortunately. And that is what this is compared to for us. We have the opportunity to use this preparatory period, now in this life, to bring ourselves under the rule of those laws that Christ set for us so that we may be able to live in that kingdom. Otherwise we shall not be able, even if it were to be open for us, we should not be able to bear it at all. We have the opportunity now. This is a good beginning for us, brothers and sisters, for you and me.

### **Beneficiaries of Grace**

One thing is that we are beneficiaries of grace. Paul writes in II Corinthians 6:1 "receive not the grace of God in vain." If we are beneficiaries of grace, then we must minister grace. Grace cannot just come and settle on you with you just sitting there doing nothing with it.. No! It must be something that lives inside you, that grows and is able to reach other people through you. Do you know what grace does? I give this example sometimes. When a policeman stops you on the road, he does not stop you because you have done something good. He does not say, "Hey, my friend, that's good driving. Keep on doing that." They don't stop you for that. They stop you because you have done something wrong. The law is always looking for mistakes. The law wants to punish. And unfortunately, that is the person who has tutored us. We have been under the law until we look at each other with the eyes of law. Looking only at the bad things and the mistakes in the lives of our brethren; never looking at those things which are good at all.

We are students of law. Unfortunately, mistakes have been made. They are not dressed well. They are not looking well. They are not doing this well. They are not doing that well. We are constantly picking at those mistakes only. But that is not what was ministered to us. Christ came with grace. What does Christ do? He never looks at mistakes. No, (at this point Eric pulled a shiny silver chain from his pocket and held it high) you get this thing in the mud. It is dirty, but he says, "Wow, what a beautiful thing. I am going to wash this and clean it." He just sees the beauty in this. He doesn't see the mud in it. That is grace! And if you and I receive grace - and I received it. I was stinking bad, but I received grace. It was never judgmental, it was not the mistakes that I made that Jesus saw. He saw what could be. He saw the good that was in me.

And that is the same thing that we must be able to look at in each other. When you see you brother or sister, when you see your husband, your wife, when you see your children, your neighbor, you must constantly be looking at what is good in them and not at their mistakes. We cannot walk towards Jesus Christ when we are seeking things which are wrong with them and which are bad with them and which they are not doing right. No! For us to rise up to the person of Jesus Christ, we must look at what is good about them - what is wonderful about them - what they are trying to be even if they are not getting there. We need to see how they are working hard towards it even though they are not reaching it. That is our person, because that is the person of Jesus Christ.

Love! We must change. For God to come and dwell inside you and me, we must desire it. For us to witness to God that we are taking upon us the name of Jesus Christ, we must live the life of Jesus Christ. Even if we are not yet there, He must see us moving towards it. He must see us making effort and taking steps towards it. Brothers and sisters, what is he saying in Luke 12:35 "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." And I know that as much as it is His good pleasure to give you the whole kingdom, it is His good pleasure to make you that person who is suitable for the kingdom. It is His good pleasure to do that. But what does Christ say? "Oh, oh, oh! No, no, no! You have not done well enough. I am not going to come and dwell inside you." No! In Revelation 3:20 He says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

## Jesus Is Seeking You

He is seeking for you. He is standing at the door. He wants to come inside and dwell with you. But it is not like you are going to search for him and say, "Where will I get Jesus that He may come and dwell inside me? Where may I get Him so that I may take His name upon myself? God, wait until I find Jesus because I am still looking for Him. I am willing to witness that today. I am taking on myself the name of Jesus". No! The Lord is saying, "I stand at the door and knock." Brothers and sisters, I don't know what your lives have been. I don't know what things have happened. But it doesn't matter. The only thing is that you witness unto the Father that you are willing - willing - to take upon yourself the name of Jesus Christ. But you must do it with full purpose of heart, with real intent, acting no hypocrisy. And the Lord on the other hand says, "Behold, I stand at the door." He is knocking. It is not like He is saying you have to do this and do that before He is ready. He says He is already knocking. He wants to come in to dwell with you so that he can sup with you-he can eat with you.

You know, it doesn't matter in life. When the Lord says that he wants to dwell with me and to eat with me, all my badness will be His. All my troubles will be His. He will come and sup with me and I with Him. What does He have? Eternal life. What does He have? Peace - all the goodness that I desire, He is saying that He will come and sup with me and I with Him. I will give all that I have up and Jesus will give what He has to me.

But we must recognize that as we come to the table we have this opportunity to sit at this table witnessing our willingness to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ. Doing so with full purpose of heart. Start with grace. Start with love. Start by leaving what you have as a burden. Now, bring it to Jesus Christ. Start by recognizing there is a person that God has erected for you, Jesus Christ. And may that name, His name, be written in your heart now, so that in that day, you may be called by the name of Christ. Brothers and sisters, we have the opportunity of a starting point now, today. Praise him.

## Hope For The Dead

High Priest Robert Rolfe quoted Ecclesiastes 9:1-5 as he opened his sermon July 8, 2007. "For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God; no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. All things come alike to all; there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not; as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath.

"This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all; yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope; for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything, neither have they anymore a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten."

After commenting briefly on the scripture, Brother Rolfe called upon recently baptized Samuel Jordison to assist him in presenting the message he wished to share. He first asked whether Sam knew what his baptism meant. Samuel responded that it meant he made a covenant with God to keep all of God's commandments. In conversation with the young man, Brother Rolfe indicated that was not going to be easy. There are at least a hundred commandments in the scriptures, and to keep them all would be very hard. Brother Rolfe then asked Samuel to join him in front of the congregation asking if he would help him give his sermon. It was to be a sermon for people his size as well as for the grown ups.

Our speaker handed Sam a common hair blower and a Ping-Pong ball, instructing him to balance the ball on the exhaust end of the silent dryer. In spite of all of Samuel's efforts, the ball would not stay in place. Then our speaker turned the hair dryer on and the ball danced merrily above the dryer's nozzle, regardless of how fast the appliance was required to blow. Brother Rolfe asked Samuel to notice how easy that was and asked him to try again. This time the ball continued to stay in place as long as Samuel held the dryer straight and unwavering. When he moved the dryer off center, the ball would inevitable fall. So Brother Rolfe explained that the power that kept the ball in place was like the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. Only with the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost can we keep all of the commandments. The moving air and the fire in the blower, he explained, are like the Holy Ghost; and if you have that inside you, you can keep all of the many commandments you covenanted to keep.

## Remembrances

I am reminded of the time our youngest child was born almost 25 years ago now. As soon as she was born, the doctor wrapped her in a towel and says, "Here! Hold onto her!" So I did. That wasn't a hard job, and I noticed when I looked at her that she was gray. Now, if you notice, Lynda and I are not gray. You kind of expect the same color child that you are. It's a kind of ordinary thing. I hadn't said anything, but as I was looking at her, the doctor looked up at me and said, "She'll turn pink in a minute." Well, it wasn't a minute. It was just a few more seconds and just like that (and he snapped his fingers) she was pink. The reason I bring that up is because we all have expectations as to how our life is going to turn out. And as I thought about that, I thought her turning pink is the opposite of dying. When you die, your skin starts turning gray again. Your respiration goes down, your pulse goes down. Everything starts shutting off. And, at least for those of us who are Caucasian, we turn a gray color. I don't know what happens if you are not a Caucasian, because I haven't had that much experience with other people dying. I suspect there is a graying for all as the blood quits circulating in our skin.

Another memory I thought of that I hadn't thought of this in a whole lot of time, and I asked my oldest son if he remembered this. He said he did, so it must be a family tradition that is passed on down from one generation to another of the Rolfe family. This is a little song that we used to sing when we were children, probably because it rhymed and chimed and didn't make a lot of sense, so we thought it was great fun. I am going to sing a short part of it for you. It's sung to the tune of the "Irish Washer Woman". "McRiley is dead and McDougal don't know it. McDougal is dead and McRiley don't know it. They are both very dead in the very same bed, and neither one knows that the other is dead."

Is that true? If you are dead and you are lying next to another dead person, do you know that the other person is dead? Has anybody that has had that happen come back to tell you? Are you just guessing that that is the case? You know in Ecclesiastes, Solomon says, "The dead know nothing at all." I am saying, "Is that true?" Perhaps it is not.

I would like to tell you about another memory I had about the same time. This is like a Steven King movie, because I was scared to death for awhile - not too long, but for awhile I was shaking! My brothers and I slept upstairs during days like this. It was hot. You know, you have the windows wide open. We didn't have fans in those days. If you got a breath of air, it was because the wind blew it through. It was a moonlit night. The full moon was out there, and you know how it gets really still, sometimes, in the summer when you have a full moon. It was really quiet. And one thirty in the morning this terrible howling started outside. Well, when you are a small child, and you are in the dark anyway, and the moon is shining in through the window, and you hear this howling out here,



you can start imagining lots of things about what that noise is. So eventually, we got enough nerve to get out from under the sheets, and go look. It turned out it was Harold Kyser's dog. He was sitting out there, right underneath our window and was just howling like a wolf. Well, my father, who had a bad disposition when he was awakened out of his sleep, quickly got rid of the dog. He didn't kill it, but he called Harold and told him to tie it up or it would be gotten rid of.

My mother, I don't know if she made a collection of superstitions, but she said, when that happens, someone in that house is supposed to die. That's why the dog comes over and howls. They sense this. That's what she told us. That's comforting to a small child, you know when you are up in the middle of the night and you are thinking well, somebody who lives in that house is going to die here! And you know what? That happened, Both of my parents died, but it was about thirty years later. I'll just throw that in! Nevertheless, someone did die.

### **An Absolute Truth!**

In fact, you may know someone who has died - maybe someone who is very close to you. And when you talk to many of the modern philosophers of this age, they will tell you that there are no absolutes - there is no truth. Right? Well, Jesus disagreed with that. He said, "I am the truth!" He didn't say, "I am one of the truths." He didn't say, "I am a truth". He said, "I am the truth!" And I can tell you this, if someone ever tells you there are no absolutes, no truth, you can tell them, "There is one absolute truth. You are going to die!" They may not even want to admit it or to think about it.

Particularly if you don't believe in God, dying is a little more scary than if you have a belief that there is something on the other side. But every one of us is going to die, until we get to that time in the future when there isn't any death any more. Then no one is going to die at that point. But for right now, isn't that an absolute truth? Everyone is going to die, and Solomon says that the dead know nothing at all, and I am asking you if that is true or is it just your point of view?

Well, if they don't know anything at all, and there are churches that believe that. They believe when you die and are in the grave, you are asleep until the resurrection. They believe you don't know anything between the time of death and the time of the resurrection. Well, if you read the third chapter of First Peter, starting with the eighteenth verse, it tells about Jesus going down to preach to those people who had died during Noah's day. Well, you might say, "If they know nothing at all, why would He be preaching to them? And if they are stuck there in hell forever, why is He preaching to them?" - unless you think of Him as a monster who is going to be tormenting them saying, "Ha, Hah. You get stuck here!" Why would He preach the gospel to those who are in hell if they are stuck there forever? All I know is the book says Jesus went and preached to them. And if you turn the page over to the fourth chapter, I am going to read that because it is an interesting passage. (I had a lady that I talked to about this. They were talking about it in her church. They really couldn't understand what that meant because in terms of their theology, hell was it. Once you are there, you are there forever!). This is First Peter 4: 6, and it says, "Because of this is the gospel preached to them who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live in the spirit according to the will of God."

So, do the dead know nothing at all? Or do they know somethings? You know this idea - this point of view of the living, those of us who are still alive, may be that they know nothing at all. Did you ever try to talk to a dead person? I have seen people do it. I have seen them give orders to dead people, but it didn't work out very well. They didn't follow the orders very good! So, from the point of view of the living, look around. Are there any dead people here today? Are any of you dead today? Am I dead? And they say,

"Are you nuts"? Look, you're not dead. But from the point of view of McDougal and McRiley, they don't know that the other one is dead; but when Jesus, asked people to come and follow Him, one said, "Let me go bury my father first". What was Jesus' answer? "Let the dead bury the dead!" Was He telling the person that there were going to be dead people out there taking care of this dead person? I guess it's your point of view again, isn't it?

### **Two Kinds of Death**

Let me ask you this. You all remember the parable of the prodigal son, chapter 15 of Luke, where the son is out there and he is eating hog food. I don't know about you. I have raised hogs. They are not the cleanest critter around. I don't think I would like to eat after them because, from the story it would indicate that what he got was what the hogs didn't eat. Does that sound very pleasant? It wasn't so bad because of what happened. It says in the account that "he came to himself". That's what it says. He thought he was alive. He had been having a blast spending his father's money - his inheritance - but suddenly something happened in his head that he came to himself! And really, we all have to do that in our journey. We have to come to and realize what's important in God's framework. The young man is looking around and says to himself, "The lowest servant in my father's house is doing better than I am." And so, he made a change, and when he got back home, did his father say, "Well, it's good to see you. Haven't seen you around for awhile." No, he said, "My son who was dead is alive again. He was lost and is found."

Do the dead know not anything at all? I would like to use one of the miracles that Jesus would talk about and explore what that is. This is from Luke 7:11-16. I don't know whether it is because Luke was a physician and he talked about humanity or whatever, but the gospel of Luke always has appealed to me. I am going to be starting here with the eleventh verse and I am going to read 4 or 5 verses. "And it came to pass the day after that He went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now, when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow; and many people of the city were with her. And now the Lord saw her, and had compassion on her, and he said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier; and they who bore it stood still, and he said, Young man. I say unto you, Arise. And he who was dead, sat up, and began to speak; and he delivered him to his mother. And there came fear on all; and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people."

Have you ever said, "Nothing is sure but death and taxes"? I think I have even said that a few times. And I think taxes are even more sure. It seems they go on after death! They don't just stop when you die. In terms of this story, if you get the image of what is going on here, if you will, you have two trains of people that are going to meet out there in the country. If you read this account, you will see that the Centurion had come to Jesus when He was in Capernaum, and had said, "You don't have to come to my house. You just speak the word and my servant will be healed." And Jesus commented that there wasn't such faith in Israel. And the servant was healed. Well, anyway, He didn't say, "My being here is just an accident." From Capernaum to Nain is about 20 miles as the crow flies, and so, if it says, the next day, that's quite a walk, isn't it? Especially since, really you are walking up over a mountain, for those of you who have walked in mountains. It's not like strolling along on the railroad right-of-way which is flat, etc. Capernaum is at the north end of the sea of Galilee, and Nain is about 20 miles south of there. It's about 20 miles southeast of Jesus' home town, so he probably was familiar with it. And it says He had lots of people with Him. You can guess, if He's around doing all of these miracles, healing people and so forth and so on, that there is a certain number

of them for whom it is just like going to the side show. Have you ever gone to a side show? Do you know what I am talking about? It's where they have all of the weird things. I used to work for the carnival in my younger days of misspent youth, and I have gone to side shows, and some very odd things are there.

Anyway, I suspect that some of the people were following along just because they want to see what this guy is going to do because of what He has done in the past. Up to this point, nobody from the dead has been raised. There were four people raised from the dead in the scriptures. You can figure out who those are if you want to go and sort them out. So, anyway, He's traveling along. He's fairly famous. Nain was a town like Mt. Ayr and Lamoni. It was a rural town. They grew grain there. So you have this group of people coming out of town, and the custom was that they buried people in the afternoon - along towards evening. And in this case they are carrying this person - probably on what we would call a kind of board. It is open. The body is laying on there, and they are taking it up to this burial spot. One thing you can tell from that is that the woman must not have had much money. You notice that when Lazarus was buried, he was all bound up. He was all wrapped up because they wrapped them in spices, etc. like Jesus was. In fact, there are some who used to say that Jesus was resurrected through the bindings. In other words, He wasn't unbound. He just came up through them. I don't know if that's a stretch of what it says there. In any case, by looking at this happening, you can say this person wasn't very well off financially. And if you are like I am when you have gone to a funeral of someone you have heard about, the family are kind of numb. You have so many people talking to you, just nodding their heads and all. In this case they are walking along in this procession. I don't know if the mother is in front of the body or behind it, but in one real sense you have death leading that procession. And life is leading the other! So when life and death meet, who is stronger? In this case it was the Lord of Life who obviously explained to these people that He is much stronger.

When you look at it from this widow's point of view, she is not only a widow, which is bad enough. Remember Jesus talked about the Pharisees that "devoured women's houses"? Why did He phrase it like that? Because it is like today. You owe money on the house, and you can't pay it, the bankers take it. That's how it works. It wasn't any different back then, only it was the Pharisees who did it then. They were the bankers of the day, so if you had a widow who didn't have enough money, she would be out in the street. Not only that. I am not saying that women weren't strong, but the work that was required to make a living in an agricultural area required very hard physical work. Very likely she would not be able to do that. So she lived. With her son gone and her husband gone and not having any other children, she risked starvation. For her, it's a grim picture. No wonder that she is walking along feeling numb about this whole thing and not knowing what to do.

Anyway, we have this dead man lying on this coffin, so to speak, being carried out of there. And you know, the scripture doesn't say anything about him. We don't know why he died - whether he had some kind of infection, whether he was killed in an accident - whether he was trying to ride his motorcycle up trees or whatever things that young people do that aren't very smart. All we know is that he was dead. It also doesn't say anything about him deserving to be chosen to live again. Not a word as to whether he was chosen for this. The only thing that we know is this was the widow's only son, and Jesus said He had compassion on her.

What is compassion, anyway? What would we say if we had compassion on someone? How would we phrase that? Probably we would say we felt sorry for them - we are really empathetic. We relate to that person. Do you think that this was an accidental meeting? Do you think Jesus walked over twenty miles to get to this location in one day accidentally? I don't know how many of you

have walked twenty miles in a day. How far was it that Valle ran recently - twelve miles or fifteen or something like that. Anyway, this was a twenty mile trip, as the crow flies, which probably meant it was much farther than that.

Anyway, He goes there, and just like the widow that was visited by Elijah, we might think somehow this just happened, but I don't believe that Jesus had anything that "just happened". In fact, He had recently quoted the scripture about Elijah referencing that widow's son at the previous town where He was - His hometown. And do you know what the people said? "Let's throw this guy off the cliff and kill Him!" and they tried to. I don't know how He got away. It says He went through the midst of them and didn't get killed. He had quoted that scripture, and all the scriptures say is that He felt sorry for her.

So He stops the coffin. He stops this procession. I don't know. You kind of wonder about this where you come walking up and say, "Hold it." He touches the coffin and says to the lady, "Don't weep!" In other words, don't cry. I don't know about you, but that isn't a lot of comfort, is it? That's your only son lying there and you are a widow and someone tells you, "Don't cry"? It wouldn't be much comfort to me. It's like a little clip I heard where this little kid splits his head open. He comes in to his mother and his mother says, "I hope you are satisfied!" - you know the sympathy that mothers give sometimes when you are doing stupid things. You say, "Yes, I am satisfied." No you are not. You say, "What kind of comfort is that?"

So Jesus says, "Weep not." and the reason that He said that was because of what He was going to do. And He says to this young man, and I will read the words here. "Young man, I say unto you, arise." That's all He said. And this body that had been dead - probably for several days - the heart began to beat. The lungs began to pump. The brain started to function. How this happened, I don't think anyone can explain. How can you get all of these cells to be activated instantly by saying, "Arise!", and all those bodily processes begin? And "He sat up and began to speak". One of the things I have thought about. I have wondered, did he have all of his memories after he has been dead four days. I have trouble with one day, and I wonder if he could remember all of the things that happened before he died. The text does not say. It only says, Jesus gave him to his mother. What a joyous occasion that was for an instant.

### **Fear Not! Our Lord Knows the Way**

What happened next? Everybody wants to step back three large steps. Why is that? It's hard to say, but that was the response over and over when Jesus did something miraculous. It says, "Fear came on them all!" And when you think about it, I can see why you might be afraid of someone who is raising dead bodies. I was present once when a dead body came to life, and it really scared me. After you talk to them, then you aren't so scared, but instantly you think, "Dead people aren't supposed to come to life. Maybe I have watched too many ghoulish shows or something. Nevertheless, that doesn't happen!" And fear is the first thing, really, though, that happens to all of us when we come face to face with God. There's a fear that naturally comes - a common response to All of Jesus' miracles except for one group of people. Do you know who that was? The Pharisees. As soon as Jesus healed Lazarus, brought him back to life, the Pharisees immediately started to plot to kill Him. They wanted to kill Jesus and Lazarus, too. Why would they want to get rid of Lazarus? He is the proof! If you don't want people to start believing in Jesus, you not only have to get rid of Jesus. You have to get rid of Lazarus because it was too commonly known as to what happened.

And you know what? From the people that Jesus raised from the dead, it apparently doesn't matter how long you were dead. We have a little problem with that. Somehow we say, "Well, if the body is still there you can raise them from the dead easier than if there isn't any body". Have you ever thought of that? Yet, what is there

needed to make you - in other words to create another person just like you out of a body. Now we know. (A child responds from the audience, "A soul". Rob repeats, "a soul." That's true if you get that back.) But I am talking about the body itself.

Right now we have a thing called DNA. Have you heard of that? If you can get the code from that DNA, you can reproduce that exact thing that that DNA defines. It is that good. It is that precise. Do you think God knows what our DNA is? I have a feeling that He does. And so, as a result, He can make each one of us whether it's one day after we died or a thousand years or ten thousand years. When that day comes for the resurrection, our bodies are going to come back together.

This experience of being there when you raise a dead man, the word that comes to mind us chill. Kind of like Steven King movie. You go, "Oh, that's not so good!" But yet, Jesus says, over and over, and in the scriptures, over and over it says, "Fear not!" Is that a command or is that a suggestion when it says, "Fear not"? I think that is a command. How many times does it say that? Three hundred and sixty six times you can find that in our scripture. Some other versions may not have that many. That means every day of the year you can look at it and say, "I am not supposed to fear today." It is the most common command, and what He is really saying is, "You can trust me! Fear not!" And we are saying, "Well, I'm not so sure about that!" We have to remember how big God is. This is what it comes down to.

I read a story about a minister who was studying in a seminary. He and his friend who was also in the seminary were going down the street. I know most of you have seen the old time Westerns where they have the brawl in the tavern and they roll right out the door and the fight continues in the street. Well, as he and his friend go walking along, these guys come out of this bar. They are rolling around, and there are three guys beating one guy. He just didn't think that was right, so he steps up and he says, "Stop that right now!" The men stood up and looked at him, and he said they had such fear in their faces that he couldn't believe it. They took off and ran down the road, and he was feeling pretty good right then. Then he looked around and behind him he said he saw the largest man he had ever seen in his life. It apparently was the bouncer of this bar. But he thought they were looking at him.

And you know, that's kind of how it is with God. We are standing there and we think we are on our own, but really, we have a really big person standing behind us who can handle all of our problems. Fear says, "I am weak!" Fear destroys our faith and keeps us from being the very person that God wants us to be. It destroys our mind. And so now the widow can say, like the father in the story of the prodigal son, "My son was dead and is alive again!"

And I want to point out to you. He wasn't resurrected. Why do I say that? Because he has the privilege of dying again. I don't know about that. If you could remember dying the first time, it would be kind of tough, wouldn't it, to go through it a second time? Maybe it's not as hard as I think. Dr. Nelson always says it is easy to die! I haven't been there yet. The times when people thought I died, I don't have any memory of that, so maybe it isn't as hard as we think.

### **Sin Brings Death - The Holy Ghost Brings Life**

So I go back to my question. Are any of you dead this morning? What is the cause of death, according to the Bible? ("Sin", comes the answer from a young person in the audience.) Sin is the cause of death, and so, if our life is full of sin, perhaps we are dead and we don't even know it. One of my favorite accounts in the scriptures is in the nineteenth chapter of Acts where they come to these people and say, "Have you received the Holy Ghost?" You remember what the answer was? "We didn't even know if there was such a thing as the Holy Ghost!" Then they said, "Who baptized you?" They said, "We had the baptism of John." They didn't say John baptized them. They said they had the baptism of John. And so it says they baptized

them over again, laid their hands on them and gave them the Holy Ghost and lots of good things happened right after that.

So, I might suggest to you, if you don't have the Holy Ghost in your life - if you haven't received it - if you don't feel it - you are just like that Ping Pong ball lying on top of that hair dryer. You are going to have a hard time keeping things going because you are on your own. You don't have any of God's power making that happen. Jesus said to us all, just like he said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again!" And we keep asking the question, "How can we be born again?" And the answer is, "You have the Holy Ghost within you. It lives within you. You receive it. James, the brother of Jesus said, "The body without the Spirit is dead." And I would suggest to you that as a Saint of the most high God, if you don't have the Holy Ghost in your life, you are dead! You are spiritually dead, and that's what the test of a Christian life is. The body without the Holy ghost is spiritually dead.

Well, I have got good news and bad news. The good news is that you are all going to a fire. I don't know if you have thought about that. Your only choice is to the kind of fire you are going to. You can have the Holy Ghost and fire. Or you can have that other kind of fire that I don't want to talk about. Which will it be? Do you want to be born again and live with God and have His power in your life, or do you not?

There is another interesting scripture with which I will close. This is from the twenty sixth chapter of Isaiah starting with the seventeenth verse. "Like as a woman with child draws near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs, so have we been in thy sight, O Lord." I wonder if that means we are a pain to God. That's what He is saying to us. "We have been with child. We have been in pain. We have, as it were, brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen." Then the promise is, "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust; for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast."

May God bless you as you seek to have the power of the Holy Spirit in your life on a day to day basis.

## **The Forgotten Fourth of the Gospel**

I have something elementary and basic for you today. It is written in the *Book of Mormon*, and it is written about three pages after Jesus showed up on this continent. He first talks about His doctrine, and then this is a part of it, and it shows us that one fourth of His doctrine has been lost. We have ignored one fourth of Jesus' doctrine. I'll read it to you now.

3 Nephi 5:36-37: "Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also; And unto him will the Father bear record of me; for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost; ..."

And here's the part: 3 Nephi 5:39-40: "And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God."

It goes on to say, 3 Nephi 5:41-42: "Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.



And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them." I will explain more about the lost part later.

Michael Jordison sang, inviting the congregation to sing along with him.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the pains 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. (By this time the congregation was singing softly and reverently with Brother Jordison.) 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 pains of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

Brother Knotts resumed what he termed his visit with us.

Thank you, Michael. You notice in this part we read here about Jesus' teachings, there were only about four parts to it, but the part that was repeated twice - how many of you caught that? There was a part that was repeated twice. (The audience responded affirmatively). Good. And that's the part we have neglected. He wants us to become as a little child. And then we are to be baptized. Then He wants us to become as a little child again. Now what would happen to us if we ignored that? We would become very sophisticated. We would be wrapped up in head knowledge, and our heads might be large, and we might tip over and we'd fall on our face! And what has happened to us? All of the appointees have degrees, which is only logical. We have become educated beyond belief, and here He wants us to become as a little child.

One time Jesus took his "sophisticated" fishermen, Apostles, and brought a child among them and said, "Unless you become as this little child, you can't enter the kingdom." And maybe we could think about that today. Are we willing to trust Him literally as a little child?

Oh, I looked up what a little child is like, and you are familiar with this scripture. It is Mosiah 1:120-121. A little child is meek and submissive and has all of these good qualities. (Our speaker called upon Elder Norman Nelson to read the passage for him.) "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 moreover, I say unto you, that the time shall come, when the knowledge of a Savior shall spread throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."

(As Brother Nelson finished reading, Brother Knotts asked him to remain at the podium and presented him with a golden church seal saying, "I know you will appreciate this. There are only two of them that I know of around, and I have the other one. It is so old that it has the lion's rear end sticking out. That's BG - Before George. We turned it around and put it behind!")

You know those good qualities of a child, but the last one is, "easy to entreat" A child is teachable or they don't last very long. And sometimes the ones that are not teachable get into a lot of trouble.

A child will do what his parents tell him to do., except go to bed early and stay in bed and not keep wanting a drink and stuff! They eventually go to sleep and grow up to be nice people. Right now, the

point I am making here is we need to be humble - that's a good word, isn't it? It didn't say humble, but it says humble and teachable as a little child. What's another word for humble? Be teachable. There you have it, and Jesus was very plain on that. He double spoke it, and we have ignored that in a major way.

### Reference to a Reunion Event

I have another set of scriptures to read for you today. How many of you have heard of Pretty Paint? Has anybody got his CD? I saw him at the reunion and I paid him my money right then, and I found it in my mail box when I got back from Oklahoma. We have shared it with a few people. Gaylord Shaw has it now listening to it.

Pretty Paint shows up at our reunion. He gets ten minute on the stand, but he only used six minutes and later complained he didn't have enough time. Pretty Paint could be a historical happening in our presence. His father, who was also named Pretty Paint, was a medicine man who believed he got his authority from the Lord and passed it on to Pretty Paint. So I listened to his CD. His talk is about ninety five percent out of the *Book of Mormon*, and he has one part about a prophecy about four years and something disastrous will happen. He gave five references from the *Book of Mormon*. I have those references to read to you today. Most of these are from Second Nephi. (These were all in another church's *Book of Mormon* and it took some doing to find them in ours.)

The first one is 2 Nephi 11:68-69: "And they shall be visited with thunderings, and lightnings, and earthquakes, and all manner of destruction; For the fire of the anger of the Lord shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall consume them, saith the Lord of Hosts."

Another one is 2 Nephi 11:90-91: "And the Gentiles are lifted up in pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches; Nevertheless they have put down the power and the miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, that they may get gain, and grind upon the faces of the poor."

When I am among my Baptist friends, I say the reason I couldn't be a Baptist is that they don't believe the *Bible*. You can see their jaws drop open. They make a big point about being *Bible* believers, but all I have to mention is the spiritual gifts. "You are right there." They say. "We don't do that!"

Here it is Second Nephi, Chapter 11, verse 116. (Brother Nelson, in charge, asked that the next verse be included; so it was read 11:116-117.)

"But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations; And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire;"

This is the last reference from second Nephi: 2 Nephi 11:123-124: "For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your eyes, and ye have rejected the prophets, and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity." It was this man's impression that we were among those sleeping.

There is one more. It is a little longer and comes from Alma 3:11-17. "Behold, he changed their hearts; yea, he awaked them out of a deep sleep, and they awoke unto God. Behold they were in the midst of darkness; nevertheless, their souls were illuminated by the light of the everlasting word; Yea, they were encircled about by the bands of death, and the chains of hell, and an everlasting destruction did await them. And now I ask of you my brethren, Were they

destroyed? Behold, I say unto you, Nay, they were not. And again I ask, Were the bands of death broken, and the chains of hell which encircled them about, were they loosed? I say unto you, Yea, they were loosed, and their souls did expand, and they did sing redeeming love."

These were the scriptures he gave a reference for. Ninety percent of his talk was from the *Book of Mormon*. He just quoted (paraphrased) it in his own words. The part he gave that wasn't in the *Book of Mormon* was about the four years until this destruction that it is talking about here and just a little bit more. All the rest is from the *Book of Mormon*.

But now, why is he a potential force for good? He is going throughout the Indian tribes - it's his mission - and talking to them straight forward about the *Book of Mormon*. He is not stuttering. He is just giving them right verse and everything. That could be a good thing. If he gets the Indians stirred up about the *Book of Mormon* and about the prophecies of the last days, etc., urging them to repent, that could be real good. The movie he saw that night was the one about the two testaments - the *Book of Mormon* and the *New Testament*. It showed the destruction that was taking place in this land before Jesus came. He said it will be like that. That's what this is describing - a terrible thing happening - destruction that wipes the land off! I don't know for sure how he got to us, but he sure did. And I am glad he came by and we got exposed to him. We will see. It only takes four years to find out if he is accurate or not, and that could be an expensive four years if he is.

Well, is that enough to make us repent? If we have gotten this far without repenting, why should these few words from one we do not know make any difference. Well, who said we are not repenting, anyway? You will receive whatsoever you ask because your heart does not condemn you. Now, that is really severe. That is getting in there meddling. If our heart condemns us, then we won't get what we ask for.

### Remembrances

Last night, Beth and I went down to Independence where they had a retirement dinner for one of the persons I worked with for eighteen years, Terry Snapp. It was a kind of reunion of the Neighborhood Councils that got together to honor him. He is retiring, not from the Neighborhood Councils but from raising funds for the hospital, or something.

I saw Ed Brown down there. Ed Brown is the one who married Beth and I. He's really old and feeble now and skinny. I said, "Ed, What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake?" He said, "Nothing!" I said, "Do you pray for Zion?" "Yes. Every day!" I said, "Are you telling the Lord He's good for nothing?" "No." I said, "Do you have something to do?" "Yes. I have something to do!" I said, "I'm glad I showed up here tonight to tell you you are not out of work." Ed talks so much about Zion we call him "Mr. Zion". He is still plodding along. Carl Mesle was there, and I saw some old timers that we worked hard with for a lot of years. It was a good experience.

I had another interesting experience about the *Book of Mormon* I went to hear Mitt Romney. He gave his talk and said, "Now it's time for questions." It was real quiet around the room for awhile and so I stuck up my hand and he called on me. I stood up. They brought a mike and I said, "I'm not a Mormon, but I love the *Book of Mormon*, and I would like to have a button that says, "The *Book of Mormon* is True, and so is Mitt!" So I kicked it off right there. He can't get by the *Book of Mormon* now. Maybe we can get some mileage for the *Book of Mormon* out of this election. When I shook hands with him at the end, I said, "The *Book of Mormon* is True, and so is Mitt!" His wife liked that, too. We went out and got in the car and started to pull away and here he came with his wife walking down the sidewalk. I rolled down the window and says, "The *Book of Mormon* is True, and so is Mitt!" Well, they laughed and went on. But they might have trouble getting rid of that or me! There was a

lady who tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I would like to write that down what you said." I said, "Who are you?" She said, "I am a reporter for the *Christian Science Monitor*, and she is going to write an article about religion and politics, and so on. She may use that later. She said, "I'll let you know if I use it." Anyway, so we were in there plugging for the *Book of Mormon*.

Well. What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake? I used to have a guy who would call me on the phone and ask me that. He wouldn't tell me who he was, but I knew who he was after awhile. It makes you think sort of like final judgment, maybe. What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake? We did a cartoon in the paper. It came out last week in the *Chronicle*. It showed a casket with a person laying in it, with two people standing by. It sort of reminds us of what is very important in our lives.

Did you ever get real sick and you think, "The things I was valuing the other day are not important any more." Well, I did, and that would have been a good time for my kids to come in and get a good fishing rod or whatever they wanted. I was ready to get rid of a lot of stuff right then. "Things just lose a lot of their importance when you get down to brass tacks - when you get down to really where the tire hits the road; and death is something that will happen to all of us. Death is terminal. You can't get out of it alive! And so, we need to think about where we are putting our best foot forward.

Now, Ron is overseas right now in dangerous territory. He has been over there time after time, and it's dangerous over there! He is putting his marbles in the game where he feels it does the most good.

Now, I want to call on Jan to tell us the theme of their reunion last week. (Jan responded, "I Surrender All".) I think that's a great theme. We will have to tell the Lord whether we did or not. Two kids ran through the house. Out in the back yard, one of the kids said to the other, "Why is your grandmother always studying the *Bible*?" He said, "She's getting ready for her final exam!"

### A Question About Scripture Study

How many study the scriptures, any one of the three books, daily? Let's see your hands. All right. We have got some. I'm not going to give many gifts away. How many feel they should study the scriptures every day? There's a fellow down in South America who said, "You know, these North Americans, they really study their scriptures a lot". He said, "When it comes supper time, if I haven't studied the scriptures, I'm just too busy to eat." So he doesn't eat until he studies the scriptures. Wow! He thinks we do that up here. How about supper time tonight - that you don't eat until you have studied the scriptures? And Monday night, and how about Tuesday night? Anybody willing to do that? How many of you would be willing? Good. I see one, two three, four, five, It's growing. It might be a wave! Well, I've probably done all I can do, if I can't get them to study their scriptures more than that.

### More Remembrances

I did attend another reunion right after our reunion and they praised God a lot. You know, the Lord made us in his image, and we like recognition and praise. And the Lord likes recognition and praise. I shared this with an Indian congregation in Oklahoma last week, and they liked it. They thought they could get hold of that. We are like God that way, so we can treat God with recognition and praise. He likes that.

The one quality this Contemporary Christian Ministries group had was that they spent a lot of time praising and recognizing God. I liked that a lot, and it seemed to show up in their responses and their attitudes. They had one class on the spiritual gifts and they had other classes on trying to get closer to the Lord themselves. I went into one session where it was called "prophetic prayer? Now, that sounds kind of strange. Paul Lucero was supervising it. They gave you this cassette, and you went into this room, and there were people in there to pray for you. They would try to get words and

knowledge of whatever came to their minds. Then they would speak it out loud, and it would be on the tape recorder so you could take it home with you. Well, I never had been in a session like that. So I took this tape home, and I have sympathy for Mildred transcribing tapes now, because it took me two days, and it still needs help. They said interesting things about me, encouraging me. Apparently it was supposed to be sort of like a Patriarchal blessing. Of course, it was not, but it was sort of like that. The insight they were getting at whatever level they were on was the insight you got from them.

I think probably we could exercise our spiritual muscles. I think we need to maybe spend some time alone with God and be sensitive to what comes to our mind and maybe write it down. In fact, it wouldn't be a bad idea if you had a pencil and a pad by your bedside because sometimes we get dreams, and if we don't write them down they fly away like a butterfly. You say, "I'll remember that in the morning". In the morning you don't remember that so any insight you got is lost. Sometimes it comes at three or four in the morning or just at odd times; but any insight you get, make a little note, enough to remind you and see what insight comes to you.

I remember I was down at Honduras, and it was my turn to go talk to the people. I was over by myself alone in the dorm. I bowed my head and the thought came to my mind, "These are My people." When I went to talk to them, I told them that was what had come to my mind. And when you think about it, they are the covenant people of Israel - of Manasseh. They are His covenant people, too. These were the people on the Reunion grounds who made a difference. And it made a difference in our attitude toward them, when you think of Jesus saying, "These are My people."

This morning as I was thinking about coming and visiting with you, I thought about loving all of you. Jesus loves all of you, and I love all of you. Some of you I pray for each day. "These are my people". Jesus could say that of you today, "These are my people".

## Be of One Heart and One Mind

For a Scripture reading this morning, I would like to read from the Philippian Letter, Chapter 2, verses 1 through 11. "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Sue Beck sang the beautiful hymn that begins with the question, "If suddenly upon the street, my gracious Savior I should meet, and He should say, as I love you what love have you to offer me?" and Elder H. Alan Smith commented on his hope for the morning. Every time I have an opportunity to stand up and share with you, I always hope that what I have been studying and looking at is something that will speak to someone in the congregation -- at least one person will recognize that the message is for them. I always know that what I am

speaking is a message for me, because it's something I am interested in or something I have been led to understand more fully.

I have been thinking about being of one heart and one mind. I don't know if that's because of the Reunion we have had or just that is what God is calling for us to be, if we want to be His people. I have been thinking about Enoch's experience with God, and that has brought some ideas that lead in a number of different directions; and as I try to focus on one heart and one mind, I hope they make sense to you this morning. The ideas have popped into my mind, some here and some there, as I have been preparing; so I hope the road we go down is something that you can follow and doesn't have too many twists and turns in it.

If we are going to be of one heart and one mind, I wonder sometimes if we are going about things in the wrong way. We talk with each other and say, "Okay. We all need to agree on this, and everybody has got to agree for us to be of one mind. We focus on our own ideas and those of the people we want to draw closer to.

Mom had a conversation with somebody this week that helped me maybe understand how futile that could be. There is a fellow that she was talking to that said that one of the reasons they were upset with other people in the church was because the Priesthood didn't all wear white shirts and dark suits when they stood up in front of the people. Mom asked where was that in scripture, and he said in the 1957 version of the Priesthood Manual someone had written that was what you were supposed to wear and since it was written before 1960, that made it gospel. She tried to bring up some other ideas and got further and further afield in terms of the discussion. The scriptures do say that priesthood should be clean and offer other suggestions, but wearing a tie and suit are not anywhere that I can find.

If we keep trying to agree on how many angels can fit on the head of a pin or that there are certain kinds of clothing that you have to wear to minister or other things like this, it seems we are going to spin our wheels and not get close to being of one heart and one mind. Why did Jesus say, "Don't worry about what you put on. Worry about the Kingdom?" How many things can we get caught up in that keep us from being of one heart and one mind in terms of the Kingdom? Is a black suit and a white shirt another form of vestment that we have to have? If I wear the right thing, then the Lord's Spirit can be with me. I don't believe there is a "right thing" to wear for the Lord's Spirit to be with us. When my grandfather stood in bib overalls in the pulpit, I don't think the Lord said, "I can't bless you because of what you have got on!" And if we get caught up in trying to be of one heart and one mind on issues like that, I don't know that we ever will be of one heart and one mind.

What Jesus called us to do was to have a heart and a mind and a relationship with the Father like His. And if we have the same heart as the Father, if we have the same mind as Jesus, then we are of one heart and one mind! We focus on living our life in that pattern and moving toward Him in that way. If every one is focusing on that, then we will be of one heart and one mind because it is His heart and His mind and not our own things that we are worried about.

### Enoch and God Show Us the Way

I have come to understand that the whole story of Enoch and his conversation with God was to help us understand how to become of one heart and one mind. I hope the story speaks to you in the same way it has spoken to me as I have read it over and over again in recent weeks. We are going to be following the story in the seventh chapter of Genesis this morning as we talk about Enoch, his discussion with God, his questions, the things that happen in his life.

You know Enoch was called. He said, "Why did you call me? I'm young. (He was kind of old by our standards) and I don't speak very well. Why did You call me, God?" God said, "Well, I did." Enoch said, "Okay. I will try." He was given great power, and as he went out and preached repentance and the way of God to the people,



it says that they became of one heart and one mind and dwelt in righteousness. And they were called Zion before there was a city. They were of one heart and one mind and called Zion, then they built the City of Holiness that was also called Zion.

And Enoch went to the Lord and said, "You know, we have had to do battle. We have had people coming up against us. What will become of the city? Will You keep us safe?" This was Enoch's first question. It was focused on himself and his people, and he says, "God, what's going to become of us. Will You keep us safe?" And God said, "Zion have I blessed, but the residue of the people I have cursed." Then God unfolds the future showing that Zion will be taken up to heaven in the process of time; and God promises that Zion will be His abode - that where Zion is, He will be. Zion would be where God would reign wherever that city was, whether it was with Him or whether it came back to earth.

#### **A Growing Heart**

But then God begins the process to let Enoch become of one heart with Him. God showed Enoch the residue of the people. Enoch was in the bosom of the Father and the Son of Man, it says, but God showed Enoch the other people on the earth. He said, "Behold, the powers of Satan were upon all the face of the earth, and he and his angels (one third of the hosts of heaven who rebelled with him). Where do you think they are? It doesn't say they are in hell! It says they are on the earth. They were "Busy on the earth, and the chain that Satan had in his hand to bind people to sin veiled the earth." It overshadowed the earth. It's at the Millennium that the devil and his angels are captured, and at the judgment that they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

Enoch saw angels were sent from heaven, saying, "Woe unto the inhabitants of the earth", and bearing testimony of the Father and the Son. And, it says, the Holy Ghost fell on many, and they were caught by the powers of heaven to Zion as well. And Enoch must have been pleased to see these people respond; so when he looked over and saw God weeping, he said, "How is it that the heavens can weep and shed forth their tears as rain upon the mountain? How is it that You can weep, seeing you are holy and from all eternity to all eternity. We can't number your creations. You have taken Zion to your bosom. Peace and justice and truth is the habitation of your throne and mercy goes from your throne unto no end".

And God showed Enoch the other people and He said, "These are your brothers and sisters. I created them. I gave them the gift of agency. I gave them the commandment to love each other, and I gave them commandment to choose me as their Father. Instead, they are without affection. They hate their own blood." (That could mean a lot of things from hating other races, hating other people in their families, hating their unborn.) "Among everything I have created there hasn't been such great wickedness as thy brethren. Satan will be their father instead of me. and misery will be their doom instead of joy. The whole heavens shall weep over them, even all the workmanship of my hands."

Have you ever thought about the flood? We sometimes think that was God in His anger destroying the evil people. Enoch was told, it was the tears of heaven that was to cleanse the earth! Is that a different concept? It must have become so in Enoch's heart. God told Enoch, "Why wouldn't I weep? I created these people. They are so wicked... ." He told Enoch that He would take these Spirits to a prison that He had prepared. Was it the devil's prison? No! It was a place that He had prepared for them. God said, "Jesus has pled before my face for them. He suffered so much for their sins, inasmuch as they will repent, in that day that my chosen shall return unto me and until that day they shall be in torment, separated from me."

The Lord revealed to Enoch all the evil things that the people were doing to each other. He let Enoch see into the heart of all those people that Enoch had kind of brushed off - you know - "Look at the good people, not whatever is left." "Wherefore Enoch knew and

looked upon their wickedness and misery and wept and stretched forth his arms and his heart swelled wide as eternity, and his bowels yearned, and all eternity shook." Enoch had the experience of being of one heart with God, and when he understood God's love, he wept, too. And he stretched forth his arms like Jesus did for us when He was crucified and when He called us to come to Him. Enoch's bowels yearned. (Like the story of the Grench whose heart grew three sizes when he understood Christmas.) It was almost like his heart grew so much within him that there was a physical yearning or change there. His capacity for love was so expansive that he. . . Have you ever sometimes felt like you could explode you are so happy? Or explode because you love somebody so much? That's kind of the way that we talk about it. It's hard to put into words what the experience must have been like -- to truly become of one heart with Jesus and God. But that's the experience that we are called to have.

We are called to see people for their potential, not for their present state and try to reflect to them what their life could be - the joy that could be part of their life - the love that they could feel that they are loved and that they can love others - to repent and rethink their lives. We need to have the righteousness, peace and joy of Christ so evident in our lives that they notice that something is different and want it, too. We are to share with them that they could have this pure love of Christ in their life as well. If we were of one heart, like Enoch and God in this moment, what would be different?

#### **A Growing Mind**

God didn't stop there. He showed Enoch the whole plan across the expanse of time so that Enoch could understand what God was working for with his creation. Enoch learned more and more with each question.

God went on to show Enoch Noah and the destruction of the rest of the world; and with his new heart, Enoch wept over his brethren and said he refused to be comforted. But God said to Enoch, "Lift up your heart and be glad and look", and God showed Enoch all the families of the earth. Enoch asked when the day of the Lord would come. When would Jesus come to be crucified so that all who mourned might be sanctified and have eternal life? God said it would happen in the meridian of time in the days of wickedness and vengeance. Enoch saw Christ, and his soul rejoiced. He recognized that through faith he was in the bosom of the Father, and Zion with him.

And Enoch looked and heard a voice from the bowels of the earth asking when the earth would be cleansed from its filthiness and be sanctified by its creator and have righteousness abide on its face? Enoch asked God, in the name of the Only Begotten, even Jesus Christ, that he would have mercy upon Noah and his seed. He asked that the earth might never more be covered by flood; and with Enoch's new heart, God could not withhold. He made an unalterable decree that Noah's line would be found while the earth should stand. This meant that the Messiah would be born from the seed of Noah, and God said, "Blessed is he through whose seed Messiah shall come." Further He said that Jesus is the "Rock of Heaven which is broad as eternity". Whoever comes in at the gate and climbs up by Him shall never fail but will come forth with songs of everlasting joy."

God showed Jesus lifted up on the cross. Enoch saw His death and resurrection and the spirits from prison which were brought forth; but the reminder were in chains of darkness until the judgment of that great day. Enoch wept at the scene of Christ's death and he wept for those who were not brought forth. He asked when the rest of the plan would be worked out and the earth would rest.

Enoch saw Jesus ascend into heaven, and he called unto Jesus, "Won't you come again upon the earth? for inasmuch as thou art God, and I know thee, and thou hast sworn unto me, and commanded that I should ask in the name of thine Only Begotten; thou has made me, and gave me the right to thy throne and not of myself, but

through thine own grace, ... when will you come again ... ?”

The Lord said to Enoch, “As I live, even so will I come in the last days of wickedness and vengeance, ... and the day shall come when the earth shall rest. But before that day the heavens shall be darkened, ... and the heavens and earth shall shake. Great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people I will preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven.” Enoch saw our day.

After Enoch had this growth of his heart, Enoch was having a growth of his mind as God showed him all of His purposes and everything that would happen. He talked about our day, and He said, “But My people I will preserve. Righteousness will I send down out of heaven.” What will that be? Angels to minister? Endowment of His Spirit on the people as they seek to respond? “Truth will I send out of the earth.” Will that be more scriptures? The truth that is to come out of the earth is to, “bear testimony of My Only Begotten, his resurrection from the dead and the resurrection of all men. Righteousness and truth shall sweep the earth as a flood.” Remember the old flood? It was to sweep the earth to get rid of the wicked. The new flood of our day will be the flood of righteousness and truth sweeping the earth “to gather mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place I shall prepare; a holy city where people will prepare and look for my coming - the coming of Zion, the New Jerusalem.” So, while one flood was to destroy, the last flood will be to gather those who will follow.

The Lord said, “Then you and your city will meet them there; and we will receive them into our bosom, where you are now; and they will see us. We will fall upon their necks and they shall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other; and there shall be mine abode - Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made, and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest.” And Enoch, when he was shown these things, including the tribulations where men’s hearts failed them, looking forward with fear for the judgments of God which should come upon the wicked, the Lord showed Enoch all things until the end of the world. And Enoch saw the day of righteousness, the hour of redemption “and received the fulness of joy.”

When Enoch saw the grand scheme of what God had in mind and what would happen, his joy was made full! His tears over those who wouldn’t respond were turned to joy at what would ultimately happen. I think Enoch, at that moment, was of one mind with God because he understood God’s plan for the world.

### **Finding Our Way**

As I read from my opening scripture from Philippians, “Let this mind be in you that is in Christ, Jesus.” If that’s our goal of being of one mind, that we all have the mind that was in Christ, Jesus, it’s going to be easier to focus on His kingdom and those things instead of the little things that can tear us apart. Valle is not here, but I will tell you a story on myself anyway. Sometimes we have cleanup day at the Smith household, and Valle has some things that she wants me to do. If our relationship is as it is at some times, I will do number one on the list, then when I finish number one I will go watch TV or go read a book or something until she comes along with number two. Now I go do number two and then I do something else waiting for her to tell me what number three is. For some reason, that doesn’t go over very well. But that is sometimes the way it is with us and the Lord. “I’ll do one thing You want me to do, but then I’ll need to go do some of my own stuff. And then, maybe I’ll do another thing, if You tell me.”

But God calls us to be of one mind. He wants us to know what He wants. He wants us to understand the plan. He wants us to respond because we understand what the plan is and don’t have to wait for each direction to be dictated. If I understood what Valle’s plan was for the day, if we sat down and said, “We need to do this, this and this.” Then I could carry it out as knowing when one task was

done there was another to do and what it was. I might even go do something I wasn’t asked to do that might help the plan. What’s the difference in the relationship between us if I am working that way out of love, knowing we need to get this done, understanding what the plan is and trying to do it versus waiting until I am told and only doing the commandments? It’s what happens when we are of one heart and mind.

I think that was the relationship that Jesus had with some of the people in this land compared to some of the people in the Old World. For instance, the time that Jesus was going to the Garden where He was praying that if it was possible the Lord would take the cup from Him, but He was willing to do what the Lord wanted Him to do when He knew that meant He had to go and die for us. He asked His disciples if they would pray for Him during that moment. He didn’t command them to. He just asked them. And what did they do? They fell asleep. and every time He came back they were asleep and finally He says, “I’m not even going to ask again. Just go ahead and sleep!”

But in this New World when Jesus was ministering, He preached a sermon that included the main points of the three years of ministry he had provided in the Old World. He got out his old sermon file from three years of ministry and share it all. After this long sermon, he looked at the people and thought they were tired. He said, “I had better go. You have heard enough for one day.” And the people began to cry. He could see that they didn’t want Him to leave. So what did Jesus do? He healed all of their sick - the 2,500 or however many were there that first day. He blessed their children with great power. He prayed for them, and so great was their joy that they were overcome. And Jesus said, “Blessed are you because of your faith. Now, behold, My joy is full!” The Scriptures say that because of the joy that was set before Him, Jesus faced the cross, and here His joy was made full. He went on and shared Communion and talked about the importance of prayer to deal with temptation. Then He finally left.

He came back the next day and the twelve which He had called were sharing again what Jesus had taught them the day before. So many people had come back the second day that they broke down into twelve groups so each one of the disciples could talk with a group of the people. They had a huge baptismal service. They were encircled with fire from heaven. Angels were ministering to them, and then Jesus returned. He asked His disciples to pray, and He went away a little way to pray Himself. He came back, and they were praying hard. And they weren’t just running over and over the same words. The Lord gave them the words they should pray so they could keep praying.

Jesus went away to pray again by Himself and when He came back, they were still praying. He went again and came back, and they were still praying, continuing in prayer. They shone, even as Jesus shone. His countenance was white, whiter than they could express in words. The same blessing happened to those disciples as they continued to pray. And Jesus said, “So great faith have I never seen among the Jews, wherefore, I could not show unto them so great miracles because of their unbelief.” The scriptures describe what was happening among those people by saying, “They were of one heart and one mind.”

You know, Enoch, when he saw the return of his city and his people to earth, had a fulness of joy. Do we believe He was looking at our day? That he was saying, “My joy could be made full because of what is going to happen in your day?” The idea came to me as I was getting ready for reunion. Maybe they are lining up up there. They don’t have the same time frame as we have. Maybe that hasn’t seemed like five thousand years or six thousand years or however many passing years since Enoch saw what was going to happen and the moment that it does. But I can see myself, if I was in the same situation, standing on tip toe - standing in line, ready to go, “Let’s go!

This moment that we have looked for all of eternity is about to take place!" I hope I can be one that gets hugged. I hope I am one who has something of one heart and one mind with you, especially with our heavenly Father.

Am I going to hold something around my heart - allow there to be someone that I can't forgive? Am I going to put a band around my heart so it can't grow? You know, if you put enough bands around your heart, you have a hard heart! I want to cut all of those bands so my heart can grow, so I can cast my hands, "wide as eternity", and be of one heart and one mind with the heavenly Father who created us and who loves us beyond all measure; Who wants us to see our brothers and sisters through His eyes; to see their potential and weep for those who won't come to this understanding and rejoice with those who will.

Are we going to seek a relationship with our Heavenly Father that helps us understand more and more, so that we can see a better personal picture of what God's plan is and how we have a part in it so that we can become of one mind, and don't have to sit down and watch TV between jobs? Are we going to struggle with trying to agree on little things like white shirts up front, or are we going to seek to have the heart and mind of Jesus in us? That's the only way we can have one heart and one mind. It's not to say, this is my heart and my mind and you had better agree with me, or that's your heart and your mind. Do I have to agree with you? If we both seek the heart and mind of Jesus, when we find it, we won't disagree.

This morning, can we seek to let His countenance shine in us as it did in His disciples as they prayed? Being of one heart and one mind must not be a simple task, or we would have done it in more in the 2,000 years since Christ came and we haven't. But it can't be an undoable task because God promises us that anything He asks of us, we can do. My prayer this morning is that we can base our efforts upon developing the relationship with God and each other that we have one heart and one mind - the heart and mind of Christ - that we can put His kingdom first, and then I believe that all the rest will fall into place. I believe that we can get those hugs that Enoch has been longing to give all these years. And wouldn't that be a wonderful experience?

## Sometimes Music Surprises

Elder Alan Smith, in charge of the music service of July 29, 2007, announced the first hymn, "Sometimes a Light Surprises" the text of which was written by William Cowper in the latter eighteenth century. The experience Cowper suggests is that when Christians sing, they are sometimes surprised by the understanding that, "It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings". Such an experience often comes to those who sing when in need of a blessing and the Spirit comes and ministers. And the singing of songs of praise, to our heavenly Father can do that for us. Well, that's why we are here this morning, to share in a service of the ministry of music. We hope that as you listen and as you share this morning, you will be blessed by that same Spirit that sometimes surprises us with the blessing of knowing and coming into His presence.

For a scripture reading, he read 2 Nephi 9: 135-137, which is also a quote from Isaiah. "Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitants of Zion; for great is the Holy one of Israel in the midst of thee."

We sang, "My Life Flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations. I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing/?" and Brother Smith offered a prayer for us all.

Robert Rolfe sang two gospel songs that always bless. He introduced his first song: Jesus said, "You are called to be a light unto

the world, and what are you to do with it? Don't put it under a bushel. Put it onto a candlestick!" The song reminded us: "You can't be a beacon if your light don't shine!" We were invited to sing the last refrain with Brother Rolfe, and the congregation responded, "There's a light in all of us by God's design, but you can't be a beacon if your light don't shine!"

Brother Rolfe's second song was "Jesus is my guiding light. Through this ever changing world, Jesus is my guiding light"

Michael, Julia and the four Jordison children, led by the eldest, Samuel sang and demonstrated that, "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that He cannot do. The mountains are His. The rivers are His. The stars are His handiwork, too. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that He cannot do."

The hymn, "Teach me, God, to Wonder" was announced with the explanation -- it is an O, not an A in the word. Sometimes the way we live our lives, anyway, we seem to want to put an A in there -- teach me to wander away; but what He is trying to do is to teach us to wonder at His creation, His power and the many things that are a part of who He is.

Barbra and Michael Jordison, accompanied by their mother, Jan, sang "With Christ my Savior and My God."

"Shine, Jesus Shine", a song that became a favorite of members of the Mount Ayr congregation from the time it was introduced to us at the baptism of Joel McDonald a few years ago, was sung by Alan Smith.

The next congregational hymn was "Oh Lord of Light and Love and, how joyful life might be if in thy service every hour we lived and moved with thee."

Brother Smith asked Sister Jordison to play the old favorite, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." As she did, he picked up a ceramic object from the current worship center prepared by sister Sue Beck to enhance the congregation's worship experience. It was outspread hands on which a sparrow perched. Alan read to us the caption, "By His hands we are all fed." As the song was played, we heard soft singing throughout the room among the worshippers. It was truly a moment to be cherished.

Michael Jordison, accompanying himself on his guitar, sang, "Lord Jesus, of You I will sing as I journey."

Sometimes a light surprises all people when they sing, Brother Smith commented. I hope you have been surprised this morning. Let's draw our worship to a close singing "O, Zion Haste, Thy Mission High fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is light that He who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night. Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release."

Gordon Winkler pronounced the benediction on the service praying, "Our loving heavenly Father, we come to the close of this service this day. We thank Thee, Lord. For the reminder and the insight that we have gained through the songs that have been shared. We recognize Lord, that You are almighty and all powerful, that You have changed the course of history over time to redirect Your people for the purpose of drawing them closer to You; and yet, Lord, as we recognize that great power, we remember that You hear even the small sparrow, and that Your love is for each one of us individually. Lord, we know that for each of us there are those corners in which we have darkness and fear, and we ask, that You would lead us out of those places -- that You would show us the way to get closer to You. Lead us on our journey that we might all come to know You more personally that we might all be able to say that You are our God and our Lord.

"So as we depart this morning, we would ask that you be with us that we would not forget to remember those who are around the world doing Your ministry this day. Bless them wherever they might be. In Jesus' name, Amen. "



# MUSIC SERVICE





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## News & Notes

### **A new view of the Church Seal Created for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

Seventy George Knotts reported a new insight into the meaning of the church seal which he helped to design. He reported Sunday, July 1 that it had always bothered him that the lion lying down with the lamb did not fit exactly the Isaiah 11:6 scripture. That scripture prophesies a day when, “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, ... ; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them”. Then he heard the testimony of one who had looked at the church seal with new understanding of the meaning of the figures represented in it.

John the Baptist introduced Jesus to those who were present at His baptism as the Lamb of God. (John 1:29). John the Revelator, Revelation 5:5, says the only one worthy to “open the book and loosen the seven seals thereof” was the “Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David”. Isaiah 9:6 says, “Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, ... ” Without its creators knowing it, they designed a symbol wholly representative of Jesus Christ for whose church it was created.

### **Invitation Accepted**

Sixteen members of the congregation traveled to Northeast Des Moines Restoration Branch to worship with the Saints there in Communion Sunday, July 1. Elder Eric Odida and his wife Pamela of Nairobi, Kenya were also guests of the congregation. Brother Odida taught the class and gave the sermon in the morning and joined Ron and Di Smith sharing testimonies in the afternoon. Ron Smith transcribed Elder Odida’s sermon and it is printed in this Newsletter. Twenty five members of the congregation gathered at the Mount Ayr chapel to partake of the Communion at the same time, and Elder Norman Nelson’s sermon is likewise printed in this issue of the Newsletter.

### **Missionary Journey Begun**

July 5, Seventy Ronald Smith was joined by Elder Jim Nowlin of Independence, MO for a six week missionary journey to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. During the first part of their journey, the Odidas were still in the USA ministering, first at the Geneseo, Illinois, Reunion. Shortly after Ronald and Jim’s return, Elder

Douglas Smith, son of Mildred and brother of Ronald and Alan, and Doug’s family will go to Kenya to live during the rest of the year.

### **Fall Retreat Set**

The South Iowa Fall Retreat is set for September 14-16 at Oaks Christian Camp and Conference Center just north of Bonaparte, Iowa, near Keosauqua. From Mount Ayr, take Highway 2 to Highway W40 and go north. More specific directions will be given in the September Newsletter along with preregistration information. Preregistration begins in August and is recommended.

The facilities at the Oaks come highly recommended. Christian groups, youth and family, camp there year around with facilities for a variety of activities for worship, learning and recreation. As is true of all our retreats, campers are requested to leave at home radios, TVs, CD players, and the like. No alcohol or tobacco is allowed, and playing cards are among the things to be left at home.

The camp rules require modest dress. “All clothing must cover from neck to knee” is underscored in their brochure.

The theme for the retreat is. “Thy Will Be Done.” recognizing that it is the Lord’s will that His kingdom shall be on the earth as it is in heaven.

### **Fasting Retreat Announced**

Brother Robert Rolfe alerted the congregation to the need for prayers by the leaders of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches as they meet in a fasting retreat the last week end of August. Their purpose is to petition our Heavenly Father for guidance in their efforts to unite God’s people. They have particularly asked that they be given wisdom and knowledge of what questions to ask of the Father in their search for understanding.

### **Business meeting planned**

A business meeting to elect officers for the new church year will be held Wednesday, Aug. 22, at 7 p.m. at the church in Mount Ayr. Be thinking about how you would like to serve in the coming year and let pastor Alan Smith or one of the other counselors know how you would like to serve.

### **Preaching series planned**

We will have a preaching series for three evenings in August - Sunday, Aug. 26; Monday, Aug. 27, and Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. at the church. Plan to attend and bring your friends. Watch for more details.