



# Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

# NEWSLETTER

2320 State Highway 2 Mount Ayr, IA 50854 www.angel-message.org  
High Priest Sherman Phipps, Presiding Elder Lamoni, Iowa Phone 641-784-6823



## News & Notes

### Guest Ministry

Sunday, November 14 we welcome *Seventy Rex Curtis* and his wife *Penny* from Independence, Missouri to our congregation.

### Thanksgiving Dinner

November 21st is our congregational Thanksgiving Dinner. All are invited!

### Good Food & Fellowship

*Please Note:* There will be three dinners this month: November 7, 14 and 21.

### Testimonies Shared

*Seventy William Baker* and his wife *Katrina*, currently ministering in Oaxaca, Mexico, fellowshipped with the

congregation Sunday, October 24th in testimony and song about their experiences down there.

### Seventy Website Updated

*Seventy Randy Vick* has suggested Saints visit the Restoration Seventy website at:

[www.restorationseventy.org](http://www.restorationseventy.org)

New features include a Blog for active Seventy and Podcasts with archived sermon recordings.

### New Newsletter Design

Starting this month we have a new format. A **BIG** thank you to *Debbie Bastow* and her staff for all their hard work on our previous issues!

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## RENEW OUR COVENANT



Elder Peter Cornish  
Columbia, Missouri

October 3, 2010

Moroni 10:29-30 *Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not His power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.*

It is a great pleasure and honor to be here in this congregation. We have come this weekend for a few purposes, one of which is Homecoming at Graceland, and the other is to celebrate the upcoming birthdays of Alan and Valle [Smith]. It is in remembrance of the four years of my life that I spent here that I am very grateful to the Lord for providing always for me. At Graceland He provided for me the

opportunity to have an education and to proceed with my further education and starting my career. He provided me with a roommate who is here today that gave me strength, a friend, and one that I could share many things with. I'm also reminded of the church family I had here as a support. When I first came here we were at the [old] church and then we moved to a couple other places and finally ended up here. So it is with great joy that I return. I've been here many times since, obviously, but this is my ten-year reunion from when I graduated.

I'm also reminded of the loss we feel, for when I was here, Delbert and Mildred [Smith] were with us. Three of my professors that helped mold me are no longer with us. One is with me up front and there are many others who are at Graceland or who have left Graceland who have meant a lot to me.

I'd like to share a few testimonies today to direct our thoughts toward Christ and help us to reestablish our covenant and our dedication to him. I'd like to share a testimony that I had never heard before. It was surprising to me that I hadn't heard this testimony before and you'll find out why a little later. There was a man who preached in Columbia a few months ago. He shared a testimony about a little girl. She was about thirteen years old and her father was a railroad worker and was gone a lot. She and her mother were home by themselves one afternoon when there was a knock on the door and a man was there. He said, "Is there anybody here that wants to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?" The mother heard the man talking to her daughter and invited him in. He shared with them a few scriptures, the first of which was from Mark 16: 14-15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.*

He continued on through the end of the chapter, which is the end of the book of Mark. He asked the little girl and her mother, "What is the gospel that we should preach unto all the world?" Then the man turned to the book of Hebrews 6:1-3 *Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God. Of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, and of the*

*resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And we will go on unto perfection if God permit.*

So the man enumerated the six principles of the gospel of Christ and he talked to them about the foundation of the church, about prophets, and apostles. He talked to them about the spiritual gifts that were mentioned in the New Testament, and then the same scripture read in class this morning from the book of Galatians 1:8 *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

This little girl felt that the man was delivering his message with great power and with authority from God. As she was thinking about this, she remembered a scripture that she had read many times from the book of Hebrews 13:2 *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

Before leaving, the stranger said that he wanted to identify himself so that she would know who she was. He said that he was a messenger that was sent from the courts of glory and in order for them to be sure that he was an angel from God, he told them that in the year 1870 there would be a war in Europe between two great nations and that a famous general would lose power. This was in 1866. The angel then said, "The time will come when your family will hear the gospel preached in power."

In 1870 the Franco-Prussian War took place and Napoleon III lost his power, which was a fulfillment of part of that message that the angel left with her. In the latter half of the year 1875, there was a 21 year old man who had a few years before received the gospel and was preaching in its purity. This lady, after a period of nine years, had been searching still. When she heard this man for the first time, she was convinced that this was the gospel with which she would align herself. So after one service, she went up to him and asked for baptism. This was December of 1875 and they decided that night that they would go to the river Thames in London, Ontario, Canada for a baptismal service. As they went, it was so dark that several of the ladies that were accompanying them ran into trees and other things and felt they would be harmed if they continued, so they



turned back. There were about 30 people gathered in that small group. Some of them were hecklers; some of them did not like the new gospel that these people were preaching. There was a lot of persecution that was going on in that town. When they got to the river, the man in charge sang a few hymns and said a few things. They said they couldn't see anything because it was so dark. The river was perilous because there were ice chunks that were floating down the river and they were a little bit concerned, but they had faith in God.

Around the time that this man was going to call them to enter the river, they heard a noise. It was described as a great rushing wind through the forest. Then they saw a shaft of light come down from heaven, which encircled all of the people there. So great was the power of that light that they could see not only each other, but they could see to the bottom of the river. But as light as it was inside their gathering, the darkness that surrounded them was just as different in contrast. Just before the priest's hand was raised to baptize, he looked up into the sky and he saw the gates of heaven, as it were, open to him, and

"Then they saw a shaft of light come down from heaven, which encircled all of the people there."

angels walking around. He baptized the two and after awhile, the light slowly receded and disappeared. That man was my great grandfather J.J. Cornish. I have heard and told that testimony many times, but I didn't know the testimony of Sarah Lively, who was one of the women that was baptized that day, and how she had received and entertained, with her mother, an angel from God. Because of that, they knew many years ahead of time that the gospel would be brought to them; and she was converted through this ministry. It is a great God whom we serve.

I am very encouraged by the spirit that is here today. I appreciated the class, the testimonies, especially the words that Joel shared with us in class. It is a great burden that we carry, I feel at times, because we know that Jesus Christ has saved us and that we have accepted Him through the waters of baptism. But there are many people that have not heard the gospel and I feel that that is what should drive us forward. I was talking to my Uncle Richard a while ago and he was saying that

one time when he was in Africa he was talking to a man from another church. In trying to describe the differences between that man's church and ours he said, "There are many churches that envision salvation as a sinking boat. It is our job to get onto that boat so we are saved." He then followed with, "Our church teaches that we are in a sinking boat and it is our responsibility to make sure that you get on that boat."

I am reminded of an experience that we find in the Inspired Version of the Bible when Enoch talked with God. I feel many times I have asked a similar question. When Enoch was talking with God, he saw that God was weeping. His response is contained in Genesis 7:35 *And it came to pass, that the God of heaven looked upon the residue of the people, and wept; and Enoch bore record of it, saying, How is it that the heavens weep, and shed forth their tears as the rain upon the mountains? And Enoch said unto the Lord, How is it that thou canst weep, seeing thou art holy, and from all eternity to all eternity?*

I feel at times that I have been like that and recognize how wonderful and holy the Lord is and forget about everyone else. Then God, being as gracious and patient as He is, talked to Enoch and showed him why he cried.

Genesis 7:47-48 *And it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Enoch, and told Enoch all the doings of the children of men. Wherefore Enoch knew and looked upon their wickedness, and their misery; and wept, and stretched forth his arms, and his heart swelled wide as eternity, and his bowels yearned, and all eternity shook.*

Enoch was troubled because there were some people out there who hadn't been saved that were wicked. And later as he was troubled, God showed him the salvation of all mankind, which is Jesus Christ. It is in Him and through Him that we receive remission of our sins.

I believe that there is a homecoming on the horizon. I believe that the time when all of the prophecies will be fulfilled and Jesus Christ himself will again walk upon this earth is before us. I feel that I too have been a prodigal son, as Joel put it, and have not been as diligent as I should have been in serving Jesus Christ. I haven't shown love and compassion the way I should have. I haven't reached out to people that I should have. In other ways, I may have turned people off to the gospel of Jesus Christ because of the way I've

lived. If any of you have similar feelings, today is the time to renew your covenant with Jesus Christ.

Erin and I have talked a lot over the last couple of years about Jesus' ministry to the people in the new world. One of the first things he talked about after baptism, was disputations and contention. I'd like to read from the III Nephi 5: 29-31 *And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been; For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another; Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.*

I feel that I have contributed to the contention and the disputations that exist in the church. In I Nephi, Nephi relates an experience that he had similar to his father's. He was told that there are save two churches. It is only because we have allowed disputations and contentions to enter in that we think there are more. Christ wants us to get rid of these contentions and disputations. Christ wants us to be united according to the law of the celestial kingdom. I would challenge each of us that as we renew our covenant this day with Jesus Christ, that we would also renew our dedication to become united. We all have a heritage in the church. We all believe in Jesus Christ. We all believe that he came and died for our sins. At times there are other things that get in the way that keep us apart. I feel that many times we place other things in front of unity. I have placed many things in front of unity. Christ commanded us to do away with those sorts of things.

The spirit of love is the command to love one another. So as you think about your relationship with Jesus Christ, I would also like you to ponder in your heart each and every belief that you have and why you believe. And I would like you to put them in a prioritized list, whether they are belief in Jesus Christ, belief in God, belief in how services should be run, every single thing that you have as part of your religious activities on a daily and weekly basis. Start to think about what those things are that keep us from our brothers

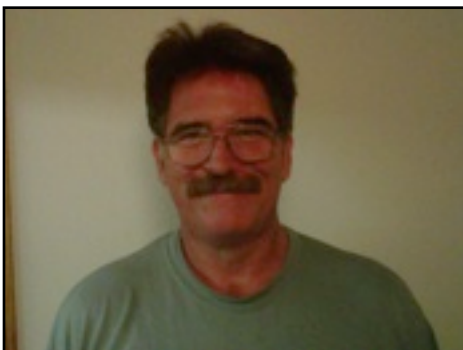


and sisters. Are they truly more important than being united? Are they more important than serving Jesus Christ? We need to be willing and radically dedicated to seeking unity. We need to love people, and we need to do His will in all things.

May God bless you as you restore your covenant and go forth with a renewed sense of purpose and desire to love our fellow man



## PRAYER



Elder Steven Smith

Lamoni, Iowa

October 10, 2010

As a Call to Worship Rod Bastow read Psalms 9:1, 2. *'I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High.'*

Brother Smith then began, "Our scripture this morning comes from Matthew 21:19, 20. Now leading up to this Jesus had gone by a fig tree and it wasn't bearing fruit. He cursed the tree and the next day when they went by, the tree had died and the leaves were falling. Of course, the disciples knew that this was an allegory, or a type, in which the fig tree they understood was Israel. It talked about what would happen to Israel if it didn't bear fruit. When the disciples saw this, they marveled and commented on how soon the fig tree had withered away. *'Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, if ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this to the fig tree, but also, if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, in faith*

*believing, ye shall receive.'*

"Today I would like to talk about prayer. It will probably be nothing new and outstanding, but what brought this to mind was an incident that happened about two weeks ago when I went with my son Anan and Julie Ann Smith to a Centennial Campout at Camp Nash in Kansas. This is for the Boy Scouts and I guess Cub Scouts too. There were 11,000 Scouts and it was a fall weekend with lots of moisture. Because it was fall it was cold and blowing and sometimes uncomfortable. When we got there at the campgrounds, I saw one of the young men that I had seen several times before, and he had a bloody nose. Blood was running down from the middle of his nostril down to his lip. I went over in front of the group of kids that was there, figuring he had a great battle story to tell. I asked him in front of everyone how it had happened. About the time that I asked him this, I realized that it was not a bloody nose. It was a granulating wound that had been improperly cared for. He had split his lip all the way up into his nostril. When I asked him you could see his pupils dilate just a little bit and he had the scared look of a deer in headlights. You know, can't run, can't fight, can't win, and I was met with silence. He never did tell me what happened to split his lip except for the terror that he communicated through his silence. So, I prayed for him.

"On the final night they had a concert and it was Liverpool Live which had some of the Beatles and then some others who were taking other's people places in the Beatles. They were singing old Beatles songs. It was a big thing and on that night it was kind of spitting ice and rain combined and it was very cold. One of the mothers of the Scouts had come out and she was not properly dressed for the day. I had a big black leather duster that I was going to wear. I decided that I probably really didn't need to hear the Beatles sing and so I offered her my big black leather duster to put on. This was very helpful because we were about a mile from the stage and just walking that mile in that wet stuff would probably have done her in.

"I stayed back at camp and as the wind started to pick up, I started battening down things and making sure that things were secure. The rain flies that weren't covering I adjusted around and zipped up the little windows that would let water in. I just tried to make camp a little more comfortable. During the next hour enough

rain came down that in some areas of our camp the mud got about 4 inches deep. If you stepped in it you just sank and it was really cold, cold mud. About an hour after things had started, they were going to have a BMX bike demonstration but because of conditions they decided not to have that. They had a juggler and a magician come in and do a few things before Liverpool Live. Some of the kids had gotten so cold sitting on the ground even with a tarp underneath them and over the top of them that they decided to come back to camp. The young man with the split lip came back with others, and one of the other scout leaders came back. We tried to help the kids that had gotten hypothermic by having them strip down and get changed and get in their sleeping bags. We told them they could play games as long as they stayed in their sleeping bags until they were warm.

"This young man didn't want to do that. He had a problem with panic attacks and as he got colder and hypothermic he went into a panic attack. With him a panic attack included hard breathing and pains in his chest. He became resistant to any type of suggestion. As the other leader tried to encourage him to try to get warm, he refused and grabbed his pillow and started wondering around crying and being very belligerent toward the leader. He was wondering around and went through the 4 inch deep cold, freezing mud in his stocking feet. He was just pacing. It was getting to a critical point where I was just going to have to ground him and walk the mile over to the medic tent and put him down and let them take care of him.

Finally, I got a hold of him and I explained to him that he was getting cold and was getting hypothermic which was affecting his decision-making and that we needed to get him out of his clothes and get him warm. He didn't want to get out of his clothes but he allowed me to take his socks off which were so cold that you could actually feel the ice on them and his feet were freezing. I took the socks off and rubbed his feet and put him in his sleeping bag even though he had wet clothes on. He started complaining of his chest hurting and problems breathing. It was getting to a bad point.

I went out and talked to the other leader to try to determine what to do. We have a policy where you have two adults with kids anytime you have kids. If I left to take the boy that would leave the other leader by himself with the other boys, but I



was thinking that it might be time to take the boy to the medic tent. "I asked the other leader to let me try one other thing. I went into his tent and again explained the necessity of staying in his sleeping bag and getting warmed. I started rubbing his arm which was under the sleeping bag. I asked him if I could tell him a story and he said yes. All of a sudden I was blank. What story should I tell? I thought of Daniel and the Lion's Den so I decided that I would tell him that one. I knew that I needed to keep his attention for quite a while and I needed to keep him calmed down. I started telling him the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den, and I admit that to make the story last longer, I started adding to it just a little bit by describing the rooms and the opulence of the palace. He listened intently.

I was finally to the part where Daniel was praying to his God when he was not supposed to but was supposed to pray to the statue. The young said that he knew that story. I asked him what happened next. In about 2 seconds he told me the rest of the story, and so I was without a story to tell him. I asked him what he thought about the story, and he replied that it was pretty neat. I asked him if he knew that he could pray that God would defend him and keep him from harm. He said, "What?" He said that they prayed over their food but he didn't know they could ask Him to protect them. I said yes. He wondered if God would protect him, and I said yes. I told him that, in fact, he was in danger right then and we should pray that God would protect him from the cold. He just kept coming back to the question that he could ask God to protect him. I asked him if he would like to say a prayer and he said he didn't know how to say one like that. I replied that I could say one so I said a prayer and stretched it out a little bit and he fell asleep. He stayed in his sleeping bag and got warm and didn't have to go on to the medical tent.

"It made me think about prayer and what it is and what do we do with prayer. The first thing that I did was go to Cruden's Concordance where I learned quite a bit. When we say prayer we are describing about six different words that the Hebrews used that we translate as prayer and about five different words that the Greeks used that we translate as prayer. In fact, have you ever told a story and somebody goes, 'Naw,' after hearing your story? *Na* (naw) in Hebrew means pray

and if we say *anna* (awn-naw) that also means pray. We have the *na* and *anna* and the Greek *parakaleo* (par-ak-al-eh'-o) which means simply that you are attempting to call God near to you. That's the form we used today when Jim [Barber] said the prayer for our invocation. He was calling God near to us. He was asking God to be here with us. That was *anna* that he was using.

"I remember a story that Paul Harvey told of the young charismatic girl and boy who came home from their youth meeting. They got home first. As they went into their house, they realized that a thief had been in the house. As they turned on the lights and started walking around to see what damage had been done, the young girl who was about 8 years old came across the thief. Being surprised she called on God and said, 'In the name of Jesus Christ get behind me Satan,' and the thief froze. Her brother who heard her came up behind him and knocked him out with a lamp. Because she had practiced the *na* or the *anna*, she had asked God to be with them and asked Satan to get away from them. It caught the thief off guard enough that they were able to prevail in that situation.

"We have the Hebrew *sihach* (see'-ahk) and the Greek *proseuchomai* (prosyoo'khom-ah-ee) which is simply an act of worship which we call prayer. If you turn in your hymn book to the song "Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children, God is Love, God is Love" that's prayer that ends with an Amen type thing. That in both the Greek and the Hebrew is a different type of prayer. If you sing the camp song "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good He's so good to me" that's a song of praise the type of prayer that was referred to.

"You have the Greek *erotao* (er-o-tah-o) which is an interrogation of God. An example would be, 'Why are you doing this to me, God.' It is actually a type of prayer. Why is this happening? Why? That was a special type of prayer that the Greeks used.

"We have the Hebrew *palal* (paw-lal) which means to judge. Because you have judged, you intercede. You act as a lawyer in your prayer. The *palal* would be the type of prayer that you would pray for someone who is in sin and is hurting from their sin. They have the consequence of that sin coming upon them and are unable to get out of the sin. It brings to mind a young mother who was down in the St.

Louis area when my Mom and Dad were down there. She had two sons. Her oldest son was not ideal. He didn't enjoy the religion that she had. He sometimes indulged in various drugs with alcohol and tobacco and going beyond that, marijuana and sometimes cocaine. He had experimented with many of the drugs. He was not above stealing to get what he needed. He was generally a reprobate.

She had a second son who was her good son. One who did the things that she asked him to do, who chose not to be involved in some of the things her older son was involved in. At the time of this testimony her youngest son died and it turned out that he had been given some cocaine in an inhaler. They didn't know if he even knew that it was happening and so when he inhaled it stopped his heart and he died. His mother was torn with grief and torn with frustration from the sins of those who had given her younger son the cocaine in his inhaler. She prayed that the individual who had given her son the cocaine would not rest until he had admitted to the thing that had been done. She was a woman of great faith and she was a woman of prayer and so she prayed with fasting for two weeks that the individual who had given her son the drugs would repent. In two weeks her older son came to her and told her that he hadn't been able to sleep for two weeks. He admitted that he had given the drugs to his younger brother. She continued in her prayers and her older son did repent somewhat. He still had some things and some addictions to deal with but this was the prayer of *palal*, the prayer of judging and therefore interceding like a lawyer and asking the Lord to help out in that situation.

"We have the Hebrew prayer of *chalah* (khaw-lal) which is a prayer for the sick, the worn out, those who grieve. This is what you entreat God for when you pray for those who are sick and afflicted. We often see this as prayer that we do when we lay hands on an individual. However, this is not just for an administration situation. The *chalah* was done by anybody who wanted to pray for those needed to have healing.

"We have the Hebrew *shaal* (shaw-al) and the Greek *deomai* (deh'-om-ah-ee) which is a prayer of begging or requesting. I remember the old song, "O, Lord, won't you give me a color TV, dialing-for-dollars is waiting to find me." That's kind



of the one that we often use when we beg or when we petition the Lord for something that we need. That is a valid type of prayer as well.

"I remember when I was in my sophomore year at Graceland, a friend and I decided that it would be fun to do a float trip down the river. We found a place on the river on Highway 2 where we could put in and calculated how much time it would take to go down the river. We found a bridge where we could stop at noontime for lunch. Underneath the bridge we made a little stash of food so we could grab lunch there and then float until about five. We had made arrangements with his wife to meet us down at the final take out point on the river. We planned this trip for a couple of weeks. We knew the rate of travel up the river. We knew just about everything except we didn't take in the fact that there was going to be a large number of rainstorms upstream just before this. When we came to the day of the float trip, the river was quite a bit higher. In fact, instead of just going under the road, it was up to the road and sometimes over the road in some places. It spread from six or eight feet wide in some areas to fields wide as it was going down. Since we'd planned for this time and were invincible, we decided we would put into the river anyway.

"We couldn't put in where we had planned because the water was too high. We had to get on the other side of the road otherwise we would just bump into the other side of the road and have to portage across. We started down the river and sometimes it was hard to find the channel of the river. Fortunately we had done our homework so we knew where the channel was and tried to stay in it. We were traveling fairly fast. We put in about 6:00 AM and about 8:00 AM, we were at the place where we had stored our food. We were expecting to be there at noon. It had taken us about two hours to go the distance we were expecting to go in six hours. We decided we might as well eat the food since it was there. We were hungry and it was cold and there was a mist over everything. Going down the river as kids you tend to get wet anyway and we had gotten wet and had some fun. We pulled out of the river and grabbed our food. We had some bologna and chips and pop. When we were done eating we decided we might as well put into the river and go down to the place where we were planning to pull out and find a phone and let his

wife know that she could come early, or we could try to go into an unknown portion of the river and continue down into Missouri more.

"We decided to do this but as we were putting back into the river, we came across a tree. We didn't know there was a tree because it was under the water. Well, we kind of knew. We could kind of see the leaves coming up to the top. When we looked at this later, the tree was about forty feet tall and we had gone over the top of this tree in the water. When we went over the top of the tree, one of the limbs kind of pushed us off to the left and in trying to overcompensate we capsized. We were in the midst of this swollen river so we held onto the canoe which you are supposed to do. We saw it as an adventure at that point and decided we would paddle our way holding on with our feet to the rungs of the canoe to get to the side of the river. We decided to go across the stream into the woods rather than trying to go back across over a field because the woods seemed closer. As we did so we got into the woods but we came across another tree and our

At that point I said, 'Help!' The Lord knew it was a prayer.

canoe was swept up against the tree. It again turned and then crunched around the tree because of the pressure of the water hitting so hard. My friend Greg jumped and grabbed on to the top of that tree but I was pulled under the water. I was confident of my swimming ability but I took about two strokes and ended up fifty yards downstream. I grabbed onto a very large tree and started to shimmy up that tree and realized that this was not the best tree, but that I could probably make it to another tree that was not too far away. So I jumped in the water again and took another two strokes and hit the other tree that I thought was probably a little bit better. I was about sixty to seventy yards from where Greg was and I climbed up the tree. It was an October morning and cold and icy, kind of like the Boy Scout camp, and I realized that sitting in the top of a tree with the breeze going across could create hypothermia.

"At that point I said, 'Help!' The Lord knew it was a prayer. I had an ease about me. I knew I had some time in the tree so I took off my cold, wet clothes and wrung them out and hung them in the tree. What do you do when you are sitting naked in a

tree? All you can do is ask the Lord to help you out. As I was sitting all of a sudden I saw this car going across the pond that was part of the river. It was going slow. It was actually on a road but the road was covered with water. I started yelling. The car seemed to slow a little bit but then continued across the bridge and out of sight. I thought that probably they couldn't hear me either.

"I waited a while and pretty soon another car came out and stopped on the road in the middle of the river and a person got out. I started calling to him. They were looking but couldn't seem to find me. I realized that probably I better get dressed. I was hanging in the tree with one hand getting dressed with the other hand. I was yelling trying to figure out how to get their attention. All of a sudden another car came out. They had a camera with a telephoto lens and were looking around. Pretty soon another one came out. There ended up being about six cars out there. People were looking but having a hard time seeing us. Greg was down low and I had been able to shimmy up this tree. With nothing else to do I started describing the people, sometimes unflatteringly to Greg who was down where the water was rushing over the bent up canoe which made it sound like a water fall. I had to yell to him to describe these people. I described the policeman as somebody big enough that I could fit in one leg of his pants and he could fit in the other and we would still have room to dance. Again I was unflattering and didn't realize that my shouting to Greg was loud enough for them to all hear what I was saying.

"I was finally dressed. Pretty soon they called out the rescue squad which consisted of six men in a duck boat. All of the men were big like me. With the water rushing as it did it put the water within about an inch to half an inch from the top of the duck boat. They tied with ropes and came from the road up to the tree line on the other side of the river and then stopped. They weren't willing to cross the main part of the river where the current was very strong. Again some of them were able to communicate with me so I was telling Greg what was going on sometimes not flatteringly. All of a sudden they were pulled back in. They packed up and disappeared. Well by this time it was afternoon. I was sitting in the tree watching the squirrels and raccoons that had gotten washed out of their trees kind of float by as



they were trying to swim out of it. I was feeling very fortunate that my little prayer of help had helped us out.

"It turned out that the rescue squad had gone to the other side and gotten another half mile of rope or so and come in from the wooded side because with the woods they didn't have to cross the main part of the river. They still didn't have quite enough rope so for Greg they threw out the buoy. It hit the canoe and he was able to grab it and they were able to drag him in. They took him back and then came back out for me. They weren't quite able to get to me and they couldn't make the buoy catch anything so it was decided that I would jump out of the tree upstream and about ten feet away from the tree, which was the farthest that we could extend. I would then grab the buoy and they would haul me in. That's what we did and I got all wet again.

"The short of the story is that with a simple prayer of help the Lord was able to create a calm within me and create a situation where we were able to be saved. We used the prayer of *shaal* (Hebrew) or *deomai* (Greek) which is a begging or requesting of the Lord for something that we needed.

"We also have the prayer of *euchomai* (yoo-khom-ahee) which is Greek and means to wish of God. I guess that's where the song, "O, Lord, won't you give me a color TV" fits in. When you have wishes and you are just wishing for something that is also a type of prayer.

"I thought it might be interesting if we were able to distinguish the different types of prayer. In looking at prayer and the things that it can accomplish with faith in what we are asking the Lord, we could even ask Him to take a mountain and throw it into the sea, and it would be done according to Christ. Prayer is communication with God. Prayer is something that we can worship God with. We can say *na* or come on over and be near me God. It can be an act of worship. It could be a chance to interrogate God by asking Him questions about what is going on. It could be an opportunity to communicate with God and when we communicate, if we ask in faith, we will have those things we ask for in our prayer.

"We can have God come near us. We can petition Him. We can have Him try to explain Himself about what He is doing. In fact, we can actually ask like Daniel and like Hunter the young man I mentioned

before, for protection. I saw Hunter about a week later and that granulation had healed up and he was looking a lot better. He still doesn't have a father but I asked him about whether or not he was praying for protection. He said no but he knew that he could. Like Daniel and Hunter when we pray we can actually pray for protection, for anything we need, anything we want, anything we desire or just to worship God, and He will respond if we ask in faith."



## THE HOPE THAT IS WITHIN YOU



Elder Dan Sherer  
Independence, Missouri

October 17, 2010

Our Presider, Elder Alan Smith used Moroni 7:11 as a Call to Worship. *'But behold, that which is of God, inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth to do good and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God.'*

"We have with us to speak this morning Brother Dan Sherer. His wife Peggy is with us too. I didn't realize all of the connections that our congregation has with Peggy and Dan. Gordon (Winkler) and Peggy were baptized on the same day in the same congregation. Peggy and

Diane Anderson grew up as best buds when they were younger. Dan is the pastor at Saints' Haven in Atherton, MO. We are happy to have Dan with us to share and would ask that you would continue to uphold him in prayer as he brings the message today."

Brother Sherer began, "I have chosen a couple of scripture readings that are probably all familiar to you. The first one is taken from Ether 5:4. *'Wherefore, whoso believeth in God, might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.'* I would like to read also from 1 Peter 3:12-15 *'For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer with meekness and fear to every man that asketh of you a reason for the hope that is in you.'*

"I rejoice for having the opportunity to share with you today. As I thought about my sharing I thought of the experience that Alma and the Sons of Mosiah had when they were reunited. As you know they were all together when Alma had his conversion experience and shared in that experience, but following that experience they went their different ways. For fourteen years they were separated, but when they happened to be journeying on the same path one day, they were reunited. Alma said he rejoiced because they were still his brethren in the Lord. Even though we labor in different parts of the vineyard, I do rejoice for you are my brothers and sisters in the Lord. Many of you I have become aware of or known through conferences, special activities or reunions. Every once in a while when our paths cross, I do rejoice in knowing that we are still brothers and sisters in the Lord "That's quite a thing because we are living in a day where it is so easy for us to be distracted and maybe even wander off in other paths where we lose that contact. It is important for us to be reminded that if we stay in the path, when our paths do cross we will



rejoice that we are still brothers and sisters in Christ.

“It was a special opportunity to be able to share in the baby blessing this morning. I cannot think of a more beautiful ordinance in the church. Probably one of the most favorite things I like to do is to hold the baby when he or she is being blessed and to look in their eyes. It is truly a blessing to see the hope and the innocence and even the eternity of God in their eyes. I am so thankful that we have this ordinance in the church.

“When Alan was speaking he mentioned a little bit about Peggy. She is from Michigan but I’m an Iowa boy. I was raised in southwest Iowa in a little town called Pisgah. I am very fond of my Iowa heritage. I am sure some of you here are from Missouri so I am not trying to prejudice you, but I am proud of my Iowa heritage. I get teased about it a lot but I am proud to be from Iowa.

“You may be familiar with the story of how a Michigan young lady and an Iowa boy got together. We met at Graceland College. I went there not to get an education I don’t think but to find a companion. We met and six weeks later we were engaged and married that next May. It’s been 33 years. When we first got married though, she tried to make a Michigan boy out of me. That didn’t work too well. We lived in Michigan for three months. That’s nothing against Michigan for you people who are here from Michigan, but we lived in the Detroit area and that was hard for a country Iowa boy to adjust to. We lived there for about three months and boy I began to carry a burden, just overshadowing, and I didn’t know what to do. One weekend we went to her grandparents in Ohio. We visited the Kirtland Temple and went for a walk. Peggy’s story might be a little different than mine but I am going to give you my version. We went for a walk and during that walk I told her that we needed to talk about something. I told her that I was carrying this burden and felt that we needed to move. I was thinking we would move to Iowa but as we talked her response was that maybe we should move to Missouri. As soon as she said that the burden was lifted from me. Six weeks

later we threw everything in a U-haul trailer and moved to Missouri. We have been there ever since.

“We are living in a time where the existence of God is often questioned and people are often searching to find out if there is a God. They want to know how you know there is a God? They are searching for answers. I can say beyond a shadow of a doubt that I know there is a God because I have had those experiences in my life that were lifesaving physically and were only brought about through divine intervention. I don’t know why. That’s the only way they could have happened, through miracles. One of them was when I was working on a farm in Iowa and we were harvesting. This gentleman got a call from a neighbor asking if we could come over to his place to help move a doublewide trailer because it was going to take a lot of individuals to move it. This was a little different doublewide. Instead of two units that they put together, this was one unit that the other side folded up so you had to fold the sides in and fold the floor up. As they were doing this the floor started falling down, and being a naïve seventeen year old, I jumped into the pit to put my hand up to try and stop it. The next thing I knew I was flying through the air as though someone had picked me up by the back of the collar and the seat of the pants and thrown me out of that pit. My guardian angel was the only one that could have done that. I remember flying through the air. Is there a God? Yes, there is and He does watch over us and preserve us. Many times we don’t know why.

“This morning I have chosen to share with you the topic of hope, the importance of it, what it can do for us and how we have that hope in God. One of the things that brought this to my mind was in the news recently. I know you have all probably heard about the Chilean mine accident where these miners were trapped for 69 days in this pit. It was very dramatic. Many of you probably saw the news clips and the articles about them being rescued from this mine accident. I particularly saw the second gentlemen that came out and the excitement that he had. He was running around just cheering, making statements about how God brought

them forth. How they never lost hope. I thought it was interesting that even the place that was the command center was called Camp of Hope. I read some of their stories about when they were first trapped down there. During the first two weeks they had very little to sustain them. I think they had two days of rationing that they had to stretch out for two and a half weeks. There were those that were continually reminding them, taking charge and giving them hope. There were those who maybe had less hope and there were those that were in despair, but through their leaders’ encouragement and through their endurance, they were rescued. At the time of their rescue many of them gave credit to God and said that He had rescued them. One of them said there were two forces there, the devil and God and he knew that God was going to bring them forth and He did.

“Hope. It tells us in the Book of Ether if you have a belief in God you might with surety hope for a better world. Boy I hope for a better world. The plan of salvation that’s been laid out from the foundation of the world is such a beautiful, beautiful story. It’s one that we can find hope in knowing that there’s more to this life than what we are experiencing right now. I am sure all of you are like my wife and me. We have our challenges. We have our difficulties and we have our problems, but we have assurance in knowing that there is more to this life if we but follow those things that God has asked us to and live that life He has asked us to live.

“We are commanded to endure to the end. That’s not always easy to do. I am sure those miners were wondering what it meant to endure to the end. They were probably thinking that their life was over at the time of the accident, but they were eventually rescued. The dictionary tells us that to endure means to continue in the same state, to remain firm under suffering and misfortune without yielding, to undergo as a hardship without giving in. How important it is for us to endure to the end, not giving up even during hardships. I know so many times we find that people are quick to give up but yet we are supposed to be a people that is full of hope. Just as the command center was called the

*The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts on December 11, 1620 and celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Wampanoag Indians in the fall of 1621. Instead of a one day holiday like today, it was a three day feast held in thanksgiving to God for blessing them with a life saving and bountiful harvest that year.*





Camp of Hope, we are the Church of Hope and Mount Ayr is a Branch of Hope, one that should be a light to all those we come in contact with. You should always be willing to share a reason for that hope that lies within you. It's not always easy because we do have challenges and difficulties but with God's help we can achieve and do those things that he's asked us to do. You know we are not in this work alone. God is there helping us and directing us.

"Last night Cheryl asked about the church in Independence. We do attend the Saints' Haven Restoration Branch which is a fairly new branch. Several years ago Seventy Tommy Thomas related an experience that Gomer T. Griffiths had at the Kirtland Temple. A gentleman approached him in a very nice business suit, and Brother Thomas was made aware that this individual was Satan. He told Brother Thomas that Satan's work in Kirtland was done and he must go to Independence now. Satan has been struggling pretty hard in Independence, MO. So many times we get involved in the battles and forget that there are Saints in outlying areas that are watching what is going on in the Center Place of Zion. I hope that the struggles and battles that we go through in the Center Place do not allow you to lose hope that God is still involved in this work. I know when you're in the battle it's hard sometimes.

"I remember in Church History Zenos Gurley shared about the very early stages of the Reorganization. At a particular conference meeting he felt that everyone thought that the church's salvation rested upon their opinion and how they believed. As a result they fought and argued and bickered. He said that it got so bad that he felt lost. He said that it was as dark as an Egyptian night. At one point he desired that the earth would swallow him up. I have been there. I have felt those feelings and I have been almost to the point of losing hope. Yet God is always there to sustain us and we should just crawl back up and keep going.

"I bear testimony that God is still working and moving with His church in the Center Place though we still have our differences. We argue and bicker and we sometimes have disagreements, but God is still working and moving in great measure. I have heard inspired sermons; ministry of music that has been inspired, and priesthood working and moving within

branches where God is directing them to bring ministry to individuals. Through these experiences we find hope in knowing that God is still in charge and in control. This is His work and not our own.

"Many years ago we got a phone call that my aunt from up home had passed away. We talked about it and decided that I would fly up to go to the funeral. The flight would be from Kansas City to Omaha, Nebraska because that was the closest airport. I went to the airport and got on the plane. It was just one of those little express planes that had propellers so you can see that it's been awhile. There were very few people on this flight. It was overcast when we took off. We went up through the clouds and you couldn't see anything but clouds. You couldn't find tell which direction you were going, you couldn't see the sun, you couldn't see anything. We eventually got above the clouds but they obscured us from seeing where we were other than we knew where the sun was. We could not tell where we were going. It was only about a half hour flight and we descended at Eppley Airfield. We went back down through the clouds and landed safely. I have thought about that flight a lot. When we went up through the clouds we couldn't see where we were going. We had faith in the pilot that he knew what he was doing. That he had not been sleeping when he was taking instruction on how to read those instrument panels. That he had been paying attention in class. When we went up through the clouds there was nobody jumping out of their seats running up to the door and pounding on it and asking the pilot if he knew what he was doing, where we were going. We all stayed calm and trusted that he would get us there. Nobody demanded parachutes to jump off of the plane. Even though we put trust in that pilot we sometimes don't put trust in God that He still is in charge. He is still piloting His church and it's not up to us to say, 'Do you know what you are doing?' It's up to us to do what He has asked us to do and to be that people that He's asked us to be and to endure to the end.

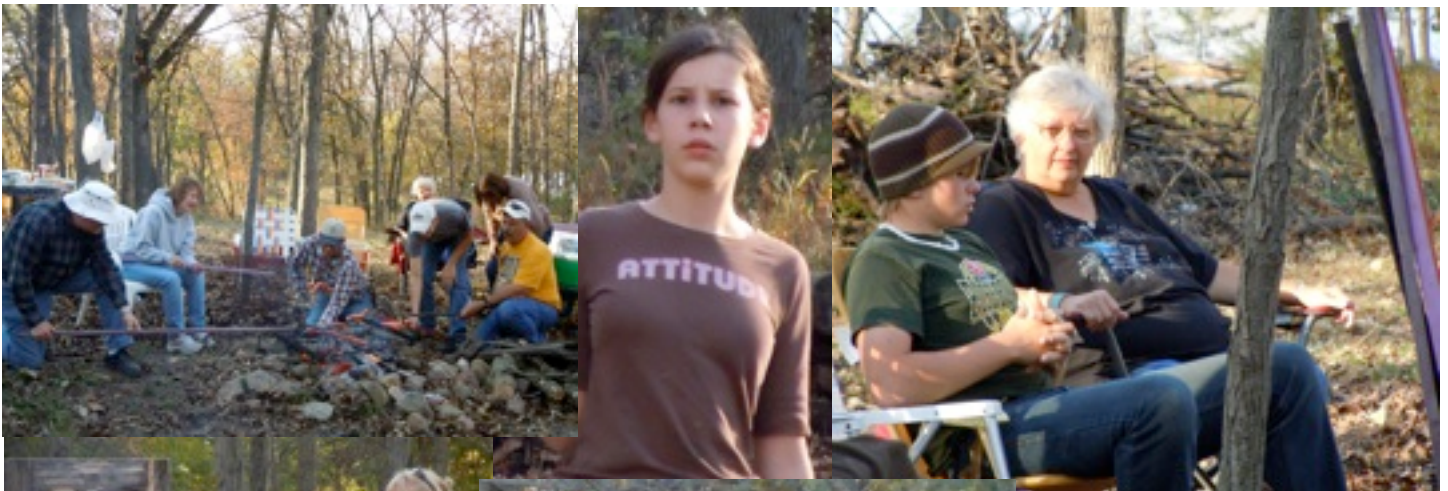
"Doctrine and Covenants tells us that the purposes and designs and works of God are not frustrated but it is the works of man. So if we get frustrated it's not God's fault, it's our fault. If we lose hope it's not God's fault, it's our fault. It's important for us to do those things that will bring about His purposes in these days in which

we live. Ether tells us that with surety we can hope for a better world. It tells us that this hope comes of faith and makes an anchor to the souls of men which will make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God. That's one way we can tell if our works are good is if they glorify God.

"Sure and steadfast. The dictionary defines sure as firmly established and steadfast as firmly fixed, in place, immovable. That's where we need to be. Firmly in place and immovable in those things that God has asked us to do. Each one of us is different. God has given each one of us specific talents and gifts and they are different from the person sitting next to you. So many times we allow these gifts and talents to be distractions rather than assets in building the Kingdom of God here upon the earth in these last days. My wife Peggy plays the hammer dulcimer. I don't know if any of you know what that is. She's played it at reunion once. Basically it is the keyboard out of the piano. You take it out and instead of playing keys you have little sticks that you beat it with. She's practiced a lot on that. It takes a lot to tune it. It has over a hundred strings to it. She has to pluck each string and the little instrument she has tells her if it is in tune or not with each particular note. When it is all in tune even though the strings play different notes, it brings forth beautiful music. We are called to be those strings on that dulcimer in tune to God that we might bring forth beautiful work.

"We have a friend from church who is very creative and very frugal. His daughter is taking piano lessons and they needed their piano tuned. He thought that he could do that so he got a book from the library and supposedly read it, but somehow he tuned it all to the same note. I think it was middle C. They had to call a professional piano tuner who wanted to know what happened to the piano. It's such a beautiful thing that we are all different but if we are in tune to God who created us we'll accomplish those things He's asked us to do. It doesn't mean we all have to be the same note. We need to recognize that those gifts and talents that God has given us are special and unique to each of us.

"Throughout the history of the church there have been people that you might call giants in the church, such as Arthur  
(Continued on page 13)

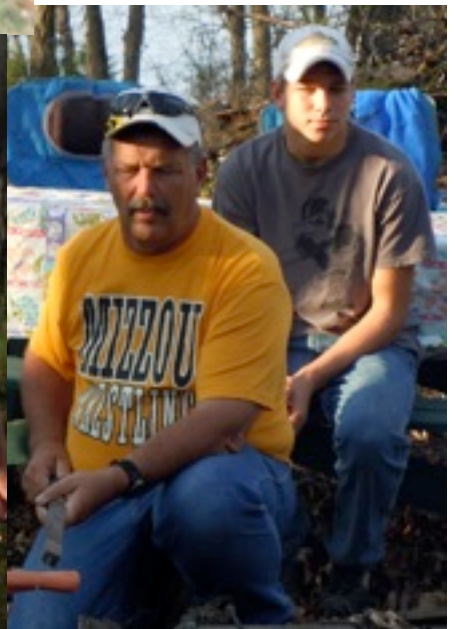


## Annual Hayride and Picnic

October 16, 2010

Approximately 37 members traveled to Jim and Linda Barber's for our annual fall activity. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed the scenery as we traveled on the hay wagons to the site of the picnic. Many went on a scavenger hunt while some of the others stayed behind to start roasting hot dogs. After eating hotdogs and making s'mores over the campfire, Ron Smith led us in campfire songs. Several testimonies were also shared. We had a great time and thank the Barbers for hosting this annual activity.

(photos courtesy of Sherman Phipps)





NOVEMBER 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# NOVEMBER 2010



## Sunday Schedule

DATE	NOV 7th	NOV 14th	NOV 21st	NOV 28th	DEC 5th	DEC 12th
SPEAKING	Elder Gordon Winkler	Seventy Rex Curtis	High Priest Rob Rolfe	Seventy Ron Smith	Priest Jim Barber	
PRESIDING	Elder Steve Cunningham	High Priest Sherman Phipps	Elder Gordon Winkler	Elder Alan Smith	High Priest Rob Rolfe	
PIANIST	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Jan Jordison	Jan Jordison	Pat Bolingbroke	Jan Jordison
SPECIAL MUSIC	Cunningham Family	JulieAnn Smith	Galusha Family	Kathleen Myers	Sue Beck	Beth Knotts
FAMILY DEVOTIONS	Steve Cunningham	Michael Jordison	Norman Nelson	Rob Rolfe	Sherman Phipps	
GREETERS	Ron Smith	Steven Smith	Gordon Winkler	Jim Barber	Ed Anderson	
CUSTODIANS	Rodney Bastow	Michael Jordison	Sherman Phipps	Rob Rolfe	Jennifer Rowland	
SUNDAY EVENING	Jennifer Rowland	Steven Smith	Norman Nelson	Rob Rolfe	Jennifer Rowland	

## Wednesday Prayer Service Schedule

DATE	NOV 3rd	NOV 10th	NOV 17th	NOV 24th	DEC 1st	DEC 8th
LOCATION	Alan Smith (Mt. Ayr)	Ron Smith (Lamoni)	Steven Smith (Lamoni)	Norman Nelson (Lamoni)	Jan Jordison (Leon)	
PRESIDING	Rodney Bastow	Ron Smith	Sherman Phipps	Kent Clisby	Alan Smith	



## Special Events & Activities

**Sunday November 7th:** Priesthood Meeting at 8:30AM - Potluck following Communion service

**Sunday November 14th:** Potluck and Fellowship with Curtis Family following the 11:00 service

**Wednesday November 17th:** Day of Fasting & Prayer

**Sunday November 21st:** Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner following the 11:00 service. Jan Jordison is making arrangements for food.

**Thursday November 25th:** Thanksgiving Day!

**Youth Activities:** Activity planning session November 7th at 5:00 PM before the evening fellowship.

**Notes:**

**Birthday's this month:** Matt Anderson, Jim Barber, Brandy Anderson, Joshua Jordison, Jan Jordison, Yvonne Galusha, Alan Smith, Samuel Jordison, Doug Calford, Marianne Elefson, Jazmyn Galusha and Gloria Ross. (If you want your birthday listed here send an email to: [jordi@grm.net](mailto:jordi@grm.net))



Oakman. There is a lady in the church named Elizabeth I consider to be one of those giants in the church. She is 92 years old and lives in a retirement home in Raytown, MO. She was raised in the church and believes wholeheartedly in the gospel. She cherishes it. She's confined to a wheelchair and you might ask how she could be a giant in the church. Yet this little woman who sits in a wheelchair almost every day has the most positive attitude of anybody I know. She basically has had everything taken from her. She's had to sell her home. Her children come and visit her but she basically has a cubicle that she lives in. Every time you visit her you go away thinking, 'Wow, what a positive person this is.' She has so many reasons to be negative. She could question why God has allowed this to happen to her, why can't she live in her own home, yet she tries to stay positive. She says that when people come by she tries to smile at them and share with them. She has young aides and orderlies come in that she shares with and tries to bring them hope. To me she is a giant in the church. She's fulfilling her calling.

"It's not always easy but if we do those things that God has asked us to do, if we live that life that He's asked us to live, not only will we have that hope and reassurance in knowing that He is there, we will be able to fulfill the purposes He's called us to fulfill. Parents know that when their children are disobedient, it is sometimes required to chastise or punish them. God also uses chastisement sometimes to get our attention and to help us recognize the error of our way. The early Saints were not immune to this.

"We all know the stories of the Saints in Independence. Doctrine and Covenants 98:2-3b says, *'Therefore, they must needs be chastened, and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son; for all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, can not be sanctified. Behold, I say unto you, there were jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them; therefore by these things they polluted their inheritances. They were slow to hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; therefore, the Lord their God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.'* The dictionary defines jarring as bickering. I have heard a lot of that lately. In Doctrine and

Covenants 102:2a-d it says, *'...Were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now; but, behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom; and Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself; and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.'*

"I think we have suffered long enough. Hopefully we learn obedience. I would ask that the Mount Ayr Branch might remember the Saints in Independence. We have many challenges before us, and there are many battles. A couple of weeks ago for our Sacrament Service the presider asked if I would bring the opening remarks to help prepare for the sacrament. As I prepared for that I collected some thoughts. When we got to the service our music director chose an introit for the branch to sing. I don't know if it is a camp song or just a song that is familiar to us. The words are very simple and we sang it through twice. It goes,

*'Open my eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,*

*To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.*

*Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.*

*Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.'*

We sang that through twice. As I listened to the branch sing those words, it was impressed on me so vividly that this is Jesus' desire to be amongst His people. He desires to be seen by His people. He desires to bring ministry to His people. That time is soon at hand if we will do those things He has asked us to do and be that people He has asked us to be and not lose hope that we might be able to accomplish those things He's asked us to do.

"There is a contemporary Christian song that says in one of the stanzas,

*'O may all who come behind us find us faithful*

*May the fire of our devotion light their*

way

*May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe*

*And the lives we live inspire them to obey.'*

[Steve Green]

That's our calling. It's our calling to be an inspiration even to this little one who was just blessed a few moments ago, to the young children, to our neighbors, to our friends, to our coworkers, to our fellow students that we might be able to share with them hope and reassurance in knowing that God is still in charge doing those things He can to reach out to His people.

"Doctrine and Covenants 142:5a-b says, *'The hopes of my people and the goals of my church, while not yet fully realized, and at times and to many seemingly distant, are closer to realization than many recognize. It is yet day when all can work. The night will come when for many of my people opportunity to assist will have passed.'* May we always be ready to give a reason for that hope that lies within us, to fulfill the responsibility and calling that God has placed upon each one of us. Truly we worship a God who gives us hope, who is there in our times of need and challenge and will provide those ways and means for us to fulfill the purposes which He has called us to do. May we be able to endure unto the end that we might have that opportunity to share with Him even in eternity. He paid the price for us. He is the reason we have hope.

May God bless us as we strive to fulfill that challenge that He's placed upon us as His church in these latter days. Though we labor in different parts of God's vineyard may He continue to bless His church and those who are laboring that truly even as the farmers are reaping the harvest now, we might be reapers of the harvest even for Him. That we might fulfill the purposes that He has called us to fulfill of being His people, even His sons and daughters. May we always be in tune to the Master that we may bring harmony and music to a world full of disorder and disunity and discouragement. May we be that people of hope is my prayer.





Elder Alan Smith & High Priest Sherman Phipps

## Blessing of Brenden John Ledford

A baby blessing was part of the morning worship Sunday October 17, 2010. Alan Smith shared some thoughts on the blessing of babies after a song was offered by some of Brenden's family. "Thank you for that music this morning. I appreciate it very much. When Jesus was here he invited the little children forth on several occasions. Sometimes His disciples weren't quite sure what He had in mind. Why would He be spending time with the little children? There were a lot of adults that He should be teaching. Jesus had compassion on the little ones and wanted to let them have a blessing in their lives that would help guide them and direct them in the early years of their life until they came to the point where they could make their own decision to covenant and follow Him. We have the testimony in the New Testament when Jesus blessed the children and told the people that we needed to become as little children if we were going to be a part of His kingdom. We have the example in the Book of Mormon where when Christ was here on this continent He called the little children forward. After He prayed for all the people angels came down and circled around the little children as Jesus ministered and laid his hands on each one and gave them a blessing. We have the testimony that that blessing was of such power in the lives of those little ones that later Jesus unstopped their mouths. The Book of Mormon records that they spoke and said things that were greater than anything that Jesus had said. Sometimes that's hard for us to understand how that

could be. That generation grew up to be a righteous generation because of the blessings of the Lord in the lives of the people.

So we come this morning bringing a new little one, Brenden John Ledford, to be blessed. Our prayer is that as Brenden is blessed that the Lord will offer the same measure of His spirit that He has so many times before and that we will recognize our responsibility as brothers and sisters to support Brenden through his early years in any way that we can to help him grow and learn and be assured that Jesus is the Christ and calls us to respond. If you will bring Brenden forward he will be blessed by Elders Sherman W. Phipps and H. Alan Smith.

"Father in Heaven, we thank you so much for this young child, Brenden. Lord, we know that he comes recently from your presence, and we pray that as he grows and develops that he might not ever be separated from your presence. We pray that you would bless him with the presence of your servants and your angels, that you would bless him with a knowledge of your love, that he might grow to be that which you have sent him to be, that he might have great joy in you and that you might have great joy in him. Father, I pray that you would bless his mother that she might have your Holy Spirit to be with her to work with her that she could raise this child in those paths that would bring him continually into a greater knowledge of you and your desires and purposes for him. Lord, bless him with good health. Grant him the privilege of your care and protection and teach him your ways even in the midst of this world that we live in. Again, Father, I pray that he might never be separated from you. That he might be delivered from evil and brought back into your presence when that time comes with great joy. I pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen."



### Fun Fact:

Distance from  
Mount Ayr, Iowa  
to Nairobi, Kenya:

8,355 miles or 13445 kilometers



## DO GOOD



Elder Alan Smith

*Mt. Ayr, Iowa*

October 24, 2010

Sherman Phipps read the the following as a Call to Worship, from 1 Samuel 16:7 and Psalms 95:1-8. *'...the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.'* (1 Samuel 16:7) and *'Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it; and his hand formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart ...'* (Psalms 95:1-8)

The scripture that Alan Smith used as his scripture reading was from Titus 2:11-14. *'For the grace of God which bringeth salvation to all men, hath appeared; Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good*

works.'

"I have been thinking about a lot of things lately: the state of the church, the state of the world, the state of the nation, and the state of my life. I look forward to turning 60 in a couple of weeks. I was just trying to come up with something that might be a blessing to you today, and the words that came to me that I began studying were the words, **do good**. So I started my quest to look through the scriptures, and I hope that the Lord has something in what I have to say this morning that will touch your heart.

"After I was impressed with the words '**do good**' I thought, doesn't the Lord really want us to **be** good? If you go back and look in the scriptures, it doesn't ever say 'be good.' It implies that, but those are not the words it says. Over and over in the scriptures it says, '**do good**'. I think that's because 'good' has to be an action. He wants us to be actively engaged in His cause and not just thinking about it, not just focusing on those moments when we reflect on a relationship with Him. He wants us to be putting into practice those things that He is calling us to do.

"I guess maybe this morning if I was a great marketer I'd have designed a T-shirt that said, **Do Good**, and I could just hand them out to all of you. Then I could sit down and everybody could use the shirts as a reminder of what they needed to be doing in their lives. I didn't get that done and so you will have to go through the rest of the sermon with me. If there's nothing else that you remember this morning, I hope you can remember two words, **do good**, and maybe some of the things I share about what those words really mean.

"Jesus gave us the parable of the talents. I think maybe that reflects also on this whole concept of doing good. The man who was going on a trip called three of his servants in. He gave the first servant five talents, the second servant two talents and the third servant one talent. This was based I think on their ability to take care of things. When he returned from his travels the first servant had doubled his talents to ten talents. The second one had doubled his to four, but the first one hadn't done anything with his except to bury it and make sure that it would still be there to turn back in when the master wanted it. The blessing that the Lord gave to the first and second servant was the same blessing. It didn't matter that one had doubled five and one had doubled two. He said, '*Well*

*done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*' (Matthew 25: 21) Servant number three who was given the same kind of thing that the other two were given but didn't act on it except to bury it, received a different reward. He was sent into outer darkness. He was a hearer of the word but not a doer.

"In the Doctrine and Covenants it tells us He wants us to '*. . . not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written.*' (D & C 83:8b) He doesn't want us to just say that that's what we are going to do, but He wants us to do it. In the first chapter of James it says, '*. . . be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*' (James 1:22) James then goes on to share a little parable. He says, '*For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*' (James 1:23, 24) So we see ourselves reflected back but then we go our way and that doesn't make any difference in our lives. We forget what kind of a person we are. We don't take any action. James goes on and says, '*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*' (James 1:25) Then he gives us some examples. '*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the vices of the world.*' (James 1:26, 27) In other words we need to do the word and not just know it. Later in James letter he sums it up this way. '*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*' (James 4:17) The result for is is not positive when we know what we are supposed to do and don't do it.

"Maybe it is like a football team. I know some of you may have seen some football games recently. What if you had a coach who developed the greatest playbook there ever was. He studied all the other great coaches of the sport and selected their greatest plays. Then he came back to his team and they studied that

playbook. They knew every intricacy of every play. They knew who was supposed to block who and who was supposed to run where and where the quarterback was supposed to throw the ball or who he was supposed to hand it off to. Come time for the big game and they were all prepared but no one goes out on the field. What's the result? Unless the plays are carried out nothing is ever really accomplished. Or suppose they go out on the football field and start running basketball plays instead. The guy takes the football and tries to dribble it down the field and run with it that way. The referee is going to blow the whistle for trying to advance the ball illegally. Playing a basketball play in football is evil I guess you might say. It is not allowed. Ultimately what we are judged on is the play, what we do. It's not what we know that we want to do. It's not what we think we are going to do. It's not that we know what we should do, but what we do.

"Jesus told the parable about the two sons. The father called the two sons in and said to the first one, 'I want you to go do this job for me.' The first son said, 'All right. Yes I'll do that.' The second son said, 'No way.' The parable goes on and the first son who said he would do it, never gets the job done. The second son who was a little bit rebellious and told his dad that he wasn't going to do it actually does the job. Jesus asked the people which one was doing the will of the Father? They answered the person who got the job done. The scriptures tell us that ultimately we'll be judged by whether we get the job done.

"In Alma 8:100-104 it says, '*The spirit and the body shall be reunited again, in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; And we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt. Now this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; And even there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but all things shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, And shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.*' If I understand it correctly, when we come

before the judgment bar for that final judgment and we believe in Christ and call on Him as our advocate with the Father, all of those rebellious things that we have done and repented of will be wiped clean by the atonement of Christ. We will be judged on what's left. What have you done that's good? The scriptures tell us that those of us who have come to understand and can stand the presence of God the Father will be able to live in that presence, and those of us who have done the things and learned and trained ourselves to stand the presence of the Son will share in that presence. Those of us who have not been good witnesses but can accept the gift of the Holy Spirit in its ministry will be able to share in that for eternity. So does it matter if we do good or not? The scriptures tell us we'll be judged on what's left over after the bad things are forgiven if we repent.

"The next question is what good are we to do? If we want to be simple about it we can come back to the first two commandments, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, might, mind and strength. We show the Lord that we love Him if we do what He says. People respond to His commandments. The other part of that is to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we have that relationship with our Heavenly Father, with our God, we want to do what He wants us to do and to respond in relationship with other people and love them enough that we want them to know of our Heavenly Father. We want them to know the way they can live to have peace and joy and happiness in their lives. We want to do good. The

because of the choice that you have made, because God has permitted you to act and given you a knowledge and made you free. He has given unto you that you might know good from evil and he has given unto you that you might chose life or death. You can do good and be restored unto that which is good or have that which is good restored unto you or you can do evil and have that which is evil restored unto you. Our Heavenly Father gives us that choice.

What leads us away from doing good? Helaman tells us it's our rebelliousness. *'O how foolish, and how vain, and how evil, and devilish, and how quick to do iniquity, and how slow to do good, are the children of men; Yea, how quick to hearken unto the words of the evil one, and to set their hearts upon the vain things of the world; yea, how quick to be lifted up in pride; yea, how quick to boast, and do all manner of that which is iniquity; And how slow are they to remember the Lord their God, and to give ear unto his counsels; yea, how slow to walk in wisdom's paths! Behold, they do not desire that the Lord their God, who hath created them, should rule and reign over them;...'* (Helaman 4:53-56) Let me read that again, *Behold, they do not desire that the Lord their God, who hath created them, should rule and reign over them; notwithstanding his great goodness and his mercy towards them; they do set at nought his counsels, and they will not that he should be their guide.'*

"Do we see that in the world today? Do we see that in our lives today? We don't want to accept somebody telling us what to do. We don't want to have to live by somebody else's rules. We want to

change his skin? Can a leopard change his spots? That's how hard it is for someone to do good that is accustomed to doing evil. Yet the scriptures also give us the promise that the spirit of God can change us and help us to do good as we are called to do.

"Remember when King Benjamin got all the people together in the Book of Mormon and spoke to them and they responded? This is the way it is recorded in Mosiah 3:1-3. *'And now, it came to pass that when King Benjamin had thus spoken to his people, he sent among them, desiring to know of his people, if they believed the words which he had spoken unto them. And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; And also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.'* The Spirit of God can change our hearts to help us in this process.

"Jesus taught us to do good. Sometimes he broke the mold of what other people around Him thought was good when He taught us to do these things. Remember when He was teaching about love and He said you've been taught to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. What did Jesus say was the real way to do good. *'But I say unto you, love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you;'* (Matthew 5:46) Why? *'That ye may be the children of your*

**"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)**

choice is up to us Helaman tells us. *'And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge, and he hath made you free.'* (Helaman 5:85)

"Have you ever thought that if you did something to someone else that wasn't good that in the long run you were doing it unto yourself? You are not just getting back at that person. You are not just hurting them. You're hurting yourself

make our own rules. Notwithstanding our creator's great goodness and mercy toward us, we want to set at naught his counsels and not let Him be our guide when He tells us that if we want joy, if we want to find happiness, if want to know what love is really, we will follow Him and find each of those things.

"If we are not doing good, can we make the change to do good? Jeremiah the prophet must have been looking after a bunch of people he had kind of given up on, at least a little bit. He probably wouldn't have been politically correct today when he said -- can an Ethiopian

*Father who is in heaven; ...For if ye love only them which love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans the same? Ye are therefore commanded to be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.'* (Matthew 5:47-50)

"Jesus went beyond what other people thought was good and called those who wanted to be the children of His Father to do more. Is it easy to bless someone who curses at you? Is it your first reaction to say bless you? Is it easy to do good to



someone who you know hates you? When someone persecutes you or despitely uses you, is your first reaction to pray for them? If we want to do good that needs to become our first response. We have a First Responder here in the congregation. She takes care of people when they have immediate physical needs. Are we going to be first responders for Jesus so that the first response, the quickest thing is to do good and to wish good for that person instead of to respond in wanting to return evil back to them?

“A man with a withered hand came to Jesus on the Sabbath and wanted to be healed. All those around said that’s doing work on the Sabbath. You can’t do that. Jesus said, ‘*Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? To save life, or to destroy? And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so; and his hand was restored whole as the other.*’ What was the response of the Pharisees? ‘*...They were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.*’ (Luke 6:8-11) Sometimes doing good doesn’t get the response that we hoped but we are still called to do it.

“Peter came up with a question when he was dealing with some uncircumcised people back in the day when they were deciding how much of a Jew you had to be to be a Christian. ‘*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...*’ (Acts 10:44-48) Peter had to change his mind about what was good when he saw the Spirit working outside the box that many people of his day had imagined that the Spirit worked in. The Lord was calling all people to learn to covenant to do good.

“God calls us not to be commanded in all things but to be doing good. Section 58:6c-i of the Doctrine and Covenants says, ‘*...for, behold, it is not meet that I*

*should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. Verily I say, Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good, they shall in nowise lose their reward. But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned. Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments? Who am I, saith the Lord, that have promised and have not fulfilled? I command and a man obeys not, I revoke and they receive not the blessing; then they say in their hearts, This is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But woe unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.’ Here’s the Lord telling us to be anxiously engaged in doing things of righteousness but not having to wait for a commandment from the Lord to do every single step and every single thing we do. Because if we’re commanded and we accept it with a doubtful heart and are slothful about it, we have to be careful where our reward lurks.*

“How do we recognize good from evil? The scriptures share about that in a number of places. One is in Moroni 7:10-12, ‘*Wherefore, all things which are good, cometh of God; and that which is evil, cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually. But behold, that which is of God, inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God. Wherefore take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God, to be of the devil.’ It continues, ‘*...for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; Wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil,**

*For after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him.’ (Moroni 7:14-16) Doctrine and Covenants 10:6, 7a, b says, ‘*And now, verily, verily I say unto thee, Put thy trust in that Spirit which leadeth to do good; yea, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit. Verily, verily I say unto you, I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy, and then shall ye know, or by this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which is pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive.*’*

The scriptures tell us that we need to be able to judge between good and evil. Those things which lead us to believe in Christ and to follow His commandments and to do good are the ones that we need to follow. Choosing good is a call to action – to do good, to love God, to serve him, to do good, to walk humbly, to judge righteously. Do you hear all the action words there? On the opposite side, a call to action to do evil, believe not, deny him, serve not him are choices that Satan calls us to.

“As I was studying I came across a scripture in Section 95:2a-d, 3a of the Doctrine and Covenants which speaks to this time of year with the election coming up November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The scripture doesn’t tell us who to vote for specifically but it gives us some guidelines. I hadn’t really recognized this before. ‘*And now, verily I say unto you, concerning the laws of the land, It is my will that my people should observe to do all things whatsoever I command them, and that law of the land, which is constitutional, supporting that principle of freedom, in maintaining rights and privileges belongs to all mankind and is justifiable before me; therefore, I, the Lord, justify you and your brethren of my church in befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land; and as pertaining to law of man, whatsoever is more or less than these, cometh of evil. I, the Lord God, make you free; therefore, ye are free indeed: and the law also maketh you free; nevertheless when the wicked rule the people mourn; wherefore honest men and wise men should be sought for, diligently, and good men and wise men, ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these, cometh of*

evil. And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall forsake all evil and cleave unto all good, that ye shall live by every word which proceedeth forth out of the mouth of God; for he will give unto the faithful, line upon line, precept upon precept.' So I guess as we go to the polls we need to be looking for honest, wise and diligent people to vote for, those who will uphold the freedoms listed there. Sometimes we wonder if that's possible anymore. If you listen to all the political ads you begin to wonder if anyone can tell the truth. The Lord tells us that the Constitution and the freedoms offered there are important to us, and we need to uphold it because if the wicked rule the people will mourn. We need to be involved in elections to make sure the freedom to do good is available.

"Ultimately the redemption of Zion depends upon us doing good. *'The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zion conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies; but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.'* (D & C 140:5c, d) What makes us think that if Jesus would only come He would set everything right between the Saints. Just because we see Him, that is going to change all of our hearts? We are going to be different people just because He returns? It's up to us to be doing the work, the hard work of becoming one with each other in Christ. In the scriptures it says that our reward will be what we deserve, what we want, what we really want. If we can't get along now how do we expect that we will get along when He returns? In Matthew the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter Jesus sent out the disciples to preach. There are three things that Jesus told the disciples to share when they went out. Before He got to the promises, before He got to the good things that He wanted them to receive, He said, *'Judge not unrighteously, that ye be not judged; but judge righteous judgment. For with what judgment ye shall judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And again, ye shall say unto them, Why is it that thou beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and canst not behold a beam in thine own eye?'* (Matthew 7:2-5)

"The first thing that Jesus taught was for us to learn how to judge righteously and to look at ourselves and get the lumber out of our eyes before we try to get the speck out of our neighbor's eye. Next he shared the promises of blessing that he wanted to give his children. After the promises, he talked about being aware of false prophets who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. He tells them how to judge that. *'... for do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.'* (Matthew 7:25-29) We can judge by what kind of things people are doing. If they are doing good, if they are responding to the commandments, they are not bringing forth evil fruit. Jesus went on to say, *'Verily I say unto you, it is not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, that shall enter unto the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. For the day soon cometh, that men shall come before me to judgment, to be judged according to their works. And many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name; and in thy name cast out devils; and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I say, Ye never knew me; depart from me ye that work iniquity.'* (Matthew 7:30-33)

"If we are going to be doing the Lord's work in this day, we need to remember the calls to judgment and how to judge. The way we have been judging each other in the church I am afraid is going to result in some very unhappy people at judgment day when the Lord says, 'I'm sorry but I've got to judge you this way. It's not the way I want to judge you but because this is the way you've meted out judgment, this is the way you treated your brothers and sisters, I have to judge you that same way.' Are we certain enough of the way we judge each other that we are willing to be judged that way when we stand before the judgment bar of God? I don't know about you, but that scares me. My prayer is that I will learn to judge righteously.

"There's a final promise about doing good that I would like to leave you with.

From Doctrine & Covenants 6:5e, *'If thou wilt do good, yea, and hold out faithful to the end, thou shalt be saved in the kingdom of God, which is the greatest of all the gifts of God; for there is no gift greater than the gift of salvation.'* Isn't that reason enough for us to do good?



## SHARING & MUSIC SERVICE



Seventy Ron Smith Presiding  
Lamoni, Iowa  
October 31, 2010

Ron Smith presided over our last Sharing Service of the year, noting the fact that it was Halloween. He then informed the congregation that an account of the "first Halloween" was mentioned in the Bible, reading from Matthew 27:54-57, *'Jesus when he had cried again with a loud voice, saying, Father, it is finished, thy will is done, yielded up the ghost. And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and the bodies of the saints which slept, arose, who were many. And came out of the graves after his resurrection, went unto the holy city, and appeared unto many.'* It says that the bodies of the Saints who were dead arose and appeared unto many (ghosts)."

The Mount Ayr Restoration Branch has been blessed with many talented members and today's service recognized

that. We have guitar players, violinists, singers, songwriters and people willing to share or read testimonies.

We were also blessed this morning to have two of the Seventy and their wives with us, Brother Frank Frye and his wife Patti and Brother William Baker and his wife Katrina. Currently residing in Oaxaca, Mexico they were back in the States for a short visit and made time to worship with us.

Isabel Jordison shared first with "God is So Good" on the piano, followed by Katrina Baker accompanying herself on

**"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High" (Psalms 92:1)**

guitar on a song that she had written with some youth at camp. Sue Beck then sang a beautiful a cappella version of "O Jesus I Have Promised".

JulieAnn Smith played a verse on her base clarinet of "Great and Marvelous, then Michael Jordison sang and played guitar with "Be Still and Know." Cheryl Phipps then shared an excerpt from the book, 'Just Walk Across the Room' by Bill Hybels and began, 'If taking ten steps across a room could point someone toward faith, it might just change the way you walk...'

Our next offering came as an original song about the joy of the Tree of Life written by Steven Smith and played by quartet of guitars and voices comprised of the composer, his brother Ron Smith, Samuel and Michael Jordison. Sister Yvonne Galusha Soloed "As the Deer" while her son Gable accompanied on his violin. We were then taken into the past with a barbershop quartet of Alan Smith, Michael Jordison, Ron Smith and Rob Rolfe singing "Reach Out to Jesus".

Seventy Frank Frye then shared his testimony about Revelation 14:6 *'And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.'*; bringing to light the importance of translating at least some portion of the gospel into every language on earth.

Bryce Wilson sang, "Meet with Me" accompanying himself on guitar. Sister Yvonne Galusha then shared some words

she felt had been given to her as she studied the Book of Ezekiel, calling us to turn away from those things that are not of value to the Kingdom of God. Ron and Di Smith followed with an original song about the coming of Jesus to atone for our sin, composed by Ron Smith and written by Jim Negaard for an upcoming musical.

Sister Patti Frye concluded our service by sharing three short testimonies of the hand of the Lord in her life.

We have a Sharing Service about four times a year when there are five Sundays in a month. Come join us and enjoy the talents God has given us and share with us.



**"Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God," (2 Corinthians 9:11)**

Shared by Linda and Jim Barber during family worship:

## **Your Bank Account**

The 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man was fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock. His hair was always fashionably combed and beard shaved perfectly, even though he was legally blind. His wife of seventy years had passed away necessitating the move today into our nursing home. Though it was for several hours, he patiently waited in the lobby, smiling sweetly until I informed him that his room was finally ready.

As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, shuffling with each step I provided a very detailed visual description of this tiny room, complete with even the the eyelet sheets that had been hung on the window.

"I love it!", he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old boy having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't even seen the room; how can you be so sure?"

"That doesn't have anything to do with it", he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether or not I like my room doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged... it's how I arrange my mind. I have already decided to love it.

"It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice: I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

"Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away -just for this time in my life.

"Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So my advice to you would be to start depositing a lot of happiness in your bank account of memories."



**Church of Jesus Christ  
Mount Ayr Restoration Branch**

c/o Cheryl Phipps  
15581 270th St  
Lamoni, IA 50140



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

NOVEMBER 2010

*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6-7)*

## Thoughts

With the onset of Fall comes many changes. Perhaps the most dramatic change comes in the form of leaves losing their green. Trees once adorned in the color of spring quit producing the amounts of chlorophyll needed to mask their true color. Without the aid of this this "life blood", leaves are left unto themselves and are arrayed in a beautiful display along with their neighbors until the last bit of life in them is gone and they float to the earth or wilt into brown.

In a sense, our lives can be compared to that of a leaf. After we've lived our life, producing all that we can, either for ourselves or for the sake of others, each of us will reach the time when our "Summer" is over and there is nothing left for us to do. At that time, all that we've labored for will be striped

away and we will be left to ourselves.

What will the Lord see when he beholds *our* "true color"? Will he see a vibrant Soul, full of deep red, gold or orange? Or will he see a drab brown shell ready to disintegrate with the slightest touch or burn with the faintest flame?

When everything is done and we stand before Him at the judgement seat, we shall know as we are known. Nothing will be hid from His eyes and we'll understand that what He sees is the reality of who we are. Knowing this, let us work to form Godly habits that will define our character in ways of His beauty. And this month let us remember with Thanksgiving that He has promised to help make us into these creatures that truly bear the beauty of His Son.

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**NEWSLETTER**

Michael Jordison (Editor)  
Cheryl Phipps (Circulation)

For content contributions please contact *Michael Jordison* at [jordi@grm.net](mailto:jordi@grm.net).

For subscriptions please contact *Cheryl Phipps* at [gmagpap.phipps@gmail.com](mailto:gmagpap.phipps@gmail.com).

[www.angel-message.org](http://www.angel-message.org)

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