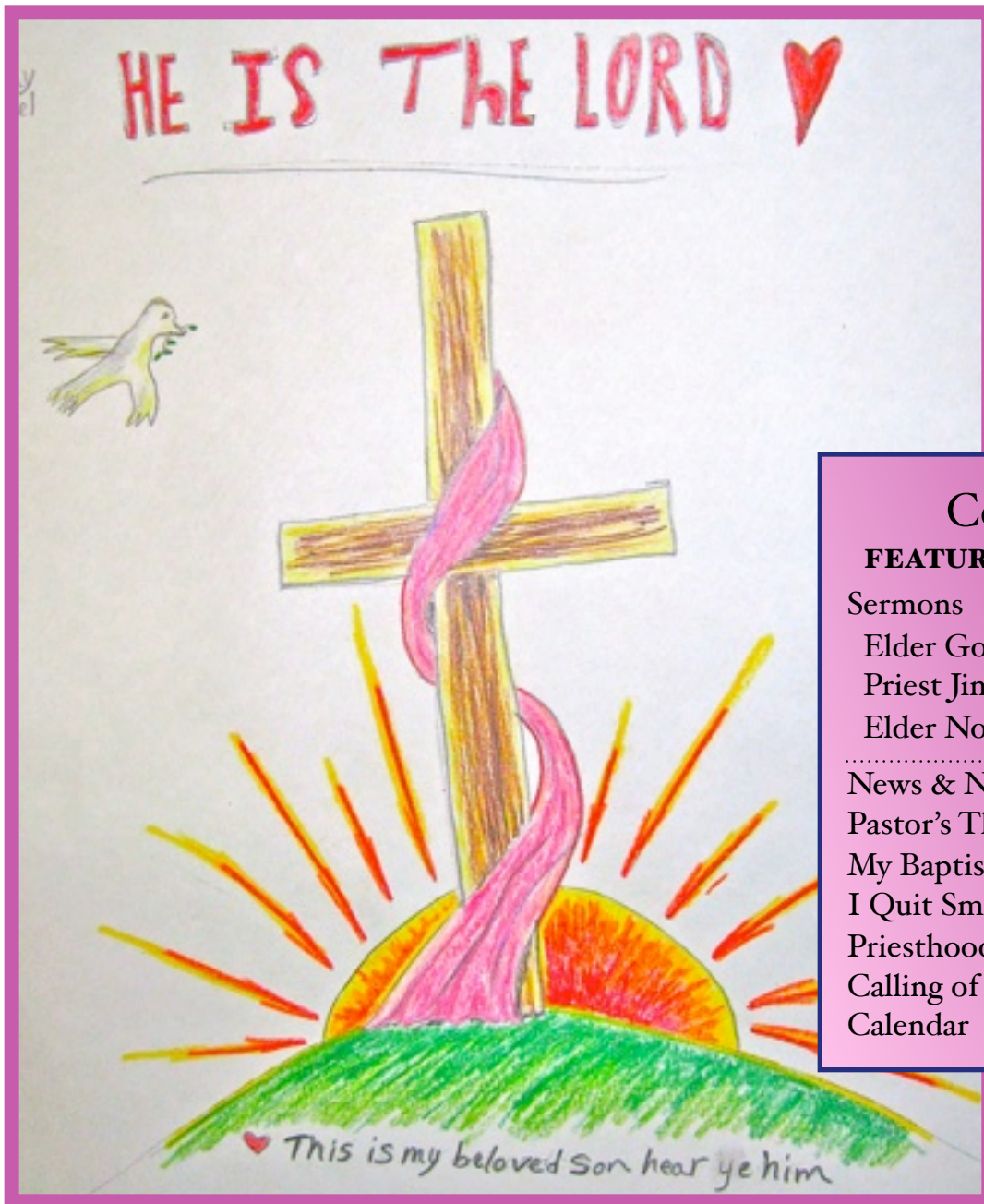




Church of Jesus Christ *Mount Ayr Restoration Branch*

NEWSLETTER

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Contents	
FEATURE:	PAGE:
Sermons	
Elder Gordon Winkler	3
Priest Jim Barber	5
Elder Norman Nelson	8
.....	
News & Notes	18
Pastor's Thoughts	2
My Baptism (Testimony)	12
I Quit Smoking (Testimony)	12
Priesthood Retreat Notes	13
Calling of H.Alan Smith	14
Calendar	10

(Illustration courtesy of Isabel Jordison)



Pastor's Thoughts

by Sherman Phipps

As the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches General Conference approaches, I am again reminded of all the counsel we have received with regards to what it means to be His (the Lord's) people. This is counsel which is very familiar to all, perhaps so familiar that we look right past it and continue to ignore its essential nature. At the risk of being repetitious I will recite a few of the scriptures which I am sure you have heard frequently and recently.

- 1) John 13:34-35: *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*
- 2) D & C, Section 38:6a: *"... Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine."*
- 3) D & C, Section 18:4d: *"And of tenants thou shalt not talk, but thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism and by fire, even the Holy Ghost."*
- 4) 3 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.(29) For verily, verily I say to 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.(30) 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. (31)"*
- 5) Matthew 18:5-6 (read 1-4 also): *"But whoso offendeth one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea. (5) Woe unto the world (the church?) because of offenses! For it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." (6)*
- 6) II Timothy 2:24: *"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient."*

I know there are many other scriptures that could be cited in support of the requirement that we avoid strife and love one another if we are to have any hope of being claimed by God as a part of His people, and laying claim to His promises. I will leave it up to you to search them out.

As plain as these and other scriptures are, there are many in our midst who seem to feel that somehow their understanding of things is so much clearer than that of their "brothers and sisters" that they owe it to the body of the church to ignore this counsel and be sure their way prevails "for the good of all," and that others be required to acknowledge them as being right. To those who feel they alone have the truth and it is their duty to be sure others submit to the truth – which they believe they have – I say read Genesis 3:1-2 (IV). Who is your master and your teacher? Who will claim you at the last day? I would suggest that the work of the restoration can not be accomplished except by obedience to God's commands. The ones which are plain and simple: humility, repentance, forgiveness, charity, etc. (Read D & C 4 specifically 1e and 2a.)

This is not our work, it is God's work. To think that it will fail because the body does not follow any one of us is foolishness. It is God and His Son Jesus Christ who we are called to follow and hold up to the world. (Read D & C 76:1c and 140:5d.)

If we do not repent, rid ourselves of pride, come down into the depths of humility, recognize our nothingness/our complete dependence on God, and cry out in mighty prayer for forgiveness (individually and as a church) then I fear that it shall be for us (the Restoration Movement) as it was for Jerusalem which

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GOD CALLS US TO COMPLETE OUR WORK



Elder Gordon Winkler
Mount Ayr, Iowa
March 6, 2011

“When you were a child do you remember sharing in Bible stories? That’s what I’m going to do this morning. This is an old Bible story, from 600 B.C. We are now at 2011 years after Christ, so over 2,600 years ago this story was taking place. I am going to read to you in preparation for our time this morning from the book of Haggai. It’s one of those small books at the end of the Old Testament. I am going to read from the first chapter, the second through eleventh verses.

“*Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built. Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.*

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord. Ye looked

for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it.

‘Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labor of the hands.’

An Unfinished Foundation

“I hope you paid particular attention to verses five and seven. *Thus saith the Lord of hosts, consider your ways...*”

“I would like to start by giving a history lesson. I think it’s important to understand the time frame and the setting in which the prophet Haggai was ministering. Jerusalem had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar about [586] B.C. Judah had gone into captivity in Babylon for 70 years. The prophet Jeremiah recorded in his book, the 25th chapter, these words: *‘And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment and these nations shall serve the king of Babylonia for 70 years. And when it shall come to pass when 70 years are accomplished I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquities and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolation.’*

“Babylon fell to Cyrus and the Persians about 539 B.C. Cyrus immediately decreed that all the refugees could return to their homelands. Just as Jeremiah told, God was working to accomplish His purpose for His people, Israel. The Jewish people took about a year to return to their homeland and settle down. Not all the Jews returned. In fact, only a small number compared to the total number that went into captivity. Some estimate only about 50,000. Upon their return to their homeland the Jews began to lay the foundation for the second temple. This started about 536 B.C. Solomon’s temple was destroyed about 586 B.C. The building of the temple came to a halt not long after it started construction. In 520 B.C. the construction began again under the preaching ministry of Haggai, the first prophet after Babylonian captivity. The temple was completed 4 years later, in 516 B.C.

“You probably couldn’t follow all those dates, but if you looked at the destruction of the first temple in 586 B.C. and the completion of the second temple in 516 B.C. that also equals 70 years. In summary, the Babylonian exile is past and the newly returned group of Jews were back in the land, with a great opportunity to rebuild the temple, the house of God. However, at the time of the writing of the book of Haggai 16 years have passed, and though they had started the project it was still unfulfilled. Only the foundation was laid. The money they had brought back with them from Babylon and their time had been spent for other purposes.

“It would seem from the text though that according to God the people were concerned more for their own lives; their own houses were more important to them than the house of God. But they had an excuse. They said, ‘it’s not time.’ Is ‘it’s not time yet’ an excuse we still use today for not accomplishing the work? Maybe we share some other excuses such as these: someone else will do it; we need to pray about it some more; that task is too big; it’s not our fault so it’s not our job; it’s a good idea but we’re too busy. Do any of those sound familiar? God says, ‘And you wonder why you haven’t received the blessings I have promised.’ In verse 6 He said, *‘Ye have sown much and bring in little. Ye eat, but have not enough; Ye drink but are not filled with drink; Ye clothe you, but there is none warm; He that earneth wages earneth wages to put in a bag with holes.’* (Haggai 1:6) That’s pretty illustrative—a bag with holes. Why? Because they spent their time and money on their own houses and not on God’s house. They had an interest in seeing the temple rebuilt, but they lacked commitment. Commitment and interest are two different things.

“I am reminded of a story about a chicken and a pig. A chicken and a pig are looking in the window of the farmer’s house at the kitchen table. On the table is a breakfast of ham and eggs. The chicken says to the pig, ‘Chickens contribute to that breakfast.’ The pig looks at the chicken and says, ‘Yes, but the pig has to make a total commitment.’

“I think today we don’t focus on commitment. We don’t understand what it is. We do things as a matter of convenience. Did your participation in the communion this morning represent your commitment to Christ or just acknowledge



a contribution that you're making?

"What is the result of a neglected foundation? Remember that when Solomon initially built the temple it was to be a place where God dwelt. It was God's house. His presence was going to be in that place. It represented the very presence of God himself. What happens when you neglect the presence of God? Are you building in your own life and your own heart a foundation and temple where the presence of God can dwell? Like these people we often place too much emphasis on our own concerns, forgetting to put God first—to put his work and his wealth ahead of ours.

"When God is pleased with our priorities He promises to bless us. Blessings are missed because we fail to put

"Putting it simply, just as God called the nation of Israel to complete the work of building the temple God is likewise telling us to complete the work that He has called us to."

God's purpose and priorities first. Haggai spoke to his people, calling them back to God's values. Maybe you feel like I do sometimes—God can't accomplish His purposes by using me. What do I have to offer to God that will allow Him to complete the work he has to complete?"

Could I Complete Such A Task?

"Did you ever think about some of the people God has used? Here are a few: Moses had a stuttering problem; Gideon was afraid—he came from a poor family—he was the least in his father's house; Samson had long hair; Rahab was a harlot in Jericho but she helped the Israelite spies; David was an adulterer with Bathsheba and he conspired in a murder scheme to get rid of her husband Uriah by sending him to the battlefield at one of the hottest points of the battle; Jonah—God sent him to warn the people of Nineveh but he ran off to Tarsus—he had a slight diversion in a fish; John the Baptist ate locusts; Peter denied Christ three times; the disciples all fell asleep while Jesus was praying; Zacchaeus was too small; Lazarus was dead for 4 days. God needs you.

"People started to worry that they needed to put aside the building of the temple to attend to other necessary things. But God cautioned them against getting

sidetracked.

"In the book of Matthew there is another testimony of how richly we are blessed if we seek first the kingdom of God.

"Why is it that you murmur among yourselves saying, We cannot obey the word because we have not all these things, and we seek to excuse ourselves saying that after all these things do the gentiles seek; Behold I say unto you that your heavenly father knoweth that ye need all these things; Wherefore seek not the things not of this world, but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:36-38)

"Putting it simply, just as God called the nation of Israel to complete the work of building the temple God is likewise telling us to complete the work that He has called us to. In the 2nd chapter of Haggai the Lord offers words of encouragement. He says, "...be strong all ye people of the land, and work for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts. According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt so my spirit remaineth among you. Fear ye not." (Haggai 2:4-5)

"I would encourage you all to take an opportunity to read or reread the book of Haggai. It's about two pages in length."

What He Can Do Through You

"I would like to conclude this morning with a song. —Don't worry, I'm not going to sing it. It's a song that's been playing through my mind for several weeks and I couldn't think of the whole melody and tune. Steve Smith remembered that it was It is no secret what God can do. I'd like to read that song to you.

*It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others He'll do for you.
With arms wide open He'll pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do.*

*The chimes of time ring out the news,
another day is through.
Someone slipped and fell. Was that someone you?
You may have longed for added strength,
your courage to renew.
Do not be disheartened, for I have news for you.*

*It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others He'll do for you.
With arms wide open He'll pardon you.*

It is no secret what God can do.

There is no night, for in His light you'll never walk alone.

*Always feel at home, wherever you may go.
There is no power can conquer you while God is on your side.*

Take Him at his promise, don't run away and hide.

*For, it is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others He'll do for you.
With arms wide open He'll pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do.*

"I hope as we share this morning that Bible story of long long ago—the message of Haggai, and the need to be about the Lord's work and building His temple—rings in the chimes of time, as is mentioned in the song I just shared, 'The chimes of time ring out the news': 'Be not disheartened'; 'There is no power can conquer you while God is on your side,' 'For it is no secret what God can do.'

"If I could make only one change to the chorus of that song it would be this: 'It is no secret what God can do—what He's done through others He can do through you.' May God's blessings be upon you as you consider your ways."



Fun Fact:

The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas has been seen by over 7.5 million people since it began in 1968. It is the largest viewed outdoor drama in the United States.

The world's first Passion Play was performed in the German state of Bavaria in 1634 during Pentecost. It was entitled: "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ"



GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM



Priest Jim Barber
Bethany, Missouri
March 13, 2011

Elder Seven Smith used the following as a Call to Worship. *"Behold, I speak these things unto you for the elect's sake. And ye also shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all I have told you must come to pass. But the end is not yet. Behold, I have told you before, Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth. Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the light of the morning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, and covereth the whole earth; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.*

'And now I show unto you a parable. Behold, wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together; so likewise shall mine elect be gathered from the four quarters of the earth. And they shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars. Behold, I speak unto you for mine elect's sake. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there shall be famine and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. And again, because iniquity shall abound, the love of men shall wax cold; but he that shall not be overcome, the same shall be save. And again, this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked.' (Matthew 24:24-32)

[The Invocation for the morning's service was brought by two young men of the congregation, Samuel Jordison and Devon Cunningham, who each prayed earnestly. We regret that the prayers weren't recorded for inclusion here.]

As a scripture Brother Barber used the following. *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot."* (Revelation 3:15-16) *"No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye can not serve God and Mammon."* (3 Nephi 5:115)

The Lord, He is the God

"I want to start my sermon like Gordon did last week with a story in the Old Testament which is found in I Kings 18:17-40. 'And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

'So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

'And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. And they took the

bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

'And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud; for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

'And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name; And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

'And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and thou mayest turn their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, the Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.' (I Kings 18:17-39)

"I know there is no one in our



congregation who worships Baal, but there are other things which keep us from worshipping and serving. As I read in the scripture reading, we can't serve two masters. We have to choose whom we serve. There are all kinds of things that can keep us from serving God. It could be a fancy car, wanting to make a lot of money, watching TV, or numerous things that you might think you want. For me, I like to watch basketball on TV. Some of the college games air on Wednesday nights. So, I have to choose. Do I stay at home from church and watch the game, or do I go to prayer service? I read somewhere that in the future some archeologists were digging, and unearthed a house in which was a huge TV with chairs surrounding it. Those future scientists wondered if that was our god."

Serve God - Don't Just Believe in Him

"I want to talk about serving God, rather than just believing in God. (I didn't realize until this morning that this was Steve's [Cunningham] topic recently, so I hope that I don't repeat what he said in his sermon.) It isn't enough to just believe in God. You have to serve him too. If you ask 100 people if they believe in God, probably they would all say yes. But if you ask them, if they serve God, it wouldn't come out the same (if they were honest).

"In order to serve God, you have to know Him. You do that by studying the scriptures and listening to other people bear their testimonies and gaining strength from them. My youngest daughter, Debbie, worked as a waitress in Bethany during the summer when she was going to college. She discovered that in order to do a good job, she had to know her customers, especially her regular ones. She had to know if they liked their coffee black or with cream or sugar. She had to know to keep their glasses filled and to always be courteous and respectful to them.

"When I was going to college, I had my first real job where I actually worked for another person and got paid. It was working as an attendant in a full-service gas station. When a customer arrived, we not only filled the gas tank but also washed all of the windows, checked the tires, and checked the oil. One day a farmer came in with an older farm truck. I immediately, checked the oil and tires and washed all of the very dirty windows. When the gas nozzle shut off, I went ahead and topped it

off to make it come out in even dollars. When I went inside, where he was, he told me not to do that again. I didn't know what he meant until he told me that he didn't want me to put in the extra gas since the gas tank was right behind the seat in the cab and when it was filled clear to the top, it caused gas fumes to be present in the cab. So, I had to remember that so that the next time he came in, I would do it to please him. So, when you are serving someone, you have to know and remember them. Just as in order to serve God, we have to know Him and remember Him.

"We talked about Zion last Sunday night, and what we can do to get it. So I tried to look up scriptures that pertained to Zion and what we can do to better prepare ourselves so that we can be a part of Zion. I asked several of our young people to read scriptures for us this morning. (I guess this is kids' day as Steve also used them to help out.) I asked Isabel, Josh, Stephanie, Jacob, Chris and Teegan to read the following scriptures for us.

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that

"It isn't enough to just believe in God. You have to serve him too."

whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.' (John 3:16)

"It is very important when we get up in the morning to remember that God loves us and wants us to be a part of His kingdom. This is probably the first and only scripture that I ever memorized.

'Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.' (Ephesians 6:1-2)

"Kids, do you know what it means to obey your parents. (Ryder (7) responded that when you don't, you get in trouble; you have to do what they tell you to.) (Several other kids responded and said that you need to do what your parents tell you to.) When I was a kid, my brother and I had chores that we had to do. One of the things that I remember most is that when my mom hollered up the stairs that it was time to get up, we had about five minutes to get up, get dressed, make the bed and get down the stairs for breakfast. My mother always seemed to know when we didn't make the bed. I don't know how she

knew since she didn't often go upstairs. It was a part of learning to be obedient so that later on we would know that we have to be obedient to our Heavenly Father also.

"When I went to college the first year, I stayed at home and drove back and forth to Maryville. I didn't do really well, so I decided that it might help me if I stayed in Maryville. So I rented a one-room efficiency apartment there. It was small with a couch that opened up, a small table and two chairs, a stove, a refrigerator, and sink. And most important was that it had a bathroom! Wow! I could take a shower whenever I wanted to without pumping water, heating it on the stove, and carrying it out to the smokehouse (where we had to build a fire) to take a bath. It was a lot of work to take a bath. But, even more significant was that I didn't have to make trips outside to the outhouse. The first morning that I got up in my new apartment, I dressed and made my bed. Why did I make my bed? My mother wasn't there to check on me and had no way of knowing whether or not I made it. It was a good habit that I got from being obedient to my parents. It is not all that important except that it was a part of my learning experience to be obedient, and I still make the bed today.

"My parents were pretty supportive in my decision to move out. I remember Steve saying last Sunday that Chris is getting his own apartment now that he is in college, so Steve is going to change the locks on their house. Just kidding! My parents didn't do that since we didn't have locks on our doors anyway. What does it mean to honor your father and mother? I think that Norman honored his mother and father last Wednesday night when he said that he was born of goodly parents and he thanked them for teaching him obedience and about God."

How Should We Serve God?

'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.' (James 1:5-6)

"We need to remember that in verse 5 it says ask, but in verse 6 it says ask in faith. God will give us what we ask for if we ask in faith.

'Therefore, if you will ask of me you



shall receive, if you will knock it shall be opened unto you. Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.' (D & C 6:2c-3)

"We shouldn't be storing up treasures or money---we should be seeking to establish Zion. It seems to be human nature that when we get some money, we want more. Or, that when we get power, we want more but that is not what God wants us to do.

'Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things.' (Moroni 10:3-5)

"If when you read the scriptures, you pray and ask God if they are true, he will verify that they are true.

'Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said,) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant; And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off. Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land and throw down all thy strongholds;

And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away. For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.' (3Nephi 9:98-106)

"We are the Gentiles that it is talking about. These things have come to us, and if we don't follow His commandments, then God is going to raise the remnant of Jacob up to tread us down.

'But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name; Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.' (III Nephi 10:1-7)

"This is the promise that if we repent and come back to Christ, then we will assist the remnant of Jacob in building the New Jerusalem.

'And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.' (Joshua 24:15) (Teegan Rowland read this scripture.)

"Teegan, have you seen this scripture before. She said, "Yes, I think I have." Jennifer (her mother) said, "It is written on our wall in our house." Yes, I saw it last Sunday night when we met at your house, and it kind of inspired me that I wanted to talk about that scripture. We have to choose to want to serve God. If we think about that every morning, it might remind us that we need to serve God. Before I close, I want to thank all of the parents for bringing their kids to church. You, young people, don't realize how fortunate you are because there are many young people who never get to go to church.

"That is what we need to be doing---telling our neighbors about God and the gospel. It is also our responsibility to take the Book of Mormon to the Jews and to the remnant of the house of Jacob in our own land."



An elderly gentleman, returning home one Sunday from church began to extol the merits of the sermon to his son. "I have heard, Frank," said the old gentleman, "one of the most delightful sermons ever delivered before a Christian society. It carried me to the gates of Heaven."

"Well, I think," replied Frank, "you had better dodged in, for you will never have another such chance."

-*Vindicator of Truth*, Dec.1884, pp39-40
(RLDS Church paper printed in England)



WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?



Elder Norman Nelson
Lamoni, Iowa
March 20, 2011

As a Call to Worship Steven Cunningham read 2 Nephi 14:4-6. *“Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye can not understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do.”*

Norman Nelson read D & C 22:23a, b as a scripture reading. *‘And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying, The heavens, they are many and they can not be numbered unto man, but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine; and as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof, even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.’*

Your Friend Wants to Help You

“This morning I would like to talk to you about the best friend you and I have ever had. When I was in Nigeria a person asked me, ‘Why did Jesus sin in the Garden of Gethsemane?’ And then my friend (Jesus) answered, ‘You think I was afraid to die on the cross but you’re wrong. The reason I sweat great drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane was because I knew the pain of having to be separated from my Father in order to take upon me your sins if you repent.’ That’s the kind of friend we have. But, He demands that we repent and ask Him to remit our sins. If we keep trying to hide them and saying that we are fine, He can’t do anything for us. He only helps us if we repent and ask His forgiveness.

“You need to study to know what others have said about Christ but you must also have a personal relationship with Him. If you study you can see what others have seen and what others have felt. You need to do that but you also need to have your own feelings. You need to have your own relationship with God. You need to pray and to seek earnestly to be with Him every day every minute of every time there is. Unless you do this you can **not** have the close relationship you need with your dearest Friend.

“What I read to you from the Doctrine and Covenants earlier tells you that the thing that God is trying to do is to help you to become the kind of person that can enjoy being with Him. This kind of person knows how it feels to be separated from Him and because you know, you are willing to be humble and full of love and do the things He asks you to do. He asks you to choose Him as your Father, as your God. He asks you to love each other because everyone here is a son and daughter of Christ. He made you. He gave you your spirit. You are His. He wants you to be with Him and it gives Him pain when you separate yourself from Him and don’t listen and don’t try to be the person He wants you to be.

“He said that those who believe on Him, have faith, are baptized and come to Him are His church. Anything more or less than this is not of Him. Have faith on Christ, believe in Him, be baptized and

come unto Him. Spend your life learning of Him and trying to be His child. This is what He is asking of you. Anything less than that won’t work. But, He is there willing and able to bring you into His fold if you allow Him to do it.

“Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say, Hearken ye people from afar, and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together; for verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape, and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated; ...and the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days, and they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.” (D & C 1:1a,b,d)

“Behold, I am God, and have spoken it; these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their language, that they might come to understanding; . . . for I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven; and he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received, for my Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts.” (D & C 1:5a, f, g)

“What I, the Lord, have spoken I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice, or by the voice of my servants, it is the same; for behold, and lo, the Lord is God, and the Spirit beareth record, and the record is true, and the truth abideth for ever and ever. Amen.” (D & C 1:8a, b, c)

“Remember He says that His work is to bring to pass your immortality and eternal life if you listen and do what He says. Repent, be baptized and come unto Him.”

Our Minimal Service

“Some time back we had a little pamphlet put out by the Patriarchs. It said

‘But behold, the resurrection of Christ redeemeth mankind, yea, even all mankind, and bringeth them back into the presence of the Lord; Yea, and it bringeth to pass the conditions of repentance, that whosoever repenteth, the same is not hewn down and cast into the fire;’ ~ Helaman 5:71-72



we should do four things. We should study at least 2 hours every week, and we should spend much time in prayer and fasting and seeking to be with the Lord. These things are minimal. Isn't the goal worth doing it? Study, pray, fast and seek to be with the Lord? These are minimal things that we can do easily, and we must if we are to achieve what the Lord wants us to achieve.

"In Section 59 the Lord tells us, 'Wherefore I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it. Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness; even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.' (D&C 59:2a-e)

"Don't be proud. You are only human but He's trying to make you into a person with eternal life. 'And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day; for verily this is a day appointed unto thee to rest from thy labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High; nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days, and at all times; but remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations, and thy sacraments, unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.' (D&C 59:2f-h)

'And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart, that thy fasting may be perfect; or in other words, that thy joy may be full. Verily this is fasting and prayer; or, in other words, rejoicing and prayer.' (D&C 59:3a-b)

'And inasmuch as ye do these things, with thanksgiving, with cheerful hearts, and countenances; not with much laughter, for this is sin, but with a glad heart and a cheerful countenance; yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye, and to gladden the heart; yea, for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body, and to enliven the soul. And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made, to be used with

judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion: and in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments.' (D&C 59: 4a, d, 5a, b)

"He asks you to recognize Him as God and to do the things He tells you to do.

"Remember He gave us the law, "not by commandment, or constraint": '...Behold, verily thus saith the Lord unto you, In consequence of evils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men in the last days, I have warned you and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation.' (Section 86:1a, 3b) Tobacco is not good for the body but for sick cattle. Wholesome herbs are ordained for the use of man. 'Nevertheless, wheat for man, and corn for the ox...' All these things are good for you but your major food should be wheat.

"My sister, Mildred Smith, tells of a time when she had a secretary who didn't keep that word of wisdom. She became mentally ill because she didn't use wheat. She used sow belly and corn which doesn't have niacin in it. We know that now but we didn't know it then. He told us back in

We need to be close with Him. 'Wherefore, we speak concerning the law, that our children may know the deadness of the law; And they, by knowing the deadness of the law, may look forward unto that life which is in Christ and know for what end the law was given; And after that the law is fulfilled in Christ, that they need not harden their hearts against Him... For the right way is to believe in Christ and deny Him not, For by denying Him ye also deny the prophets and the law.' (2 Nephi 11:49-51, 54)

"Believe in Christ, talk of Christ and speak of Christ. Always keep Him in remembrance in everything we do. He's the best friend we've got.

"For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish: For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good; And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; And thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth

"Believe in Christ, talk of Christ and speak of Christ. Always keep Him in remembrance in everything we do. He's the best friend we've got."

1833 wheat is your major food. He said don't use tobacco or strong drinks and if you keep these commandments with a cheerful heart, the destroying angel will pass you by. He's telling you how to live in a way that is pleasing to Him and good for you. Even though we know these things, we frequently forget don't we? We need to constantly keep reminding ourselves of who we are and to repent and come unto Christ."

Teach Your Children of Christ

"All three of our books are written for our use and benefit and are very valuable if we will read them. 'And we talk of Christ, We rejoice in Christ, We preach of Christ, We prophesy of Christ, And we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.' (2 Nephi 11:48)

"If we don't tell our children, they won't know either. We preach of Christ. He's the best friend we've got. We need to talk about Him. We need to talk with Him.

them away carefully down to hell. And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them, I am no devil, for there is none: And thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.' (2 Nephi 12:23-28)

"You have an enemy and he's really there. He whispers to you to do carnal, sensual and devilish things, to choose physical pleasure instead of Christian love. I eat too much. I like pie but if I eat too much I will get fat and I won't be very healthy. I need to eat according to my needs. I don't need to be with several women. That may be pleasure to some but it isn't true. I need to live with my own wife and love her and she love me. This is spiritual. The carnal way says choose all kinds of things, do all kinds of evil. That's what Satan tells you all the time. Choose wisely, choose Christ and not Satan.

"In the book of Jacob in the Book of Mormon it says, 'For behold, thus saith the Lord, This people begin to wax in



April 2011

Sunday Schedule

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	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

DATE	April 3rd	April 10th	April 17th	April 24th	May 1st
SPEAKING	Sherman Phipps	Ron Smith	JCRB Conference	Alan Smith	Steven Cunningham
PRESIDING	Ron Smith	Alan Smith	JCRB Conference	Sherman Phipps	Sherman Phipps
PIANIST	Jan Jordison	Pat Bolingbroke	JCRB Conference	Jan Jordison	Pat Bolingbroke
SPECIAL MUSIC	Lynda Rolfe	Steve Smith	JCRB Conference	Michael Jordison	Rob Rolfe
FAMILY DEVOTIONS	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland	JCRB Conference	Ron Smith	Alan Smith
GREETERS	Gordon Winkler	Ed Anderson	JCRB Conference	Rodney Bastow	Sue Beck
CUSTODIANS	Sherman Phipps	Rob Rolfe	JCRB Conference	Bob Rowland	Alan Smith
SUNDAY EVENING	Bob Rowland	Ron Smith	JCRB Conference	Steve Smith	Norman Nelson

Wednesday Prayer Service Schedule

DATE	April 6th	April 13th	April 20th	April 27th	May 4th
LOCATION	Gordon Winkler	Norman Nelson	Rob Rolfe	Alan Smith	Ron Smith
PRESIDING	Alan Smith	Ed Anderson	Michael Jordison	Steve Smith	Rodney Bastow



Special Events & Activities

Sunday April 3, 2011: Priesthood Meeting at 8:30AM - Potluck following Communion service

Wednesday April 13: Day of Fasting & Prayer

April 4-7: CRE Spring Conference at Waldo Restoration Branch, Independence, MO

April 16 - 23: JCRB Conference in Independence, MO NO Church on Sunday, April 17, 2011 at MARB

April 24: Easter Sunday. Come early - Brunch at 9:00AM

Birthday's this month: Riley Thomas, Gloria Slayton, Julia Jordison, Tammy Wessels, Aquilla Galusha, Lynda Rolfe

Anniversary's this month: George & Beth Knotts (1st), Norman & Cathy Nelson (28th)



iniquity; they understand not the scriptures: for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives, and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord, Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph.' (Jacob 12:32-34) Polygamy is not acceptable to God. It never was and never will be but those men admitted to doing it.

"For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay," (Mosiah 1:97) This was spoken over a hundred years before Christ was born. *'...and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases,'* (vs. 98)

He's still doing that. Remember the story that Jan (Jordison) told this morning in Family Worship about the woman brought back from the dead in order for Him to have a better witness of the kind of person He is. *'And he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwell in the hearts of the children of men. And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; For behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people.'* (99-101) He had to separate Himself from God in order to take upon Him those sins.

"And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary. And lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men, even through faith, on his name; And even after all this, they shall consider him a man, and say that he hath a devil, and shall scourge him, and shall crucify him. And he shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, he standeth to judge the world.' (102-105) He is our

righteous Judge and He loves you and asks you to love Him and to love each other.

"When we shall do this and will choose Him and we as a people will follow His commandments closely and look upward, we can be with Zion. When we choose to really follow those commandments and choose Him as our God and look upward, He will be our God. Won't that be a wonderful time?

"Again I will read to you from Genesis about this evil one and the great things that God has done. This happened in heaven. *'And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning; And he came before me, saying, Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.'* (Genesis 3:1-2)

"Do you find that in your own life? Give me Thy honor? *'But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.'* (vs. 3)

"Do you see the difference? You have your agency. You have the right of choice. Satan would make you robots with no choice. *'Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan. Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.'* (vs. 4-5)

"Do you see why you need to study and pray? You need to hearken to the voice of God. We need to hearken to the voice of God. How can we do that if we don't know how to hear it? How can we listen to His voice if we don't know what His voice is? It's a wonderful voice. He always tells us wonderful things. It's worth your time and your energy to find out what He wants to say to you. You need to read these scriptures to see what others have found but you need to listen to the voice of God to know what He says to you and what will be best for you to do. There's no other way.

"And Adam called upon the name of

the Lord, and Eve also, his wife; and they heard the voice of the Lord, from the way towards the garden of Eden, speaking unto them, and they saw him not; for they were shut out from his presence.

'And he gave unto them commandments, that they should worship the Lord their God; and should offer the firstlings of their flocks for an offering unto the Lord. And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord. And after many days, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam, saying, Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him, I know not, save the Lord commanded me. And then the angel spake, saying, This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth; Wherefore, thou shalt do all that thou doest, in the name of the Son. And thou shalt repent, and call upon God, in the name of the Son for evermore. And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will.' (Genesis 4:4-9)

"You have your agency. You must call on God. You must choose to be His friend. He wants to your friend and He wants you to be His friend and He wants you to love each other and do what He says. The whole scripture is in the book of Genesis. If you just look far enough it is there.

"But God hath made known unto our fathers, that all men must repent. And he called upon our father Adam, by his own voice, saying, I am God; I made the world, and men before they were in the flesh. And he also said unto him, If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask it shall be given you.' (Genesis 6:51-53)

"Repent, believe on Jesus Christ and love Him. He loves you. Let's see if we can't become the people that will love Him enough to be with Him in Zion. We can do it. We just have to keep the commandments



and love Him.



We regret that the sermon audio did not record from Brother Darren Cunningham's message. However, we are delighted to share the following two testimonies from Darren and his wife, Lori.



(Darren, Devon, & Lori Cunningham)

Boone, Iowa

March 27, 2011

My Baptism Testimony

by Lori Cunningham

After my husband Darren was ordained a Priest in the church, I would often ask him how it made him feel or look that I wasn't baptized or a member of the church, yet my husband was in the Priesthood. Darren would normally come back with the same comment, "In time, you will be." Also, my father-in-law, Eldon, would continually ask me when I was going to be baptized and he would often say that they will just hold me down a little longer to make sure all of the "bad" stuff is washed away.

But I wanted my own testimony – my own knowledge that God did exist. I remember Darren telling me that I have probably had many testimonies, but I didn't acknowledge them as testimonies. In reality, I wanted a big bolt of lightning to strike and for me to see it to show me what I was wanting to know. Unfortunately, that bolt of lightning didn't happen.

We started to attend church on a regular basis in 2002. I prayed and prayed

for the testimony and the knowledge that this was the church I was suppose to belong to, to get baptized in, and to become a member of. I had prayed so much and for so many years that I was starting to think that my own testimony was not going to happen. In fact, over the years, I started to pray less and less.

Then in 2010 we attended the Buckner Restortation Branch church reunion at Odessa Hills, Missouri. On Thursday night Wes Ferraiuolo was preaching during the evening service. About half way through his sermon, Wes started to glow. I shook my head and looked back at him, he was still glowing. I looked to the left and then to the right, and each time my eyes were set upon Wes, he glowed. I was mesmerized. Once I realized he wasn't going to stop glowing, I couldn't take my eyes off of him. I thought for sure someone else had seen this, but I heard no one talking about it. That night after lights out, I prayed and I prayed hard asking God if this was my testimony? If this is where is wants me to be? If this was my bolt of lighting?

The next morning during the prayer service, I had this urge to stand up and talk about what I had seen the night before. Now, I have never stood up and prayed in front of people, let alone given a testimony, but this urge was there to do it. So, I did. I stood up and walked to the microphone and gave my testimony saying that even though I was not baptized, I knew that this was where I was supposed to be. After the service, several Priesthood members (one of them being Wes) came to where I was sitting and asked me if I thought about being baptized during

"Darren came and sat down next to me and said 'What now?' My answer to him was 'I don't know.' But really I did know. I knew that I wanted to be baptized."

church reunion. I asked "next year?". They said, "No, this year". Also, unbeknown to me, several other Priesthood members went to where Darren was standing and asked him if I was interested in being baptized. Darren came and sat down next to me and said "What now?" My answer to him was "I don't know." But really I did know. I knew that I wanted to be baptized. So, the next

morning, July 3rd, 2010 at 7:45AM, I was baptized in the swimming pool by Wes Ferraiuolo and was confirmed by Joe Williams and Chuck Miller.

After the Saturday service, Wes came up to me to tell me that during their priesthood prayer services each morning during the church reunion, the priesthood were moved to pray for anyone that hadn't been baptized to come forward. After hearing that, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I am on the right path and right where I am supposed to be. It took a lot of years for me to see my bolt of lighting, but it finally came and I am glad that it did.

I Quit Smoking

by Darren Cunningham

March 24, 2011 was my 4th Anniversary of me quitting smoking. And this is my testimony of how it came about.

I started smoking when I was 14 years old. At first it was just so I could fit into my group and look cool. But as time passed, I became addicted. I have read that smoking is more addictive than heroine. With heroine you can be given a different drug to counteract the withdrawals, but with smoking you have 3 parts to the addiction: 1) nicotine, 2) the habit with your hands, and 3) the mental habit. Just the thought of quitting caused me to smoke more.

In the spring of 1990 my father told me that I had a calling to the priesthood and that I should start preparing myself. This meant I would have to give up tobacco. Instead of accepting the responsibility I went the other direction. Making sure I was never in the position to accept that type of responsibility.

Twenty-three years after I started smoking I finally contemplated quitting, thanks to Iowa Governor Chet Culver's \$1 a pack tax increase. My three year old son telling me he was going to smoke when he got older, just so he could be like me was the last straw. The decision was made. On March 23 2007 at 11PM I quit cold turkey. The next morning when I awoke I wanted a cigarette. It did not take long for the cravings to become strong. My wife, Lori, offered to go to the store and get some hard candies that I could suck on to help with the withdrawal. But by the time she returned I had already smoked 4 cigarettes. (You cannot stop smoking with cigarettes



still around you.) Disappointed, Lori asked if I was serious about quitting and I said that I was. She suggested I start with nicotine patches. So March 24, 2007 was my last day to smoke.

About 2 months later came my biggest challenge. Using the nicotine patches I still had cravings but they were nothing I couldn't handle until one May morning; the withdrawal hit with a vengeance. It was almost as if there was a cloud in my office and my lungs were screaming for smoke. Inside my head and body a battle was raging, demanding a cigarette. I was starting to lose this battle. It's a feeling that is hard to describe to a nonsmoker. It's like holding your breath for five minutes - that point when you just can't take it any longer; your lungs are on fire, dying for you to take that next breath, but you can't!

With all hope lost, I surrendered in my head. I decided to go to the nearest store and buy some cigarettes. But before I could, I had to tell Lori I had failed. With tears in my eyes I called her and told her what was happening. I apologized for not being stronger. I told her there was nothing more I could do. After a short conversation we hung up. I stood to leave and my phone rang. I don't remember what the call was about but I couldn't leave until it was handled. Ten minutes later I hung up the phone, stood up and noticed that the cloud that had surrounded me was now gone. The overwhelming pressure that I had I felt only minutes before was no longer there. The craving was gone as well. I never did have that smoke.

Later on that day I found out what had saved me. After I hung up the phone with my wife, she called my mom who called up the prayer chain. Within minutes over a dozen people were praying for me. The other phone call I received was something just to distract me long enough for God to work a miracle. Had it not been for my wife knowing to call my mom I would still be a smoker today. I will say that I was very blessed on that day. I still have cravings on occasions but nothing like that day. And every day I still have to choose to be a nonsmoker, just as I have to choose to be a servant of God.

As a reminder to me, I have dreams a few times a year where I am smoking. No matter how many times I put out the cigarettes I still have one in my hand. I also have a sense of dread knowing that I could lose everything I have gained and

would have to relive starting over again. A year and a half later, after my last cigarette I was called and ordained to the office of Priest. God has blessed me in so many ways. I'm just grateful that He would accept me as His servant.



A UNITED PRIESTHOOD - A UNITED CHURCH



Priesthood Retreat Geneseo, Illinois

March 18-20, 2011

Five Priesthood members from Mount Ayr joined with approximately thirty other Restoration Priesthood at the retreat grounds just outside of Geneseo to discuss unity in the church and more pointedly - unity in the priesthood. Classes offered included "A United Priesthood", the "Art and Science of Preaching" and "Grace vs. Works". Seventies Mark Deitrick and Bill Leutzinger preached in the evenings and High Priest Sherman Phipps presided over the Sunday morning prayer service. An open forum was held Saturday night to discuss proposed JCRB conference resolutions.

Discussions that were held through the weekend classes conveyed the belief that unless proper communication was utilized and the ability to forgive exercised unity was not attainable. If there is to be unity in

the church then there would have to be unity in the Priesthood; and paramount is that unity must first exist between individuals and the Lord Jesus Christ. Unless Christ's prayer in 3 Nephi is answered for the Priesthood individually, then unity within the Priesthood - and ultimately with the collective Church body cannot occur and we must need stand divided. The pertinent portion of that prayer is found in 3 Nephi chapter 9:

'And he turned from them again, and went a little way off, and bowed himself to the earth; and he prayed again unto the Father, saying, Father, I thank thee that thou hast purified these whom I have chosen, because of their faith.

'And I pray for them, and also for them who shall believe on their words, that they may be purified in me, through faith on their words, even as they are purified in me.

Father, I pray not for the world, but for those whom thou hast given me out of the world, because of their faith, that they may be purified in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one, that I may be glorified in them.' (3 Nephi 9:28-30)

Closing remarks on Sunday by Brother Sherman Phipps included the petition that our prayers in the days ahead include the request that God would not leave His house desolate. In other words, that the lines of what divides us not should become so strong that the criteria of what defines a true Christian - gentleness, meekness, humbleness, long-suffering, unselfishness, being full of love - become lost to us and require Him to raise up another people because we have polluted His house.



"Dear IRS, Please cancel my subscription" - Snoopy



ELDER ALAN SMITH'S CALL TO HIGH PRIESTHOOD

April 3, 2011

In order to prepare for the April 2011 Joint Conference of Branches General Conference we have included the following, taken from the MARB business meeting held April 3, 2011 in which the call of Elder H. Alan Smith to the office of High Priest was discussed and voted upon. Pastor Sherman Phipps presided over the meeting, taking care to ensure that every voice that wished to be heard was given opportunity stating, "I don't know if there is any real discussion here this morning about calling men to the High Priesthood or not. I have heard rumblings other places so if anybody wants to express anything about calling men to the High Priesthood in general we will entertain them." As a prelude to the discussions, Brother Phipps offered the following scriptures regarding the office of High Priest as a point of reference from which to begin.

'And I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after his holy order, which was after the order of his Son, to teach these things unto the people;' (He's just been talking to them about repentance and the need to soften their hearts. He's talking about the need to preach the plan of redemption.) *'And those priests were ordained after the order of his Son, in a manner that thereby the people might know in what manner to look forward to his Son for redemption.'*

'And this is the manner after which they were ordained: being called and prepared from the foundation of the world, according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; Therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceeding great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such; And thus

they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this, they might have had as great privilege as their brethren. Or in fine: in the first place they were on the same standing with their brethren; thus this holy calling being prepared from the foundation of the world for such as would not harden their hearts, being in and through the atonement of the only begotten Son, who was prepared; And thus being called by his holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest, This high priesthood being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world: Or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things.

'Now they were ordained after this manner: Being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, is without beginning or end; Thus they become high priests for ever, Amen.' (Alma 9:63-73)

'Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin, save it were with abhorrence;' (Alma 10:4)

Brother Phipps then prefaced his next scripture saying, "Given through Joseph Smith Jr., March of 1832 while he was in Hiram, Ohio. It is addressed to Frederick G. Williams who was called to be a High Priest and a counselor in the First Presidency. *'...inasmuch as thou art faithful in council, in the office which I have appointed unto you, in prayer always vocally, and in thy heart, in public and in private; also in thy ministry in proclaiming the gospel in the land of the living, and among thy brethren; and in doing these things thou wilt do the greatest good unto thy fellow-beings, and will promote the glory of him who is your Lord; wherefore, be faithful, stand in the office which I have appointed unto you, succor the weak, lift*

up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees...' (D&C 80:1d-1g)

"To me that is really the office and the calling of the High Priest, **to be faithful, to proclaim the gospel, to be diligent in prayer, to succor the weak, to lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees that all might be brought unto Christ; that none might be lost and that each one might be encouraged to respond to the Lord as the Lord would direct them.** It is an office of *service* and I think in order to be fulfilled, it requires one who will completely make the Lord his focus. Someone who is willing truly to reject Babylon and to understand that the salvation of the souls of the children of men is more important than anything this world can offer."

The floor was offered to any others who wished to share their understanding of this Office and the following was stated.

"There are, in terms of the church organization, a number of responsibilities that the High Priests hold and are responsible for. That includes being the judges of the church. The high councils are the units of organization in the church that have that judicial capacity. Each Stake is to have a High Council and the church as a whole is to have a Standing High Council that interprets the law and is the group to whom those kinds of questions can be submitted and expected to rule. Patriarchs are High Priests, Bishops are High Priests and Apostles are High Priests. I think among the very important things that the church needs is the kinds of ministry those offices bring. They bring blessings of the Bishopric both in terms of stewardship and in terms of the Aaronic Priesthood ministry that they are in charge of. We also need Patriarchs and the blessings that they can bring. If you don't have High Priests then you don't have those kinds of ministries.

"When I was in Africa at a meeting, we were talking about the priesthood in the Church of Jesus Christ. We went to the scriptures and looked at the various priesthood offices and callings. They asked how many Bishops we had in the Restoration. I knew of two. They

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another. ~ Galatians 5:22-26



wondered how many High Priests we had and I told them that we maybe had half a dozen. They wanted to know how many Apostles, how many Prophets and so on. When we had to explain that we were really only offering them part of the church because at the branch level you can ordain Elders Priests, Teachers and Deacons, the room just exploded. They answered that they needed the ministry of the Bishop, they needed the storehouse, they needed the ministry of Apostles and of Evangelists and we weren't offering that. When we look in the scriptures it seems to me that the Lord put the offices to be in the church for the perfecting of the Saints and the edification of the body until Christ returns. We shouldn't wait until after He returns and then bring the offices back. That was the argument that the Protestants always gave, that they would 'wait until He returned and He would fix it'."

Brother Phipps then offered the following from D&C 83:5a, *'And again, the office of elder and bishop are necessary appendages belonging unto the high priesthood.'*, commenting that if he understood that passage correctly, without the office of High Priests "we give up the whole Melchisedec Priesthood. If we don't pay attention to the Spirit and be sensitive to It with regards to the ordination of High Priests, then we don't just give up the office of High Priest we give up the whole Melchisedec Priesthood. Then we can wander in the wilderness just like the people of Moses did; only I don't think we have 40 years left."

To answer the question, "Is the process by which a High Priest is called to this office different than the way an Elder, Priest, Teacher or Deacon would be called," High Priest Robert Rolfe was called upon to respond.

"Yes and no. The Book of Hebrews says that every High Priest is to be called of revelation as was Aaron. We have interpreted that to mean not only High Priests in the past but every High Priest potentially in the future. We believe that to be the case of every priesthood call. In that respect it's the same because the standard is the same but in terms of High Priests, you have to think about what context are you in? Is your church organized or not? We have gone through a period here of being unorganized and as such we have a different way that this is

done. Typically when the RLDS Church was together all calls to High Priest came through the administrative line. In other words, the call started with Stake Presidents, Apostles, Regional Administrators and then the calls were approved by various bodies depending on where the call was made unless they were in unorganized territory. In that case the Apostle would be the one who would approve that.

"Right now we have done this by having a group of High Priests initiate these calls. We are going to be bringing those before the General Conference for approval because we don't have any individual administrative line to do that with. For the last year or two a few of the High Priests have been meeting regularly and praying about many calls that have been given to us by individuals throughout the church, not only here in America but other places as well. We have been considering those. We believe the Spirit has moved and we've initiated those calls and advised those being called that we believe there's a call to High Priest for them and they should inquire of the Lord if they would accept that call. Right now we have ten or eleven whose names will be coming before the Conference from various places in the church."

Sherman Phipps then turned attention to this scripture regarding the whole priesthood, *'...for whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies: they become the sons of Moses and of Aaron, and the seed of Abraham, and the church and kingdom and the elect of God; (but here's the part I wanted to get to) and also all they who receive this priesthood receiveth me, saith the Lord, for he that receiveth my servants receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth my Father; and he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom.'* (D&C 83:6c-e)

"The point that I wanted to make is that it is, as Rob pointed out, always critical that these calls come by the power of the Holy Spirit otherwise whoever is ordained will have nothing to offer. Inasmuch as it does come by the power of the Holy Spirit then for us to say, 'No, thank you' is the same as if Jesus stood here and we said, 'No, thank you. We don't need your ministry.' I don't know

about you but I think we need the ministry of our High Priests."

It was asked, "Is it possible that there are legitimate High Priests in other restoration organizations?"

Brother Phipps responded, "I think that inasmuch as there are men who have been called to the High Priesthood whether it be inside or outside this little group that we refer to as the JCRB, it is very important for us to be led through prayer and fasting to know who they are. I am sure there are men outside of our small group who are called to the office of High Priest and we should not be slow to accept them. We don't want to risk denying the ministry of Jesus Christ by saying, 'Well that didn't come this way or that way.' We have to be led by the Spirit. If we are not led by the Spirit then we are nowhere and we have nothing. But if we feel, by the prompting of the Spirit, that these men, from whatever group they come, carry with them the power of the Holy Ghost and minister by the power of Christ, then we need to be careful not to reject them.

"Certainly all of us, whatever our priesthood – whatever our calling (and the greatest calling of all is membership), so all of us, no matter what our calling – shall be known by the fruits that we bear. You can't be rooted in anything other than Jesus Christ and bring forth good fruit. All of us need to be sure that we are attached to the vine represented by Christ, and that all of us are bearing fruit for Him. I think that goes without regard to whether we are part of one little group or not. Eventually the Lord will reveal unto all of us those who were or were not called by the fruits that He allows us to bear."

"As you know Brother Alan Smith has a calling to the office of High Priest and his name has been submitted to the group that Rob was talking about who have been meeting and praying and trying to get direction on this. They have placed his name on that list of men to be presented to the conference for ordination to the office of High Priest."

Alan's Testimony

Alan Smith was then called upon to share his testimony of this call.

"I received a call to be a High Priest the first time many years ago when we were still part of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. At



that time I didn't receive a confirmation that that was the time to accept that call. Then several months ago Sherm came to me and said, 'Alan, you have a call to be a High Priest.' I am not sure but I don't think Rob and Sherman were in conversation about this. A few weeks after that Rob came to me and said, 'Alan, you have a call to the office of High Priest.' In the disorganized way that we are in I felt that I needed to have a specific testimony that the Lord wanted me to do something more for Him and so I prayed and fasted about it for quite some time. It was a Saturday night before Communion Service. I was awakened in the night and I saw some letters standing out from the dark of the room. They were 3 4 2 a. I recognized that that must be a scripture from the Doctrine and Covenants but I didn't get up. I wondered how I would remember those letters? I said, '3 4 2 a all fit on my ten fingers. I will be sure to remember that when I wake up.'

"When I woke up I told Valle that I had had an experience. I told her that I was trying to remember what the numbers/letters were. I thought it was 3 7 2 a so we got the Doctrine and Covenants out. It said, '*And again a commandment I give unto the church, that it is expedient in me that they should assemble together at the Ohio...*', so I thought that maybe the Lord wanted us to go to Kirtland and then He would give me an experience there. Valle started figuring out what it would cost for a retreat for the congregation to go to Kirtland.

"Meanwhile I was going to the early morning priesthood service here at the church. As I stepped through the door of the church, I knew that it was 3 4 2 a. I remembered thinking of how I was going to remember this when I was awakened in the night. I quickly grabbed the Doctrine and Covenants before I went on into the priesthood meeting, and I read this scripture, '*Behold, verily, verily I say unto my servant Sidney, I have looked upon thee and thy works. I have heard thy prayers and prepared thee for a greater work.*' (D&C 34:2a) As I read those words they spoke to me as if they were spoken to me instead of Sidney Rigdon. I looked on down and it said, '*for I am God, and mine arm is not shortened, and I will show miracles, signs and wonders, unto all those who believe on my name. And whoso shall*

ask it in my name, in faith, they shall cast out devils; they shall heal the sick; they shall cause the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak, and the lame to walk; and the time speedily cometh that great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men; ...' (D&C 34:3b-d)

"I told Rob and Sherm eventually that I had had this experience and I knew I was called but I wanted to share it with some family before I officially allowed my name to stand. I don't know in the scheme of things what is the greater work that the Lord has for me to do. When I read the words about High Priests and the responsibility for His people that they have, I know the Lord must be trying to use even the weak things of the earth to bring ministry to His people. So, I am willing to do what I feel the Lord wants me to do with the prayer that I can be a part of the great work which He promises is about to break forth."

Sherman then was asked to share his experience with the call, responding with, "I don't know how to explain it though. I just know that the Spirit rested upon me and told me that my Brother Alan had a call to that office and truthfully, in that experience I understood he'd been functioning as a High Priest for a long time by the power of the Spirit. It's mostly a matter of whether we'll recognize him and accept him in that calling or not. The Lord already has. The Lord created him and preordained him for this calling. I had been praying and fasting for some time about priesthood calls in the congregation and Alan was one and there are others."

Brother Rolfe followed, "Just a couple of words about how this process works. The High Priests have been praying over quite a list of people for many, many months. We decided at the beginning that we would not initiate any calls in which we could not unanimously agree to the call. Every name that has been given in this particular group has been from the unanimous decision of all the High Priests present. The law says these people are supposed to be called through the spirit of wisdom and revelation. We all agree with the revelation part but how about the wisdom part? To me that has to do with timing in terms of how this works. Unfortunately, we as people look at what's

going on in our relationship or our view of someone right at the time that a call comes out. Sometimes we think that a particular individual should not be called because they are not living right. I would remind you what Ananias said when the Lord told him to go to a street and administer to this fellow named Saul. He asked the Lord if He knew who He was talking about. This guy was killing Christians. He was arresting them and hauling them off. He wasn't sure the Lord had the right person that he wanted Ananias to administer to. If you want to read that account you can see the Lord's answer.

"I have been calling people to the priesthood in response to God's movement over 40 years, and I will tell you that there is no *one* way that this happens. I have had some that I had misgivings about and I wasn't sure that an individual should be called but the Spirit persisted. I have had some who I initiated calls and they fell away. The experience was the same in each case. I can't predict what is going to happen in any man's life.

"In Brother Alan's case I know I prayed more than once and the confirmation of the Spirit told me yes that he had this call. Sherman and I did not talk about this ahead of time. In fact, I didn't even know that Sherman had talked to Alan prior to the time that I talked to Alan. If I don't feel that confirming Spirit when I am specifically praying then I don't initiate a call. I think Alan is the cream of the crop. He may not feel that way about himself but I feel that way about him because he really does carry a Christly ministry."

After hearing more testimonies in regard to Alan's call, the congregation voted whether to accept and support his call to the office of High Priest. There was overwhelming support for this call and the meeting was adjourned.

Concerning the Call

It should be noted that there was and *is* much concern by the congregation regarding sensitivities associated with not just this call, but the calling of High Priests at this time in general. The passions of many Saints are ignited over the legitimacy of the ordination to the higher priesthood offices through not just the JCRB, but any organization since the exodus from the



Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The vote by this congregation to uphold Alan Smith in the office of High Priest was done much by virtue of the statements made, that for some time he has already provided the ministry of this office to this congregation, whereas Christ said, 'by their fruits ye shall know them.'

Though differences of opinions throughout the Church may be expressed in the days ahead regarding this ordination, it is our sincere hope that those inclined to take a different stance will not distance themselves from receiving the ministry that is shared in Christian love by Brother Alan.

We have included the following scriptures for all to consider in their conversations regarding these sensitive issues. [M.J.]

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (Phillipians 2:3)

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him; Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; (Colossians 3:8-12)

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:29-32)

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)

From a Debate between J. J. Cornish (C.) and a Reverend Sims (S.):

S.- "And now, show me a sign. It is said 'these signs shall follow; etc. I want one."

C.- "It is against the order to show signs. Christ says they 'shall follow them that believe.' They do not go ahead to make believers."

S.- "I am determined to have a sign; 'they shall take up serpents.' I will give five dollars for one, to see him take it up."

C.- "You should not seek for signs, friend. Christ called them a wicked people in his day when asking for them."

S.- "I wish I had poison here. I'd make him drink it. Show me a miracle, you hypocrite."

C.- "Well now, the devil was the first one to ask for a sign, and you are another one. Jesus says there is a certain class of people who are of their father, the devil, because they would do the work of the devil; and to-day you are doing his work."

S.- "O you blasphemers;" d_____ hypocrite; do something; stop my tongue."

C.- "Ladies and gentleman. It is contrary to the order of God to show signs, but my opponent is determined to have one, so I will step outside of the order for once to convince him, and I will have to perform it on him, then he will be sure it is done. Just cut off your right arm above the elbow, and see if I can't put it on again."

S.- "O you hypocrite! you blasphemer! you child of the devil! raise the dead you. . .hypocrite! Cast the devil our of me!"

C.- "There might not them be anything left but your clothes."
(Three loud cheers)

Saint's Herald, October 24, 1885, p. 691



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

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

News & Notes

Upcoming Conferences:

CRE: April 4-7 at Waldo Restoration Branch in Independence, Mo.

JCRB: April 17-23 at the Gathering Place in Independence, Mo.

BOM Retreat

The Spring inter-denominational Book of Mormon Retreat has been postponed until Fall of 2011.

No Church April 17

Due to the JCRB conference this week, services in Mount Ayr are cancelled on Sunday, April 17.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday April 24th MARB will be having breakfast at 9:00. Please come and fellowship as we remember the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

APRIL 2011

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..... (cont.)

Jesus cried over. Our house shall be left unto us desolate. (Matthew 24:36-38)

Hopefully, we have not already procrastinated too long. Turn and flee from Babylon. Cease to fight and bicker and offend your brothers and sisters while Zion languishes. If we do not find the Holy Spirit in our midst, it is because we, by the way we live and treat one another, have denied it access. If this is so then it is as if Jesus had not been born, crucified and resurrected – as if there was no redemption and no

resurrection for those of us who have rejected him. (Mosiah 8:77-89)

Please, brothers and sisters, do not let this be our end. Let us humble ourselves, repent and pray mightily against the adversary. Ask the Lord to forgive us and lead us. He wants to do this – this is why He sacrificed His only Begotten Son.

The choice is ours, but it must be made now. We stand in the valley of decision! (Joel 3:14, but read the whole chapter.)

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PASTOR/PRESIDING ELDER:

High Priest Sherman Phipps
Elder Alan Smith (Counselor)
Elder Gordon Winkler (Counselor)

BISHOP'S AGENT

Elder Gordon Winkler
Cheryl Phipps (Stewardship Coord.)

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Priest Ed Anderson

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