



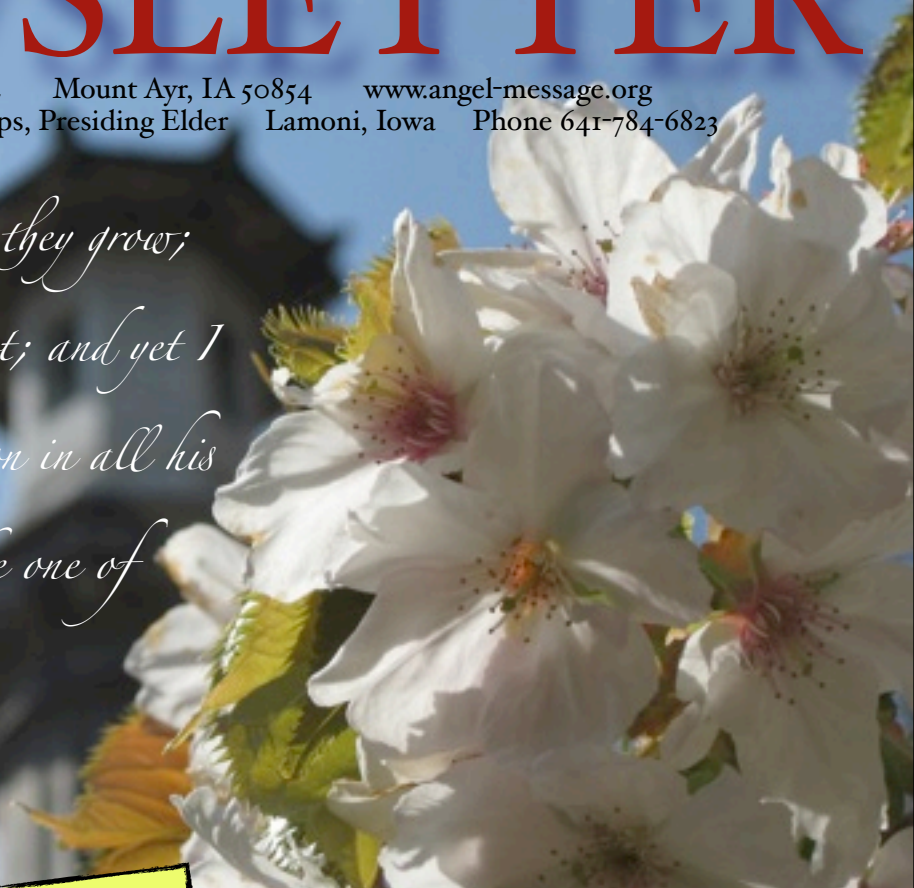
# Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch



# NEWSLETTER

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

*Consider the lilies, how they grow;  
they toil not, they spin not; and yet I  
say unto you, that Solomon in all his  
glory was not arrayed like one of  
these. - Luke 12:29*



## News & Notes

### Ordination Service

On Sunday May 15th, H.Alan Smith was ordained to the High Priesthood by High Priests Sherman Phipps and Robert Rolfe.

### May Graduates

There was a good turnout of family and friends at the High School graduation receptions for Matthew Anderson and Jazmyn Galusha. We have enjoyed watching them prepare for this chapter in their lives and wish God's choicest blessings upon them as they step out into the world.

### Beck and Curtis to Wed

The congregation is invited to attend the Union of Jared Beck and Holly Curtis, daughter of Matthew and Rebecca Curtis,

June 18, 2:00PM at Colonial Hills Community of Christ, Blue Springs, Mo. A reception will follow. The couple will make their home in Blue Springs as Holly finishes her teaching requirements and Jared his clinical rotations for med school.

### Seventy Reunion

Once again, the Restoration Seventy will hold the Family Missionary Reunion at Graceland University, June 26-July 2. Services in Mt. Ayr will be suspended until after Reunion. Preaching services will be held in the evenings for all.

### Baptismal Service

Sunday June 19th a baptismal service will be held at 5:00 PM at the Cheville Chapel, Graceland University.

## Contents

FEATURE:	PAGE:
Sermons	
Elder Steve Cunningham	2
Elder Michael Jordison	6
Seventy Dave Drummond	10
Elder Gordon Winkler	17
Sharing Service & Photos	21
.....	
News & Notes	1
Pastoral Thoughts	2
Ordination of H.A. Smith	16
Calendar	12



# Pastoral Thoughts

by Sherman Phipps

This last week there was much attention in the news reports, and in the conversation of many different persons whom I had contact with (at work, church, restaurant and even the Harley-Davidson shop) about the prediction of some certain sect that the “end of the world” would take place at 6:00 PM (no time zone designated that I know of) on 5/21/11. I believe the sect itself referred to the predicted event as “the rapture” which would be different than the “end of the world.”

There were those who believed the prediction could be accurate and had some concerns about what this would mean for themselves and those they loved. There were many who made fun of the whole concept, let alone the specific timing predicted. There were those who thought the prediction could not possibly be right since they believed that the event spoken of is more accurately predicted otherwise (the Mayan calendar theory, etc.)

It is not my purpose to question or doubt the fact that the things foretold in the scriptures will take place. But I am inclined to think we need to study the scriptures with fasting and prayer on a regular basis; not taking for granted what others say the scriptures say or mean, but discovering for ourselves what they actually do say. In the present instance, what do the scriptures say?

Read Mark 13:47, or maybe better yet Mark 13:7-61. The real message is not one that allows us to do as we please until a certain date when we would repent and be, just in time, one of God’s “select few” to be saved. Rather, the message is that we need to be, every day, obeying God’s commands and counsels so that we are open to the indwelling of His Holy Spirit and, thereby, available to act as a servant to those around us, that they might be brought to a knowledge of salvation through the gift of Christ – not that we might delight in our escape from destruction while others suffer and are destroyed.

While you might not be able to quite follow my logic here, my real point when I decided to write this was to encourage all of us as we deal with life’s questions, day to day, to first ask ourselves, what do the scriptures say? And, if we don’t know the answer, take time to go look for ourselves with prayer and fasting. If we look to man for our answers we will, unfortunately, find that like the date of “the rapture,” etc. the answer is subject to change and will leave us to wander in the darkness and unknown, instead of having God’s eternal light and truth to lead us to everlasting hope and life; therefore giving us in this life, insight as to how to live our daily lives with joy and hope – in Christ, regardless of what tomorrow might or might not bring.

## GOD’S PREPARATION IS OUR INSTRUCTION



Elder Steven Cunningham  
Boone, Iowa  
May 1, 2011

As a Call to Worship, Sherman Phipps used parts of the following scriptures: Romans 5:8-11, 18-21; 6:3-14, 16, 23; 8:6. *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. (5:8-11) Therefore, as by the offense of one (with reference to Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one (being Christ) the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

I think that’s an interesting verse because it’s talking about the offense that



came first from Adam and then the righteousness and the gift of salvation and justification that came through Christ. I think obviously this has reference to Adam and Christ but likewise we have a responsibility this morning to respond to Christ that those around us might find a good example. (18-19) *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead to sin is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him; Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For in so doing sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (6:3-14) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (16)*

Today those who have been baptized into the church have the opportunity to come before Christ and to accept the wonderful gift of His crucifixion and resurrection that we might live. I hope that everyone of us this morning, as we partake of the communion, will be able by the power of His Spirit to lay aside everything that separates us or attempts to separate us from Him that we can be one with Him and in Him, that we can accept this wonderful gift of eternal life that He has made such a sacrifice that we might have. I hope that this service will have the

purpose and meaning and accomplish in your souls that for which Christ died.

I didn't list any songs to be sung during the serving of the emblems this morning because I wanted you to be able to focus your thoughts on what you're doing. I hope that as you partake of these emblems that you will do so humbly, seeking the Lord out for repentance, and that you will uphold one another in prayer.

### What Have You Done To Prepare?

Our Speaker of the hour, Elder Steve Cunningham shared, "I think right now you could probably end this service with 'Amen.' It's obvious that the Spirit's here with us today. There's so much that a person can say when he stands up here but I try to look at what Jesus Christ might say. If you really stop and think about what happened when Jesus Christ was hung on the cross for us. He gave His life willingly for us. That is something to think about. In a way it does make you cry and you get emotional when you think of the things that He suffered, but what is amazing, He did this for you and me. He did it willingly. It's a glorious thing because Jesus Christ gave His life so that we could be with Him one day. How beautiful that is. I know many times I come to communion service and don't give it a lot of thought. You get so busy in your life, there are so many things going on. Once in a while we put the things we have to do in front of Jesus Christ and in front of the things that we believe, but I'm here to tell you that it is amazing what you can do as long as you keep Jesus in your life. There are things that we go through that we wouldn't have to if we would only open our hearts to Him.

So many times as I drive to work I don't feel that I have the right to pray. I know that sounds funny but because of things that are going on in my life I don't feel that I have the right to pray. Not that there are a lot of bad things but it's where I put Jesus Christ in my life. It says in the scriptures that it is Satan who tells you not to pray. Jesus tells us to pray on a daily basis. You would be amazed by the things that you can accomplish with Jesus Christ if you pray.

Talking about preparation, when I see my name on the schedule I try to start coming up with things that I could share and how I could bring some of the feelings that I have to you as a congregation. How can I share what Jesus Christ would have

me share? There are so many things that go through my mind. I always catch myself writing things down listening to the radio as I am driving down the road. Then I get up here and all those things are gone. I do write some things down, actually quite a bit, so that I can try to keep myself on track.

I would like to share with you an experience that I had when I was in Missouri. We were with the Missouri Restoration Branch and were meeting at John Mundy's warehouse that he actually turned into a church when they lost Atherton. It was communion and again I came to communion with a little preparation but not a lot because I was down visiting my cousins, my nephews and my brother. As I was sitting there and they were getting ready to prepare the emblems, I was asked in my mind, 'What did you do to prepare?' A lot of times when you have these things happen to you, you sit back and think that that thought was just me not from God because it wasn't something that was overwhelming. I sat there and justified a few things that I had done to prepare but that thought came back to me again, 'What did you do to prepare to partake of the emblems?' I started thinking about some of the things that I have done in my life. What had I really done that day to prepare to take the emblems? Again, you sort of justify with yourself that you have prepared a little but that thought came a third time, 'What have you done to prepare to partake of My emblems?' As I was sitting there the Spirit filled me. It wasn't that He didn't want me to partake of the emblems but He wanted me to realize what the emblems meant. He wanted me to understand what Jesus Christ gave and what we were really doing when we partake of the emblems.

As they came to me I was so afraid to look up because I was afraid that Jesus Christ was going to be standing there. I can justify things in my own life but when Jesus Christ is standing there, how am I going to justify those things? When the day comes that you meet your Maker, how are you going to justify what you have done in your life because He knows all things? To this day I still don't completely prepare the way I should. I heard someone say last weekend that we need to come in prayer and fasting, that we need to receive the Spirit when we are here. I believe that to be true. The Spirit we feel today overwhelms us but what would happen if



we came prepared on a daily basis? We have been told that we must live within the world but not of it. However, so many times we can be pulled away so easily from Christ whether it is by our hobbies, our work, or by our families. The sad thing is that we allow it to happen. Again we don't put God first. We actually start doing things that we need to get done and we put Jesus aside. It is amazing the things that we think are important. Two weeks ago the important thing that I had to do was go out and plug my lawn. After I plugged my lawn, I put grass seed down and fertilized it. That was important but I shouldn't allow the things of the world to take the place of spending time with Jesus Christ or sharing the gospel with my neighbors or friends. I'll be honest with you I don't profess Jesus Christ to my friends. I don't take the time to share with them.

I know that when we come here to church that we put our good clothes on and our Christian face on but I'll be honest with you, Alan (Smith) doesn't need to our good clothes or Christian face. Who needs to see my Christian face is that person who is hurting in my office who has gone through so much. How do we act? What do our actions profess? Do we profess Jesus Christ and the love that we have for Him? Do we share the feelings that we have here today with our neighbors and friends? Again, the world is evil and right now it seems like more than ever that the world is teaching us not to do what God wants us to do but to do what makes us feel good. We hear and see that a lot. We do what makes us feel good. That's not what God calls us to do. He calls us to serve Him and to witness of Jesus Christ to let people know that He's not in the tomb that He has actually risen and is alive today.

**Prayer Can Help You Find Your Way**

It seems like in the world we get lost really easily. In my forty some years I don't think I have ever been as scared as when I was in Canada and got lost in the woods. We were up in Canada fishing and we were told about this lake. The man I was with was a lieutenant colonel and an infantry officer so he should have known where he was going. The man who had the cabins on the lake told us where we needed to go and drew this little map out on the back of this board to get us there. It should have been pretty easy to get where we

were going. Well, we got where we thought we should be and jumped out of the boat and headed up this hill. You had to go up and down this hill and there was another lake with a boat that he had put there for us. There was supposed to be some good fishing for lake trout. We didn't come completely prepared. We had drinks and the map. I had put my faith in Colonel Oeffner who was my former commander, but when we got out of the boat things just didn't seem right. The path we were on didn't seem like the path we should be on. The man who gave us the map claimed that you couldn't miss the path. We went up the path about 30, 40 or 50 yards and realized that this was not the right path. The woods were so thick that we couldn't see the boat. We came back down, found the boat, got back in it and went down a little bit more. We got out of the boat again and started following a path but again it didn't like it was the right path. In Canada the trees are so tall and the vegetation so that that you can hardly see through them. We started justifying that



**Excerpt Snippet**

this was the correct path. You could sort of see where a path had been. I think this is what we do in life. We start justifying things.

For Colonel Oeffner everything is measured in terms of a football field. We got to the top of a hill and actually started walking down the hill and I said, 'Brian, I just don't think this is the right place. I don't feel comfortable.' A few things that made me uncomfortable were that as we looked around there were bear droppings all over. I am talking piles of bear droppings. He assured me that it was just a football field away so we started down the hill. For some reason, every time Brian walks he walks to his right. I would pick a tree out but Brian would walk to the right of that. I wondered if he really knew where we were going, but he assured me that he did and that it was only a football field away. It got to the point where we couldn't see around us. The trees and vegetation were so thick. I finally told Brian that I didn't care what he did, I was stopping right there and not going any further. Brian said that he was going to continue walking about another football

field. He walked away and I waited and I waited. It had been about 45 minutes. I was thinking that he didn't know where he was. Luckily we left pretty early and it was only about 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning. As I sat there I had this feeling of being lost. I am telling you that it is a feeling that I can't explain. It is a fear that starts coming through you. When Brian didn't return I decided that I was heading back up to the top of the hill because if I could make it to the top of the hill I could walk right down to the lake.

Pretty soon I heard him yelling. I started yelling back. It took him about another 10 minutes to get to where I was. He started yelling at me asking me why I didn't yell back to him. I told him that I hadn't heard him until just a few minutes ago. Apparently he got lost and he started yelling but it was so dense and thick that I couldn't hear him. Finally he got close enough that I could hear him and we got back together. I told him that I wasn't going further but that I was going back to the top of the hill. Sure enough we got back to the top of the hill and when we got back there and looked down through the pine trees we could just barely see the other side of the lake. I decided that that's where we needed to go.

When we started down the hill what we didn't realize was that the lake had several curves. We started walking down but for some reason instead of walking to the right we walked to our left. We were lost. We were totally lost. Here we had a 40 and a 55 year old man who were lost in the woods and had no idea where we were at. It got to the point where fear started coming over us. I told Brian that we needed to stop. We tried to figure out where we were because no matter which way you looked it looked the same. I looked at him and said, 'Brian, we need to pray.' We needed to pray to figure out where we were going. We had walked in marshes that we didn't walk through on the way up and we were on flat ground and should never have been on flat ground because we had gone up and down a hill. How could we be on flat ground?

The second we said, 'Amen,' we heard a train on the other side. We heard this train and I told Brian that that was where we needed to go. We walked about another 150 to 200 yards and again we had no idea where we were. Brian was getting mad. We had a gas can that we left out that he threw and he started throwing the pop.



I told him to not throw away what we might need because we had what we needed to survive right there. The mosquitoes were really bad, they were just horrendous. We were spraying ourselves with Off and trying to keep our heads. I looked at Brian and told him that I wasn't going anywhere. We talked and he wanted to know why not. I told him that it was because we didn't know where we were going and that I was going to sit there until another train came along.

"We sat there awhile and Brian decided that he was going to take off. I asked him where he thought we ought to go and he pointed a certain direction. I thought we needed to go a different direction. As we sat there again we heard another train go by and realized that we were actually being led out into the wilderness. We were only probably 50 yards from the lake and we couldn't see it. We could finally see the boat once we hit the lake. I have never been so scared in my life because I was lost, truly lost.

"Stop and think about ourselves. Are we lost in this world? It is the congregation that keeps us fed and that's why it is so important to come to church. If it was not for the people that I meet with on a weekly basis, I would be lost in this world. If we didn't have the scriptures to turn to, we would be lost. It is amazing when we read them. I am reading through Mosiah right now about King Benjamin. He called all of his people together and was preaching to them. Can you imagine being the king of a group of people and calling them together and trying to share with them what God would have you share?

"I would like to read a little bit of Chapter 2 after King Benjamin talked to them. *And now, it came to pass that when King Benjamin had made an end of speaking the words which had been delivered unto him by the angel of the Lord, that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and behold they had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them;* (1) Can you imagine being there and speaking with the power of God? I know there has been a couple of times that I have been led to share something that God wanted shared. I can't explain the feeling that comes over you. As a matter of fact, the first time this happened, I was supposed to tell my Dad something because he was struggling with things. I couldn't because I questioned

myself whether it was of God or just me. Later on I sat down with Dad and told him and he told me that I didn't understand. That was what he was asking God about. We were at prayer service at my Dad's house when this happened. When the Spirit comes over you it just overwhelms you; talk about the burning of the bosom. Can you imagine looking out over your people and seeing them feel the power of the Spirit? It says, *And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth.* (2) Do we do that? How do we view ourselves? Here God is talking to you through the person you uphold as your leader telling you these things. *And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying, O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ, that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified: For we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things, who shall come down among the children of men. And it came to pass that after they had spoken these words, the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, Having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience, because of the exceeding faith which they had in Jesus Christ who should come, according to the words which King Benjamin had spoken unto them.* (3-6) So, Jesus Christ hadn't even come but this was what King Benjamin was telling them. *And King Benjamin again opened his mouth, and began to speak unto them, saying, My friends and my brethren, my kindred and my people, I would again call your attention, that ye may hear and understand the remainder of my words which I shall speak unto you; For behold, if the knowledge of the goodness of God at this time, has awakened you to a sense of your nothingness, and your worthless and fallen state;* (7-8) King Benjamin had understood that these people had accepted Jesus Christ and that they were a sinful people. He's given these things to say to them. *I say unto you, if ye have come to a knowledge of the goodness of God, and his matchless power, and his wisdom, and his patience, and his long suffering towards the children of men, And also, the atonement which has been prepared from the foundation of the world, that thereby salvation might come to him that should put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of*

*his life; I mean the life of the mortal body;* (9-10)

This is what Brian and I had to do. We had to put our faith in Jesus Christ. It was amazing that just the second after we said, 'Amen,' we heard the train whistle blow. *I say, that this is the man who receiveth salvation, through the atonement which was prepared from the foundation of the world, for all mankind, which ever were, ever since the fall of Adam, or who are or who ever shall be, even unto the end of the world; and this is the means whereby salvation cometh. And there is none other salvation, save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved, except the conditions which I have told you.* (11-12) What are we being taught in this world right now, to do what feels good to us and not to serve the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is amazing how often we hear this through the things that we see on TV, the things we hear on radio or the things we hear from the politicians. *Believe in God; believe that he is, Now this is the only way you can have salvation. and that he created all things both in heaven and in earth; Believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; Believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend.* (13-15) If you listen to even Christian radio stations they are trying to justify things. They are trying to tell you what the scriptures are supposed to be telling us. But here it says that man does not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend. That tells me that we need to put our faith in Jesus Christ. *And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you:* (16) Those times that I don't feel like I have the right to pray, I need to ask for forgiveness because that's what Jesus Christ died on this cross for. *And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them. And again I say unto you as I have said before, that as ye have come to the knowledge of the glory of God, Or if ye have known of his goodness, and have tasted of his love, and have received a remission of your sins, which causeth such exceeding great joy in your souls,* (17-19) Trust me, we had joy when we saw the lake. When we walked right up to the lake, I can't explain the relief that came to us. Until you have truly been lost, you don't understand the fear



that we had. I've been in the woods and not quite known where I was but I knew if I just kept on walking one straight way, I would get out. *Even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long suffering towards you unworthy creatures,* (20) His long suffering – you look at what God has given us, the perfect environment and look at what we as people do. We take it for granted. I know that when I deal with my own kids. ‘Jacob, do your homework.’ It is so simple. You have an assignment and you do the assignment. It gets done and you turn it in. I remember my Dad saying the same thing to me. I love my kids and I am so grateful that I have the kids that I do and I am so grateful that I get to go through the things that I do. I look at their lives and try to ask what can I do to prepare them for this world? What can I do to help them out? Unfortunately sometimes what I have to do is let them go out on their own. My Dad tells me, ‘Trust me, Steve, once they move out, it doesn’t stop. Then you get grandkids.’ *And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel; And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true. And ye will not have a mind to injure one another; but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due.* (21-24)

I am here to tell you today that your God loves you, that He wants nothing but the best for you but just like my kids, it’s your choice. No matter what I do or what I say, it still comes down to it’s your choice. It’s our choice who we serve. I would pray that you would look at the blessings that you have and how you have been affected in your lives. I pray that you would realize what Jesus Christ has given for both you and me.



## MOTHERS TEACH US BY DIVINE DESIGN



Elder Michael Jordison  
*Lamoni, Iowa*  
May 8, 2011

As a Call to Worship, Priest Jim Barber read Psalm 100. *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

Brother Jordison began, “I would like to start out this morning by thanking each one of you for all of the prayers that you have offered on my behalf in preparation for this day and before I get to my scripture reading this morning I would like to turn your attention to the Hymn that we just sang (Joyful Joyful). This is one of my favorite hymns. Julie and I just returned from Vancouver, B.C., which is a beautiful city on the bay where the wooded mountains jut up directly from the coastline. The flowers and cherry blossoms were out in full array. It is a beautiful, beautiful place and a striking illustration of this hymn. (He read the last two stanzas: “All Thy works with joy surround thee;

Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays. Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, Blossoming meadow, flashing sea. Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing ever blest. Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in Love are Thine. Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.”)

“I am going to read from Doctrine and Covenants 83:7a-d. *And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God. For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ; and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father;*

Being Mother’s Day, Michael allowed the congregation an opportunity to express their sentiments as he shared his with his own Mother who sat in the front pew.

### Does God Have A Mother?

“Every single one of us has a mother. I know that our experiences and relationships with our mothers may differ between each one of us, but the fact is that we all have or had a mother at some point in our life. As I reflected on that, this morning a question came to me. My question was, ‘Does God have a mother?’ Have you ever thought about that? I hadn’t either. I don’t know how important of a question that is but it did pop into my head. And if He did what would she be like? I don’t want to get too much into this but, I will refer back to Nephi’s experience with the angel in the first book of Nephi. Here he’s talking with the angel and says, *And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth: and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white. And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou? And*



*I said unto him, A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins. And he said unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God? And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless I do not know the meaning of all things. And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.* (52-58) Here we have Nephi's experience of seeing the mother of God. In his words this woman was most fair and most beautiful above all other women. I am not sure that he was talking so much about her physical beauty but about her spiritual beauty, the blessing that she received of being the mother of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. That was quite an experience for her.

"Another other question that popped into my head was "Does God know what it's like to be a mother?" We always talk about God the Father and about the Son Jesus Christ but we never talk about God's mother. Do you think God knows what it's like to be a mother? If you recall in the scriptures it says that Jesus took upon Himself our infirmities, our sicknesses, our temptations every one so that He would know how it felt to be one of us, to be subject to all the temptations, to all the diseases and all the things that come upon us; but did He ever become a mother? (Steve Smith responded that He took care of the disciples.) I wasn't going that way but that's an excellent point. Sometimes those disciples acted just like disobedient children.

"What makes men and women different? Men and women are different and God created them different. Let's go back to the basics here so that the younger ones can follow along as well, back to the very creation of the world and of mankind. Do you remember who God made first? He made Adam first but before He made Adam on the sixth day He said, *And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and it was so. And I, God, said, Let them have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him; male and female created I them.* (Genesis 1:27-29)

This is actually the accounting of the spiritual creation so when God was in heaven creating us, He made us male and female. We don't have a lot of time this morning to go through all of this but if we read further we would find that Adam was the first man that was created, the first flesh upon the earth. God looked around and noticed that Adam didn't have a helper so He created some. He created a bunch of animals physically upon the earth, formed them from the dust of the ground like He did man and breathed the breath of life into them, and they became living souls. God then decided that even though Adam had all these helpers and animals there was not a true helpmeet for him. He was incomplete in some way and so the scriptures say God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam. And as he slept, God took one of the ribs from his side and pulled it out and fashioned this other individual whom we call Eve. Now Adam had a helper. We find out later in the text that Adam and Eve were basically two parts of the same whole. God took Eve from Adam

Everything that God does He does so that we learn about the gospel.

so all of a sudden Adam was incomplete, part of him was missing. In order to make them whole, God instituted marriage which brought the two back together as one flesh and the two became one or whole.

"Who thinks God does things that wastes His time? He doesn't. I want to explain something to you from Genesis chapter 6 verse 66 which says, *And, behold, all things have their likeness; and all things are created and made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath, all things bear record of me.* What is this saying? On one hand it is saying that because you can behold things they are a testimony that God is. On the other hand it's also saying that God has a purpose and a reason for everything that He does; which is to point us, His children, back to Him. Everything that God does He does so that we learn about the gospel. We learn about our relationship with Him. When we find that God made Adam and He made Eve from Adam, we're learning something about the gospel. We're learning that God took from within

Himself and fashioned from His own side a bride for Himself. If we look through the scriptures we'll find that that bride is His church. When she is created directly from Him she is pure and spotless, a fair and beautiful virgin. Just from the creation experience, we have learned already about this relationship between the church and God. The two have to be reunited together into one to become whole. If you look in 3 Nephi 9, when Jesus came to the Americas, after He initiated their baptisms and gave them communion it says that He went off and prayed a little bit. This is His prayer. *And it came to pass that Jesus departed out of the midst of them, and went a little way off from them and bowed himself to the earth, and he said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast given the Holy Ghost unto these whom I have chosen;* (these are the twelve disciples that He chose) . . . *Father, I pray thee that thou wilt give the Holy Ghost unto all them that shall believe in their words.* (Now, that could be you. It could be each one of us if we will believe in the words and the testimony of these apostles and those who have written in the scriptures.) *Father, thou hast given them the Holy Ghost, because they believe in me, and thou seest that they believe in me, because thou hearest them, and they pray unto me; and they pray unto me because I am with them. And now Father, I pray unto thee for them, and also for all those who shall believe on their words, that they may believe in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father; art in me, that we may be one.* Then He goes off a little bit and prays basically a very similar prayer and He ends it, *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 9:23, 30) So Jesus is praying here that His church, those who believe and receive the Holy Ghost may be one with Him just as a man and a woman come together in marriage and become one flesh. The two don't become the same individual. They become one because they are incomplete by themselves because each has something of the other within them. That's why God instituted the plan of redemption because when He made us He made us from within Himself. Each one of us is separated from Him and He is separated from us. The natural order of the things that He has created is to bring all things into union, into one. All of creation is crying to go back to God who made it. When we truly become one in fellowship, we become one in purpose and



thought. Working together in Charity, that's how we become one.

"Now going back to mothers here. A woman who is pregnant gives of herself. Now she might do all kinds of things to her body by taking in the wrong kinds of foods, etc. But the natural order is that her body is sacrificing itself for that child that is growing within her. I don't know if you have thought about that. So, that child will have everything that it needs to be born. Then as the child is born and begins to grow, that mother continues to sacrifice herself through feeding, through waking up all hours of the night, enduring all kinds of hardship if the baby is colicky, sick, cutting teeth, etc. The point I am trying to get across here is that mothers by nature are self-sacrificing for their children. If necessary they would willingly give their very lives for their children. I am not saying that fathers aren't that way too, but what I am saying is that by nature God designed mothers to be like this.

"The question that I now pose is, "Did God ever sacrifice Himself? I asked you the question does God know what it means to be a mother? Well, we know that a mother sacrifices herself for her children. Did God ever sacrifice Himself? So, do you think God knows what it's like to be a mother? I think He does."

### The Meaning of Life?

"Eve made a statement in Genesis 4:10,11. which I find is kind of interesting. *And in that day Adam blessed God, and was filled, and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth; saying, Blessed be the name of God, for, because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again, in the flesh I shall see God.* Now you have to remember that Adam was kicked out of the garden after his transgression. But now we find him saying, 'I have hope of seeing God again. I was kicked out of His presence but there's a way for me to get back to God's presence.' And Eve follows and the scripture says, *And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying, Were it not for our transgression, we never should have had seed, meaning children, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.* I have always found that to be kind of a difficult concept to understand, that had it not been for the transgression in

the garden, there wouldn't have been any children born.

"Some people might argue that point but I just want to reinforce it by reading 2 Nephi 1 starting at verse 105. We all know that the devil influenced the serpent to come and entice Adam and Eve to partake of the fruit after God told them not to. It picks up from there as Lehi speaks to his fifth son Jacob; *And after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit, they were driven out of the garden of Eden, to till the earth. And they have brought forth children; yea, even the family of all the earth. And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh; Wherefore, their state became a state of probation, and their time was lengthened, according to the commandments which the Lord God gave unto the children of men. For he gave commandment that all men must repent; For he shewed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents.* (105-110) This is the point that I want to get to. It says, *And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed, he would not have fallen; but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created, must have remained in the same state which they were, after they were created; and they must have remained for ever, and had no end. And they would have had no children; wherefore, they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.* (111-115)

"That's a very profound statement. People and philosophers have questioned the meaning of life for thousands of years. Why are we here? We just found from the scriptures that we are that we might have **joy**.

"Julie and I ate at a Greek restaurant while we were in Vancouver, B.C. Somewhere on the way or on the menu there was a quote. I couldn't tell you who said it. Probably some Greek philosopher or it might have been Shakespeare but it went like this. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." (Some in the congregation thought the quote came from Romans.) That is kind of the philosophy of the world, wouldn't you say? It doesn't matter what we do. We're going to die

tomorrow so I am just going to do whatever I want and I'll be happy. The question is will you really be happy if you do whatever you want to do? Let me ask you this. If the meaning of life is to have joy where do we go to find joy? If I want an apple do I go to a pear tree? Where do I go? If I want to be warm in the winter do I go to Canada or go south to Texas or Bermuda or Hawaii? If I want to get across a river of crocodiles and piranhas do I jump in the water? No, I go to a boat store and get a boat and cross the river the right way. (Said to one of the young adventurers in the congregation.)

"If I want joy where do I go to find that? Do I go to a misery store? No, we go to where the source of joy is. What is this source of joy? It is God. Now, I know that everything I am telling you this morning you all know, most likely. In fact you could probably tell me a few things. Yes, we go to God for joy. Lehi, who was the father of Laman, Lemuel, Nephi, Sam, Jacob and Joseph, had a vision and saw a tree. On this tree was fruit. Do you remember what the fruit was? It was the love of God. Lehi says that he partook of the fruit which was the love of God. What did he say about it? He said that it was the most joyous to the soul. If we believe the scriptures and follow them through, we find out that if we want joy we have to go to the source which is the love of God. If you want joy you have to have the love of God. If you don't have the love of God what are you going to receive? Fear? Misery? Exactly.

"In this account an angel asks Nephi, *Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw? And I answered him, saying, Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore it is the most desirable above all things.* (1 Nephi 3:63-64) What does that mean, 'sheddeth itself abroad'? I have read that probably one hundred times. I thought I might guess well, but what does it mean; 'that the love of God sheds itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men'?

"We have a dog at home that likes to shed. There is hair all over the place. That might be a pretty good analogy of what this is saying. Cats are the same way. If you look at the definition of the word "shed," it does talk about dogs and cats, but it also says that to shed means "to give of oneself, to emit and to let seeds or the fruit fall." So if you think about the love





of God, this tree of life, shedding itself abroad in the hearts of men, it's giving or sacrificing of itself. But in this case, in sacrificing it doesn't die and go away, it's giving its seed. It's recreating itself with every seed that drops, in every piece of fruit that is taken from it. It's multiplying. In the very act of sacrifice it actually enlarges and grows and with the love of God we find that it grows here in the hearts of mankind."

**Have You Opened Your Gift?**

"Let's jump gears for just a second and talk about the Holy Ghost for a minute. Who knows what the Holy Ghost is? (The congregation replied the spirit of God, the Comforter, promise of the Father, guidance which leads you into all truth.) When do we get the Holy Ghost? (Steve Smith replied that we get the Holy Ghost when we remember Him and keep His commandments.) Who remembers from the scripture I read earlier about the Spirit of Christ? Who gets the Spirit of Christ? (Someone replied that everyone that is born gets the Spirit.) Who gets the Holy Ghost though? Does everyone? Everyone is influenced by it that is for sure. Let's look at it this way. I was talking with Eric Odida a few years ago about this very thing, and I likened the Holy Ghost as being a gift. It says that it is a gift given to us. Let's say Josh gives me a gift at Christmastime. It is wrapped in this beautiful paper with a shiny bow. It's the

of sins we become meek and lowly and because of that the visitation of the Holy Ghost comes. Every single one of us that has been baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ should know about the Holy Ghost. When I say we should know about the Holy Ghost, I mean we should know how to use it because it is there to lead us and to expound things to us. If there are mysteries out there it is there to teach us of those mysteries. If we are not asking questions then we are not really looking for the mysteries. We are not really opening and using that gift that has been given to us when we're sealed in the church of Jesus Christ. It's just as if we had opened the gift, looked at it and thought how beautiful and then wrapped it back up and put it back on the shelf and left it there for everybody to see when they come in our door. It really has no value to us because we are not using it. We should questioning things it's because it's good to question and inso doing we should earnestly seek for answers, and we should seek for those answers by the power of the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"Something that accompanies the Holy Ghost at the time of baptism is fire. We are baptized by water and then by fire and the Holy Ghost. What are some of the attributes of fire? It's hot, very hot. What else does fire give to us? It gives us light. So we receive heat and light. Those are two very important things. Remember what I said that everything that God does,

other way to get it healed, you can heat it up hot enough to cauterize it to seal it off to keep out infection. One analogy that we learn about this is that this fire, this spiritual fire that God gives us is to cleanse us. The physical water that we can see when we shower or bath washes off our skin and hair but it doesn't do anything to our inside. It is the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost that cleanses the inside and makes us clean Spiritually.

"What's the other part that we talked about? Light. What does light do for us? It helps us see. If we are in darkness can we see the smudges and marks and blemishes on us? Only when we turn up the light do we begin to see the imperfections. I have done that a lot of time. I have awakened in the morning and kind of looked at myself in the mirror and washed myself off and went to work. In the bright lights of the office setting I see that I missed a spot here or there because the light was so much better at the office. That's the other thing that the Holy Ghost does for us. It can open up our eyes to see those areas that need to be cleansed and washed - repented of.

"One of my favorite testimonies comes from Sister Mildred Smith. She told of an experience that she had when she was listening to a sermon by Brother Arthur Oakman I believe at the Stone Church in Independence. As she was sitting up in the balcony Brother Oakman was delivering his message in his powerful

"It is the spirit of God that convicts us of our sin." She said that she knew right then that she had been receiving her portion of the Spirit just like everybody else because the Spirit was convicting her of her sin.

most impeccably wrapped present I have ever seen in my life. I am so impressed by the packaging that I decide never to open it. What good is that gift to me? I take it and set it on my mantle so that everybody that comes in my house can see that beautifully wrapped gift. Isn't it gorgeous? Everybody says that it is the most beautiful thing they have ever seen, how wonderful it is and that I must be very lucky. But does that gift mean anything to me other than something to look at? No, the gift has to be opened.

"The gift of the Holy Ghost has to be opened and it is opened in a prescribed way. We talked about that and the manner of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. Through the remission

everything that He has created and made is there for a purpose which is to teach us something about the gospel of Jesus Christ, about our relationship with him? If He has created fire, which gives heat and light and couples that with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, there must be a reason for that. If the physical things that we get from fire are heat and light then there must be something that we can understand about that gift that He has given to us. One thing that the medical profession knows about heat is that if you heat something up hot enough, you can of course melt it but you also sterilize it. Also in the old days, and probably even today in the right situations or circumstances, if you have a wound or cut and can get it cleaned and have no

and eloquent way. She said that while he was speaking she looked around and everybody seemed to be just basking in the spirit of what he was saying. But all she could think of was all the nasty and rotten things that she had done in her life. As she was overcome in this moment of self-reflection and self-pity, all of a sudden Brother Oakman stopped. That got her attention. He looked up at the balcony and pointed his finger in her direction and said, "It is the spirit of God that convicts us of our sin." She said that she knew right then that she had been receiving her portion of the Spirit just like everybody else because the Spirit was convicting her of her sin.

"That's one of the important aspects of the Holy Ghost. It opens up our eyes and



understanding into those areas where we are deficient, where we are falling short of the glory of God. If we have taken that gift and we've rewrapped it and set it up on the shelf, it no longer becomes a light, it no longer becomes a guide, it no longer becomes anything useful to us. The only thing it becomes is a testimony against us at the last day because we have rejected the gift of God. And the gift of the Holy Ghost is a representation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. To reject it is to reject the redemption made for you."

**The Light of Jesus Christ is Sacrifice**

"I'll just share briefly with you part of my conversion experience. Julie and I were coming back into the swing of church. After we had been married we really weren't going anywhere or doing anything related to the gospel though both of us were brought up in the church. We started attending in Des Moines. We were invited to a retreat at Nauvoo at through that retreat I attended a class on the Kingdom that Ron Smith was giving. Once back home I started studying his little booklet on the Kingdom Way. I began writing down all these questions that I had. How do we get the Kingdom? How do we lose the Kingdom? Who's in the Kingdom? I had several pages of questions. My intent was to go back and read through the scriptures and find all the answers. As I did this I remember that I was sitting at home in Princeton, MO, at the kitchen table reading through the scriptures. I don't know how many I had gone through but all of a sudden the lights went dark and all I saw was darkness. At the very center of that darkness I saw this little point of light and this little point of light was so brilliant it began to pierce the darkness. In that moment I had one of those "quickenings" experiences, where the Spirit is there to quicken all things to your understanding. In a flash of time knowledge was gained that might have taken a lifetime to learn traditionally. It was a revelatory experience. I began to understand the Kingdom in a way that I had never even thought of and the power of it. In that experience I noticed that at the very center of that point of light, which was so brilliant, there was a cross and on that cross was a figure. That figure was Jesus Christ. I began to understand from that point that all light and all truth, everything in existence, is in existence because of that sacrifice of Jesus Christ on

the cross. Everything in existence is because of His selflessness, His sacrifice for each one of us and for me. It was a powerful experience for me. Now even today as I go through the scriptures and I read new things, the understandings that I get from the scriptures today goes back to that experience. Somehow everything that I learn today is born from that experience that I had of my conversion where God revealed to me who He was and His matchless power, His awesomeness. It was as if His DNA was inserted into my chemistry somehow, all at my disposal. I just have to sort it out and begin to understand it, to decode it like the Human the Genome Project. Now I get that excitement of discovering all that God has created to be revealed.

"What I am trying to say is that the light of the Holy Ghost, the light of the scriptures is really the light of sacrifice. It's the light of selflessness and of service. Every time that you look upon a woman-upon a mother, you're seeing an expression of God giving of Himself completely for His children. She's a testimony of God's love for us."



**WHEN GOD SUMMONS**



Seventy Dave Drummond  
Farmington, Iowa  
May 15, 2011

As a Call to Worship, Seventy Ron

Smith used Doctrine & Covenants 34:6. *Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time. And by the keys which I have given shall they be led, and no more be confounded at all. Lift up your hearts and be glad; your redemption draweth nigh. Fear not, little flock, the kingdom is yours until I come. Behold, I come quickly.*

**When God Calls We Need to Obey**

Seventy David Drummond read 1 Nephi 1:65, *And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father, I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.*

"I am very blessed to be here and stand before you on this great day. I am not sure what year it was that Alan and Valle moved to Ottumwa but I know that I was very young in the Lord and we spent a lot of time together. Kathy and I were reminiscing on the way over, Valle, about some of the times that we spent together in Ottumwa. We were very blessed. We had Alan and Valle and about five other couples that were all our age and starting our families at the same time. What a blessing that was for us to all be there together and have a group of people that loved the Lord.

"Kathy told me not to tell any stories but I don't think you kids (Alan and Valle's children) know that your mother ran out of gas in Ottumwa more times than anybody I ever knew. My Dad and I were running a gallon of gas to her quite often.

"The sermon title this morning is "When God Summons." That is what I have on my heart today. I believe that God is summoning His people from all branches of the church. He's summoning us to come out and share the gospel as we understand it, to share this restored gospel that we've been given in these last days. To give some insight that probably the world doesn't understand quite the same way that we do.

"I was interested in the adult class this morning that Brother Rob conducted. We talked about a lot of things that were on my heart to share this morning, at least the



sentiment maybe not all the same scriptures. I want to talk to you about what happens when God calls. As I was thinking about this topic this morning I thought of the different people that were called. I thought about Enoch. That's a great story. He was called and what was his first response. 'Why would you call me? I don't speak too well.' I thought about Moses and what did he say when he was told to go before Pharaoh? 'Why would you call me? I don't speak too well.' I could go on down the list of folks that when they were called they had some kind of negative reaction. Most of them did go.

"A scripture I would like to have you look at right now is found in Jonah. I bet there's some kids here this morning that know that story pretty well. They probably could tell us all about Jonah and the whale. *Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah, the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.* (1:1-3) Sometimes when God calls for a lot of different reasons it can be an overwhelming thing. Sometimes we can feel like we are totally unprepared to do what we feel like we are supposed to do. If you read the story of Jonah you know what his problem was. It wasn't that he didn't believe in God and I don't even think that it was that he didn't think that God could give him the strength to do the things that he needed to do. The problem with Jonah was he didn't like the Ninevites. He didn't want to go there and share with them but God had a plan. Maybe some of you saw a thing that was sent to us on the internet several months ago. It was a little girl at a Baptist Church. She told the story of Jonah and did a pretty good job. There was a little bit of author's note there I think she took with the story but it was very cute and very good. I think the little girl was four or five but she understood what was going on."

**Sometimes His Call Brings Trials**

"The first thing I want you to know is that when God calls or summons us, we can't run away from God. No matter what has taken place, no matter what the task is,

no matter what your feelings are, it's sinful and dangerous to refuse to do what God wants us to do or, try and ignore His will in our life. Over the last year I've actually gotten to talk with Alan down at conference and other places, more than I have for a long time. It's been wonderful. I know Alan has heard this before but I want to share it with you. A couple of years ago now I was sitting in the congregation in Ottumwa and the Lord spoke to me and told me that I should not allow myself to run for pastor in Ottumwa because he had another work for me to do. I thought I knew what that was. I won't go through all the testimonies of things that happened but sure enough it wasn't very

The first thing I want you to know is that when God calls or summons us, we can't run away from God.

long until I got a call and was told that I had been called to the office of Seventy and would I accept that. Of course I did.

"I went down for conference. I have to tell you one of the most influential people in the world especially in the last few years and probably throughout my life was my older brother. I have been doing a lot of reminiscing lately. Our family has been in a real season of loss. We lost my wife's mother in September of 2009 and then in August of 2010 we lost my wife's dad. We spent the last year of his life with him in the nursing home. Kathy was there every day and I was there as much as I could be. Then in October of 2010 I lost my brother unexpectedly. We had been through some rough times right before that but it has a happy ending. I promise this testimony does.

"My brother went to a congregation that doesn't accept the fact that Seventy are being called again, and it was difficult for him as close as we had been. We were never mad at each other but we weren't able to talk about church. He had always been my confidant. You young guys in the priesthood have to have someone you can talk to and share your thoughts with because the burdens sometimes get large if you don't have someone that you can share with. My brother was that for me and I couldn't share with him my burdens or my joy because he didn't have the joy that I had in the opportunity that I believe that God had given me to share the gospel with

those that don't know Christ. I decided that I would go and stay with him the day before I was going to go to conference. We had a wonderful day. We went and looked at things and did things and talked about all the things that brothers talk about, everything but church. It was getting on about nighttime and we went into his office and were messing around looking at some stuff on the computer. All of a sudden he turned around and looked at me and got a very fierce expression on his face. He said, 'Have you considered the consequences of your actions?' I asked him what he meant. He said, 'Well this business of you being ordained to the office of Seventy. When this all falls apart you can just repent and everybody will accept you back in but what about the people that you have baptized or the people you have ordained? What's going to happen to them? Don't you care about them?' I have to tell you it struck me to the core. I wanted to be offended. I wasn't but I was hurt. I didn't argue with him. I just said I am doing what I believe God wants me to do. The Lord has called me. I went to bed and got up the next morning and went to breakfast. We hadn't talked about my call again but while we were eating breakfast, he looked over at me and said, 'I don't want to come to your ordination service. I don't think it's the right thing.' I told him that I wouldn't want him to be there if he didn't feel like it was the thing he should do. I told him that I loved him and that this wasn't going to separate us. He could feel free not to come. It would be fine.

The Lord wasn't done though. I went to conference for a couple of days and my brother called me and told me, 'I've been thinking. The Lord's been working on me. I have to come to your ordination.' I said, 'Really?' He said, 'Yeah the Lord has made it known to me that if you were my sister and you were going to have a child and weren't married, I wouldn't throw you overboard. I would still love you and support you.' He went through a whole litany of things, sins if you will, that a family member could do and he wouldn't throw them over. He would still come and support them. So he said, 'Marian and I will be there.' They were and I have to tell you what a blessing it was, but the Lord had already worked another miracle in my life.

"The first night that I didn't stay at his house during conference I was staying at a



# June 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	June 5th	June 12th	June 19th	June 26th	July 3rd
<b>SPEAKING</b>	Rodney Bastow	Ron Smith	Rob Rolfe	Chuck Perry Seventy Reunion	Steven Smith
<b>PRESIDING</b>	Michael Jordison	Gordon Winkler	Alan Smith	Rob Rolfe Seventy Reunion	Sherman Phipps
<b>PIANIST</b>	Jan Jordison	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Jan Jordison	Pat Bolingbroke
<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	Alan & Valle Smith	S. Cunningham Family	Jim Barber	Diane Anderson	Yvonne Galusha
<b>FAMILY DEVOTIONS</b>	Sue Beck	Darren Cunningham	Steve Cunningham	Seventy Reunion	Michael Jordison
<b>GREETERS</b>	Sherman Phipps	Bob Rowland	George Knotts	Seventy Reunion	Ron Smith
<b>CUSTODIANS</b>	Jordison Family	Sherman Phipps	Bob Rowland	Seventy Reunion	Rob Rolfe
<b>SUNDAY EVENING</b>	Ron Smith	Norman Nelson	Ron Smith	Seventy Reunion	Bob Rowland

## Wednesday Prayer Service Schedule

DATE	June 1st	June 8th	June 15th	June 22nd	June 29th	July 6th
<b>LOCATION</b>	Rob Rolfe	Alan Smith	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Graceland University	Norman Nelson
<b>PRESIDING</b>	Ron Smith	Steven Smith	Jim Barber	Ed Anderson	Seventy Reunion @ Graceland	Sherman Phipps



## Special Events & Activities

**Sunday June 5th:** Priesthood Meeting at 8:30AM - Potluck following Communion service

**Tuesday June 14th:** Flag Day

**Wednesday June 15th:** Day of Fasting & Prayer

**WEDDING:** June 18 at 2:00PM Colonial Hills C.o.C. in Blue Springs. Jared Beck and Holly Curtis.

**BAPTISMAL SERVICE:** June 19th @ 5:00 p.m. - Joshua Jordison and Bob Rowland. Location: Cheville Chapel. Following the service there will be Sunday evening fellowship & snacks at the Rob Rolfe home.

**SEVENTY REUNION:** June 26th - July 2nd at Graceland University

**Birthdays this month:** Betty Loving (2), Esther Cornish (2), Melissa Ballantyne (18), Jacob Cunningham (23), David Cowley (24)

**Anniversaries this month:** Alan & Valle Smith (2), Peter & Erin Cornish (2), Aaron & Melissa Ballantyne (11), Darren & Lori Cunningham (15), Sherman & Cheryl Phipps (16)



house owned by a lady that goes to Ottumwa to church. I was the only one staying in her house that night and I was still pretty upset about this situation. I wanted to study the scriptures. You know how you are when you get a little depressed about things. I have to tell you I was uncertain. This was my big brother. I remembered an old tape that my Dad made when we were kids. My brother was ten years older than I was. I was a little three year old and he was thirteen and the tape showed him pushing me on the sled, and he had me on the tractor with him. I could talk for an hour about all the things that he did and not even begin to touch the surface of the way that my brother treated me.

"I started to pick up the Book of Mormon to study that and the Lord said, 'No.' I started to pick up the Holy Scriptures and he said, 'No.' I picked up this little book right here (the Doctrine and Covenants) and I went inside. I went up to the bedroom where I was going to stay. I was going to read but I was just wiped out. I sat down on the bed and fell over. I didn't get under the covers or put my pajamas on. I just went to sleep. At 5:00 o'clock in the morning, I woke up and was refreshed. I opened up the scriptures, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Lord answered my concerns and my prayers of the night before. I opened the book and it fell to this place. This scripture you will all know but this will forever have meaning for me. Starting in Section 16:3c, *'Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; for, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him on conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth. Wherefore (I wish I could speak this next line the way that I heard it in my mind) you are called to cry repentance unto this people.* I shouldn't have needed another testimony of my call to the office of Seventy. The Lord had already given me many but I am telling you sometimes when God summons us, things of the world and people that we love can cause us to question whether we are doing the right thing.

"When I heard that, it was more than just those words that I had read it was the power of the Spirit that was there confirming to me that I was doing what

God wanted me to do. Alan, I know that you are doing what God wants you to do. Brothers and sisters, if we can learn anything from the experiences that the church has been through in the last twenty-five to thirty years, it is that there has been a pile of hurt in the church. There have been families that have been separated. There have been families that have been lost to the restoration because of the deep emotion that they have. But I believe God is calling us in these last days not to look to ourselves and our own pain but begin to trust each other and try to be one and not draw lines that separate us from one another. He's calling us to be a people that are going to cry repentance not just to those that have come from the restoration background and history but to the whole world.

"I want to share the rest of that testimony about my brother before I go on. For several months we didn't talk much. He never did say what he thought of the ordination service but I think there was a good testimony there that he really was touched by the Spirit of God that was there. He came to our house on Memorial Day weekend just a month before he was going to die and hugged me and told me that he knew that I was doing what God wanted me to do. He told me that he felt like he was doing what God wanted him to do. That was the last time that I ever got to talk to him about the things that were going on in my life and the church. Just a few weeks later he was gone. It would have been sinful for me to ignore the call. God does not call people unless He has a purpose."

### God Has A Purpose

"Folks, sometimes we think that the gospel is all about us. In some aspects it is but it's not. Those that best know the Lord Jesus Christ understand that once you have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, it has to become about others as you understand God's love for those that don't have that kind of relationship with Him and His desire for them to have it. The folks in Ottumwa are pretty patient with me. They never get tired of me saying this is my favorite scripture. I guess that's my little tag line. I say that and every time it is a different scripture. In Doctrine and Covenants 22:23 the Lord is trying to explain to us and Moses in the scripture there but he's trying to explain to us how much He loves His creation. He says this,

*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;* (now listen to this because it is so important for you to understand and take to heart) *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.* Brothers and sisters, do you believe that? Do you believe that the Father on high, the Creator of all, through His very word can make anything happen instantaneously? Do you believe that He spoke those words and it is not the truth? I know it's true and I know that it's true for every single person that He's ever created. He has a desire for them to learn the words of life, to be able to repent, to be able to be baptized, to be able to be numbered among those that have covenanted with Him and responded.

"God has a purpose. He tells us right there what His purpose is. The question is, brother and sisters, are we as a people willing to submit ourselves to His will. So often we say we are the Lord's and yet we want our own will. We have our own idea about how things are supposed to happen but that's not the way that God works. We all want to think that we are special. You know I remember a family reunion I attended a while back. A couple of my cousins were there from Oregon. One of them was talking about my Grandma Fisher, my mother's grandmother, and she said to me that the thing that was best about Grandma Fisher was that no matter which grandkid was with her she always made them think they were her favorite. Isn't it true that you all want to think you are in some way more special to God than anybody else? I don't want to bust your bubble but you're not. You are special to Him don't get me wrong. He has spoken in the scriptures that His work and His glory is to bring to pass not only your immortality and your eternal life but also the person sitting next to you and the person across the street, those people too.

"That kind of brings me to where we are at now. He has a purpose and He has a plan. Too long, brother and sisters, in my humble opinion we've tried to take things into our own hands. We have tried to do it our own way. When the church went directions that we didn't understand or accept we kind of splintered and it's going



to take us awhile to get back together. He has a plan for His priesthood. One of the best gifts that God has given me in these last few years is He opened my eyes and allowed me to see a picture of what the church is supposed to be like. I can't explain to you how it happened. It might have been called a vision or a dream. I don't know. I want to share that with you briefly because Alan's ordination today to me is another step forward just like Seventy being called and now High Priests being called. We also have Aaronic Priesthood who need to be going into the homes of the Saints and helping them to have the kind of saving relationship with Jesus Christ that He wants to have with them. Can you imagine having Teachers in the home making sure that there's no iniquity? Can you imagine having Priests being in the homes doing the things that they are supposed to do and the Deacons? Can you imagine the Elders getting out of their way so that they can do their work? Can you imagine a world filled with Elders that are going to take responsibility to share the gospel with their neighbor and trust that the Aaronic Priesthood is going to fulfill its responsibility?

"I want to share another testimony with you because members and women I am not leaving you out of this equation. I talk to my Dad often and in these last years he has talked more about things that happened in the past. I think that maybe that's something that happens as you get more experience in life. He was talking to me about being on a ship in World War II.

than themselves to witness to others. In the scriptures it says that every one of us is supposed to be willing and able and ready and I would even add the word anxious to share the reason for the hope that's within us. Brothers and sisters, it's time for all hands to take their place. All hands on deck. God's got a purpose and that's to bring immortality and eternal life to man.

"When God summons it doesn't come void either does it? It doesn't come without trials. I am going to mention a little lady's name that Alan will remember. She was quite a little gal. Did she ever tell you, Alan, if you don't feel the winds of Satan blowing against you, you're going the wrong way? Margaret Sterling was her name. She had every reason in the world to be horribly bitter. Her father ran off when she was a baby and she was raised by her grandmother who was a wonderful church lady but it wasn't her plan in her elder years to be raising grandchildren. Sometimes life does that to us. But Margaret had a simple way of looking at things. That's something that's stuck with me whenever I have felt the pressures of Satan, the pressures of the world. Sometimes I think we blame the things that other people do to us on Satan when it's just other people doing the things that people do. But she would always say if you don't feel the winds of Satan blowing against you you're going the wrong way. Then she would say something else that I have never forgotten. It's great to go to a camp, to some kind of a meeting and have those mountaintop experiences. It's great

*indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? for it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said unto them, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? For she hath wrought a good work on me. Ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will, ye may do them good; but me ye have not always. (4-7) Now listen to this. This is what I want you to remember that Jesus said about this act. She has done what she could. . . (8) Folks, it is the little things in life that make a difference. It's the times when the Lord puts it in your heart to call someone and tell them that you love them or that you are thinking about them that can be life changing times in their life. They are not just little insignificant things that happen. They have great meaning. Just as much meaning as if I were to get up here and utter great words of prophecy because they have the effect of helping people to remember and understand how much God loves them."*

**God Calls us to Minister to All People**

"When God summons, are you ready to reply yes in everything. Are you ready to be the kind of person that listens for Him to speak? It says in the scriptures that we need to be still and know that He is God. As I look at the church today too many of us think that it's not going to get done if we don't do it. That's not what the scriptures teach is it? It says that His works and His purposes won't be

**"When God summons, are you ready to reply yes in everything. Are you ready to be the kind of person that listens for Him to speak? It says in the scriptures that we need to be still and know that He is God."**

The ship was under attack from a submarine, and there were torpedoes going by the ship. The sailors had their life vests that they could put on. My Dad wanted to be ready. I asked him what he meant. He said he wanted to be ready so he had K-rations and C-rations and all kinds of containers of water. He said he was pretty sure if he would have had to jump off the ship into the water, he would have sunk. Members are you ready to do what God is summoning you to do? Too often in the past when members were given the opportunity to witness of Christ in their lives to members and nonmembers they have passed on that responsibility to the priesthood. They wanted someone other

when the Lord reveals Himself to you like that but she said that the greatest times in her life and the things that have impacted her the most were found in the little things that happened in life.

"Turn with me to the fourteenth chapter of Mark starting with the fourth verse. I'm going to read you a story here and from this story I hope that you will maybe get the same thing out of it that I did. *And Jesus being in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper; as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard, very precious, and she brake the box, and poured the ointment on his head. There were some among the disciples who had*

frustrated. It's only the works of man. It's going to happen. The question is, are we going to hear the call and are we going to do what we can do? I can't control the way that the folks at my brother's church feel but I love them and they are a part of the church. They have the priesthood in their congregation and I respect them and wish nothing but the best for them. I am telling you that God is at work.

"Let me share another testimony with you. One of the things I've done since the early 90's is travel around the country teaching hazardous material to police officers. I have taught them what they would do if they stopped a truck hauling hazardous material. I happened to be



teaching in the State of Nevada with a Kansas State Trooper. We got there on Sunday and he picked me up at the airport with the rental car. The highway patrol in Nevada had gotten us penthouse rooms in a great big casino. Well, I don't gamble and I don't drink. I went up to this room that I was paying \$35.00 a night that had a wet bar. It was a huge suite room. As we went up to our rooms we arranged when we would meet for supper. As I left my room to go eat he was right there at the elevator waiting on me. We went down and got in the car and went to eat supper. We had a pleasant conversation. I didn't hear any cussing, no carrying on like the world might do. This routine of meeting at the elevator happened for several days. I never saw him going to gamble, never saw him drinking or whatever.

"Finally Wednesday morning we stopped at the Kings place for breakfast. You know what I'm talking about, Burger King. We had to get a croissant muffin or something so we would be all refreshed to go over and teach hazmat to the Nevada troopers. I looked across the table at him and I felt the Lord telling me that I needed to get acquainted with this guy. There was something special about him. So, I said, 'Terry, I noticed that you're not gambling.' He said, 'No, I don't gamble.' I said, 'I noticed that you're not drinking.' He said, 'No.' I said, 'I noticed that I don't hear you swearing.' He said, 'Oh, no.' I said, 'Are you a man that believes in Jesus? Do you go to church?' He said, 'Yes I do.' I said, 'What church is it?' He said, 'I don't think you have ever heard of it. It's a real small church.' I said, 'Well, I've kind of studied religion so try me.' He goes, 'Well, it's over in Independence, MO.' I said, 'Really? What's the name of it?' He said, 'Well some people call it The Church of Christ Temple Lot.' I said, 'I know that church. We are kind of cousins with them.' We visited and he told me he had married a young lady who had grown up in that faith. He had gone there and been converted to the faith and had been attending there since they had gotten married.

"We didn't really talk that much more about it. We taught the rest of the class and got done on Friday morning about noon. Our flights didn't go out until Saturday so what should two guys do in Reno, NV who don't want to go to the nasty shows or the gambling places. We decided that it wasn't very far to Lake

Tahoe so we would drive up there and observe some of God's wonderful creation. If you've never been there, it's one of the most beautiful places that I've ever been in this country. It's awesome there. We drove up there from Reno and went through the pass. We got over there and were at a lookout place and the strangest thing happened to me. After we got back in the car and were just getting ready to take off the Lord spoke to me. He said, 'David, tell Terry that he needs to repent for I have a work for him to do with my people.' When he said that, I understood in my mind that this fellow had a call to the priesthood. I have to tell you that my first thought was why in the world would God tell me this? That guy goes to a different church. Yeah, it has a restoration background but it's a different church. I don't call people to the priesthood in the Church of Christ Temple Lot. I don't think they are going to put a lot of stock in what Dave Drummond says.

"So I said that in my mind to the Lord and again the words came to me and again I tried to kind of be like Jonah. I tried to say, 'Look he goes to a different church, Lord. Why would. . .' He said, 'David, I told you to tell Terry.' I felt like I was a kid back at my parent's house and my mother was telling me for the third time. I said, 'Okay, Lord, I give.' I turned to Terry and I said, 'Terry, the Lord says that you have some sin in your life that's holding you back and that He has a work for you to do with His people and that you need to repent of that.' Terry looked at me and got a tear in his eye and said, 'I know that's true and I thank you for sharing that with me.'

"The thing I want you to get from this testimony is as we look out at the church today we aren't one yet but we are moving that direction I believe. Don't get discouraged with those that don't understand everything exactly the same way that you or I do. Don't get discouraged and don't draw lines. Just go out and share your testimony of Jesus Christ. If you don't remember anything else that I have said today I hope that you will go out from here and that you will remember that you need to do the things that you can do, the things that are within your control to do. Share your testimony of Jesus Christ. Share the reason for the hope that's within you. Do it in love not judgment. If those folks are listening to the Lord and if I'm listening to the Lord,

we're all going to end up at the same place because we are going to be one. Let's me rephrase that. Those that are willing are going to be one.

"I think you have had some of the folks from the Church of Christ Restored come here and speak and we have too. When they were in Ottumwa a couple of weeks ago they were saying that they had been up in Michigan and had a meeting with one of the tribal elders and the elder said that the Indian prophets were speaking again. They were being told they needed to gather in to Independence. That was kind of exciting to me and I hope it's exciting to you. I was glad to hear that. I've been with those folks from the Church of Christ Restored and the Spirit of God is with them. I expect that you experienced the same thing.

"I know that it has not been an easy choice to take this responsibility, Alan, because I know one thing about Alan. That is that he loves all of you and all of us as much or more than any other man that I have known. He is the kindest hearted, most loving servant of God that I've experienced. I know that he would not do anything that he didn't have full testimony of and know that it was God that was summoning him to do.

"In closing I would like you to turn to 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 6:99-104. This is my challenge for you that I would like to close with today. I'm not going to say any more. Read along with me starting with verse 99. *Come, my brethren, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters; and he that hath no money, come buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore, do not spend money for that which is of no worth, nor your labor for that which can not satisfy. Hearken diligently unto me, and remember the words which I have spoken; and come unto the Holy One of Israel, And feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted, and let your soul delight in fatness. Behold, my beloved brethren, remember the words of your God; pray unto him continually by day, and give thanks unto his holy name by night. Let your hearts rejoice, and behold how great the covenants of the Lord, and how great his condescensions unto the children of men;*

"May God bless us all. I look forward to what He's going to do with Alan and his ministry. I pray that he will bless the church and the world."



# ORDINATION OF H. ALAN SMITH TO OFFICE OF HIGH PRIEST



Prayer by High Priest Sherman Phipps  
Lamoni, Iowa  
May 15, 2011

Seventy Ron Smith read from Hebrews 5:1-4. *For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

High Priest Robert Rolfe offered the following prayer before the ordination. "Our Father in Heaven we've been challenged by the power of your Spirit and by the message that's been given this hour. Now we turn to a commandment that we are to lay hands on the head of our brother and confirm him to the office of High Priest. Father, we know that none of us are worthy to do this of ourselves and yet the things that seem foolish to us are wise in

your purposes. We pray now that as my brother pronounces the words that you have given him that we will all catch a vision of what it is that High Priests are called to do and the sacrifice that we are to make in terms of bringing your children unto salvation and to your Son Jesus Christ. We pray that Your power would be with him and be with my brother Alan that he would have an added testimony that he is answering the summons that you have given to him. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen."

At this time Alan Smith will be ordained to the office of High Priest by Sherman Phipps and Rob Rolfe. "O Lord, as we come before you today we wish to acknowledge that that which we do here will be of no value except it is done by your Spirit, so we pray that You would be merciful unto us, that you would forgive us and cleanse us and allow us to have Your Spirit that we might do this thing, Father, unto your honor and glory. We know that that which we do here today has nothing to do with honor and glory to anyone except you.

"Lord, as I lay my hands upon my brother Alan's head today, I plead with you that you would grant him faith such as has not been seen amongst men in these recent days. Lord, surely your adversary will seek to discourage him and to distract him, but I pray that your Holy Spirit will surround him even as by fire that he will be able to go forward in your work untouched by the adversary. I pray that you would work with my brother that he might have even the gift of righteousness that Satan might be bound in his presence not by him but by you.

"Father, I pray that you would bless my brother Alan that he might have the power through your Spirit to take the message of your Son Jesus Christ to all of those that he has contact with daily, not only in word but in example. Father, I pray that you would bless him that he might be able to bring and invite his fellowmen out of darkness into your light that he might be able to guide them that in the end they might have life.

"Father, I know that that which you have called my brother to do cannot be done by any power except yours, and I know that you would not have called him except you intend to give him this power and enable him to fulfill that which you have called him unto. I am grateful for this knowledge and I pray that my brother

might have this knowledge that he might know that you will not allow him to be tempted or tried beyond that which you have prepared a way for him to meet. That he might never give up but that he might be true and faithful and diligent to the end. That he might when the day comes, Lord, whether it be upon this earth or otherwise sit with you at your table with all those who have gone before him even Abraham and Isaac and Enoch, all of those, Lord, who have heard your call and responded.

"Father, I pray that you would give him the ability to share with his fellowmen and to bring them into your peace. I pray that you would give him the gift of healing both spiritually and physically for the sake of his brothers and sisters. Father, empower him and enable him to succor the weak, to lift up the hands that hang down and to strengthen the feeble knees of his brothers and sisters that through the ministry that you have called him to and which you will bestow upon him now that he might be the means of bringing many souls unto you, Lord, for their sake and for your honor and glory and for the fulfilling of your work amongst men. Lord, I pray it in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen."



Alan & Valle Smith with daughter Erin and husband Peter Cornish and grandchildren Millie and Eli (& baby Esther Grace).





## HISTORY PROVIDES LESSONS FOR TODAY



Elder Gordon Winkler  
Mt. Ayr, Iowa  
May 22, 2011

As a Call to Worship, Elder Steven Cunningham used Alma 16:170-171. *But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold, it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life; And because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure.*

For a scripture reading Elder Gordon Winkler used Doctrine & Covenants 28:2a-c. *Verily I say unto you, that ye are chosen out of the world to declare my gospel with the sound of rejoicing, as with the voice of a trumpet; lift up your hearts and be glad, for I am in your midst, and am your*

*advocate with the Father; and it is his good will to give you the kingdom; and as it is written, Whatsoever ye shall ask in faith, being united in prayer according to my command, ye shall receive; and ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts.*

Good morning. I think that we shall be trusting Jesus this morning that the inadequacies of the person standing in front of you doesn't keep the Lord from feeding His sheep. Sherman asked me a week and a half ago if I would speak this morning since George was going to be unavailable. Actually, I thought I might be getting off easy, because if you have been following the news there was the prediction that the world was going to end yesterday. I thought, 'Sure, Sherman I can do that.' Guess what, the world didn't end. There was a lot of discussion about the world ending and a lot of press written about the apocalypse. One of the headlines that I read said "The Apocalypse Believers Await End, Skeptics Carry On." That headline kind of bothered me because I thought that just leaves two categories. You are either a believer in the Apocalypse happening or you're a skeptic. I was uncomfortable because I didn't really think I fit into either of those categories. I didn't believe the world would end as Mr. Camping predicted, but I do believe there will be a last day and it will be associated with the second coming of Jesus Christ. What do you believe about the last day? I felt sorry for those people that believed the Apocalypse was going to happen yesterday at 6:00 PM because I wondered what they were feeling after no Apocalypse occurred? What's going through their minds? Wondering what they did not understand and how were they going to feel the next time that something is suggested about the Apocalypse or the end of the world. Are they going to be able to trust again? Where is their faith? I think the situation probably creates some real loss, a void, in those people's lives today.

You know we have the advantage of the additional scriptures. In fact the Book of Mormon says that it speaks to the plainness about those things that will come ahead of the end of the world. Not knowing when that will be but having a little better information, obligates us to share that more diligently with those in the world so that there will be a better understanding of the last day. So if the

message isn't that the end of the world came what is the message? What is our message? Our message is one of hope and salvation in Jesus Christ. It's a message of repentance and forgiveness. Why? Because God wishes us back in His presence and we also believe that the world as we know it will come to an end sometime.

All the scriptures contain phrasing referencing the end of time. I don't know how you feel about that but I have been spending a little time thinking about that. You find phrases that say "In that day," "There shall be a day," "Behold the days come." Those kind of things are talked about in the scriptures.

Yesterday Linda and I had the opportunity and were fortunate to be able to go to Lamoni and share a little bit of time with Jazmyn and her friends and family in celebration of her graduation. There's been a lot of preparation and study in Jazmyn's life for this day of graduation. Maybe there is some correlation there in terms of what the Lord expects of us regarding preparation for the last day. Jazmyn is now going to leave things behind as she moves on into the rest of her life. I know. At our house we still are full of Melissa and Heidi items that have been left behind. That's not the correlation I am trying to make. As we are maturing growing closer to God there are things we may need to consider leaving behind. I would like to express my thanks this morning, to Aquila and Gable (Jazmyn's younger brothers) because I think they've done an excellent job of raising two wonderful sisters. Thanks guys for doing that for us all.

### God Is Consistent in His Message

As I have read through the scriptures I have been impressed by how consistent God is in His message. You know the world has evolved from chariot races to the Indianapolis 500. The Indy cars qualifying heats were at 226 mph. I don't know fast a Chariot traveled, but I'm sure it wasn't 226mph. There is a big difference between how fast a chariot race was and how fast the Indianapolis 500 is. We've come a long way from writing and recording things on metal plates to using thumb and flash drives. So, I think in our mind we believe that God's relationship with us is different and that His message will need to change, but I don't think it does. If you read in Malachi 3:6 it says, *For I am the*



*Lord, I change not; . . .* I think that's pretty clear. So, if God changes not then I think history should provide lessons for us today. That's my intention this morning.

I started thinking about the people and the families that God has led out of captivity or out of harm's way. Some left one home for the promise of a better land. Some left to keep their families together. Some left to return to their homeland. All these accounts illustrate how the Lord tells His servants to take their people and depart into the wilderness. In each of these exodus accounts the righteous leave their prideful power-seeking brethren who have sinned against light and knowledge and have brought themselves under condemnation. The question that came to my mind is this. Is there going to be a latter-day exodus? What is God asking me/us to leave behind? Since we're living these days in the promised land, where would we go? Maybe a latter-day exodus isn't about the location and geography for us but rather leaving behind those things which keep us spiritually apart from God.

The first account that I thought about was Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt which is found in Exodus. Moses with his staff in hand went to Pharaoh. You find in Exodus 4:22-23 these words. As he stands before Pharaoh, God tells him to say this. . . . *Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn; And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me; and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.* What did Pharaoh do in response to that? He stepped up the burdens on the Israelites that were in captivity. He increased their tasks. In fact he started making them go out into the stubble fields and gather up the straw that was necessary to make the bricks instead of providing the straw that was used. That was Pharaoh's response but what was Moses message to the children of Israel? That's found in chapter 6:6-8. *Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments; And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to*

*Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage; I the Lord will do it.*

So, God made promises to Pharaoh and the children of Israel. Pharaoh would not let the people go if you remember. By way of trying to persuade him Moses started to announce a series of plagues that would come upon the people in Egypt. The first one was frogs. Do you know what happens when frogs die and you have to pile up all of those frogs? A real stink came across the country. That was the first plague.

The second plague was lice. The third was a swarm of flies. The fourth were boils on the sheep and cattle of the

***“For I am the Lord, I change not; . . .” ~ Malachi 3:6***

Egyptians but not on the livestock of the Israelites. Then came hail followed by locusts. Then there was three days of darkness where they couldn't see anything but there was light in the homes of the Israelites. Finally as God promised if Pharaoh didn't let the first born of Israel go, there would be death of the first-born in Egypt. It all happened as God promised.

Pharaoh was deeply distraught at that time and he did release the Israelites but his heart was hardened again and he pursued them. Pharaoh's armies followed them until they came to where they were encamped by the Red Sea. The people there could see the Egyptian armies coming and they became afraid again. *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward; (Exodus 14:13-15)* At that point Moses stretched out his rod over the sea and it was divided and they crossed over on dry ground. The Egyptians were not so lucky. They all drowned in the sea. Was all of Israel happy at that point? Not really, it goes on to say as they moved through *And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? (Exodus 15:24)* A little later on it says *And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness; (Exodus 16:2)* They

were concerned about what they were going to eat. As the story progresses you see that these murmurings continue. The Lord tries to address each of those to provide the care and instruction, nourishment and guidance to the people that would benefit them and would bless them. That's the first story that I want you to think about and remember.

The second story comes from the Book of Mormon. It's the story of Lehi and his family. I think you probably are familiar with that story also. Lehi was told by the Lord that Jerusalem had become wicked and that it was going to be destroyed. He was supposed to go preach to Jerusalem and tell the people there that if they didn't repent, Jerusalem would be destroyed. So Lehi told them that. *Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shewn so many marvelous things unto my father Lehi, yea, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, behold he went forth among the people, and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard. (1 Nephi 1:18) And he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the redemption of the world. And when the Jews heard these things, they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; And they also sought his life, that they might take it away. (20-22) For behold it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him, Blessed are thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; And because thou hast been faithful and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold they seek to take away thy life. And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness. And it came to pass that he was obedient unto the word of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him. And it came to pass that he departed into the wilderness. And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and took nothing with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and he departed into the wilderness; And he came down by the borders near the shore of the Red Sea. (24-30)* They were in the wilderness for



many years and God met their needs of food, direction and instruction. He appointed Nephi to be the leader over his brothers which caused a little problem if you recall. Nephi had to chastise his brothers a number of times and his chastisement was always about repentance and getting back in line with the commandments and desires of God, being obedient to God and keeping His commandments.

I'm not going to complete all these stories so you will probably have to go back and read them. I'd like to move on to a couple of others that may not be so familiar, at least they weren't to me. This next account is about Mosiah and you can find this in the book of Omni. Mosiah was warned of God to flee out of the land of Nephi. *Behold, I will speak unto you somewhat concerning Mosiah, who was make king over the land of Zarahemla: For behold, he being warned of the Lord that he should flee out of the land of Nephi, and as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord, should also depart out of the land with him, into the wilderness. And it came to pass that he did according as the Lord had commanded him. And they departed out of the land into the wilderness, as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord; and they were led by many preachings and prophesyings. And they were admonished continually by the word of God: and they were led by the power of his arm, through the wilderness, until they came down into the land which is called the land of Zarahemla. And they discovered a people, who were called the people of Zarahemla. (19-24)* Do you remember that account? They traveled out of the land of Nephi, through the wilderness and found another people in the land of Zarahemla. This is the admonition that was given to them then. *And now, my beloved brethren, I would that ye should come unto Christ, who is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption. Yea, come unto him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; and as the Lord liveth, ye will be saved. (46-47)* That's the account of Mosiah.

How about the account of Alma which you can find in the Book of Mosiah? This is the account of Alma and the people of the Lord who were driven into the wilderness by the people of King Noah. I am going to be looking in the eleventh

chapter of Mosiah. Now Alma was the high priest and he was the founder of the church there. *Therefore they did watch over their people, and did nourish them with things pertaining to righteousness. And it came to pass that they began to prosper exceedingly in the land; and they called the land Helam. And it came to pass that they did multiply and prosper exceedingly in the land of Helam; and they built a city, which they called the city of Helam. Nevertheless the Lord seeth fit to chasten his people; yea, he trieth their patience and their faith. Nevertheless, whosoever putteth his trust in him, the same shall be lifted up at the last day. Yea, and thus it was with this people. For behold, I will shew unto you that they were brought into bondage, and none could deliver them but the Lord their God; yea, even the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob. (20-26)* For behold, it came to pass that while they were in the land of Helam, yea, in the city of Helam, while tilling the land round about, behold an army of the Lamanites were in the borders of the land. Now it came to pass that the brethren of Alma fled from their fields, and gathered themselves together into the city of Helam; and they were much frightened because of the appearance of the Lamanites. But Alma went forth and stood among them, and exhorted them that they should not be frightened, but that they should remember the Lord their God, and he would deliver them; Therefore they hushed their fears, and began to cry unto the Lord, that he would soften the hearts of the Lamanites, that they would spare them, and their wives, and their children. And it came to pass that the Lord did soften the hearts of the Lamanites. And Alma and his brethren went forth and delivered themselves up into their hands; and the Lamanites took possession of the land of Helam. (28-33)

That's not exactly what I thought was going to happen there when it said the Lord softened the Lamanites' hearts that they would then go into bondage with the them. So they are now captives in bondage to the Lamanites and Amulon has command over them. Amulon gets tired of hearing Alma and his brethren crying to the Lord and so he issues a decree that they have to stop. This is Alma's response. *And Alma and his people did not raise their voices to the Lord their God, but did pour out their hearts to him; and he did know the thoughts of their hearts. (59)* So

in those times in your lives when you feel that you can't cry out loud to the Lord you can always remember that you can pour your heart out to the Lord because He knows the thoughts of your heart. There comes a time when the Lord frees them. He casts a spell over the guards and the Lamanites and they go into a deep sleep. Alma gathers up the people and their belongings and their supplies and they journey out into the wilderness. They eventually also come into the land of Zarahemla.

Alma was the chief priest and he organized the church there into congregations because there were so many. I found this to be of interest. *And thus, notwithstanding there being many churches they were all one church; yea, even the church of God: For there was nothing preached in all the churches except it were repentance and faith in God. (Mosiah 11:100-101)* So even though there were many churches they were all one church. I wish we could figure out how to get that accomplished today. Maybe the key is to preach repentance and faith in God.

This is the admonition that God shares through Alma. *For behold, this is my church: whosoever is baptized, shall be baptized unto repentance. And whosoever ye receive, shall believe in my name; and him will I freely forgive: For it is I that taketh upon me the sins of the world; for it is I that hath created them; and it is I that granteth unto him that believeth in the end, a place at my right hand. For behold, in my name are they called; and if they know me, they shall come forth, and shall have a place eternally at my right hand. And it shall come to pass that when the second trump shall sound, then shall they that never knew me come forth, and shall stand before me; And then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, that I am their Redeemer; but they would not be redeemed. And then will I confess unto them, that I never knew them; and they shall depart into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Therefore I say unto you, that he that will not hear my voice, the same shall ye not receive into my church, for him I will not receive at the last day: Therefore I say unto you, Go; and whosoever transgresseth against me, him shall ye judge according to the sins which he has committed; And if he confess his sins before thee and me, and repenteth in the sincerity of his heart, him shall ye*



*forgive, and I will forgive him also; (Mosiah 11:129-138) I think this is very, very key here. Yea, and as often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me. And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses: (139-140) As often as you will repent I will forgive you. for verily I say unto you, He that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation. Now I say unto you, Go; and whosoever will not repent of his sins, the same shall not be numbered among my people: and this shall be observed from this time forward. (140-141) We are in the "time forward" if you didn't figure that out. So the same promises apply that God will forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. As many times as we come to him in repentance and ask for forgiveness, He will grant us that forgiveness. So that's the story of Alma.*

There is one other story but I probably won't go through as thoroughly in the interest of time. It is the story of the Brother of Jared. Are you familiar with that story? That occurred at the time of the Tower of Babel. Jared and his brother were concerned for their family that if the Lord destroyed the tower as He promised and confounded the language that their family would not be able to communicate and talk to each other. That was of real concern to them so they petitioned the Lord and He granted the Brother of Jared and his family and their friends that blessing that their language would not be confounded and they too escaped into the wilderness.

There's a whole story there about the blessings that they had including the stones that were touched by the finger of God that provided light for their barges as they traveled across the sea. Let me read to you the admonition there. You will begin to see a pattern and hopefully you will gain the same kind of insight that I did and that this is the same throughout history. It is the same for the part of history that we are in today. *Therefore, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and believe in my gospel, and be baptized in my name; for he that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned; and signs shall follow them that believe in my name. And blessed is he that is found faithful unto my name, at the last day, for he shall be lifted up to dwell in the kingdom prepared for him from the*

*foundation of the world. And behold, it is I that hath spoken it. Amen. (Ether 1:115-117)*

I know we went through those accounts fairly quickly but did you begin to see a pattern in all of those? Some of the things that I saw are that God hears the cries of His people and He looks after and protects them. He causes a way for them to get away from those that are placing them in bondage into a place where they can draw again close to Him. He feeds and cares for them. The message that was always given was this: have faith, repent, be obedient to His commandments and serve until the end. So faith, repentance and obedience was the message and admonition given by the Lord to all these people throughout history that He helped to escape from bondage and the suppression.

**God stands ready to assist us. The scriptures describe God as reaching out to all, even those that have turned away from Him.** In Exodus when God is talking to the Israelites it says . . . *and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, . . . (Exodus 6:6)* In the Doctrine and Covenants Section 108:12e it says *When I called again, there was none of you to answer, yet my arm was not shortened at all, that I could not redeem, neither my power to deliver.* In 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 8 it says this just after the people had cast away the law of the Lord of Hosts and had despised the word of God. *For all this his anger is not turned away (So He's still angry that they despised His word and turned away from Him.) but his hand stretched out still. (95)* I don't know about you but I find that very comforting that in all these circumstances to all these people God's arm is still extended. It's still stretched out to all of us. He is still wanting to bring us back to Him.

I believe God is still leading His people. What is He asking you to leave behind? I want you to remember what the Lord has done because He loves His people and He desires for a righteous group. God wants a people and He wants them to know that He is the Lord their God. Do you know God or do we just know of God? I think there's a big difference there. I think that's something that we need to work on so that we have a closer relationship and a closer walk with God.

As we just recounted, God led many into the wilderness and out of harm's way

creating a closer dependency on God. Those that remained decided to be full of the world which meant that they were empty of God. I think we need to recognize that there's a tradeoff there. If we are full of the world there isn't space for God.

I began this morning with the phrase "In that day" and I would like to conclude by reading out of the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of Jeremiah starting with the 6<sup>th</sup> verse. Jeremiah prophesies that there shall be a day and this is what he says. *For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God. For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together; a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them; I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way wherein they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born. Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd; and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow anymore at all. (6-12)* Is that not a comforting thought that your soul shall be as a watered garden and that you will not have sorrow anymore at all. That's what the Lord promises. If we will find those things that we need to leave behind and make those attempts to draw closer to God and come to Him in faith and ask for repentance, He will forgive us. He wants to be your God. His arm is still out stretched. Will you choose to be His people?





# SHARING SERVICE

*Mount Ayr, Iowa*

May 29, 2011

Elder Steven Smith presided over a sharing service in which several from the congregation participated with prepared selections. Musical offerings were given by Steven Smith, Jan Jordison, the Jordison children (Sam, Isabel, Joshua & Elyse), Michael Jordison, Sue Beck, Rob Rolfe and Ron and Di Smith. Cheryl Phipps, Teegan and Tanner Rowland each shared testimonies of God's blessings read from a book comprised of Youth's testimonies.



*Welcome Esther Grace Cornish,  
born June 2, 2011 to Peter and  
Erin Cornish!!*



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

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



**OFFICERS**

**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.)

**HOME MINISTRY**  
Priest Rodney Bastow  
Priest Ed Anderson

**SECRETARY/RECORDER**  
Julia Jordison

**FELLOWSHIP COORDINATOR**  
Jan Jordison

**WORSHIP COORDINATOR**  
Linda Winkler

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
Jan Jordison

**WOMEN'S LEADER**  
Linda Barber

**YOUTH LEADER**  
Steven Smith

**SERVICE PROJECTS**  
Kent Clisby

**HISTORIAN**  
Linda Winkler

**NEWSLETTER**  
Michael Jordison (Editor)  
Cheryl Phipps (Circulation)  
Alan Smith (Publication)

For content contributions please contact *Michael Jordison* at [jordi@grm.net](mailto:jordi@grm.net).  
For subscriptions please contact *Cheryl Phipps* at [gmagpap.phipps@gmail.com](mailto:gmagpap.phipps@gmail.com).