



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

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them; that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings unto them of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth; ~ Isaiah 52:7



News & Notes

Geneseo Reunion

Five from MARB attended the Geneseo, Illinois Reunion last month where ministry was combined from several groups to make up the week. Read about the experience and the Messages given on page 12.

George Myers

The congregation is saddened by the loss of our dear brother George Myers.

Contents

FEATURE:	PAGE:
Sermons	
Communion Service	2
Elder Steve Cunningham	4
Seventy Ray Setter	8
Elder Michael Jordison	8
Geneseo Reunion	12
.....	
News & Notes	1
Pastoral Considerations	2
George Myers (in mem.)	14
Calendar	15



Pastoral Considerations

by Sherman Phipps

Doctrine and Covenants 45:9 reads as follows: *And then shall the Jews look upon me and say, What are these wounds in thy hands, and in thy feet? Then shall they know that I am the Lord; for I will say unto them, These wounds are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am he who was lifted up. I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God. And then shall they weep because of their iniquities; then shall they lament because they persecuted their King.* While this scripture is directed specifically to the Jews, I cringe when I read it. Inasmuch as we who are gentiles profess to be members of God's church restored, is it not our hope to be adopted into and become a part of the Lord's chosen people – the Jews?

But if the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel. (3 Nephi 7:38) Certainly the Lord in speaking to His people who were (are) a part of the restoration has referred to us as His friends. (D & C 83:10b, 13a; 85:1c; 85:36a) As His "friends" how have we treated Him when He has come knocking at our door, "asking entrance in"? Remember Jesus said in Matthew 25:41, ". . . inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." And in Matthew 25:46 He said, ". . . Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not unto me."

So, how have we treated our brothers and sisters, those who love God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and seek to serve Him? Do we welcome them with open arms, pray for them (James 5:16, Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 6:28), support them in their efforts to serve? (Mark 9:32) Do we love them as we love ourselves? Are we humble enough to be one with one another even though we have different views or certain issues – even though some may be significant issues? (D & C 38:6a) Or, are we content to contend with one another and offend one another (D & C 16:4d; 3 Nephi 5:29-31; D & C 3:15a-16:a; Matthew 18:1-6). Do we see how we wound Christ and crucify Him when He comes amongst us in the form of our brothers and sisters by our bickering, offensive behavior, rejection over doctrine (sometimes as trivial as denying someone the right to speak because they don't have a white shirt and tie on) and other contentious, divisive behavior? *(continued on back page)*

COMMUNION SERVICE

High Priest Sherm Phipps
Elder Steven Smith
Lamoni, Iowa
July 3, 2011

Sherman Phipps shared the following.

"Wow! I am glad to see everyone here this morning. I want to read two scriptures and mention a third. They are very short scriptures. I hope that they will be in your minds and that you will consider these things as we proceed to partake of the emblems of the Sacrament. The first one comes from Ecclesiastes 12:13. It says (and I always liked this summary), *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.* Then from the Doctrine and Covenants 81:3b, *I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.*

"As we come here this morning, we are agreeing to obey and to keep His commandments. That is our duty. If we do this He is bound. He has promised us great things if we will humble ourselves and repent and continue in the covenant we have made with Him to always remember Him which is, in fact, to obey His commandments.

"There is another thing that I wanted to mention this morning from Doctrine and Covenants 81:1a. I am paraphrasing but it talks about the fact that God will forgive us as we forgive one another. So as we come here this morning, I don't know about you, but I come recognizing that I have many failings. I guess I should just call them sins. At least for me as I come here this morning and partake of the communion I recognize the need that I have for forgiveness but I can't expect that the Lord will give me forgiveness unless I forgive all of those who I feel have trespassed against me. I say, 'feel have trespassed against me,' because I think sometimes they really haven't trespassed against me. It's just my problem and I need to address it. I hope we will come together this morning forgiving those who have



trespassed against us and asking the Lord to forgive us with the full intent of obeying His commandments. If we do obey His commandments we have His promises and we will be forgiven, cleansed, allowed to proceed and participate in His work. I might mention too that I think that's really what it's all about. We have to be concerned about the eternal status of our soul but really it's about serving His people that their souls might be saved also.

"In the law there's a thing called Breach of Contract. Probably everybody knows what that is. If I enter in to a contract let's say for someone to build a house for me and that contract requires me to make payments along the way, when they get to a certain point I have to pay them. If they get to that point and I don't make the payment, then I have breached the contract. If I breach the contract then the contractor has no obligation to go any further. I feel like in my contract with the Lord that I made when I entered into the waters of baptism and on a number of other occasions that I haven't always made the payments. So the Lord would be perfectly free to say, 'Sorry, Sherman, we're done.' But because He loves us so much he's always willing to let us renew that contract. If we do then He fulfills His part of the contract always. He never fails.

"I hope this morning each of us will very seriously consider our need to renew that contract and that agreement that we've made with the Lord. Now this morning we are, I think, especially blessed in that we have five people here who have entered into that contract with the Lord and have not ever had an opportunity to participate in the communion service before. I feel like it's a great blessing for us to be here and to witness their participation and their indication to us as well as to the Lord that they intend to fulfill this contract. Joshua (Jordison) will be partaking of the communion for the first time. Joshua, I hope that you will allow the Lord to make you a new person. Allow Him to cleanse you and to be with Him and always remember Him and depend on Him. I would say that to all five, Hannah and Olivia Vickery, Ryder and Bob Rowland. I am really happy that my grandson, Ryder, has made his covenant and my son-in-law, Bob. I am very grateful to the Lord for working with Bob and bringing him to this point. I am very grateful to each one of you for your part in that, and for your part,

Bob, and for your being open to that prompting.

"I just want to mention one other thing. As we partake of the communion service this morning, we do this to renew a very specific covenant that we made with the Lord. There are people here this morning who I don't know so I will just say this. Inasmuch as you have been baptized by someone who has authority pursuant to the gospel as it was restored to Joseph Smith Jr. then you are welcome to partake with us. I don't want to exclude anyone but I think it is very important that what we do here is done with sincerity and done with the understanding that we are renewing our covenant with the Lord, our covenant to always remember Him. I will leave it up to each one of you. If you reach out to be served, you will be served.

"As we prepare to partake of these emblems I don't want anybody to misunderstand anything I said. I don't believe in nor would I ever accept open communion. I don't want to leave that impression with anybody. If I can just be really honest and straightforward, we have guests here this morning who are members of the Community of Christ church and inasmuch as they were baptized unto the restoration gospel by ministers having authority to do so, which would be the same for every one of us, they are certainly welcome to partake of the communion. Never would I pass judgment but each one of us this morning must search our hearts and be sure that that which we do is done in honesty and integrity and in order to renew our commitment to Christ to always obey His commandments. If we do that unworthily, and I'm not speaking to our guests now I am speaking to all of us, then we take our sins upon our own heads. So I would welcome all of you to partake and to do so with a true commitment to Christ to obey His commandments. If you reach out your hand to partake, I am going to take that as an indication that you are, in fact, a baptized member of the restoration movement and have full intent to obey the commandments of God."

"Following the congregation's partaking of the Emblems, Elder Steven Smith shared, "Brother Sherman indicated that he might take a little extra time because there was much to do in this service. We have been blessed because of this. I told him of my Grandfather's experience where he went to church and

read his scripture and the Spirit told him to set down so he did. He was told that the sermon would be preached that night. A Seventy came in to town and read the same scripture and preached the sermon.

"I was going to tell you testimonies that I was thrilled with from Reunion last week and from dealing with the Sr. High class but I am going to modify this so that we don't have to sit here too long. I would like to tell you of one person's testimony and one of the things that I saw as she was ambushed by Micah (Bates) and Thoric (Smith) who talked to her.

"There was in our class a young lady who was 16 years old. Her parents were divorced and she lived with her father but she longed for the love of her mother. Her mother is not that demonstrative of an individual. Her father was strict and enforced a curfew on her. At age 14 she and her mother conspired against him. Her mother got custody and her ties with her father were destroyed because of the allegations that were brought up that were false. She has been with her mother for two years and in the last two years she has lived in 15 places and just about as many states. She told of one instance where her stepfather had made an undercover buy for the police and the police put out a warrant for him. So they've been moving trying to stay ahead of the police. Her mother took her out of school so she couldn't be traced as easily to home school her and yet her mother's addictions are such that she is unable to be homeschooled. Her mother and stepfather fight a lot and her stepfather is abusive to both her and her mother. The touch she has gotten has been much more abusive since she's gone to live with her mother and stepfather then what she had with her father who was just primarily strict. She is beautiful and outgoing and desirous of relationships. She was baptized at eight but she doesn't have the ways of being schooled in the Lord.

"Thoric and Micah got together one day and were talking with her. I didn't come in early enough to find out what the circumstances were as to why they were talking with her. Thoric told the story, a parable or an analogy, to try to help her understand her place in life. I have tried to reconstruct this story. I believe I have all the points that they made because as they were going through one would give a point and the other would give a point. I have modified the story slightly trying to make



it more of a story but this is Thoric's story."

The Little Toaster

There once was an engineer who made a little toaster that could think. His purpose in making the toaster was to have toast. Toast pleased the maker. When the toaster made toast it was to the glory of his maker. Over time, the generations of toasters he created wrote down what made them function well and warnings of what things did not work. It became the manufacturer's manual that was passed from one generation to another. The creator told of himself and of the joy that toasters brought to him to profit toasters who then also wrote those sayings down.

Sometimes the manual did not cover every situation exactly. As the toaster grew he found he was not like a washing machine. In fact, when he placed laundry inside and turned on, it made a burnt mess. The toaster was not a blender that made smooth drinks that the maker enjoyed. When he put bananas and milk and sugar in, it just made a caramelized mess. The toaster was not able to work to the glory of his maker when he did things like that. The maker had to wash away the failed experiments each time as the toaster promised not to try that again. In fact, the maker had to have monthly maintenance to ensure that the toaster could make wonderful toast.

Once a burnt out old toaster snuck in and said, "You should try grass. Then you would be smoking hot." But the little toaster was too smart for that so the old burnt out toaster said, "You wanna have a blast? I have got something that will really blow you away. We have to stand real still, but cars run on glass all over the place and that pleases the maker. Why don't you put a drop of gasoline in? It will blow your mind." The old toaster was not so smart and when the little toaster asked what he called it when they experimented with the gasoline, the burn out toaster just said, "Drrr ug." The little toaster said, "The maker's manual says that I will work better and make the maker happy if I do not do that. In this way, working with the promises, the little toaster did not get burnt out forever.

Still the toaster had much to learn. To work properly, he had to be plugged in. Energy would surge through him when he was plugged in kind of like a ghost. Many times he felt the unseen power and it was

good. He could not do his work without it. The power had to be harnessed or he did not make good toast. He had to put the maker in control so that the toast he made was pleasing. Toasters out of control would burn the toast or just dry the toast out. He had to be humble and turn control over to the maker.

He could not put bread into himself. He had to let the creator give him his daily bread. This taught him trust and patience. Many toasters struggled to get bread, even though the maker promised to provide. Some toasters took credit as self-made toasters not seeing the hand of the maker giving them their daily bread.

When the toaster did what the maker asked, he functioned well. When he functioned well, he had purpose in his life. Each time the little toaster had fulfilled his purpose, the little toaster had joy and the maker had good toast that pleased him.



PRAY IN ALL THINGS

Elder Steve Cunningham

Boone, Iowa

July 10, 2011

I would like to read from Doctrine and Covenants 12:1a-2b. *A great and marvelous work is about to come forth unto the children of men. Behold, I am God, and give heed to my word, which is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow; therefore, give heed unto my word. Behold, the field is white already to harvest, therefore, whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God; yea, whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God; therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive, if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.*

"As you can sort of see I want to talk about prayer today. It has been something that has been heavy on my heart. I got a text a couple of weeks ago saying that I

had the sermon today. I try not to take it lightly. I try to give thought of what I should talk about. Prayer is what popped up because there are so many times that prayer has changed my life.

"Often in our lives things have happened within our family that show the power of God, that show how He works in our lives on a daily basis. I know that there are a lot of things that I don't understand-- how one prayer can be answered and another isn't. I had problems with that for a while because I would pray for one person and he would be healed and I would pray for another one and from what we saw, from what I saw with my eyes, they were not healed. There are things that we can't see because we are human, things that we can't see because of who we are. When those things happen we sit back and many times question our faith. It came to me one day that it is not mine to question it is mine to believe and do what it says in the scriptures. One thing it tells us to is to pray always.

"I remember that when my brother passed away oh I was mad. I was mad because he was young, he was someone that I spent a lot of time with, more than Darren at the time. I was frustrated because we didn't have the opportunity to pray for him. My wife called me and told me over the phone that my brother had been killed in a car accident. My Dad happened to be standing right there and unfortunately I had the opportunity to tell him that his youngest son was killed in a car accident. There were a lot of things that went through my mind, one of them being the frustration that we didn't have a chance to pray. I will be honest. I am human and I do sin on a daily basis, but I think if we would put our trust in God things would come a little bit easier.

"So many times I wish that I could just do my own thing because it would be so much easier not to have to worry for instance about preparing a sermon. How much easier it would be not to worry about preparing for a class, going out and helping other people, or being honest. If you really stop and think it seems like once in a while you could be dishonest and make more money. I know there are drug dealers out there that make a lot more than I do but then you meet people on the streets that own their own shop, are honest and still make a living. It seems like every time that you deal with the public you expect to be worked over. You expect the worst



which is sad. I recently took my vehicle down to an individual who owns his own car repair business and told him the power steering pump was going out and asked him to replace it. I tried to do it because I try to do my own stuff to save money. It is unbelievable what you pay at a car dealership but I tried and couldn't get the power steering pump replaced. After taking my vehicle in his wife called me and told me it was done. She asked if I was sitting down. I was standing wondering if I should be sitting down when she said it cost \$35.00. I said, 'How's that?' She said that they got in there ready to replace the pump and noticed that the belt was loose so that was all that was wrong with it. This individual could have not even replaced the pump and said he did and charged me \$300.00 or \$400.00. So would it be easier being of the world and not in the world or would it be easier to do the right thing?

"I know that when I was hurting it was easier to be of the world. I didn't let God into my life. Matter of fact I pushed God out of my life and it hurt. I can't explain it but the easiest thing I can say is that one and one didn't make two, flat out one and one didn't make two. When one and one don't add up to two things just don't add up. I pushed God out of my life just for a short time but I went back and prayed to Him and asked Him, 'Would you please take this pain away?' He did not take the pain away but he allowed me to know that I wasn't walking alone that He was with me. I could have lived my life without Jesus but I called upon Him and He took that burden away. It hurts every single day but I know that God walks with me and He gives me the strength that I need each and every day. So, again we can be of the world or we can live in Jesus Christ.

"One time we were hunting down here in Mount Ayr. It was the opening day of pheasant season. When I got home and was unloading things, Sue came out and told me that Christopher had a headache. It wasn't unusual for Christopher to have headaches because Sue use to have migraines. I figured that Christopher had what Sue had. Later on the headache got worse and worse. She came in and told me that she was going to call First Nurse which she did and they asked if Christopher could touch his chin to his chest. He tried and couldn't so she said that we needed to get him there right away. They were afraid that he had meningitis.

Sue took him to the clinic and man did I start praying for my son. I stayed home with the other two kids. They got to the clinic and he was checked out and everything pointed to meningitis. They had done the tests and couldn't figure out why everything pointed to meningitis and yet the tests came back negative. Later on that night around 11 o'clock she brought him home and said that they told her that Christopher didn't have meningitis.

"The next morning the ER doctor called and asked how my son was doing. That is the only time I have ever had an ER doctor call. He told us that we needed to get him into our doctor right away. In fact, he said that he would call our doctor and have the doctor schedule an appointment. Within a few minutes our doctor called and said that we needed to get Christopher in right away. We got him in and they checked him out again and he did not have meningitis. The doctor said that everything pointed to him having spinal meningitis but they couldn't find it. We brought him home and he was a sick little boy for a while. We asked Dad to come over and administer to him. Almost immediately he woke up and the first thing he said was that he was hungry because he hadn't eaten for a while. My son was healed. The power of prayer is mighty. Being human two or three days later I questioned whether he did or didn't have meningitis. I thought maybe the doctors were just confused because again we live within this world. It was impressed upon me that my son was healed by a miracle. He was healed through the power of prayer.

"What should we pray for? I am taking most of my scriptures today out of the Doctrine and Covenants. In Section 46:3b-c it says, *but ye are commanded in all things to ask of God, (so in all things we are supposed to call upon God) who giveth liberally, and that which the Spirit testifies unto you, even so I would that you should do in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men, for some are of men, and others of devils.* So we are supposed to pray in all things but I think we need to be specific with what we pray."

"I remember a time when Sue and I had been married probably 2 to 2 ½ years

and I had a school that I had to go to in San Antonio, Texas. It was a three month school so Sue was going to go with me. We loaded all of our things into a U Haul trailer to haul behind a small vehicle. I wouldn't do that now. There is no way that I would drive to San Antonio with what we were driving but we did. I prayed continuously all the way down there. I prayed to God that He would get us back to Boone, IA. We got down there safely and back to Boone.

"While we were down there the car started acting up a little bit and I would pray that He would get us through this and home to Boone. The whole time we were down there we never had a problem with safety. We were down there for three months and where we were at wasn't a real nice place. San Antonio is a beautiful place but we lived just right off Interstate 35 by about 2 ½ to 3 blocks. There were a lot of people being killed down there and vehicle accidents off 35 but we had no problems.

"Down in Texas some of the roads are different than ours. We have nice gradual off ramps. Coming home we were headed to Enid, Oklahoma where Mom and Dad were. We came off one of those off ramps and it was less than half a block long. We came off the interstate at 60 to 65 miles an hour and as I came off I realized how short the off ramp was. There was no way I could stop. All I could do was put on my brakes. You have to understand that we were in a vehicle with the windows rolled up and we hit the brakes so hard that the car filled with smoke. It was like the races. Last night at the races in Boone McMurray's engine blew up and he stopped in the middle of the racetrack because he couldn't see. Literally we couldn't see because of all the smoke in the car. I think I actually closed my eyes and never once turned the steering wheel. We ended up in front of the stop sign. What a blessing that was.

"All during the trip home we prayed that God would get us back to Boone. The only thing was we lived in Ogden, IA not Boone. I have always called Boone home because that's where I grew up but we lived about 10 miles to the west. We got to Boone and stopped over to my folk's house and talked to them for a while and then got in the vehicle to go home. We drove less than a mile and our fuel pump went out. God answered my prayer right to the T. I prayed, please get us back to Boone which



He did. You need to be specific when you pray.

“In Luke 11:1-4 He even teaches us how to pray. It says, *And it came to pass, as Jesus was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one who is indebted to us. And let us not be led unto temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and power. Amen.* I know that many of us don't stop to think when we pray but are we praying for those things. I know a lot of us just pray and that does work but He was very specific in things that we need to pray for.”

“We are coaching a senior league girls' softball team this year. When they hit the senior league they've already gone through t-shirts, minors, majors. Each one of those is two to three years so they have been playing ball anywhere from six to nine years. I just took it for granted that our girls knew how to bat. Even though I was the assistant coach and I watched them play, it took me a while to really understand why some girls weren't hitting the ball. I had one girl who stood bent over half way. She was a big girl and should have hit that ball out to the outfield but she couldn't because she was bent over so far she couldn't get the bat around. I looked at her and said, 'Hey Mallory why do you bat like that?' She said that that was just the way she batted. I asked her if she ever tried standing up and not being so far around. It was amazing the difference when she stood up and she had power behind her. She hit some good balls. Unfortunately it was always to the outfield and they would catch her balls but she still started hitting better. We have another young lady that when she would bat she would actually drop the bat down and then try to swing. I worked with Janae just a short time. I had watched her try to hit the ball and strike out every time. I realized that instead of bringing the bat down in a straight line she was dropping the bat. No one had ever taken the time to help her with her batting. This is the same way with prayer. Unless we look back at how

Jesus Christ wants us to pray once in a while we are not as effective.”

“How often should we pray? In Thessalonians it says we should pray unceasing. How many of us pray unceasing. Exactly what does it mean to pray unceasing? I know that my prayer life is not where it needs to be. I know that many times I have the opportunity to pray and I don't. Once in a while, and I know Darren does the same thing, we try to do our praying while we are driving to work down Highway 17. Sometimes it gets hard to pray driving down Highway 17 because you will be in the middle of a prayer and someone will cut you off. It's hard to stay focused on what you were going to pray instead of talking to the person that goes by you. It says to pray unceasing. We should always have a prayer in our heart.

“Is it important to pray? Again I have shared what happens if you don't have Jesus Christ within your life. We also have a responsibility to our children. I think this is important because so many times our kids have grown up within the church but they don't know how to pray. I know that we have talked to our kids and taught them different things but have we really stopped and taught them how to pray, exactly what Jesus Christ expects out of them. In D & C 68:4a-c it says *And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance; faith in Christ the Son of the living God; and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands when eight years old, the sin be upon the head of the parents; for this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized; and their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands: and they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.* So we are commanded to teach our children to pray. Again I just took it for granted when the girls came up to the league we were in that they automatically knew what they needed to do to hit the ball.

“James 5:14-15 says, *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and*

if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. The sick are commanded also to call upon the Lord, to call upon the Elders. For me this is a hard one. Here last week we had the opportunity to go down to Mercy Hospital where there is a lady that we know who is in the hospital. She has cancer and has really been going through a lot but the one thing I have never seen her do is complain. You walk in her room and she is smiling. She had cancer in her legs and then thought got better but then the cancer spread to other parts of her body. They told her this last time that she went in she has some problems with some of her organs. They did a CT scan and saw some spots on her brain. When we went in she told us that she had had it. That she had had enough. She was frustrated. We asked her what she would ask of the Lord. All she asked for was to have faith enough to make it through. She didn't ask to be healed. She asked to have faith enough to make it through. It was hard to sit there and pray for this woman in faith believing because we live within this world. We don't put our trust within Jesus Christ but we are commanded to pray.

“I could make a decision not to follow Jesus Christ but I have made the decision to follow Him. There are a lot of things that pull us away within our lives. There are a lot of things that get in the way. Each and every day you think you are getting ahead and then something happens. Something pushes you off the path that you had already made for yourself and you are going down. But if you keep your faith in God, pay your tithing and do the right thing, things start working out. We, as a people, are microwave people. As a society we want it right now. You know what? God never said it would be easy. We all aspire to go out and preach the gospel but there's a lot that goes with it. I remember Nathan talking about having to go over there and the things you have to eat. Unfortunately you don't have macaroni and cheese or spaghetti. I have heard some of the missionaries come back talking about things that they did while they were over there. God has his own timeline.

“What's ironic in the scriptures is we are even told to pray over our enemies. We are studying a book in class The Bait of Satan which talks about praying for our enemies but once in a while that is hard. It's hard to pray for your enemies but you know what? God knows each and every



one of us and He knows us by name and can pick us out. I know when I am not doing the right thing I might be an enemy of Christ's but He is still there for me at any time. All I have to do is raise my voice to Him. Also in the scriptures it tells us that if we don't walk with Jesus Christ and let ourselves stray from Him that He will be slow to hear our prayers but He will hear them.

"You listen to people once in a while. Some are sitting in prison and they look at God and ask Him why He has forsaken them. Let's back up. Did He forsake them or did they forsake Him? He's given us the recipe to salvation within the scriptures and it's us who decides not to follow what Jesus wants. When I study Him the biggest thing I keep on seeing is that we are to preach nothing but repentance and it talks about keeping the commandments a lot within the Doctrine and Covenants. But there are a lot of promises within the Doctrine and Covenants and the scriptures if only you keep His commandments."

"Steve Cunningham and his family are going through some issues. Not that we don't have money but there are a lot of things coming all at once. Our roof needs to be replaced, we're having vehicle problems and trying to get a loan for our business. When we started our business we borrowed some money from a friend. I think it is worse borrowing from a friend than a bank because you want so bad to pay the friend off. We have a building that is debt free and we have the opportunity to finance it but people don't want to loan you money right now. Finally we found someone who said that they would go ahead and loan us the money which was fantastic. We would get the money to pay this individual off which take some of the stress out of our life. We got everything to the banker and then he calls us and says that they have a little problem with the title to our property. The banker told us that we were given a Quit Claim Deed because there were a lot of little issues there. We have owned the property 14 years but there were a lot of liens against it. We thought we had everything we needed and there was one more hang up that pulls us away from the things that we need to do. Now we have to put ads in the paper for three weeks and contact all the people that have liens. The banker has told us not to worry about it. Because the liens are 14 years old there is little likelihood of them coming

back and telling us the liens have to be paid but it is a lot more hassle, a lot more financial issues.

"We are doing good, we really are. We've put more money away lately. We have paid a lot of things off but we're still struggling because I want to be debt free. I want to have the opportunity when the time comes to pick our family up and move to Zion but I can't with the financial hardship that we have. That's right the scripture tells us to not be in bondage to man. God, why are you doing all these things to me? Well, God didn't make me charge that credit card up. God didn't make me go out and buy whatever I bought. My debt is my debt. That's exactly what it is. We have been blessed. We have put money away. We've paid things off so things are getting a little bit tight again. Things are getting to the point where we ask ourselves how we are going to do this or that but it's not God that put me in this situation, it's Steve Cunningham. I have to grab myself and look at ways to get things taken care of. That's exactly what I have to do. It's not God. He didn't put me in this position.

"There are so many blessings if we only listen to what God has to say."

It's the same way with the person who asks God why He forsook Him. He didn't forsake us He is right here with us if only we would reach out. That's not saying that He will get us out of the hole. He might provide the ladder but we have to crawl up the ladder.

"There are so many blessings if we only listen to what God has to say. There comes a time when once in a while we don't feel that we have the right to pray. In 2nd Nephi 14:4-6 it says, *Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye can not understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do.* Down in verse 11-12 it says, *For if ye would hearken unto the spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know*

that ye must pray: for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. So those of you that are sitting back and just don't feel like praying, that's Satan getting ahold of you. *But behold I say unto you, that ye must pray always, and not faint: that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ. . .* So we are told to pray and I am telling you here nowadays when you feel like not praying, that's the time that you need to pray. I used to go to church with Barb Wilkinson and she would say that in those times when you don't feel like going to church that's when Satan is pulling upon you. That's the time you really need to take the extra effort and be with Jesus Christ.

"I would like to finish with reading from the Doctrine and Covenants 6:2c-5e. *Therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive, if you will knock it shall be opened unto you. Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, (there's that keep my commandments thing) and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion: seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. (The mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto us. Exactly what I have been asking God lately.) Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich. Verily, verily I say unto you, Even as you desire of me, so shall it be unto you; and if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation. Say nothing but repentance unto this generation: keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed. Behold, thou hast a gift, and blessed art thou because of thy gift. Remember it is sacred and cometh from above: and if thou wilt inquire, thou shalt know mysteries which are great and marvelous; therefore, thou shalt exercise thy gift, that thou mayest find out mysteries, that thou mayest bring many to the knowledge of the truth; yea, convince them of the error of their ways. Make not thy gift known unto any, save it be those who are of thy faith. Trifle not with sacred things. If thou wilt do good, yea, and hold out faithful to the end, thou shalt be saved in the kingdom of God, which is the greatest of all the gifts of God; for there is no gift greater than the gift of salvation.* I pray that this is exactly what



we will do that we will hold out for the gift of God, the gift of salvation.

“Many times I tell my kids that I want to always be there to support them. I will in Spirit but the person who will always be there is Jesus Christ. I pray that we would turn to Jesus and not the man that walks on this earth.”



VISITORS SHARE AT MOUNT AYR

Seventy Ray Setter
Warrensburg, Missouri
July 17, 2011

On the weekend of July 16th and 17th our congregation was blessed to have visitors from the Church of Christ Restored in Holden, Missouri: Seventy Ray Setter with his wife and Apostle Dan Worthington. Unfortunately we were unable to get both Brother Worthington’s class and Brother Setter’s sermon recorded to share with you. Highlights of the sermon follow.

For a scripture reading Brother Setter used John 4:25, “*And the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*”

Ray began by singing [Here I am Lord](#). “Here am I Lord. Is it I Lord. I can hear you calling in the night. I will serve you, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.”

He shared testimonies from his life, experiences of healings, and wisdom from the late Seventy Henry Schaefer. We were reminded to remember *Who* is coming and to never give up hope for someone. Ray He said that we are to pray for our children and our grandchildren - to “never give up”.

Other points he brought up included:

Be ready for whatever comes, be a beacon for Christ. Love others, don’t

become their judge. We need to work to build Christ’s kingdom. Shake off persecution, even from the ‘old house’. The Lord is watching. In conclusion we were consoled with the promised that in the last days, the Lord’s people would be blessed.

Following the service we continued in fellowship with a potluck and more visiting and were blessed to discover a real testimony and zeal for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our brethren from Missouri.

Some of the scriptures that Brother Setter shared in his sermon:

Matthew 26:25 *And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall observe to do the things which ye have seen me do, and bear record of me even unto the end.*

John 2:19, 22 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them, and they remembered the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said unto them.*

III Nephi 5:12 *I am the light and the life of the world, and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning.*

II Nephi 15:10-15 *But, behold, for none of these can I hope, except they shall be reconciled to Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the strait path which leads to life, and continue in the path until the end of the day of probation. Now, my beloved brethren, and also Jew, and all you ends of the earth, hearken to these words, and believe in Christ; and if you believe not in these words, believe in Christ. If you shall believe in Christ, you will believe in these words; for they are the words of Christ, and he has given them to me; and they teach all men that they should do good. And if they are not the words of Christ, judge you; for Christ will show you, with power and great glory, that they are his words, at the last day. You and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and you shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things, notwithstanding my weakness. I pray the*

Father in the name of Christ that many of us, if not all, may be saved in his kingdom at that great and last day.



ARE WE BONDED IN LOVE?

Elder Michael Jordison
Lamoni, Iowa
July 24, 2011

Alan Smith opened the service with the following Call to Worship. *And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are you troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I, myself. Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have. When he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet. And they yet wondered and believed not for joy, . . . (Luke 24:35-40)*

“Good morning. For a scripture this morning I would like to share from the Book of Mormon, one of my favorite books. This comes from the book of Alma chapter 17 starting at verse 65. These are the words of Alma to his son Helaman. If you recall Helaman was the one that was instrumental in leading the people of Ammon’s children into battle against the Lamanites because their parents had taken a vow not to take up their weapons of war against their brethren anymore. Helaman had taken those 2060 sons against the Lamanites to battle and if you remember from the story, all 2060 were preserved in battle. Not a single one was killed. The scripture I am going to read was given prior to all that when he was younger. *And now my son, remember the words which I have spoken unto you: trust not those secret plans unto this people, but teach them an everlasting hatred against sin and*



iniquity; Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ: teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls. (Alma 17: 65-67)

“I like Hymn No. 387” (Hymns of the Saints - The congregation had just finished listening to a recording of ‘O My People’ by Nathan & Julie Smith on piano and violin for special music). “I like the one that the original tune went with as well, ‘I Will Sing of My Redeemer’. Listen to the words. I know I do this quite often but I think the words of our hymns are very powerful; they are like prayers.

O my people, saith the Spirit, Hear the word of God today;

Be not slothful but obedient, ‘Tis the world’s momentous day!

Unto honor I have called you – Honor great as angels know;

Heed ye, then, a Father’s counsel, And by deeds your purpose show.

Time is ripe! My work must hasten! Whoso will may bide the hour.

Naught can harm whom God protecteth – Elements confess his power.

Up ye, then, to the high places I have bid you occupy!

Peril waits upon the heedless, Grace upon the souls who try!

Love ye me and love all people – Love as I have loved you;

This your calling – this my purpose – Thus be my disciples true.

Then in this exalted station Your companion I will be;

Every promise of my Scriptures Will be verified in thee.

Get ye up, then, to your mountain, Zion of this closing day!

For the glory of my coming Waits to break upon your way!

Forth from thence your testimony Shall to trembling nations go,

And the world confess that with you God has residence below.

Brother Jordison then began his remarks with the questions, “Will the world confess that with you God has

residence and do your deeds show your purpose?”

“I appreciated Ben’s (Anderson) invocation earlier, his mentioning our lack of preparation to even assemble here this morning. I would add to that that God’s grace might be upon me for my lack of preparation here too. I pray that what I have to share and offer this morning will be of worth to your souls.

“I have had a thousand thoughts swimming through my head lately and it seems like I have had trouble grabbing onto one and making something tangible of it, something of value and of worth. My heart has been heavy as I listen to people talk, share and write emails about the condition of the church. I have to wonder how long God’s going to be working with us. Sometimes I have to wonder how long He’s going to be working with me as an individual. I told Ben that I might have to call upon him to finish this morning so I want you to be ready, Ben.

“I had three questions that came to me this morning. Do the ends justify the means? In other words if I want to accomplish something good is it o.k. for me to do bad things in order to get there, even though the end result might be good? I could ask any of you that. Do the ends justify the means? That was the first question that came to me as I was thinking about the condition of the church.

“The second question is how many of you think that I am a sinner? Go ahead and raise your hands. I would like to see hands. How many think that I’m a sinner? Now you may not know me or know me very well but I’ll bet you can guess that I am a sinner.

“The third question that I have for you is how many of you think that I am a worse sinner than you are? Go ahead and raise your hands. (No hands were raised.) I can take that one of two ways. One, I can take that to mean that I am better than you because nobody raised their hand so obviously I must be better. Or, I can take that to mean that each of you are thinking of your own sins and are careful not to cast the first stone. That’s really where my heart has been, right there.”

“I find it curious that in this setting - my home congregation - I can ask this question, ‘how many of you think that I am a worse sinner than you’ and nobody will raise their hands. Yet we can go into many of our congregations, I am going to speak

of the Restoration Churches, every single one of them and we can see by their actions and the things that they say that they believe that they are more righteous than their brothers and sisters who might attend somewhere else. Many of us in the Restoration say things to disassociate ourselves and make it so that we can’t have fellowship with each other because somebody else is a ‘worse sinner’ than we are. What makes it so easy for us to look upon others with such righteous indignation?

“Joshua and I just came back from Camp Liahona. It was good for me to go back. I grew up in Central Missouri Stake. and the last time that I was down at that reunion grounds for a camp I believe was when I was just a little older than Joshua. It was nice to be back on familiar territory and to see the sights and just kind of remember my youth a little bit. I told the kids at the dedication service that I hadn’t been there for almost 30 years. The reason why was because the church had gone through some turmoil in the years right after 1984, and my family separated from the mainline RLDS Church. Because of that I didn’t grow up going to camps and associating with the other youth my age. I missed out on that. I think that was a great tragedy because my life took some turns and twists and bumps that it might otherwise not have if I had built up my foundation.

“You know it was interesting, at that camp there were boys from approximately 9 to 11 years old which came from all different congregations in the restoration. Some congregations were JCRB supporters, some were CRE supporters, some were First Baptists, and some were not going to church at all. I had an opportunity to visit with a lot of different ones. You know what? They were all kids and they all did the same kinds of things, had the same interests of boys that age. I thought, “Gosh wouldn’t it be nice if the church was like this camp where we could just come together in fellowship and have a good time and not worry about all the other stuff that seems to bind us up and divides us and tears us apart; where we aren’t thinking about so and so, what office he is and who ordained him or who baptized him and whether they had authority.

I’ve had a real struggle (and this isn’t the place for me to share all my struggles from the pulpit) but I have had



struggles with the things going on in the various splinter groups and with the various church organizations. I have tried to hold true to the counsel from the Book of Mormon to the best of my understanding through all of it. When we talk about the church are we talking about structure? Are we talking about organization? What are we talking about? What is the Church of Jesus Christ? Where are its walls? Where is its foundation? Do you know?

“Several years ago I went through the Book of Mormon and looked up references to the church of God, to the church of Christ. I am just going to read through some of them really quick and I want you to listen.

The *church* is the **Saints of God.**

The *church* is the **covenant people of the Lord.**

The *church* is the **fold of God.**

The *church* is the **people who believe on His name.**

The *church* is **those baptized with power and authority of God.**

The *church* is **those who take upon them the name of Jesus Christ.**

They are the **people of God.**

They are **those who repent and confess their sins.**

The *church* is **those who are humble, walking after the holy order of God.**

They are **sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

Again, *they* are **those who repent and are baptized in Christ's name.**

They are **those who repent, hearken to His words and harden not their hearts.**

They are **those built on the gospel.**

They are **those with a broken heart, a contrite spirit and who repent of all their sins.**

The *church* is **those cleansed by the Holy Ghost.**

They are the **peaceable followers of Christ.**

Those who **repent and come unto Christ and are baptized.**

“Now in this list from the Book of Mormon was there anything about structure or organization? No. So what is the church? The church is people. The apostle Paul likened us to lively stones. Lively stones are fit together, just like a brick layer or mason takes one stone and sets another next to it and another next to

it, etc. Then he takes another and builds that on top of the first layer of bricks. Lively stones are to be knit together. If we took a section of wall that we're building up, and I stacked every brick directly on top of the one beneath it, what would happen to that wall? It would fall over. So what you do is set a brick here and a brick there, end to end, and on the next layer there is a brick set in the middle, centered over the seam. And each layer is placed in like fashion so that the wall that is built is “knit” together.

“Now there is something that you put in between the bricks? Mortar. What is mortar? If we are lively stones in the Church of Jesus Christ, what is the mortar? Mortar is something that holds us together, so what holds us together? The love of Jesus Christ and with the love of Jesus Christ comes the Holy Spirit. The church, lively stones, are to be built together; fitted, knitted perfectly together and then bonded with love. When we argue and complain and say so and so can't meet with us or so and so can't be baptized or have a testimony of Jesus Christ because of who might have ordained them, or something to that effect, then we are not knit together in love. In fact we are working against it, we're working against love. That's why I say does the end justify the means. We want unity. We want the church to come together. We believe the prophecy that the church, the kingdom shall fill the whole earth but yet we fight against it when we backbite, when we chastise others unrighteously, when we disassociate ourselves or alienate another. That's what I appreciated about this little camp of the youth. They weren't worried about all of those things that their parents were perhaps bickering about. They came together to have a good time and to focus on the important things at that age. Josh, did you have a good time? Yes he did and I had a good time being there with him.

There is one other thing here. George (Knotts), I know you've talked about this a lot as well as others. From 3rd Nephi 5:39, 40 he says, *And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, . . .* What are little children like? This is an interactive sermon here so speak up.” (From the congregation - They are resilient. They are teachable, innocent

and believing. They are forgiving.) “That goes along, I think, with resiliency a little bit. It is amazing some of the families that our children grow up in. I have been in some homes where the conditions are absolutely deplorable and yet somehow out of those deplorable conditions many of those kids make something of their lives and rise out of that horrible situation. We need to rise out of the situation we're in. We are to be teachable. We are to be submissive. We are to be resilient. We are to be forgiving. How many of you are forgiving? How many of you hold grudges?”

“I'm not sure where to go here but I think I am going to go right back to the scripture that I read from Alma. Do you ever feel like you are just playing church some days? Probably not all of you do but I sure do. Remember this is what Alma told his son Helaman that he was supposed to teach to the people. *Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Alma 17:66) Well how many of you are repenting? How many of you are to the point where you're repenting the way that you think you should be? How many of you have faith? How many of you think that you have the faith that you're called to have? . . . *teach them to humble themselves . . .* (Alma 17:66) Let's stop right there. How many of you feel like your humility is where it needs to be. How many of you are meek and lowly of heart? Are you as meek and lowly of heart as where you want to be or where you feel like you should be? No?

“This is a good one. How many of you are able to withstand every temptation of the devil? Well, it's interesting because it says . . . *teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. . . Teach them to never be weary of good works,* (Alma 17:66) Do you feel like you have enough good works going on. I am not talking about saving works. I am just talking about works once you're saved. Are you doing good things? No? This is interesting. He says, . . . *Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart. . .* (67) I just discovered that this is a parallelism. Do you know what a parallelism is? In the Hebrew writing style, (and this book was written by Hebrews), they used something called poetry. Parallelisms are in the Bible and in several different ancient writings



from the Jews outside of scripture. It's also in the Book of Mormon and you would expect it to be if the Book of Mormon is a Hebrew book.

"Now parallelism is a way for the author to make several statements and then repeat those statements maybe in just a little bit different way, but so they are still in the same sequence. It's called a parallelism because you have parallel thought patterns moving in progression together. In verse 66 he says, *Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ: . . .* And then if you skip a sentence he says, . . . *teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. . .* So you find the topic of faith on the Lord Jesus Christ is the same, two different statements. Then he says, . . . *teach them to humble themselves. . .* This is horrible English grammar but the sentence on the second faith on the Lord Jesus Christ says, . . . *teach them to never be weary of good works. . .* I don't want to confuse you so let me just say what I want to say. . . . ? *Preach unto them repentance and faith on the Lord, Jesus Christ: .teach them to humble themselves . . .* What does it mean to humble yourself. Raise your hands. I'd like to know. (From the audience) Meek and lowly of heart. Don't put yourself above them.

"According to the text here, if this is indeed a parallelism, then the two parallel (like) statements are, . . . *teach them to humble themselves. . .* and . . . *Teach them to never be weary of good works.* What you have here is that good works are a part of humility, and that's the point that I would like to make. If you are going to humble yourself truly then there has to be action associated with that. And it's not just abasing ourself before God. There has to be a change that's outward from that point. The action associated with true humility is an outward showing of obedience to the Gospel - an expression of love. Moroni calls it Charity.

"I would like to read Doctrine and Covenants 11:4. This is a revelation given to Joseph Knight back in May of 1829. *Behold, I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work;* (4a) So this is to all of those who want to assist in the work of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the latter days. Hopefully that is every single one of us. . . . *and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble*

and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care. (4b) He says **no one** can assist in this work unless he is humble. So all of the strife, and I realize that many of you probably don't hear what's going on in the rest of the world among the church, that's going on shows us right there that they are not serious about assisting in the work of the gospel of the kingdom.

"I don't have any influence over those other branches. I may not have any influence here. I don't know but because I have taken upon me the mantle of priesthood to teach and preach repentance and faith on the Lord, Jesus Christ here, it's my responsibility to also teach humility and love and to make sure that this congregation, inasmuch is within my power, does not fall into the same traps as many other congregations are following into. What that means is we have to be brought to a special place, a special condition of our hearts where we desire to assist in the work and our actions prove it. Then we can allow the Holy Spirit to work within us so that we can be a part of the true church so that we can be a part of the kingdom in its fullness and glory. We \ love to talk about Zion and we love to quote the scriptures regarding it, but it says that *only* when we shall again keep all His commandments Zion will come down. We have to embrace the truth and there are some other conditions there but think upon that.

"Who here is keeping all the commandments? None of us and none of us are capable of keeping all of the commandments. So where does that leave us? Really what does that mean? We may try but all our works are as filthy rags the scripture says. All of our best efforts are as filthy rags so how in the world are we supposed to keep all of the commandments so that Zion can come down? We have to rely upon the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ and upon His blood. We need to know God's will and then do it. "

"There was a rich young ruler that came to Jesus and said what do I have to do to inherit the kingdom? Jesus told him to keep the commandments. The young man replied that he had kept all the commandments since his youth. What did Jesus say? Sell what you have, give to the poor and follow me. That's the same commandment that He said that all of the

law and the prophets hang on. There are two commandments which if kept were sufficient, what are they? Love the Lord your God with all your heart, might, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. All of the commandments hang on those two commandments right there. If we want to keep all the commandments, we have to do what? Love. We have to love. It's really sad that when we drive here to church Sunday morning we pass many people on the road going off to who knows where to do who knows what and many of them don't know about Jesus Christ. Do we love those people as much as we love ourselves? How much less do we love the Saints whom we find in fault?

"That's why I say sometimes I just feel like I am playing church because I come here on Sunday, go to church on Wednesday night, go to the Sunday evening gathering and I might even sing a few gospel hymns here and there but am I really filled with the love of Jesus Christ. Am I really serious about assisting in the work? I am sorry, Saints, but I am afraid that many times I fall short. God has called this church out of the wilderness He said for the last time. If we aren't going to do it He's going to raise up another people who will. We don't have to wait for the calling of apostles and prophets and seventy and high priests and so on and so forth or anything else. I am talking about the condition that's in our hearts. We have to make a change here (in our heart).

"Isaiah talks about an ax being laid to the root of every tree. What does that mean? A tree takes its nourishment from the soil and it grows up and it produces fruit. That fruit can either be good or bad. When the Lord of the vineyard comes He tastes the fruit and decides whether it's good or bad. He takes His ax that is resting right there at the base of that tree and if it's good fruit the ax comes up and He lets it continue to produce but if it's bad He's going to take that ax and chop that tree down. Then He is going to move on to the next tree. Every single one of us is like those trees of the vineyard. We are producing fruit by the things that we do and the things we say. Is that fruit good or is it bad? We're going to have to answer for it. We've already taken upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ with a determination to follow Him, but do we really have a desire to assist in the work? Are we working towards the goal that He has placed within our heritage?



“What is the mission of the church? (From the congregation - Bring souls to Christ. Love one another. Take the gospel to the House of Israel and the Lamanites.)

“All of those are right but it begins with a central and genuine love because we have to have a love for the House of Israel before we can ever think about doing something for them. We can't have a love for the Lamanites if we can't have love for one other in the church. We can do many mighty things. We can work miracles. We can have the gifts of the Spirit, we can speak and prophesy, but if we can't love each other, our love and concern for another group isn't going to matter.

“It's time that we begin to prefer our brother before ourselves, becoming meek and lowly. Our righteous indignation for each other only proves our lack of both charity and humility. To love only certain people is not the calling of Saints in the Lamb. I know that we are not bad people here. I am not trying to say that, but I know that we can do a whole lot more in this congregation, in this branch. We can build upon what we know and we can show the world what Zion conditions are like when a people love each other and are knit together in love having a love for ALL men and women. And who show it by the way that they interact and treat others, even those whom they might disagree with.

“The thing is there are too many people in the world for us to be playing church, too many people that need a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Priesthood and the Ordinances are merely tools in the shaping of the lively stones. They do not replace or comprise the church. They are merely instruments in the Lord's hand to build up His kingdom, to build up His church. I hope that we can continue to move forward faithfully and that we can shore up for ourselves treasures (our very own souls) in heaven instead of treasures on earth like we've been doing.

“The great scripture found in John 3:16 says *For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.*” (Norman Nelson spoke up quoting the following from Doctrine and Covenants 22:23b which says, . . . *for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.*) “Yes, that right Norman, and it's *our* work to keep the

commandments. Look in Section 10 if you have a question about that.”



NEWS FROM THE GENESEO REUNION

Geneseo, Illinois
July 16-23, 2011

Five people from our congregation traveled to Geneseo, Illinois for the Geneseo Reunion. This was an experiment in bringing people together from other restoration groups. It was a success!

Our adult classes were taught by Elder Joel Adams from the Church of Christ Restored and Apostle Don Burnett from the Remnant Church. Both were excellent classes and both men carried a loving positive spirit with them.

The priesthood sharing each preaching service and prayer service included all the priesthood men that attended the reunion regardless of what branch or faction they were from. We had excellent preaching ministry throughout the week as well as prayer and testimony services.

Our choir was directed by Evangelist-Patriarch Leo Gussman. It was great to sing in a choir where the choir director was so loving. We enjoyed his sharing spiritual truths with us. Patriarch Leo Gussman also gave two messages from the Lord, included in this newsletter, both of which carried a wonderful spirit. Elder George Baldwin also shared a message from the Lord.

It didn't seem to matter what restoration branch or what priesthood office was represented. We all worked together and accepted each other. The scriptures tell us that by our fruits we shall be known and this was evidenced during the reunion.

Even though it was extremely hot throughout the week I think if you asked anyone who attended they would tell you what a great reunion experience we had. It was a good start toward bringing all the restoration groups together to share in the work.

Message Given by George Baldwin at the Geneseo, Illinois Reunion July 20, 2011:

On July 20, close to the beginning of the morning prayer service, as George Baldwin was sharing his testimony, the Spirit of God rested upon him and the Lord brought counsel to the saints through him. There was no recording of this message, but from notes taken by some of the saints and from George's recollection, this is what was given to us, as it was given to George:

"[Matthew 8:19] And a certain scribe came unto him and said, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

[Matthew 8:20] And Jesus said unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.

[Matthew 8:21] And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

[Matthew 8:22] But Jesus said unto him, Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.

I was very emotional yesterday when I brought up my daughters unemployment and asked for the prayers. I have carried this burden for more than a year and have only told a few people. As I laid that burden at the Lord's feet, I now know that no matter how everything comes out, it will be alright. It is no longer my burden.

Brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God says unto you, many of you have burdens that you carry in secret. These burdens are too heavy to bear. Do not let the burdens that you keep in secret keep you from being able to draw close unto Him. Today is the day to bring them forth and lay them at the Lord's feet. Remember, His yoke is light. Do not delay. The Lord will carry those burdens so you can go forth with the work that awaits you. Now is the time to lay those burdens at the Lord's feet.

Inspired Message given through Patriarch Leo Gussman to the Saints



during the 7/21 morning Prayer Service of the 2011 Geneseo Reunion:

"The Lord has impressed upon me that He is pleased with your willingness to come into His presence and learn of Him and His ways. He has indicated to me that I should speak to you on His behalf:

Verily, thus saith the Spirit unto you My People, even ye who have gathered before me in this place, Long have I waited for a people who would rise up in the strength of Mine Only Begotten Son and seek to bring forth My Kingdom, even Zion. I have bound the adversary for your time together here that you may experience living without the stumbling blocks he would place before you. By this, you may have a foretaste of righteous living in My Zion.

My People, I have set before you the principles of Eternal Salvation through the elements taught in the Scriptures and by the inspired teachings of My Priesthood. My arm is not shortened in this, the Latter days, by those of My people who insist on following the dictates of men rather than following the ministry of My Son. I have provided that you may have the Inspired Version of the Scriptures for your edification. I have provided that you may have the Book of Mormon, even that record from the very dust of the earth, as an added witness of the ministry of Mine Only Begotten Son. Study well the principles of Eternal Life as found therein for all the Scriptures provided for you contain the fullness of the Gospel of My Son.

The time has come for an intensification of your witness of the Gospel of My Son. As I have indicated before through My servants, by your witness and by your testimony I will thresh the nations of the world. That threshing has already begun. My People, there has never been a time when being valiant in testimony is more important.

I have set My hand again, this last time, to replenish the Spiritual strength of My Church; and those who willfully avoid the fellowship of My Son, do so at their own peril. The time is too short to fail to warn your brothers and sisters who refuse to see the truth of My Gospel at work before their very eyes. The need for inspired

evangelism by all faithful believers is upon you.

My People, the time has come for an increased sense of stewardship over time, talents, and finances. Truly the need for a consecrated and sanctified people is great. You have only just begun the process of sanctification of your lives. The first step in this process is the grounding development of a repentant soul, as indicated in My Scriptures. Repentance is required by all who would offer an acceptable sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Repentance is required of all who would live in eternity, even a Celestial life.

It is, then, essential that the process of sanctification continue in your lives, that you may assist in the bringing about of the immortality and eternal life of man.

My Priesthood stands before you. Some have not grasped the concept that the time for analysis and discussion is quickly passing, and the time for action has arrived. The success of their ministry lies in the ability of My People to learn at their hands. My People, learn all that they are led to teach you, for this is the essence of their calling. Do not the Scriptures indicate that their calling is to accomplish the perfection of My Saints? In the past their work has gone slowly, and all too often My People have lost interest. This has resulted in the fact that their work has not gone forward as quickly as is expedient.

Unto the Priesthood, I would say, beware of pride and arrogance in your ministry, for they will destroy your ministry. Move forward in humility and meekness in My service so that My People can learn of My love, My purposes, and the promise of the Gospel to all mankind.

My People, this is the time for action. You must become doers of the Word, and not hearers only. You must learn that although you may have areas in which you disagree, you need never be disagreeable. The call for action is renewed this day upon all who would assist in the work of bringing about My Zion, even the Kingdom of My Son.

Teach your children well, the things of eternal life. Many of them were prepared before being sent to the mortal realm for

the living of these days. This work can only be done as your children receive the proper spiritual nutrition and guidance by which their abilities can be realized and expressed. Many of you were also prepared before coming to earth as well. This is your day. The attributes and talents and abilities you possess are greatly needed today in the process of Zion's redemption.

Thus, I would that you learn of My great and abiding love. To this end I have dispatched to this place, members of the Church of the Firstborn and of the angelic hosts of heaven. These have been sent to walk among you, to teach you by whispering in your ears the principles of My love and devotion.

Therefore, My People, lift up your hearts and rejoice for I am with you. Begin, even now, the Spiritual march forward to the Kingdom, putting away all apathy, and I will lead you forth by My Holy Spirit and the Priesthood which I have set before you. If you will do this, great shall be your joy.

Even so, thus saith the Spirit unto you.

Inspired Message given through Patriarch Leo Gussman to the Saints during the closing service of the 2011 Geneseo Reunion:

"The Lord would have you know that He is pleased with your willingness to reach out to accept each other and to receive of Him. He has heard your prayers and He has heard the desire of your hearts to serve Him. He is pleased with this. He is so pleased that He instructs me to say to you:

My children, your sins are forgiven you. Now go forth in my service and in so far as is possible, sin no more. And as a witness to you, what is happening on these grounds and My forgiveness is recorded in the records of Heaven and will stand in the Judgment as a record unto you. Continue to reach out to those around you. Continue to be aware of the leadings of my Spirit for I will bless you in ways in which you have not yet dreamed. And so My children, go forth according to the theme which was rightly chosen, let the Word go forth. And even as I commissioned my Apostles of old, so also do I commission you to take what you have learned here, take what you have felt here, to take the Spirit of



Renewal, the Spirit of Repentance, the Spirit of Love, the Spirit of Joy... If you will do this and take these with you, great shall be your joy; for the torch which you carry before you will be a light unto your brothers and sisters and a light unto all the world. And so my people, be of good cheer. Go forth from this place not with fear, for fear is not of me. But go forth in the strength of My power as my chosen vessels. Even so, love each other as I have loved you and share that love with all with whom you come in contact.

Thus saith the Spirit unto you."



GEORGE JOSEPH MYERS

The congregation was saddened with the tragic loss of our dear brother George Myers. A celebration of his life was held at MARB on July 30th, 2011 at 10 a.m. with High Priests H. Alan Smith and Sherman Phipps officiating. Musicians included Barbra Jordison, Leo Gussman, the Myers family and Jan Jordison. He was placed at rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, Mt. Ayr, IA with flag presentation an honors by Ringgold Post #172 American Legion.

George Joseph Myers, the eldest son of George Joseph Schneider and Wealthy Mae Myers was born September 4, 1922 in West Branch, Michigan and peacefully went to be with his Lord and Savior on July 19, 2011.

When George was four, his family grew when a half-brother, Henry Rosenthal, was born. Later half sisters, Caroline, Alice, Leona and Betty Rosenthal (who died in infancy) would complete the family circle.

As a youngster, George wanted to "see the sights" so he would often hop on a freight car of a train that was known to run through the town. He joined the Civil Conservation Corp as a young teen and worked in the upper and lower peninsulas

of Michigan planting trees that would one day replenish those that had been lost to forest fires that swept the area. He relished being able to help in the construction of many of the wooden toboggan runs that would provide hours of entertainment for families even yet today.

George met the love of his life, Eunice Irene Atherton, through a mutual friend and they were later married on July 18, 1943, They had the privilege of sharing their 68th wedding anniversary on the day just before his death. George and his bride began their new family during his time serving his country and to this union were born Garry Dean (died in infancy), John Joseph, Leora Sue, Robert Eugene and Kathleen Ann.

With the onset of World War II George joined the U.S. Army and proudly served 4 years as a Staff Sergeant for the country he so love. He was an MP and Stevedore while serving in the Philippines and stateside. In later life, George became a lifetime member of the American Legion Post #172 where he felt honored to be able to take part in the funeral military rites of his comrades that were deceased.

George worked for a time after the War as a truck driver but as his family grew in size he felt the need to do something else so he left the business and went on to complete an apprenticeship to become a baker that would allow him to be at home more. This would be hi occupation for the next 25 years. He worked during thee night hours preparing breads, cakes, pies and a variety of sweet rolls and doughnuts for the community to be able to purchase the next morning.

Even though he would work the late-night hors, he always made time for his children and their activities. He took much pleasure in taking a group of kids through the State Park (even though he had never been on the trail before). He also enjoyed many hours of fishing with his kids and never complained when they would ask "One more time?" for him to bait their hook.

In June of 1973 George and his family moved to Lamoni, Iowa to be closer to ailing family members. George worked for the Railroad as a Pinkerton Guard for a few years and then as his children grew to college age he went to work at Graceland College to help pay their tuition. While there, he became a surrogate father to all who needed one. He left the college in 1980 and went to work for Ringgold

County Hospital working in the maintenance department. It was here that he retired in April 200 after working more than 19 years.

George was a kind and gentle man who never spoke badly of anyone and never missed the opportunity to help someone in need. As a neighbor, he would willingly help clean up broken tree limbs after a storm and felt it a pleasure to take the trash can of his neighbor who had a stroke back up and set it in its proper place.

George was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as a young man and attended the Church of Jesus Christ Mouny Ayr Restoration Branch, where he remained a faithful servant until the time of his death.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Eunice, of the home; sons John (Veronica) of Otterville, MO and Robert of Panama City Beach, FL; daughters Sue Beck of Kellerton, IA and Kathleen Myers of Creston, IA; sisters Caroline Farrand of Bridgeport, MI and Leona (Harry) Briggs of West Branch, MI; brothers-in-law, Dean Atherton of West Branch, MI, David (Martha) Gussman of Independence, MO, Leo (Linda) Gussman of Independence, MO; sister-in-law Marge Kraft of Oakland, CA; eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

A memorial fund has been established in his name to be decided later.

*But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like
eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:41

AUGUST 2011



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	31			

Sunday Schedule

DATE	AUGUST 7TH	AUGUST 14TH	AUGUST 21ST	AUGUST 28TH	SEPTEMBER 4TH
SPEAKING	Gordon Winkler	Alan Smith	Ed Anderson	Sherman Phipps	Ron Smith
PRESIDING	Steve Smith	Rodney Bastow	Rob Rolfe	George Knotts	Steve Cunningham
PIANIST	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke
SPECIAL MUSIC	Sue Beck	Steve Cunningham Family	Devon Cunningham	Rob Rolfe	Ron & Di Smith
FAMILY DEVOTIONS	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Gordon Winkler	Ed Anderson	Jim Barber
GREETERS	Sue Beck	Darren Cunningham	Steve Cunningham	Michael Jordison	George Knotts
CUSTODIANS	Rodney Bastow	Jordison Family	Sherman Phipps	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland
SUNDAY EVENING	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland	Ron Smith

Wednesday Prayer Service Schedule

DATE	AUGUST 3RD	AUGUST 10TH	AUGUST 17TH	AUGUST 24TH	AUGUST 31ST	SEPTEMBER 7TH
LOCATION	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Norman Nelson	Gordon Winkler	Rob Rolfe	Alan Smith
PRESIDING	Rodney Bastow	George Knotts	Ron Smith	Gordon Winkler	Jim Barber	Alan Smith



Special Events & Activities

Sunday, August 7th: Priesthood Meeting at 8:30AM - Potluck following Communion service

Wednesday August 17th: Day of Fasting

Sunday, August 21st: Priesthood Meeting 5:00 PM at Rob Rolfe home

Birthday's this month: Sue Beck 7 Michael Akers (19), Adrian Rolfe & Norman Nelson (20), Ammon Smith (25), Ryder Rowland (27), Denise Elefson (29), Darren Cunningham (31)

Anniversary's this month: Rob & Lynda Rolfe (22)

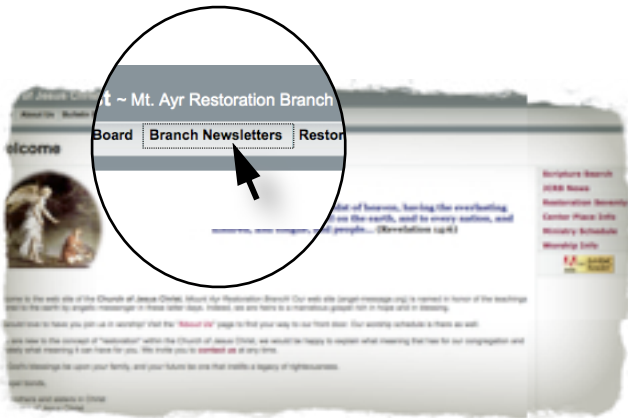


**Church of Jesus Christ
Mount Ayr Restoration Branch**

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

Have you misplaced your MARB Newsletter?
Want to read it online or search past issues?
Visit the Mount Ayr Restoration Branch website at:

www.angel-message.org



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

AUGUST 2011

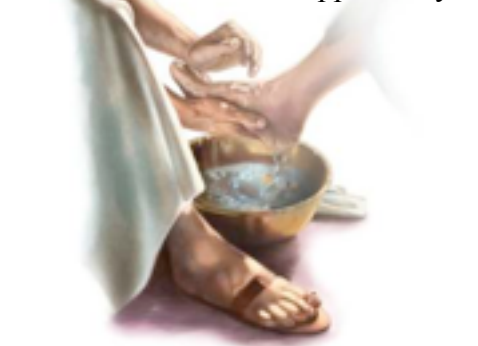
And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that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

Pastoral Considerations...

(continued from page 2)

Please, let us not be so lifted up in pride and so stiff necked and hard hearted that we fail to recognize Jesus as He comes to us each day. It would seem as if D & C 119.4 were directed to our day as well as to the Saints in 1887. *The Spirit says "Come"; let not the ministers for Christ prevent their coming.* Let us not continue to crucify Christ daily and put Him to an open shame while professing to be His people. Rather, let us humble ourselves, repent and obey

His commandments as He teaches instead of judging whether those around us are doing so to our satisfaction. It is God's work and He alone shall judge. It is our duty to serve and uphold our brothers and sisters as we have opportunity.



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.

For subscriptions please contact *Cheryl Phipps* at gmagpap.phipps@gmail.com.