



# Church of Jesus Christ

## Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

# NEWSLETTER

2320 State Highway 2 Mount Ayr, IA 50854 [www.angel-message.org](http://www.angel-message.org)  
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*Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field,  
which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, even  
so will he clothe you, if ye are not of little faith.*

III Nephi 6:8



## News & Notes

### Women's Retreat

The Heartland District of the JCRB is holding a women's retreat at the Nauvoo Villas starting at 5 PM March 9-11.

### Priesthood Retreat

The Heartland District of the JCRB will hold a Priesthood retreat at the Geneseo, Illinois reunion grounds March 16-18, 2012. Call Sherman Phipps if you need a ride.

### "Be Ye One"

The 12th annual Missionary Family Reunion will be held once again at Graceland University, June 24-30, 2012. Registration is available on-line at

[restorationseventy.org/SeventyReunion](http://restorationseventy.org/SeventyReunion)  
Those willing to serve can contact Reunion Directors, Jani & Greg Thomas at [gthomasfamily@bellsouth.net](mailto:gthomasfamily@bellsouth.net)

### Upcoming Conferences

The JCRB General Conference will be held April 15-21, 2012 at The Gathering Place in Independence, Mo.

The Pastors of Zion and Conference of Restoration Elders are cosponsoring a combined "In-town" Reunion & Elder's Conference, June 24-29, 2012 at the Waldo Restoration Branch, Independence, Mo.

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# Pastoral Considerations

by Sherman Phipps

Most of us are probably somewhat familiar with the record of Jared and his brother as set forth in Ether in the Book of Mormon. Jared and his brother, their families and friends, were brought forth from the Great Tower at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people and scattered the people upon all the face of the earth. Jared asked his brother to cry unto the Lord that the Lord would not confound the language of their families and friends so that they might continue to communicate with and understand one another's words. The Lord had compassion upon Jared and answered his brother's prayer as he had requested. As a result Jared and his brother, their families and friends were not confounded and separated from one another but remained together as a unit to be led by the Lord.

The Lord led them to a place where they stopped and dwelt upon a sea shore for four years. At the end of that time the Lord came to the brother of Jared and stood in a cloud while He talked with him. Most of us probably remember that the first three hours of that experience the Lord chastened the brother of Jared. I can't imagine what that experience must have been like for him. Three hours of chastening by the Lord! He was specifically chastened for not calling upon the Lord. Apparently he had gone to the Lord and requested a great favor on behalf of their group, received what he had asked for and then went on about his life without feeling the need to call upon the Lord further. After this chastisement it says, "And the brother of Jared repented of the evil which he had done, and did call upon the name of the Lord for his brethren who were with him." (Ether 1:40)

There are a number of lessons to be learned and insights to be gained by reading the entire book of Ether. For now, I would like to have you consider just the two referenced above.

1) We as a people need to go to the Lord and plead with Him to bless us, as a family/people that our "language may not be confounded." It is critical that we be able to understand one another and to communicate with each other so that we not be scattered any further. This ability to communicate, understand and appreciate will be ours only by the mercy, charity and power of God. If we do not turn to Him, listen to Him and allow Him to direct us we will surely be completely scattered. We must set our wills aside and seek His will.

2) The Lord chastised the brother of Jared for not calling upon the His name. When Jared repented and called upon the name of the Lord he specifically called upon Him, ". . . for his brethren which were with him." We too must repent of being satisfied with where we are at and failing to uphold the brethren who are with us – our families and friends and their families. Is it possible that we could truly come down into the depths of humility, repent of our own agenda and goals and find within us a burning desire for the salvation of the souls of our brothers and sisters? A desire so strong that we would be continually calling upon the name of the Lord for our brothers and sisters who are with us. How could we possibly do this in a way which would be acceptable to the Lord and still contend with one another?

If you read Ether 1-3:19 (or re-read it!) you will find that eventually the Lord led Jared, his brother and their people to a choice land, a land of promise. But they had to be willing to completely obey the Lord's commandments, continually call upon the Lord, and move out into uncharted areas. Are we willing to do this, continually keeping the welfare of our brothers and sisters foremost in our prayers, even these next few weeks as we approach the Spring Conference?

## ARE YOU A LIVING SACRIFICE?



High Priest Robert Rolfe

Lamoni, Iowa

February 5, 2012

Ron Smith shared, Welcome again to the house of the Lord and we'll try and remember Him. That's our commission for the day is to remember what Jesus has done. To help focus our thoughts I would like to read from Section 59 of the Doctrine and Covenants. *Yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel, for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth; and it shall bring forth in its strength; and they shall also be crowned with blessings from above; yea, and with commandments not a few, and with revelations in their time; they that are faithful and diligent before me. Wherefore I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it. Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness; even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And*



*that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day; for verily this is a day appointed unto thee to rest from thy labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High; nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days, and at all times; but remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations, and thy sacraments, unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord. And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart, that thy fasting may be perfect; or in other words, that thy joy may be full. Verily this is fasting and prayer; or, in other words, rejoicing and prayer. (59:1b-3b)* It goes on to say that if you'll do these things, the fullness of the earth will be yours. Let us continue in our worship today by acknowledging those sins that we have.

Lynda Rolfe sang the following as our ministry of music.

#### **I Surrender All**

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

#### **Refrain:**

I surrender all, I surrender all,  
all to thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet  
I bow,  
worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me,  
Jesus, take me now.  
(Refrain)

All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior,  
wholly thine;  
fill me with thy love and power; truly  
know that thou art mine.  
(Refrain)

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give  
myself to thee;  
fill me with thy love and power; let thy  
blessing fall on me.  
(Refrain)

You know I was praying to the Lord several years ago and basically I was giving Him advice. You know how that goes when you have your own ideas of

how things should be. I was asking Him, "Why isn't this happening? Why isn't that happening?" It was just like a message from a thunderbolt that said, "Why don't you do it?" I didn't want to do that because I believed part of what was going to be involved was being killed in the process, and I didn't want to be killed. Yet this Hymn "I Surrender All" says in so many different ways that we're willing to surrender everything to Jesus.

I have a scripture this morning that's a little bit longer than the scriptures that I usually read. So now is the time to start listening and don't quit listening until I get done reading it. This is from the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of John starting with verse 47. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. But I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up in the resurrection of the just at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead; he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it? (47-60)* I don't know what your thought is about eating flesh and drinking blood. I grew up in an age when we did all our own butchering so I'm used to killing things, catching the blood and all those things. I think we've moved away from that. I had a five year old last year who didn't believe me when I told him that we got our milk from a Holstein cow. He believed that his milk came from Hy-Vee.

There was a time when we were very akin to flesh and blood coming forth in that fashion.

I'd like to remind you for a moment that in the beginning, I'm talking clear back to the days of Adam, it was prohibited to eat or drink blood. Even during the days of Moses when they had the sacrifices the blood was not to be used. It wasn't to be drunk; it was supposed to be cast out to the earth. Noah was told as well that *"the blood of all flesh which I have given you for meat shall be shed upon the ground which taketh life thereof and the blood you shall not eat."* (Genesis 9:10) For many hundreds of years when Israel thought of a sacrifice they knew that something was going to be killed, something was going to be burned on the altar and maybe eaten. They knew that the blood was not to be eaten.

It's interesting in this scripture that I read to you that Jesus said if they didn't eat His flesh or drink His blood then they didn't have any life in them. Have any of you ever drunk any blood? It's not something in this culture that we'd look forward to doing. I'd like you to remember for a moment the Jewish Passover. What happened at the Passover? The Passover was instituted by Moses so that obedient Israeli's would get "passed over" by the avenging angel. They were supposed to have this lamb come in to their home and they were supposed to kill it. It was supposed to be without blemish and they were to eat the whole thing that very night. If there weren't enough people to eat the whole thing then they would invite other people to eat with them so that they would make sure that all of the lamb was eaten. The Passover as it was instituted started on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month. What happened on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month? The family was supposed to take this lamb into the house with them and then four days later they were supposed to kill it and eat it. How many of you who have had children can guess what would happen if you had a lamb in the house with your children for four days? It becomes a pet really fast doesn't it and then you have to kill the lamb and eat it which the children had to understand. The idea was that God in a very clear way was teaching the Israelites that sin costs something and the price to be paid means someone or something, was going to die. Without that shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. That carries forward in the meal



that we're about to eat here. According to the word of God it's this cleansing or sanctification that can only come by the blood of the Only Begotten, our Passover lamb.

You probably remember that Adam didn't do too well with the first commandment to not eat of the tree. He was told that he could eat of every tree in the garden but not the tree of life. He and Eve ate of it and got booted out. Later when Adam was sacrificing a lamb, an angel appeared to him and asked him why he was sacrificing the lamb. Adam said he didn't know but that God had told him to do it. He had already learned the first lesson that if God told him to do something there were bad consequences if he didn't do it. He didn't understand why he was sacrificing but he was obeying the commandment because God told him to. Maybe that is something we ought to pay attention to today. If the Lord tells us to do something we should not be ignoring it just on the basis that we don't understand why the Lord is asking or telling us to do it.

I'd like to talk a little about sacrifice today. Do any of you feel like you sacrifice anything? How about our children, do we sacrifice them sometimes; our spouses; our marriages; our integrity? Apostle Paul in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans says that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. When a sacrifice was presented to the priests they knew that this meant that this lamb, pigeon or whatever it, was going to be killed. In that very sense Paul is using that imagery to say we're supposed to present our bodies as a sacrifice. Only in this case there is something different going on. Instead of being killed we are supposed to be a living sacrifice which means that the sacrifice continues on. It doesn't stop at the time that it's offered.

In terms of what's going on today, in 2012, how are we doing as far as sacrificing as a people, or as a nation? There is a lot of concern about our economy as our financial house of cards began really to fall in 2008. Part of the reason for that was that the housing market collapsed. The reason the housing market collapsed was because unscrupulous lenders gave unqualified buyers mortgages that they couldn't afford. The price of the house was too high and the mortgage was too high. I had a couple in my office that both made minimum wage and they bought a \$130,000.00 house. Guess what

percentage of their income was being used to make that payment? They still have the house. I don't know if their families are helping or not but they still have the house. We had investment bankers who bought those mortgages, bundled them for sale as real estate investment trusts. Other investors bought property sight unseen just to flip them and make a profit. The whole thing caused a soaring real estate market but of course the whole system was based on greed and speculation so it crashed. When it crashed our government in its good fashion decided to start printing money to stimulate the economy. The treasury prints bonds to sell for the debt. They sell the bonds to the U.S. Federal Bank. The U.S. Federal Bank prints money to pay for the bonds. Then the Chinese buy them. Now when you think about what that means in terms of the long term, it should make you pause. This all got started, is still with us and is going to continue, because nobody wanted to sacrifice. We can't let GM go broke. We can't let the banks go broke. We can't let Lehman Brothers go broke and so we're going to do this. No one wanted to say no to unqualified buyers. They didn't want to say no to the investment brokers, to the realtors, appraisers and the insurance companies and everybody else who was making money through that system. In fact, in this day in age, we've been conditioned to not believe or expect that we should have to sacrifice anything. We have a right to all the stuff.

One of the U.S. Supreme Court Justices said that "the pursuit of happiness" was getting all of the stuff. I don't know if he said it exactly that way but that's basically what his opinion was. I'm sure you have all seen advertisements on TV that try to convince us that we can have it all, now. We don't have to sacrifice anything. This whole concept in our country of not ever sacrificing anything carries over, I think, to our spiritual lives. If we don't think we ever have to sacrifice anything in terms of our lives, our work and home why would we think we should have to sacrifice anything when it comes to our spirituality. We give lip service to the idea that Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for us but we don't think we should have to sacrifice anything.

David Jeremiah in one of his recent books said, "Sacrifice always means one of two things. Somebody has to pay or somebody has to die." That's what

sacrifice is all about. When that somebody is us, then we start learning the meaning of sacrifice because we have to pay or we have to die. I remember one time I went into a house right before Christmas. There was a scraggly tree sitting there with no presents underneath. Acting upon what I believe was the prompting of the Holy Spirit when I left the house I put some money in the lady's hands who was the mother of the house. She didn't look at it but just said thank you. She knew by the feel of it what it was. I was later told that up until that moment the children had nothing for Christmas and that money provided a Christmas for the kids. You can say that I sacrificed the money. I did in one sense because that meant I didn't have it to use for something else; but it wasn't really a sacrifice because I wasn't going to lack for anything by giving it away. If you are sacrificing things that way and it's something you don't miss, that's really not a sacrifice is it? If you had a million dollars and you give a buck away, I'm sure that's going to be a big sacrifice!

If you read God's word and this is what I would like you to think about this morning, you'll see that our Lord expects us to sacrifice. I have pet peeves like many of you. One of those is that phrase, what would Jesus do? I don't like that because it's too subjective. It isn't what would Jesus say or actually do, it's what did He say or what did he do, because if you look at what He did and what He said you don't need to be subjective in your understanding. I'd like to read a passage from Luke that you are familiar with but we don't hear too often. This is starting at the 23<sup>rd</sup> verse of chapter 9. *And he said unto them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life, must be willing to lose it for my sake; and whosoever will be willing to lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and yet he receive him not whom God hath ordained, and he lose his own soul, and he himself be a castaway? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me, and of my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own kingdom, clothed in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels.* (23-26) Jesus took up His cross and ended up dying on it but in this case Luke is not talking about dying on it because he says you are going to do this



daily. That deals with sacrificing. He expects no less of us. The price of being His disciple has three elements: denying yourself, doing it on a daily basis and being willing to lose your life in the process.

How do you deny yourself? Simply it's giving up our will, our pleasure, our life to do His will. We sacrifice our will, our pleasure, our life for His pleasure. I surrender all. That's what Lynda sang a little while ago. It's easy to sing but harder to do. How many of you here have ever taught a Sunday School class? How many of you who said yes don't want to teach a Sunday School class because you are not willing to sacrifice whatever it is that it would take to be able to do that. Yet, we expect others to do it. Teaching a Sunday School class is not a major sacrifice compared to other things that we might or could sacrifice.

Have you ever sacrificed anything in your life? Have you ever had a serious sacrifice that you were called upon to give and you did it? Have you ever thought about giving your life for another person? In other words you'd die so they could live. Would that be a sacrifice? Giving your life is different than giving money but in the end both are gone. Let me give you a scenario that's near and dear to my heart. What are lawyers generally thought of in this country today? I am proud to tell you that lawyers are rated higher than used car salesmen for being honest. That's not very high but at least it shows we're not at the very bottom. I have found that most of the lawyers that I know are far more honest than many of my clients, because they want the lawyers to come in and do things that wouldn't be doing themselves.

For our discussion here this morning, consider this. Let's say there's a certain man who's not only a lawyer but he's an alcoholic. There's an image for you, a drunken lawyer. Not only is he an alcoholic but he's in love with another man's wife that he's in contact with all the time. Not only that, this other man is now in prison and he's going to be executed in the morning. What would a good alcoholic lawyer who's in love with another man's wife do under those circumstances? It really depends on whether that person is willing to sacrifice. In this scenario this lawyer was not only able to get into prison where this man was being held but to take his place and to get him out of the prison so that he could go back to his wife and

live. The lawyer was executed the next morning in place of the man who was in prison. Have you ever heard this scenario before? This is a story that some of you older ones were required to read when you were in school. It's called a Tale of Two Cities. If you remember Sydney Carton was the lawyer who did that for Mr. Darnay. He took his place and was executed. He was one of the last of the particular group to be beheaded.

What's your opinion of the lawyer after you know this? Was he good or not so good? If you are willing to sacrifice the ultimate, which is your life, are you a better person? He had something to say about that but I don't want to ruin the story for you if you haven't read it for a while. It's one of the classics in literature and my English teachers would just love it if you got that book by Charles Dickens and read it, because there is a lot of value in it. Sydney Carton in many ways as you read it is exasperated but when it came to the end he was willing to die for that person.

Would you be willing to die for a good person? Maybe you wouldn't want to die for anybody but would it be easier if the person you were dying for was really a good person? What if they were a drunken lawyer who was chasing some other man's wife? Would you die for that person?

*"If you are a living sacrifice the sacrifice goes on."*

Probably not, but Paul talked about it this way in Romans 5:7, 8. *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* That is the great message of Christianity that Jesus died for us when we were still sinners.

In my view in some ways Jesus is asking for something more difficult than dying for another person. That's because if you are a living sacrifice the sacrifice doesn't get over with. If you're dying it takes about that long (Rob snapped his fingers) to get your head lopped off with the guillotine. If you are a living sacrifice the sacrifice goes on. We're supposed to die to our own selves and become alive in our new self. We keep living every day and we keep sacrificing every day. Apostle Paul calls that our reasonable service. That isn't the extreme--it's reasonable. How are

we able to do this? Not by ourselves! He goes on in the next verse to say, *And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.* (Romans 12:2) The principle of sacrifice is a prerequisite to the second part of that scripture. You let Christ take control of your life and you become transformed beings. That's why we surrender all. It's when we surrender all that we find real freedom and that peace that comes from our Lord. That's what He wants us to become when we reach forth our hands and take that little piece of bread and drink that little bit of grape juice in memory of His sacrifice.

It's interesting to me that the word mercy occurs nine times in Romans 9, 10 and 11. It does not appear at all in chapters 1 through 8. You might think about what mercy really is. Mercy is the withholding of what we deserve, either retribution or punishment. Romans 12:1 starts out: *by the mercies of God.* That is what enables the daily sacrifice to begin. Are you ready this morning to become a daily sacrifice; to become a living sacrifice? One person said living sacrifices have a problem. That is, they won't stay on the altar. They keep crawling off. They don't want to be sacrificed over and over. Yet, that's what our Lord is asking us to be, a living sacrifice. So this morning, I would ask you to consider that as we reach forth our hands this morning to partake of these emblems, we are also to be a sacrifice. As Jesus was a sacrifice for us, we are to be a living sacrifice for others.





## JESUS WANTS NONE TO BE LOST



High Priest H. Alan Smith  
*Mt. Ayr, Iowa*  
February 12, 2012

As a Call to Worship, Elder Gordon Winkler used Alma 14:123-128. *Now have we not reason to rejoice? Yea, I say unto you, there never were men that had so great reason to rejoice as we, since the world began: Yea, and my joy is carried away, even unto boasting in my God; for he has all power, all wisdom, and all understanding; he comprehendeth all things, and he is a merciful Being even unto salvation, to those who will repent and believe on his name. Now if this is boasting, even so will I boast; for this is my life and my light, my joy and my salvation, and my redemption from everlasting wo. Yea, blessed is the name of my God, who has been mindful of this people, who are a branch of the tree of Israel, and has been lost from its body, in a strange land; yea, I say, blessed be the name of my God, who has been mindful of us wanderers in a strange land. Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, in whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God for ever. Amen.*

As a scripture reading this morning, I would like to share a few verses from 3<sup>rd</sup>

Nephi. *And now behold, my joy is great, even unto fullness, because of you, and also this generation; yea, and even the Father rejoiceth, and also all the holy angels, because of you and this generation; for none of them are lost. Behold, I would that ye should understand; for I mean them who are now alive, of this generation; and none of them are lost; and in them I have fullness of joy.* (3 Nephi 13:7, 8)

I hope what I have this morning to share with you this morning will mean something to you. It is what has been on my heart recently, ever since I was preparing for Joshua Ballantyne's baby blessing and reread the story of Jesus blessing the children in the Book of Mormon. His joy was made full by being able to tell them that there wasn't one of their generation, the people who were there, that would not respond and follow Him, seeking to be the kind of person that He wanted them to be and able to share in that joy. Remember the scriptures say there wasn't a happier people ever on the face of the earth than those people who responded at that time. Jesus joy was made full in that experience because He saw how the response to His ministry and the ministry of angels and the ministry of having the children speak for the Lord was making a difference in the hearts and lives of the people. I guess if there's anything I want you to come away with this morning is to realize that Jesus loves you so much. He went to the ends of the earth to try to give you the chance to follow Him and become His disciples. Jesus really wants none to be lost.

When we look at the scriptures, over and over we are reminded of Jesus' love for each of us. In Genesis it talks about Lucifer coming to God and trying to tempt Him in a way. God's plan, what He wanted, was for man to be able to come back into His presence and stay there. So Satan came and said, . . . *Behold, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.* (Genesis 3:2) Satan's goal was that none would be lost who came to God, but he had a different way of doing it. He wanted to take the glory. God did have a plan and He did have a Son. Someone who was willing to do the hard work that would be necessary to give people the choice to follow Him and not to be forced into it, not to have that choice taken away

from them. Jesus offered to die and suffer and take upon Him our sins that we could be brought back into that presence so that none of us would be lost.

Some of the scriptures that remind us of this include Hebrews 12:1, 2. *Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* For the joy of seeing the response in the lives of people, Jesus was willing to face the suffering which he faced for each one of us.

What is God's goal for each of us? I guess if there's a mission statement, that's what we would call it today in business, it was shared with us in the Doctrine and Covenants, . . . *for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.* (Section 22:23b) Is this just for a few people or is this His mission statement for everyone that He would like all of us to respond. In Doctrine and Covenants Section 116:4b it says, . . . *I will that all may be saved . . .* That's what would bring Christ the greatest joy if all of us would respond. Do you remember the parable of the sheep? The Pharisees were murmuring and saying, *You're going out to talk with sinners and you're even eating with them. How can you do that? Jesus shared this parable, What man of you having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine, and go into the wilderness after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, and saith unto them, Rejoice with me; for I found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, who need no repentance.* (Luke 15:4-7) Jesus was concerned that each one would respond not just that He would be able to get the majority but that each one of us would be able to respond.

I think the most dramatic rendition of the kind of love that wants none to be lost is shared in Enoch's story. This is one of



my favorites and I've shared it many times. It seems like I always see something more or a little different when I read it over in Genesis 7. You remember Enoch had responded and shared the message with a lot of people who had responded. I think he was pretty excited about the work that had been accomplished. Then he comes into God's presence and he sees Him weeping. . . . *How is it that the heavens weep, and shed forth their tears as the rain upon the mountains? And Enoch said unto the Lord, How is it that thou canst weep, seeing thou art holy, and from all eternity to all eternity? And were it possible that man could number the particles of the earth, yea, and millions of earths like this, it would not be a beginning to the number of thy creations; And thy curtains are stretched out still, and thou art there, and thy bosom is there; and also, thou art just, thou art merciful and kind forever; Thou hast taken Zion to thine own bosom, from all thy creations, from all eternity to all eternity; and naught but peace, justice, and truth is the habitation of thy throne; and mercy shall go before thy face and have no end. How is it that thou canst weep? The Lord said unto Enoch, Behold, these thy brethren, they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave unto them their intelligence in the day that I created them. And in the garden of Eden gave I unto man his agency; and unto thy brethren have I said, and also gave commandment, that they should love one another; and that they should choose me their Father. But, behold, they are without affection, and they hate their own blood; and the fire of mine indignation is kindled against them; and in my hot displeasure will I send in the floods upon them; for my fierce anger is kindled against them. Behold, I am God; Man of Holiness is my name; Man of Counsel is my name; and Endless and Eternal is my name also. Wherefore I can stretch forth my hands and hold all the creations which I have made, and mine eye can pierce them also. And among all the workmanship of my hands there has not been so great wickedness as among thy brethren; but, behold, their sins shall be upon the heads of their fathers; Satan shall be their father, and misery shall be their doom; and the whole heavens shall weep over them, even all the workmanship of my hands. Wherefore should not the heavens weep, seeing these shall suffer? But, behold, these which thine eyes are upon shall perish in the floods;*

*and, behold, I will shut them up; a prison have I prepared for them, and he whom I have chosen hath pleaded before my face; Wherefore he suffereth for their sins, inasmuch as they will repent, in the day that my chosen shall return unto me; and until that day they shall be in torment. Wherefore for this shall the heavens weep, yea, and all the workmanship of my hands.* (Genesis 7:35-46) God told Enoch that He was going to have to destroy them but still He had a way to continue to try to work with them by putting them in the prison that He had prepared for them that in that day others might return to Him. *And it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Enoch, and told Enoch all the doings of the children of men. Wherefore Enoch knew and looked upon their wickedness, and their misery; and wept, and stretched forth his arms, and his heart swelled wide as eternity, and his bowels yearned, and all eternity shook.* (47-48) Enoch had the experience of finally coming to understand the kind of love that God had for His creation. The opposite of the joy of having a generation when not one would be lost was to have a creation in which only a handful would be saved and yet still God would try to work with those in their rebellion.

Enoch was shown the plan of salvation down through time, the destruction and the flood, the coming of Christ, His death and resurrection. Enoch asked the Lord not to have a second flood to destroy the earth and was given a promise. Another flood would come, however. *And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem. And the Lord said unto Enoch, Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there; and we will receive them into our bosom; and they shall see us, and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other; And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years shall the earth rest.* (70-72) . . . *And he saw the day of the righteous, the hour of their redemption, and received a fullness of joy.* (75) Just as

Christ had received that when he saw that none of this generation would be lost, Enoch saw the day of righteousness, the hour of their redemption and received a fullness of joy. When we respond Jesus joy can be made full and our joy can be made full when we help others respond and share the work of the kingdom with them.

He loves us so much that He wants none to be lost and He keeps working trying to help us get to that point. I've been reading a book called Unbroken. I don't want to ruin it for you if you want to read it but I'm going to anyway. It's the story of Louis Zamperini. Louie was a runner. He grew up in California in an Italian family. His parents loved him but he was kind of a rebel. He got into a lot of trouble as he was growing up. He started running and that was what saved him. He had gotten into smoking drinking and other things when he was very young. When he became a runner he decided that he needed to focus on running and get rid of some of the bad habits that he had. In 1934 he ran a 4 minute 21 second mile which was the high school record that stood for twenty years. In the 1936 Olympics he qualified to run the 5000 which is 3 miles 188 yards. He took eighth in 14 minutes 46 seconds which was the fastest time any American had run in 1936. He ran his final lap in 56 seconds which was better than the final lap of the fastest mile ever run let alone the fastest final lap of the 5000. In 1938 he set the NCAA mile record at 4 minutes 8 seconds. He was on track to be the first person to break the 4 minute mile then the war came along. He was getting ready for the 1940 Olympics but there wasn't one because of World War II.

He ended up in the Air Force as a bombardier on a B-24 bomber. His job was to sight in and get the bombs to drop. The book tells about how dangerous it was to be in the Air Force during World War II. They lost as many planes in accidents and trying to navigate over the ocean to the islands in the Pacific. It was just a dangerous thing to be in the air. Some of the planes weren't the greatest and the B-24 Liberator was one of the harder ones to fly. He had a great pilot in his crew. They survived one bombing run with 594 holes blown into their plane from anti-aircraft fire and the Japanese Zeroes they were flying against. Their plane just barely limped back. Many of the planes, of course, didn't make it.



They survived some of those kinds of flights but one day one of the planes went out on a search mission to find another plane that had gone down and it didn't return. The Lieutenant ordered Louie's flight crew to go out and try to find them in a plane that really wasn't flight worthy but they followed the order. They got out over the ocean searching for these other people and their plane went down. Only three of them survived the crash into the ocean. Louie was tied up in the wires back in the bomb bay when they went down and at the last minute something freed him and he got back up to the surface. The three of them had a couple of rafts to work with. They were all injured. This was early in the war and they didn't have very much stuff in the rafts and they lost some of what they did have. They only had some dye, a gun to shoot flares and two little canteens of water. I don't even think they had any fish hooks. He and those two men survived for over forty days in a life raft which was the world record. Things got so bad that their lips curled up and down from being so dry. From time to time a bird would land on them if they were still and they would grab the bird and eat it or they would catch a fish one way or another. The sharks were after them all the time and followed the raft. They would run up under the rafts and try to bump the men out so they were always having to fight off sharks with their oars.

They barely survived over forty days in the raft only to wash up on an island held by the Japanese. The Japanese gave them a little bit of food and things like that and then took them to the prison camp. The experiences that he had in the prison camp were horrible. Talk about inhumanity to man, they went through about everything there was. It's all detailed in the book. One of the prison guards was named Mr. Watanabi who they called the Bird. Because they found out that Louie was famous -- he'd been an Olympic runner -- he was Mr. Watanabi's number one prisoner to try to beat into submission. Louie was the kind of person that submission was not anything he wanted to do. One time Mr. Watanabi made him stand and each of the other 200 prisoners there had to come and hit him in the face as hard as they could. If they didn't hit him then they were beaten with ball bats. That's just one of the many things he suffered. They had next to no food. Even though Louie was an officer

and the Geneva Convention said that officers shouldn't work, they had him working carrying 60 pound packs of coal on his back. During one of these times an officer knocked him over with a 60 pound bag of coal and injured his ankle. He didn't know if he'd ever be able to run again. Anyway it was a horrible time.

The date of August 22<sup>nd</sup> had been set when all the POW's in all the camps were to be killed as the war was winding down. Just before this deadline the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese capitulated a week before the date when they were to be killed. They were still kept in the camps for a while. United States planes found them and dropped them some food and eventually they got back to the United States.

He had survived not only the longest time anyone had on the ocean but he had survived several years in a POW camp under horrible, wretched conditions. They had hardly any food and he had lost over half of his weight. When they got back they didn't think he could run again but that was his goal to still try to make the next Olympics. He began running again. One day he was out running and his ankle gave way. That was the end of his running career so he missed that goal in his life. After his goal of making it to the Olympics as a runner was gone, his next goal was to go to Japan, find Mr. Watanabi and kill him. That was the goal that he was working toward in his life during this period. In the search for the war criminals Watanabi had never been found. He was hiding out.

Louie got married and tried several different things. Every night he would have dreams where the Bird -- Mr. Watanabi -- was coming after him with his belt buckle to smash the buckle up the side of his head. He would have flashbacks every once in a while about things that had happened. He turned to drinking to try to get away from that pain and became an alcoholic. One night he woke up in the middle of the night. He was on top of his wife choking her to death because he had had a dream with Mr. Watanabi. He was sinking into alcoholism so bad that his wife decided that she was going to leave him, but something happened about that time. There was a 31 year-old man named Billy Graham who decided to have one of his first major revivals in Los Angeles. He bought this tent that would seat 450 people and set it up on a street corner. After a

while the crowds were too big for the tent so they had to expand and people were standing in the streets listening.

Someone invited Louie's wife Cynthia to attend one of those meetings. She went and came back and told him that she wasn't going to leave him, wasn't going to divorce him but she wanted him to come to the service with her the next time. His wife had told him that she had had a religious awakening and he was appalled at that but he did go with her because she promised him that Billy was going to talk about science and Louie enjoyed science. That was kind of a story she made up so that he would go. He went to the first sermon and it was about the woman taken in adultery. Billy Graham said that your own thoughts and deeds would condemn you. Louie didn't like that idea because he thought he was a pretty good guy. When it came to the end of the service he grabbed his wife and ran out of the tent. He didn't think he would go back but that night he had another big nightmare. Cynthia asked him to go back with her one more time.

He went back the next night and the sermon was why God allows Christians to suffer. Graham talked about God reaching into the world through miracles and intangible blessings to give men the strength to outlast their sorrows. "God says, If you suffer, I'll give you grace to go forward." During that sermon he kept seeing flashbacks of his life as he listened, times when he'd been saved in all the mayhem. Like the time that he'd gotten out of being tangled in the wires in the plane and hadn't drowned when the plane went under. Times like when they were on the raft and a Japanese plane had found them and made four passes shooting bullets into their raft. There were 35 bullet holes in their raft but the three of them weren't hit. He remembered other times through all of these things where it looked like there was no hope in sight and some little thing would happen that had gotten him through. At the end of the service when it came time to ask those there to give their lives to Christ, he headed for the exit again.

"As he reached the aisle, he stopped, Cynthia, the rows of bowed heads, the sawdust underfoot, the tent around him, all disappeared. A memory long beaten back, the memory from which he had run the evening before, was upon him. Louie was on the raft. There was gentle Phil crumbled up before him, Mac's breathing





# March 2012



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	March 4th	March 11th	March 18th	March 25th	April 1st
<b>SPEAKING</b>	Elder Steve Cunningham	Seventy George Knotts	Elder Michael Jordison	Seventy Ron Smith	High Priest Sherman Phipps
<b>PRESIDING</b>	High Priest Robert Rolfe	Seventy Ron Smith	Elder Steve Cunningham	Elder Steven Smith	High Priest Alan Smith
<b>PIANIST</b>	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke
<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	Diane Anderson	Alan & Valle Smith	Diane Anderson Michael Jordison	Jim Barber	Gable Galusha
<b>FAMILY DEVOTIONS</b>	Michael Jordison	Sherman Phipps	Norman Nelson	Alan Smith	Ron Smith
<b>GREETERS</b>	Sherman Phipps	Steve Cunningham	Michael Jordison	Bob Rowland	Rob Rolfe
<b>CUSTODIANS</b>	Rob Rolfe	Alan & Valle Smith	Ron Smith	Ed Anderson	Jim Barber
<b>SUNDAY EVENING</b>	Steven Smith	Norman Nelson	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland	Ron Smith

## Wednesday Prayer Service Schedule

DATE	March 7th	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th	April 4th
<b>LOCATION</b>	Alan Smith	Ron Smith	Steven Smith	Gordon Winkler	Norman Nelson
<b>PRESIDING</b>	Seventy Ron Smith	Priest Rodney Bastow	High Priest Alan Smith	High Priest Rob Rolfe	Elder Gordon Winkler



## Special Events & Activities

**Sunday March 4th:** Priesthood Meeting at 8:30AM - Potluck following Communion service  
**March 9-11:** Women's Retreat at Nauvoo, Illinois - Nauvoo Villas, Registration begins at 5:00 PM on Friday  
**Wednesday March 14th:** Day of Fasting & Prayer  
**March 16-18:** Priesthood Retreat at Geneseo, Illinois  
**Sunday March 18th:** Priesthood Meeting at 5:00 PM - Rob Rolfe home

**Birthday's this month: 1st-** Isabel Jordison & Derek Ruminer; **5th-** Kathy Myers; **6th-** Barbara Houston; **11th-** Tanner Rowland; **12th-** Megan Clisby; **20th-** Josh Cowley

**Anniversary's this month: 2nd-** Mike & Rachel Akers; **31st-** Steve & Elaina Smith



skeleton, endless ocean stretching away in every direction, the sun lying over them, the cunning bodies of the sharks, waiting, circling. He was a body on a raft, dying of thirst. He felt words whisper from his swollen lips. It was a promise thrown at heaven, a promise he had not kept, a promise he had allowed himself to forget until just that instant: If you will save me, I will serve you forever. And there, standing under a circus tent on a clear night in downtown Los Angeles, Louie felt rain falling. It was the last flashback he would ever have. He felt supremely alive."

He went home and threw out his liquor, cigarettes and his girly magazines. He took the Bible that he had received in the service and went to a park and read. All of those flashbacks, all of those nightmares, all that suffering when he remembered the promise that he'd made made him decid to try to keep it. He was healed. Even though he felt there was no hope for him Christ didn't want even one to not follow Him. Louie went back to Japan not to kill Mr. Watanabi. He went back to the prison camp which was holding the POW guards who were incarcerated. He shared his forgiveness and his love for them and shook their hands and hugged them. He told them about his experience and shared this with many people who asked him to come and share his story. He wanted to go find Mr. Watanabi to see if he could really forgive him. Louie ran the torch in the Nagasaki Olympics. ABC news had a crew to do one of those background stories they do so well in the Olympics and they found Mr. Watanabi. He was really not very repentant. They tried to get a meeting between the two of them.

Louie started a camp for youth like he was when he was growing up, rebellious, a thief and all the things he was doing that made him a delinquent. He helped intercity boys enjoy the outdoors to maybe find a way in their lives. As the title of the books says, he was unbroken through all those experiences. The same love that helped Louie be able to overcome all of the pain and suffering in his life, which are even unimaginable to me, is available to us. Christ was not willing to give up on him.

There are people in our world today who are lost just as Louie was because of the things that have happened to them, because they don't know Christ. If we're

really doing what God wants us to do we won't want any in this generation to be lost. That doesn't mean our families only. It doesn't mean just our congregation here. Somehow we need to be agents for the kingdom in our world. We need to be able to share our best witness of the love of Christ and what He's done for us. We need to keep working on keeping His commandments so we can have His Spirit with us always. It's a big job for us to minister to our world in such a way that someday it can be said of us that we are part of a generation in which none of them are lost. We need to be committed to the effort of kingdom relationships among us and looking around for the one that's getting away even among a hundred. The promise is that if we'll put the kingdom first in our lives these other things can be added unto it that we need in our lives. What do we need to do this morning that Christ can look at us today with the same joy that He looked at those people that He ministered to back in the days of the Book of Mormon and say none of them will be lost.



## DO YOU WANT A POWERFUL PRAYER LIFE?



Elder Gordon Winkler  
Mt. Ar, Iowa  
February 19, 2012

I have chosen this morning to use a

scripture from the book of Luke the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter versus 1 through 4. This is commonly referred to as the Lord's Prayer. This account is also found in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew and Jesus also taught others to pray as recorded in the 3<sup>rd</sup> book of Nephi the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter but I am reading right now from Luke.

*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 don't know how many of you have stood behind the pulpit and tried to determine what it is that you're supposed to share and talk about. It's always a daunting task for me. I usually fall back on sharing and talking about those things that are pertinent in my life, topics that come from my life situation, my needs and my concerns. So, this morning I want to talk about prayer. Some of what I am going to share I think I've shared in bits and pieces at other times so if your memories are good you will recall hearing this before and if your memories are not so good, it will seem like the first time to you.

The topic of prayer has come to me since my call to the office of Elder. I've given much thought to the opportunities and responsibilities of that calling in regard to prayer. I've had the opportunity to be a part of the administration of the sick and using the consecrated oil for anointing. I have to tell you that I felt very inadequate the first time that I participated in that situation. I was worried that my life was going to interfere with God's blessings for the person that we were praying for. I have had the opportunity to participate with Alan Smith on a number of occasions and being with Alan has been a growing experience for me in that ministry.

We administered to Lloyd Grey a while back. He had a history and a life of smoking and it had caught up with him with his health. He had developed lung cancer and was dying. He told us that his prayer had always been that he could quit



smoking and if he died that would be an answer to his prayer that he had quit smoking.

The second situation that has caused me to give a lot of thought to prayer was when I was asked to bless Joshua, my grandson. That was the first time that I had ever been in that situation and had the opportunity to provide that ministry. I wanted to make sure that I'd given proper thought, prayer and study to that. As I studied I really didn't find all that much information about what is to be contained in the prayer of blessing on a child or a baby. There were a lot of references that Jesus blessed the little children that were brought to Him. I made this a matter of prayer so that I could understand more fully what were the proper procedures and those things that should be asked upon Joshua's behalf for a baby blessing.

Those are the kind of things that have been on my mind and bring me this morning to the topic of prayer. I was trying to remember when I learned to pray. Maybe you can remember when you learned to pray. Who taught you to pray? I can't remember my first prayer. Maybe it was at bedtime. Maybe it was at mealtime. Maybe it was at church school. I kind of suspect that maybe my first prayer was a repetition of my mother. She would have helped direct me on how to pray and she would have said something that I would have repeated. I don't know if it was one of those prayers that we recite such as "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." There are a number of those prayers but I don't remember what my first prayer was.

I do remember several prayers throughout my life. Maybe the first one that I remember occurred when I was at a youth camp at the Blue Water Reunion Grounds in Detroit, Michigan. We were at the close of a camp and as was the custom there was a prayer and testimony service. There were a lot of youth that were taking the opportunity to pray. Some of them were getting lengthy, thanking everybody and carrying on. The minister in charge stood and suggested that the Lord wanted to hear from everyone and that He wanted to hear from our hearts and that it didn't have to be lengthy. I was pretty reserved and wasn't very bold as a young person. I did want to stand up and pray but I didn't think I could pray the way all the other

youth that were there were praying. I was sitting with my two best friends and they convinced me that we should stand up together to pray. My prayer was fairly short. It's a prayer that I have often repeated which was, Lord, I love you and I want to do better. That was the first prayer that I can remember that stays with me.

I also remember praying when I was at the University of Iowa. There was a student that was a church member there also whose name was Mark Constance. Mark was a medical student at the University of Iowa and had gone through a breakup with a young lady that he had been dating. She was somebody that he thought was probably going to be a life partner for him. We were at my apartment and had been studying and Mark was sharing with me what had been going on. We decided that we needed to pray asking that God would lead us to companionship that would see us through our lives. I believe He did. I met Linda at the University of Iowa as an answer to my prayer and Mark met another young lady there and she became his life partner and companion.

The third prayer that I shared in that sticks in my memory was when Alan and I administered to Melissa and Aaron about their desires to be parents. Alan prayed that there would be a miracle in their lives and the answer of that prayer was the miracle of Joshua.

Those are the several prayers that stick in my mind that I remember. I'm sure each of you have specific prayers in your memories and specific times in your life when you were that close and in tune with God that you could see and hear and know of a surety that He loved you through the answering of your prayers.

So what is prayer? Is it talking to God? Is it listening to God or listening for God? Is it communicating with God? It is probably all of these. Is it verbal and public or silent and private? I think it's probably both too. What do we pray for? Is there a reason to pray? In 2nd Nephi 14:11-12 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. 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, that he will*

*consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.* It goes on to say, *But behold, there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them; wherefore, they cast many things away which are written, and esteem them as things of nought. But I, Nephi, have written what I have written; and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry; and I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers, for the gain of my people.* (2 Nephi 15:2-4) When you go to bed at night do you cry on your pillow that God will consecrate your prayers for the gain of those that you consider your people?

James also offers some insight into what we might consider praying for. In the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of James he talks about the healing power of prayer. He says, *Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 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. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* (13-16) It's just four short verses and yet as you take those a part and analyze them there's a lot to be considered. In the 13<sup>th</sup> verse it begins by saying, *Is any among you afflicted?* I read that over a number of times and then I had to stop and think, what does afflicted mean? Most of us think that afflicted means suffering, illness or being in pain. Actually afflicted can mean any number of things. How about afflicted meaning *acutely annoyed*. We commonly call that being out of sorts. What about afflicted meaning *lack of self control*. I can't help myself. What about afflicted meaning *without endurance*. I just can't go on any more. I can't take another step. One author said afflicted is causing an acute discomfort as by long and relentless questioning. We might say I just don't know any more. Maybe we can lump them all together and just say that afflicted means troubled. James is saying if we're troubled we should pray.



In verse 14 it 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.* So now we find that we're to pray for ourselves and we're also to ask the elders to pray for us. Verse 16 says, *Confess your faults one to another; and pray one for another; that ye may be healed.* . . . What is it that you need to confess? What are your faults? What are the things you would like others to offer prayers for? I think that's difficult for us to do. It's hard sometimes for us to even admit our own faults but then to admit them to someone else so that they can pray for us is difficult. James suggests that's one type of prayer that we can ask and have the healing power of God.

Verse 13 says that we should also pray when we're happy and we are blessed. Let God know that we recognize His hand in our life. Life is made up of triumph and tragedy, sorrow and joy, health and illness. James is stating that in whatever circumstances of life we are in prayer is always the right thing to do.

Alma gives some counsel and advice as to what to pray for in Alma 16:218-222. He says, *Therefore may God grant unto you, my brethren, that ye may begin to exercise your faith unto repentance, that ye begin to call upon his holy name, that he would have mercy upon you; yea, cry unto him for mercy; for he is mighty to save; Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.* Pray also for the welfare of those around you.

Alma in the next verse gives a warning. *And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, Do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked,*

*and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need; I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith.* (223-224) So Alma tells us when to pray, morning, midday and evening; tells us where to pray, in our fields or those areas that are known to us and our secret places and our closets, in other words when we are alone. He also says to pray in our wilderness. What does pray in our wilderness mean? Well, I spend time out in the woods and I know that sometimes especially towards dark when I am leaving the woods, even though I know the way out it seems to be confusing. I think maybe that's what Alma is trying to say here is that at those times when we're confused and we feel like we're lost that's the time to pray. Jesus gave the same warning as Alma did. Matthew recalled Jesus saying, *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, who trespass against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses."* (Matthew 6:16). Reading from Luke 11.1 again, *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.* . . . Wouldn't you have thought that Jesus' disciples would have known how to pray? They had been with Jesus for months, heard Him preach and pray. Wouldn't you have thought that they would have known how to pray? They didn't ask Him how to preach. They didn't ask Him how to teach. They didn't ask Him how to hold a missionary series. They asked Him how to pray, *teach us how to pray.* Maybe they perceived how important prayer was to Jesus and that His example brought into context their lack of an effective prayer life. Seeing the deficiencies of their prayers they were simply asking for help. Jesus response was not, ask me later or I'll tell you sometime, it was immediate. It was that important to Jesus that His disciples knew how to pray.

As I mentioned before the Lord's Prayer can be found in a number of other texts. In Matthew 6:9 it says, *Therefore after this manner shall ye pray . . .* In 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi it says, *After this manner therefore pray ye . . .* The Lord's Prayer was not designed just to be something that is written and repeated. The Lord's Prayer is

a blueprint for how we are to pray. In that prayer we are to acknowledge God as holy, worthy of praise and recognize He resides in heaven. In that prayer we are to pray that things be done on earth and that they ought to be done the same as they are in heaven which is according to God's will. We are to acknowledge that every day our dependence is on Him. We are to forgive others first then ask God for our forgiveness. We are to trust in God and know that He will not lead us into temptation and He will deliver us out of evil. Finally we are to recognize God's power and that His kingdom is eternal.

Some people think of prayer as a parachute. They're glad it's there but they hope they'll never have to use it. One author that I was reading said that prayer is our steering wheel not our spare tire. Prayer is not something we simply recite. As we discover prayer we find this model or blueprint taught by Jesus to be a life changing experience. The Lord's Prayer is not a rigid formula yet it is appropriate to pray these words because in them we unfold the entire message of the scriptures in a summary of our relationship with God. Praying in this manner, demands something of ourselves. It's risky if you have ever thought about it. I cannot say "our" if I'm living only for myself. I cannot say "Father" if I don't try to act like His child. I cannot say "Who art in Heaven" if I am laying up no treasure there. I cannot say "hallowed be Thy Name" if I'm not doing my part to hasten that day. I cannot say "Thy will be done" if I am disobedient to His word. I cannot say "in earth as it is in Heaven" if I'm unwilling to serve Him here and now. I cannot say "give us this day our daily bread" if I'm not relying on Him to provide. I cannot say "forgive us our debts" if I harbor a grudge against someone. I cannot say "Lead us not into temptation" if I deliberately place myself in its path. I cannot say "deliver us from evil" if I haven't put on the whole armor of God. I cannot say "Thine is the Kingdom" if I am not loyal to the King as His faithful subject. I cannot attribute to Him "the power" if I fear what people may do. I cannot ascribe to Him "the glory" if I am seeking honor only for myself. I cannot say "forever" if my life is bounded completely by the things of time.

#### A Dialogue With God

I am going to ask Sherman if he will



help me. We're going to share in a dialogue. I don't mean this to be disrespectful of the Lord's Prayer in any way. I intend to share in this dialogue as if you were speaking with God and He was questioning your prayer. I intend this to be a help for us to understand the connection between our prayers and our path of life.

(Brother Sherman Phipps then got up to join Gordon at a separate microphone to present the following conversation. Brother Winkler took the part of a *young man* praying, while Brother Phipps took the part of **GOD** as printed below.)

*"Our Father who art in heaven. . ."*

**"YES?"**

*"Our Father who art in heaven. . ."*

**"YES? WHAT DO YOU WANT?"**

*"Who is this?"*

**"WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?"**

*"Well, not too many people I know sound like this!"*

**"I SHOULD HOPE NOT"**

*"Come on now, who is this really?"*

**"THIS IS YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"**

*"Right. . . come on now, who are you?"*

**"THIS IS GOD. . . DO YOU WANT ME TO PROVE IT?"**

*"No, no, no that's all right, I'll take your word for it. . . but why have you started talking to me now? You've never done this before."*

**"BUT YOU CALLED ME."**

*"Called you? I was just praying."*

**"WELL, HERE I AM, WHY DID YOU CALL?"**

*"I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayer for the day."*

**"GOOD, GO RIGHT ON."**

*"Hallowed be thy name. . ."*

**"WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?"**

*"By what?"*

**"BY 'HALLOWED BE THY NAME.'"**

*"It means. . . it means. . . I don't know what it means. It's just part of the prayer. What does it mean?"*

**"IT MEANS 'HONORED, HOLY, SACRED.'"**

*"Thank you Lord. 'thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'"*

**"DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?"**

*"Sure, why not?"*

**"WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?"**

*"Doing? Not much, I guess. I just think it would be great if you got control of everything down here, like you have up there."*

**"HAVE I GOT CONTROL OF YOU?"**

*"Well, I go to church 2 to 3 times a week, I visit people all the time, I have Bible studies."*

**"THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU. WHAT ABOUT THOSE BAD HABITS OF YOURS THAT YOU KNOW ARE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH MY WILL IN YOUR LIFE?"**

*"But Lord, I'm just as good as most of the people in the church!"*

**"EXCUSE ME. I THOUGHT YOU WERE PRAYING FOR MY WILL TO BE DONE. IF THAT IS TO HAPPEN, IT WILL HAVE TO START WITH THE ONES WHO ARE PRAYING FOR IT. LIKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE."**

*"Oh, all right. . . I guess I do have some hang-ups. . . now that you mention it. You could probably name several other problems."*

**"GOOD. NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE. WE'LL WORK TOGETHER, YOU AND I. SOME TREMENDOUS VICTORIES CAN BE WON. I'M PROUD OF YOU."**

*"Look Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. 'Give us this day our daily bread. . ."*

**"YOU NEED TO CUT OUT THE BREAD. YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT AS IT IS."**

*"Hey, what is this, criticize me day?"*

**"PRAYING IS A DANGEROUS THING. YOU COULD WIND UP CHANGED YOU KNOW. THAT'S WHAT I'M TRY TO GET ACROSS TO YOU. YOU CALLED ME, AND HERE I AM. IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW. . . KEEP ON PRAYING. I'M INTERESTED IN THE NEXT PART OF YOUR PRAYER. . . WELL, GO ON."**

*"I'm afraid."*

**"AFRAID? OF WHAT?"**

*"I know what you'll say."*

**"TRY ME AND SEE."**

*"And forgive us debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. . ."*

**"WHAT ABOUT . . .?"**

*"See, I knew it! I knew you would bring them up! Why, Lord, you know the*

*lies that have been told about me, and they continue until this very day. I have lost friends because of them, not to mention what has been done to my reputation. I know it was wrong to swear to get even with them, but. . ."*

**"FORGIVE THEM. THEN I WILL FORGIVE YOU. THEN THE HATE AND SIN WILL BE THEIR PROBLEM AND NOT YOURS. YOU WILL HAVE SETTLED THE MATTER IN YOUR HEART AND BEFORE MY THRONE."**

*"But Lord, I can't forgive them."*

**"THEN, I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU."**

*"Oh, you're right. You always are. More than I want revenge on them, I want to be right with you. Alright, alright, I forgive them. I want to walk the right road in life. I'm tired of always feeling miserable. Now that I think about it, no one can cause me to feel miserable without my permission. But, please help me, Lord, to let my actions do the talking in showing forgiveness. I am really going to need your help, your grace and your Spirit."*

**"THERE NOW! WONDERFUL! HOW DO YOU FEEL?"**

*"Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty good! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time in a long time. May be I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest."*

**"YOU'RE NOT THROUGH WITH YOUR PRAYER. GO ON."**

*"Oh! Alright. 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'"*

**"GOOD! GOOD! I'LL DO THAT. JUST DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE TEMPTED."**

*"I don't understand."*

**"SURE YOU DO. YOU HAVE DONE IT A LOT OF TIMES. YOU GET CAUGHT IN A BAD SITUATION. YOU GET INTO TROUBLE AND THEN YOU COME RUNNING TO ME, 'LORD, HELP ME OUT OF THIS MESS, AND I PROMISE YOU I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN.' YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THOSE BARGAINS YOU TRIED TO MAKE WITH ME, DON'T YOU?"**

*"Yes, and I'm ashamed, Lord, I really am."*

**"WHICH BARGAIN ARE YOU REMEMBERING?"**

*"Oh, come on, Lord. . . give me a break! I'm sorry, Lord. I really am."*



**“GO AHEAD AND FINISH YOUR PRAYER.”**

*“For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and Glory, forever and ever.”*

**“DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BRING ME GLORY? WHAT WOULD REALLY MAKE ME HAPPY?”**

*“No, but I’d like to know. I want to please you. I can see what a real mess I’ve made out of my life. And I can see how great it would really be if I was truly one of your followers.”*

**“YOU JUST ANSWERED MY QUESTION.”**

*“I did?”*

**“YES. THE THING THAT WOULD REALLY BRING ME GLORY IS TO HAVE PEOPLE LIKE YOU TRULY LOVE ME. AND I SEE THAT HAPPENING BETWEEN US, NOW THAT SOME OF THOSE OLD SINFUL ATTITUDES ARE EXPOSED AND OUT OF THE WAY. . . WELL, THERE’S NO TELLING WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER.”**

*“Lord, let’s see what we can make of me, OK?”*

**“YES, LET’S JUST SEE. AMEN.”**

Prayer is not a special gift for a select few. All of us can pray as Jesus taught His disciples. If we are true followers of Christ and we want to learn to pray, He stands ready to teach us too.

I would like to do a little demonstration. Matthew 6:16 says, *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, who trespass against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.* This was after Jesus had taught His disciples to pray and was kind of an add-on to His teaching. I think that’s a telling statement of how forgiveness and prayer are intimately linked together. This demonstration is kind of a visualization for Joshua and Elyse and Isabel. You know our hearts and our spirits when we receive them from God are pure and clean. I have a jar with water in it. This is what we look like. Over time we start to cloud our lives with sin. Sometimes it’s just a little at least that’s what we think. It doesn’t cloud it very dark. (He put some yellow food color in the jar of water and swirled it around.) Over time that sin clouds our lives and our hearts darker. (He adds green food color to the container.) Before long our lives get so

dark that the light doesn’t shine through it any more. (He adds red food color to the container.) We know that God is light and God’s light can’t penetrate our hearts because they are clouded with anger, hatred and pain. He can’t forgive us until we forgive those that have put the cloudiness in our lives. Then God’s spirit can be poured back into our lives. (He pours the liquid from the other container into the container with the food color in it.)

In the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew Jesus taught a parable about forgiveness. *Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, who would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him who owed him ten thousand talents. (owed him a lot) But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. And the servant besought him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. The servant, therefore, fell down and worshipped him. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow- servants which owed him a hundred pence; (not very much) and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not; but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant! I forgave thee all that debt; because thou desiredst me; shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow- servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses. (23-34)*

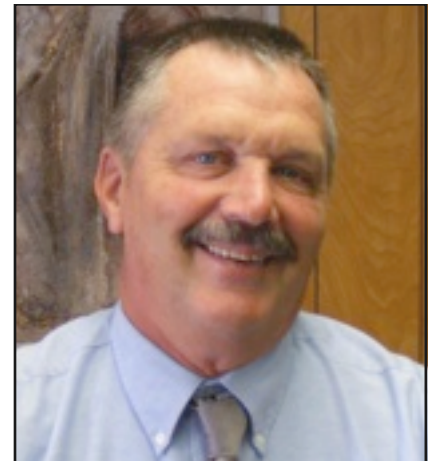
We waited long enough that the container of water has cleared up again. That’s what forgiveness does for us. It takes all that dark cloudiness out of our hearts and allows the pure love of God to come in and clear up our lives.

Do you want a powerful prayer life?

1. Follow the blueprint as taught by Jesus.
2. Learn to forgive.
3. Be still in the presence of God and listen.
4. Pray to God often.
5. Don’t pray as hypocrites and heathens, pour your personal self out before your God.



## WHAT’S IN YOUR HEART?



**Priest Rodney Bastow**  
*Mt. Ayr, Iowa*  
February 26, 2012

*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit; and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.*  
(John 15:16-17)

A week ago when I was out here in the hospital recovering from gall bladder surgery Sherman and Gordon came in. I told Sherman that I didn’t know if I could be here today. I expected him to say he understood and would get somebody else, but he didn’t. I believe Sherman is in touch with a higher power. This higher power tells him what people can and can’t



do. Sherman said, "Let's see how you are feeling later in the week and then we will decide." At that moment I knew that I had a message to share and that I would be able to be here today. Nevertheless, regardless of how good a message I think I have been given, unless I have God's Holy Spirit to bless me this morning, it won't be a good experience for me and unless his holy spirit blesses you this morning it won't be a good experience for you either. So I pray that we feel his spirit with us this morning so that we can leave here praising his name and giving God all the glory for this blessing.

It's been a birthday week for the Bastow family. Monday was my folks anniversary and Cosie's birthday, Wednesday was my birthday, Saturday was Charles Grant's birthday, and today is Brock's birthday. I know I have shared with you before that my son Brock has been attending the COC church at Warrensburg. There is also a restoration church at Warrensburg that Brock has tried, but he has felt more comfortable at the COC. I asked him why he chose that church and he said, "Dad, it reminds me of the church that I went to when I was growing up. They sing the same hymns we used to sing and they sing them the same way." He has been going regularly. I have been pleased that they have been involving him in their services. He did a reading for a young adult service, talked about hope in another service, and most recently gave an offertory prayer. Brock has enjoyed doing this. He wants to serve. As a father I can see what this is leading to. Although I have not received divine guidance on this I believe that if he continues to seek the Lord and try to serve him both at work and in his personal life that he will receive a priesthood call some day. This is how it happened to me and how it happened to my father before me. When I decided I wanted to serve, the Lord found ways for me to serve. I taught a Sunday school class and we put on the worship service one Sunday. That's when I knew I would be able to serve in the priesthood. It was the same way with my father. He was a Sunday school superintendent long before he was called to the priesthood. I think it was a way of preparing us. There is a lesson to be learned here. As I have said before, we need to allow our young people opportunities to serve like Warrensburg is doing with Brock. I encourage us to do that with our young people because you

never know what that will lead to, where the spirit will take them. Another reason I brought this up about Brock is that we need to continue to be a church that people want to go to—that when they walk through these doors they feel the spirit here that they felt when they entered the waters of baptism. Brock and I have talked about what should happen if he is called to the priesthood. Brock, like me, is kind of shy. It is just not in our nature to get up and talk in front of people. But I said if this should happen, you will be touched with God's holy spirit and he will give you a message to share. I told him that the Lord always provides. I said when I was teaching I was around people a lot and my dealings with them gave me ideas on what to say. With your job and the stresses you have it could have a lot of possibilities of things to talk about. Now that I don't teach I am not around people as much so I don't get as many ideas as I used to. When I learned that I was to speak today I wondered what I might have to say. But once again I believe the Lord has provided.

About a month ago I had what has been diagnosed as a gall bladder attack. This led to a series of tests and Dr hospital visits which resulted in surgery to have the gall bladder removed. This experience resulted in me being around a lot of different people and some observations of how God was working in their lives and my own life also. It seemed like every time I visited the hospital I would see a new face. I don't think I realized before these visits how many people were involved with the hospital and what a busy place it was. I have to give Gordon a lot of credit for having the vision to see what a need we had for a facility like this and for overseeing its design to best meet these needs. We are quite fortunate to have this hospital in our area.

As I was being diagnosed to see if my gall bladder needed to be removed, I had an experience that I would like to share with you. The first procedure in the diagnosis was to have an ultra sound. The ultrasound I was told showed that the gall bladder had a big stone in it. That eventually led me to Dr. Dane Johnson who would do the operation. Dr. Johnson met with me to explain the procedure and to set the timeline for the surgery. A couple days before the surgery I met with Dr. Johnson again who told me that the stone was so big that instead of a small incision to remove it, he might have to

make a bigger incision. He also said that since the gall bladder was so ugly that there was a slight concern that it might be cancerous and I would have to go to a bigger hospital because it might involve removing part of the liver also. He recommended a CAT scan that would give him a better idea of what was needed. So I had the scan and went home to await the results. He called in the late afternoon of that day and told Debra that the radiologist had looked at the x-ray and didn't see anything wrong with my gall bladder. He said maybe a prayer had been answered and I might not have to have the surgery. I was in awe. I thought it was a miracle. I thought God had removed the stone. I wanted to tell everyone what had happened to me and I did share with family and some close friends what I thought had happened. However, I was still to prepare for the surgery. The next morning I was called in to have a gall bladder study, this would tell how the gall bladder was functioning. I was mildly surprised at this since I thought I had been healed. The study revealed that indeed the gall bladder was not functioning and it would need to be removed. I had the operation the next day and the gall bladder was removed. Rather than a big stone the gall bladder was filled with stones much like a beanbag.

As I have thought about the events that have occurred these thoughts have come to my mind. Was I blessed? Maybe not like I expected, but I feel like the Lord has been blessing me throughout this experience. When the doctors saw all the stones they were surprised I hadn't been having a lot more problems than I had been having. They were able to remove it without a bigger incision. The gall bladder wasn't cancerous. It didn't have a big stone that would have made the surgery and recovery more difficult. I believe I was blessed because Dr. Johnson is a man of God. I believe he prayed to make the right decisions throughout the process that led to the operation. I believe he was guided to make the right decision. I believe I was blessed to be able to have a facility like the Ringgold County hospital to go to. How much more convenient to have a hospital almost in your back yard to go to. I have been blessed to have Debra and Jowett and good neighbors like Loren and Craig and Susan Winemiller to take over the chores. I have had so many blessings.



The other thing I have thought about is, 'Could I have been miraculously healed? Do miracles still exist?'

Listen to these words:

*"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased, because Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath sat down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men; For he hath answered the ends of the law, and he claimeth all those who have faith in him; and they who have faith in him, will cleave unto every good thing; wherefore he advocateth the cause of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the heavens?"*

*And because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, shewing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind, in every form of godliness. And the office of their ministry is, to call men unto repentance, and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him; And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof;*

*And after this manner bringeth to pass the Father the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men. And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. And he hath said, Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved.*

*And now my beloved brethren, if this be the case that these things are true which I have spoken unto you, and God will shew unto you with power and great glory at the last day, that they are true; and if they are true, has the day of miracles ceased?"* (Moroni 7:27-37)

Has the day of miracles ceased? What do we have to do to have miracles

happen to us? We have to repent, to be baptized in his name, and to have faith that it can happen.

And he hath said, *Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved. And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.* What a promise! I believe miracles can still happen. I believe that if we will repent of our sins and obey God's commandments and have the faith to believe they can happen I believe that if we ask to have a gall stone removed that it could happen. I believe that miracles can happen if we believe in Christ and have his holy spirit in our hearts.

I would like to share with you a reading I found.

#### Jesus Is There

The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. 'Tomorrow morning,' the surgeon began, 'I'll open up your heart...' 'You'll find Jesus there,' the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed. 'I'll cut your heart open,' he continued, 'to see how much damage has been done...'

'But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there.'

The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly. 'When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up and I'll plan what to do next.'

'But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there.

The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart.'

The surgeon had had enough. 'I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well.'

'You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there.'

The surgeon left.

The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery. '...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for

transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: pain-killers and bed rest. Prognosis:,' here he paused, 'death within one year.' He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said.

'Why?' he asked aloud. 'Why did You do this? You've put him here; You've put him in this pain; and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?'

The Lord answered and said, 'The boy, My lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow.'

The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. 'You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?'

The Lord answered, 'The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for he has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb.'

The surgeon wept.

Later as the surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him.

The boy awoke and whispered, 'Did you cut open my heart?'

'Yes,' said the surgeon.

'What did you find?' asked the boy.

'I found Jesus there,' said the surgeon.

What is in your heart? Is Jesus there?

So many people who took care of me at the hospital were so nice to me, so genuinely concerned about me as a person. These people I believe know Jesus and they go with him in their jobs and in their daily life.

*Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

*Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee; or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a*





*stranger, and took thee in; or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

*And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.* (Matthew 25:35-41)

Do people see Christ in us? Do they see him at work and in our daily life? Do they see him when we come to church? Do we make people feel better and do we show them the love we have for them?

I borrowed a quote from Gordon B. Hinckley that I want to share with you in modified form.

Love is the expression of attitudes and behavior in which the well being for loved ones is first and foremost in our minds. Our happiness is not complete without the happiness of those around us. This loving consideration is expressed in many ways in the constancy of our daily actions. The big things are the little things. The lift and loveliness of life come with daily doses of kindness, consideration, courtesy, thoughtfulness, affection and appreciation.

What is love? It is greeting your loved ones in a special way, offering a helping hand, giving personalized attention, being patient with imperfection, remembering special occasions, communicating with an affectionate touch or knowing glance.

It is listening with an understanding heart, giving comfort in time of need, sharing innermost feelings and expressing ones' love. It is heartfelt recognition and admiration for what your loved ones do and who they are. It is a desire to please and to know how to please. Love is personal. It is appreciating the love that comes from others. It is putting them first above all else.

I have another reading I would like to share.

#### A Different Kind of Christian

A Worldchanger is someone who is committed to do just that, changing the world.

A Worldchanger is not someone who blends in.

A Worldchanger sticks out!

A Worldchanger stands up ready to make a difference.

A Worldchanger goes beyond the usual expectations of Christianity.

A Worldchanger finds the most intense demands that

Jesus places on Christians and doesn't shy away

but goes after them passionately and does whatever it takes to get the job done! He/she is not just doing it because his/her parents make them or because the youth pastor bribes them.

A Worldchanger has been radically, completely, and totally changed by a relationship with God!

Christianity is not some boring thing that a person halfheartedly commits to just because they have been in church their whole lives. You are not hanging on to your parents Christianity.

A Worldchanger had found Jesus for them-- not just for mom and dad or just for the pastor. And because Jesus died for them, they are ready to give their lives for him.

Christianity is not just lip service.

Worldchangers have a fervor to seek God with all of their hearts, and to do everything they can to let the world know that God is real and that he is alive!

Worldchangers are not stuck in a bunch of boring rules and regulations, but they have the fire of the living God burning inside them! And they just can't keep it inside of them.

Worldchangers are serious about learning the word of God

and then taking that word and applying it to their lives.

Worldchangers are constantly changing and becoming more and more like Jesus.

Worldchangers develop a vision for their community and do everything they can to take the living Christ to a lost and dying world!

Worldchangers are sick and tired of a watered down, namby-pamby Christianity! They want the real thing and don't care how hard it hits them or what parts of their lives they have to change. They are sick and tired of the attitude that lukewarm Christians bring into the church, and they are ready to do something about it! They are especially ready to attack attitudes in their own lives!

A Worldchanger loves the Lord with all of his/her heart, soul, mind, and strength and loves his neighbor as himself.

Write this scripture down. Carry it with you! Begin to pray over what you have just

learned you too can be a worldchanger.

-Author Unknown

One of my favorite scriptures comes from the book of Alma in the Book of Mormon

*Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid- day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase.*

*But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.* (Alma 16:219-222)

Maybe I like it because I like the idea of praying over your flocks and your crops. We need to pray continually for not only our welfare, but for the welfare of those around us. As I was reading this I happened to continue reading on down and I found these words:

*And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, Do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need; I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith; Therefore if ye do not remember to be charitable, ye are as dross, which the refiners do cast out, (it being of no worth,) and is trodden under foot of men.*

*And now, my brethren, I would that after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scriptures testify of these things, come forth and bring fruit unto repentance; Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time, and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, (Cont. on back page...)*

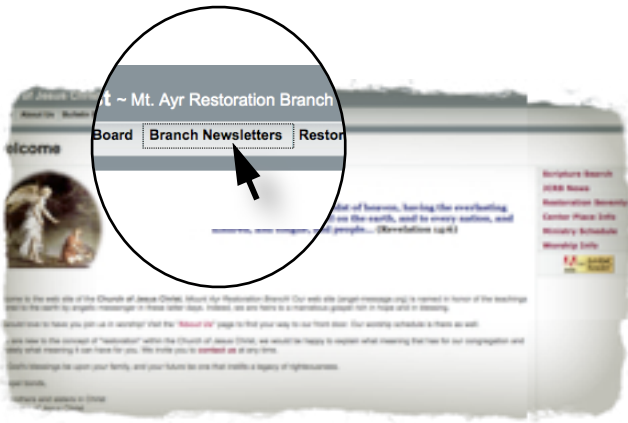


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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

MARCH 2012

## ...What's In Your Heart

*immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you. For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.*

*And now as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed. (Alma 16:223-230)*

Those words struck me ----- "do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end". Each Sunday I hear the call to repentance. I hear that we need to make a change in our lives. How long will we wait? Are we ready and willing to become a world changer? When I thought a miracle had happened to me I was thrilled

to be able to share it with others. If we have Jesus in our heart, if we have the fire of the living God burning inside us we can serve that purpose that the Lord has for us and we can have that thrill that comes from serving the Lord.

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love.*

*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another; as I have loved you.*

(John 15:7-12)

Thank you very much.

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