

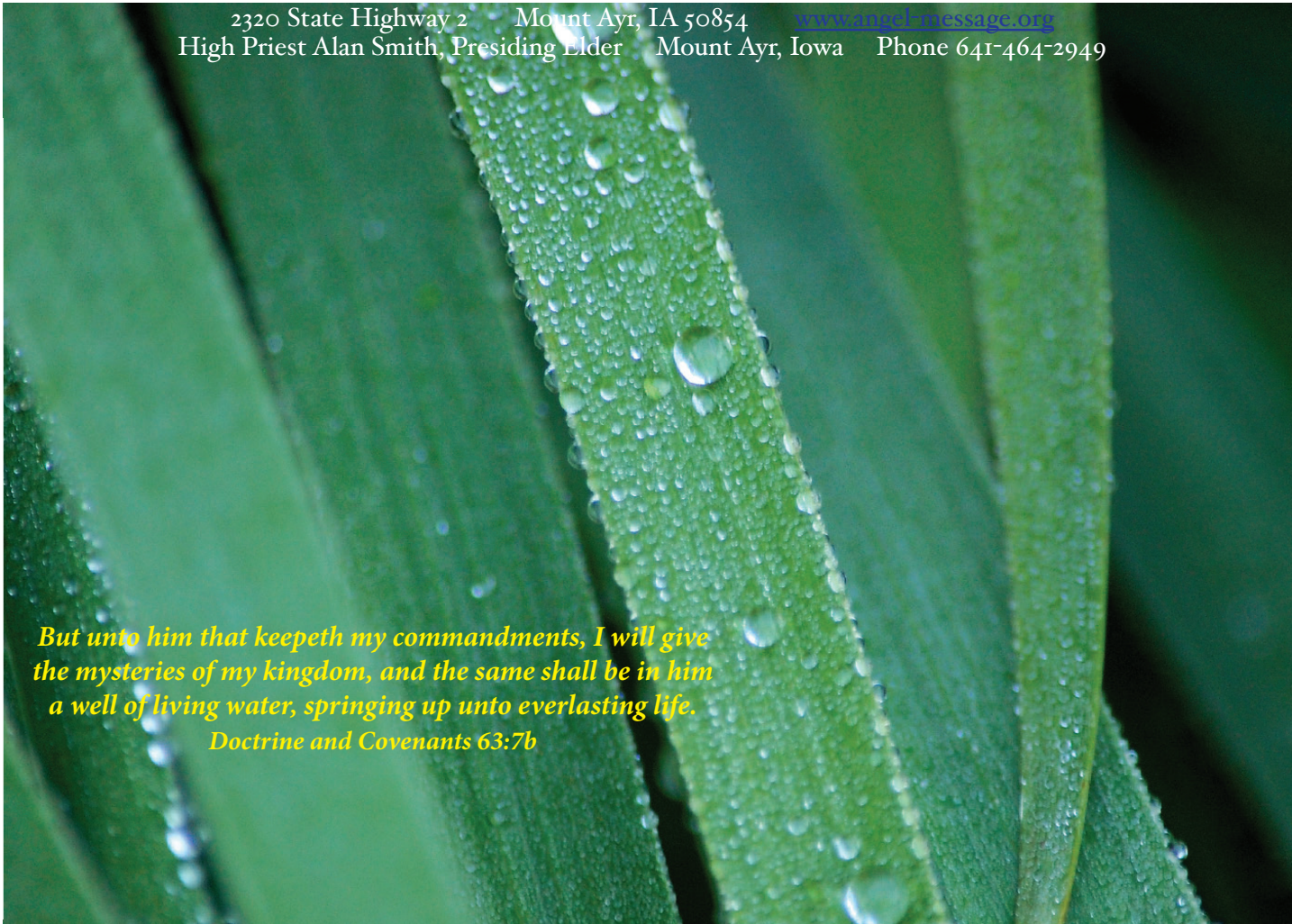


# Church of Jesus Christ

## *Mount Ayr Restoration Branch*

# NEWSLETTER

2320 State Highway 2    Mount Ayr, IA 50854    [www.angel-message.org](http://www.angel-message.org)  
High Priest Alan Smith, Presiding Elder    Mount Ayr, Iowa    Phone 641-464-2949



*But unto him that keepeth my commandments, I will give the mysteries of my kingdom, and the same shall be in him a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life.*  
*Doctrine and Covenants 63:7b*

## News & Notes

### Newletters again

After a break for the summer, the newsletter is starting up again. We hope to have it out each month through May and see then about the summer. We hope that the newsletter is a blessing to you.

### Church officers

Church officers for the church

year beginning September 1 were elected at a business meeting for the branch in August.

The list of the officers is included on page 11 in today's newsletter. Please pray for each officer as they seek to magnify their calling this year.

*More on back page*

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# CHOOSING TO FORGIVE

**Priest Jim Barber**  
**Bethany, Missouri**  
**August 4, 2013**

For a call to worship, Priest Ed Anderson used Mosiah 11:92-93. He said, this is speaking specifically about delivering them from physical bondage but it's also very true as far as spiritual bondage. . . . *and he went from one body to another preaching unto the people repentance and faith on the Lord. And he did exhort the people of Limhi and his brethren, all those that had been delivered out of bondage, that they should remember that it was the Lord that did deliver them.*

As a scripture reading Priest Jim Barber used Matthew 6:16. *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.*

**G**ood morning, everyone. Does anyone really know what special thing is going on today? I didn't know about this until I read the Maryville, MO paper a few weeks ago. Does anyone know what today is, other than being August 4th and communion Sunday? According to this article that I read in the Maryville paper this is International Forgiveness Day as declared by the Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance headquartered in Mill Valley, California. Their mission is to invoke the healing spirit of forgiveness across the globe. The mission statement elaborates that this special day is set aside simply to declare that the act of forgiveness is the greatest healer of them all and that without it there is no future.

So, I thought I would talk about forgiveness today.

I've kind of broken it up into three different levels according to how I feel anyway. The first one is forgiving one another. The second one is forgiving

yourself and the third one is God's forgiveness. This article that I read was written by a man by the name of Fred Mares. I've only met him a few times.

The first time that I met him was at a country music show at my hometown of Ravenwood, MO. He's a Freddy Fender impersonator. I don't know how many of you remember Freddy Fender. He was a rock and roll singer and had some really good music but he was a little wild. Anyway he was very, very good. Fred Mayors is also the greeter at the Hy-Vee grocery store in Maryville.

Not too long after I had heard him sing we were over there shopping and he greeted us at the door. I said, "Freddy Fender," and then he starts singing which was kind of embarrassing. You walk in the door and this guy starts singing to you. He is a very jolly sort of a fellow and I think he is a very good person from what little I know of him.

My dad had a first cousin that lived to be a 106 years old. I went to her funeral and Fred was there playing the piano and singing. The visitation was prior to the service and he played and sang the whole hour during the visitation and then he played and sang during the service. He's a very good entertainer and I think he is probably a very good Christian.

In this article he says that love means having to say you are sorry. You remember years ago there was a book that was written, *Love Story*, and then there was a movie from the book. In the movie it said that love means never having to say you are sorry but he kind of turned that around and said that love means having to say you are sorry.

This is the title of a recent newspaper column by Fred Mares at Maryville. I'd like to share with you part of his writing.

"Interesting when I think of forgiveness I think of my past. Specifically I remember the lifelong lessons my mother taught me growing up in Denver, CO. Mom loved music and she was always

inspired by two chart-topping love songs, ironically both entitled "I'm Sorry." When I was a little boy in the early 1960s my diminutive mother loved to listen to the equally diminutive 4'9" country pop singer Brenda Lee. (I'm sorry, so sorry please accept my apology was the first line of the song.) Miss Lee's, who is now 68 years old, (same age I am) website claims she has sold more records than any other woman in recorded music history. My mother said Lee's signature song emphasized that it was always important to be first to offer a heartfelt and sincere apology to others. She said such an unselfish act would symbolize courage and strength rather than weakness."

I've looked up several scriptures in all three books talking about forgiveness and forgiving one another. One example is the Lord's Prayer. This is found in both Matthew and Luke. They are a little bit different so I'd like to share both of them with you. Matthew 6:10-15 says, *Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

If you read it in Luke 11:2-4 it says, *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. (That's a little different than the other one.) 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.*

A lot of people repeat that prayer over and over but He's telling us there that we need to forgive others. Matthew 6:16 the scripture that I read at the be-



ginning of the service is right after the Lord's Prayer. I'll read that again, *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.* There again it emphasizes that we need to forgive others.

Forgiving others is sometimes kind of hard for me to do. If you watch the news at all it seems like every night there's a drive by shooting at people, houses or whatever gets in their way. You know it's kind of hard for me to forgive those people but we're supposed to. There's another scripture that I didn't put down here but I kind of remember it. It says we're supposed to forgive those people if they ask us for our forgiveness but it also says that if they don't ask for forgiveness we're still supposed to forgive them at least three times and then the fourth time we're supposed to take it to the Lord and let Him take care of it. Like I said it's kind of hard for me to forgive those people but yet God tells us that we need to.

In Mark 11:27-28 it says, *And when ye stand praying, forgive if ye have aught against any; that your Father also who is in heaven, may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses.* I'm just going to read several scriptures that are from the Doctrine and Covenants, the Book of Mormon and the Bible. *Then came Peter to him and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus said unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times; but, until seventy times seven.* (Matthew 18:21-22) That's a long time. I probably have asked God to forgive me more than seventy times seven but I think that He still forgives me.

I think of the example when Christ was crucified and was hanging on the cross and He said, *... Father, forgive them for they know not what they do...* (Luke 22:35) This would be tough. Can you imagine if you were being approached by a terrorist who had a gun ready to shoot you, could you forgive him? In Doctrine and Covenants 64:2c-e it says,

*My disciples, in days of old, sought occasion against one another, and forgave not one another in their hearts, and for this evil they were afflicted, and sorely chastened; wherefore I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another, for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses, standeth condemned before the Lord, for there remaineth in him the greater sin. I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men; and ye ought to say in your hearts, Let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds.* Mosiah 11:140 says, *And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses: for verily I say unto you, He that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation.*

I'd like to talk a minute about forgiving oneself. In the article written by Mr. Mares I'd like to quote what he said, "Later as a teenager growing up in Colorado fellow resident and award-winning singer and guitarist John Denver topped the charts in 1975 with a song he also wrote. More than anything else I'm sorry for myself and my mother repeatedly told me to always forgive myself first so that I can surely forgive others."

I remember as a young man playing basketball, where I made a lot of mistakes. Sometimes I would dwell on those mistakes and that even made it worse. You are kind of letting your team down if you're thinking about the mistakes that you made and not really doing your best. You need to forgive yourself for making those mistakes and put them behind you and move on with your life. I think about something we've done that isn't pleasing to God. You ask forgiveness for that and then you need to quit dwelling on it because that sin is forgiven. You have to move on with your life. You can't change the past so there is no use in dwelling on those events. You need to go on from there.

We have asked for God's forgiveness this morning by taking communion. In Doctrine & Covenants 81:1a it says, *Verily I say unto you, my servants, that inasmuch as you have forgiven one another your trespasses, even so I, the Lord,*



Jim Barber

*forgive you. There again if we forgive those that sin against us God's going to forgive us and if we don't then He cannot forgive us. Behold, verily thus saith the Lord unto you, O ye elders of my church, who are assembled upon this spot, whose sins are now forgiven you, for I the Lord forgiveth sins, and am merciful unto those who confess their sins with humble hearts.* (D & C 61:1b) As we ask forgiveness God forgives us and we move on with our life.

Second Chronicles 7:14 pertains to us today even though it was written a long time ago. *If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* I think that there are a lot of people in the United States that are not living according to God's commands. We need to turn our lives around and ask God to forgive us and then He will heal us and heal our land.

So how often will God forgive us? In Mosiah 11:139 it says, *Yea, and as often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me.* So, anytime



that you sin if you truly repent God will forgive you no matter how many times.

In conclusion I would like to go back to the article by Mr. Mares where he's talking about the book and the

movie, Love Story. "Please forgive me, fans of Eric Segal, who is the author of the book Love Story and screenwriter of the movie of the same name. You see Sunday August 4th and for the rest of

my life journey my love story line goes like this. Love means having to say you're honestly sorry so you can be truly forgiven."



# UNTO WHAT PURPOSE?

**High Priest  
Sherman Phipps  
Lamoni, Iowa  
August 11, 2013**

Elder Steve Smith opened with a Call to Worship from Ecclesiastes 3:11. He hath made everything beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

**F**or my scripture this morning I want to read some parts of Section 1 and a little bit of Section 2 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

*Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say, Hearken ye people from afar, and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together; for verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape, and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated; and the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days, and they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them. (D & C 1:1a, b, d) Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his*

*servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people; for they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness. (D & C 1:3a-d) In that day the weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh, but that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world; that faith also might increase in the earth; that mine everlasting covenant might be established; that the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple, unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers. (D & C 1:4c-e) And again, verily I say unto you, O inhabitants of the earth, I, the Lord, am willing to make these things known unto all flesh, for I am no respecter of person. (D & C 1:6a) The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths; neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; therefore his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round. Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of me. (D & C 2:1-2a)*

If I had a theme this morning I guess it would be "Unto What Purpose?" Usually when you say unto what purpose you think of unto what purpose called. That's part of what I was thinking about and would like to share with you this morning. I was also thinking about unto what purpose has each one of us been blessed?

Cheryl and I each read a little short

story out of this book this morning "Stories That Live." It has experiences in it that people have shared and have been recorded. I didn't know who would be here this morning but I thought that if I had time I could ask every person in the congregation to share some testimony that they've had of God's goodness to them, of His blessing them and we could write another book. I'll bet everybody here could contribute something to that book.

I know that Cheryl and I in our lives have certainly been very blessed in so many different ways. As I thought about that I thought, but what was the purpose? What did God have in mind when He blessed us in all of these wonderful ways? God is no respecter of persons and so He didn't do it because we're special people. In a sense, although, everybody is a special person to Him so maybe He did do it for that reason.

Somehow in all of these blessings and all the experiences we've been granted and all the testimonies we've been given, there is a purpose. I've been thinking about this for quite a while. I went back and started reading through the Doctrine and Covenants again and some of the other scriptures but particularly the Doctrine and Covenants. This probably is very obvious to the rest of you. I think I've known it but it suddenly became even clearer than I've ever seen it or felt it before that all of these things come to us so that we can have the foundation and the background and the ability through these experiences and gifts from our Lord and Savior to share the gospel with those around us.

That sounds so obvious and simple but I can't tell you how it struck me that we have a responsibility for taking the



gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors, the people we work with, our own families, etc. Ron has an opportunity as a Seventy to go to other lands and share the gospel but we have the responsibility to do that too, right where we are each day.

In Doctrine and Covenants 17 it talks about the duties of the Teacher and at the end it says they are to invite all to come unto Christ. We, each one, have that responsibility. That's why God has given us the things that He's given us so that we would be able, at the right time and the right moment, to reach out to those around us and share with them the understanding that there is a God in heaven, that He is alive, that He loves us and that He did, in fact, sacrifice His Son Jesus Christ for us, and that life is eternal.

Sometimes I think there is a tendency to say, why this or why that? At least for me I don't think I've been asked to sacrifice or give anything close to what God has sacrificed for me and for each one of you so I don't think I have any grounds or any basis to complain. As I thought about that too I thought that sometimes it's just human nature to go ahead and complain. I considered some of the things that become burdens to us whether they should or not. I realized, and the scriptures say this too, that even those things that we think of as burdens are, if we remain faithful, part of God's way of keeping us close to Him.

There's a story I've told to the kids a lot of times about when I was a kid and about the neighbor's bull. The neighbor's had this big bull. I was young so it might not have been as big as I remembered but it seemed to me like he had horns that were about twelve foot wide. That bull would get loose and come over to my Grandad's.

My Grandad would give me a little piece of pipe and tell me to stand in the doorway and keep the bull out of the barn while he milked. That's when the bull seemed really big. Grandpa wanted me to smack the bull on the nose. That was just what I didn't want to do. I was already scared to death.

I thought about how that bull was part of the neighbor's operation. They

bred cattle and so they needed this bull. As long as they kept it chained up and tethered at their place, it had a purpose. It was a necessary thing. It wasn't until the bull got loose and untethered that it wreaked havoc in the neighborhood and scared people like me to death.

What does the Lord do to keep us tethered to Him so that our purpose in life is assured and we don't just wander off, untethered, without a purpose? I thought about what a loving God He is to give us even the problems that we have that remind us to turn to Him and to rely upon Him.

I read several scriptures that talk about how God chastises those that He loves. In all that He does in our lives, whether we perceive them as blessings or not, they are, in fact, blessings if we remember to look to Him and to love Him and to make every effort to serve Him.

**I** found a couple of examples in the scriptures of men who understood this. When I say understood this I mean the whole concept of how it is that God blesses us for His purposes and not just for our own selfish ways. I hope if nothing else I say here this morning makes any sense to you that you will at least go home and think about all the ways in which God has blessed you. All the ways in which He has continually worked to call you to Him, to get you to open your life unto Him so that He can uphold you, strengthen you and give purpose to your life.

The scriptures tell us that He created man that man might have joy. They say, Man is that man might have joy. Of course, if you go ahead and continue reading through the scriptures you find that that joy that He created us for comes only from Him and through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ and the redemption that He has set before us by making the sacrifice that He's made for us.

Now I'm thinking because how are other people going to know this? How are they going to know what He created them for? How are they going to know that they were created for joy, real true joy? That they weren't just created to be

out there bouncing around and trying to have a good time by working for this or working for that, things that really in the long run have no meaning. How are they going to come to that knowledge if we don't share with them what the Lord has so generously shared with us?

One of the examples of that in the scriptures is the story of John the Beloved. In the Bible it doesn't say that much about how he was allowed to remain upon the earth until Christ would come again in the flesh. It's mentioned in the Bible but where I really found that we have light on this is in the Doctrine and Covenants. This is another one of those things when you talk about what the Lord has done for us.

Sometimes we don't pay much attention to them but one of the things that He has really, really done for me anyhow, and I know He did it for all of you was to bring forth this book, the Book of Mormon, and to bring forth through Joseph Smith, Jr. particularly but through others also the counsel and the commandments and the light that is in the Doctrine and Covenants.

One of those added understandings is Section 7 in the Doctrine and Covenants which is a revelation that dealt with John the Beloved and how he was



*Sherman Phipps*



allowed to remain here upon the earth. *And the Lord said unto me, John, my beloved, what desirest thou? For if ye shall ask what you will, it shall be granted unto you. And I said unto him, (and this is kind of the part you get from the New Testament) Lord, give unto me power over death, (but in Section 7 it goes ahead and says) that I may live and bring souls unto thee. (D & C 7:1a, b) That was his purpose in asking to remain upon the earth. He had a grasp of this. He knew that the only true meaning in his life would be to serve the Lord and to bring souls unto Him.*

We have that implied in other places in the scriptures. How many times in the scriptures are we told that there's nothing greater that we could hope for than to bring souls unto God. Section 16:3c-f says, *Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; for, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him on conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth. Wherefore you are called to cry repentance unto this people. And if it so be that you should labor all your days, in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!* It goes on and says if your joy is great with one think how much greater it will be with more.

So, we have all these blessings and we have all these testimonies of God's love for us. I'm not talking about some theoretical thing out here. I'm talking about the way the Lord has really personally worked in your lives and blessed you and provided for you when you needed it whether it was temporal needs or spiritual needs. He has done this so that we might be prepared to reach out and share with others the same things He has shared with us that their souls might be redeemed and brought unto Him through the sacrifice and the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. So that they too might have hope and joy, and be delivered from despair and darkness.

Basically what I wanted to say to you this morning is: if we have all these blessings, if we truly believe in Christ, if we truly believe that all men are created to have joy and that joy only comes through their being brought unto Christ, if we know that as we go about our daily activities and interact with all the people that we interact with every day, do we really look at them and concern ourselves with the salvation of their souls?

When I say being brought unto Christ I'm talking about each one coming to a knowledge of the need that they have to truly repent and be baptized and to become a part of His church. Do we care? Will the things that God has given us and blessed us with bear fruit for the kingdom or not?

**I** only have a few minutes this morning so basically that's what I wanted to ask you this morning. Do we really care? Every day as we interact with the people around us are we looking for an opportunity to share the message of Christ with them in a way that will be effective and help them make the decision that they want to come unto Christ themselves also. I'm not talking just about words but I'm talking about the way we live.

You know we're told in the scriptures that if you have all of these wonderful things, faith, hope, all these wonderful blessings, all these gifts, all these good qualities and you don't have charity then you have nothing. I want you to consider today whether or not we really have charity if we are, in fact, not on a daily basis concerned about the welfare of the souls of our brothers and sisters.

I have people that I've worked with for years that I really want to share the gospel with but too often it still hasn't happened. I want to see them be baptized and brought unto Christ in eternity. What's going to have to happen if we're to become effective in bearing our witness? How and when are we going to come out of Babylon and become focused on our responsibilities as servants of the Lord? How are we going to return to Him that which He has given unto us, the love and the hope that we

have unless it's by sharing with those around us.

I wonder who will I have great joy with in heaven assuming I'm allowed to be there? Will there be even one? I hope so. I want to try harder and I hope you'll try harder to share these gifts and these blessings that we've been given with those around us for the sake of their souls.

I want to read another scripture in closing. This is from Moroni 8. It's a letter that Mormon wrote to his son Moroni. I'm just going to read the introduction to it. I hope that this is the kind of prayer that we offer for each other day to day and for those around us, our brothers and sisters, I hope we will offer this prayer for one another. This is Mormon to his son Moroni. . . . *My beloved son, Moroni, I rejoice exceedingly that your Lord Jesus Christ hath been mindful to you, and hath called you to his ministry, and to his holy work. I am mindful of you always in my prayers, continually praying unto God the Father, in the name of his holy child, Jesus, that he, through his infinite goodness and grace, will keep you through the endurance of faith on his name to the end. (Moroni 8:2, 3)*

That's my prayer this morning that He will keep each one of you faithful to Him to the end and that all of these blessings and gifts that He has granted unto us will bear fruit for Him and for the sake of the souls of our brothers and sisters.





# WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

**Priest Rodney Bastow**  
**Mount Ayr, Iowa**  
**August 18, 2013**

As a call to worship, High Priest Alan Smith read Genesis 9:22-23. *And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.*

Priest Rodney Bastow used Psalm 23 as his scripture reading. *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

I am very happy to be here this morning. Are you? I hope you are praying that we will feel the Holy Spirit. We are feeling it already, aren't we? We've already been blessed and I hope we will continue to be blessed as I share the words that I have for you this morning. Remember to give the praise and the glory to our Heavenly Father for this blessing.

As Alan mentioned my thoughts the past few days have been with the Akers family with the death of little Isaac. He put up quite a fight. I think he was blessed several times during his illness and I really believe he has been blessed to have his pain and suffering ended. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be with his family today as they celebrate his life and that it will continue to comfort them as they mourn for Isaac.

**I**t's been a great week. We got some rain again. To be honest with you I really didn't accomplish a lot this week. I look back and try to remember what I did. I do remember that I did go to the Iowa State Fair on Wednesday. I went there for a purpose. I went to see the Stock Dog Trials. I even talked Deb into going with me. It wasn't her first choice but she went because she loves me so much. How many of you have ever been to a Stock Dog Trial?

Usually in a Stock Dog Trial, for those of you that haven't ever seen one, you have a handler that comes into the ring which is usually pretty big maybe the size of a softball field. At one end are the handler and his dog and at the other end is either some sheep or cattle. When the judges say go the handler sends the dog out there clear to the other end. The dog circles out around and brings the cattle or the sheep up past him around behind him and on around through some gates and then around through some other gates and through this kind of alleyway.

This is the really tricky part and the handler does come up and help with this but basically it's the dog doing it. Just because of the handler's presence there they are able to get these cattle to go down this chute, turn them to the right and then they bring them back up

and put them in this little tiny pen. That doesn't sound like much of a trick probably to some of you unless you've tried to do it before, especially if you have tried to do it without a dog. It's a challenge. You could have had four or five men out there and they couldn't have gotten it done like these little dogs were doing.

It was a lot of fun. The dogs listened to the commands of their handlers who would give them a command to either circle to the right or to the left, to bring the herd forward slowly or they could command them to speed up. It's incredible to me. It's really something to watch. There are so many things they can do. If they have to they can even tell the dog to walk in there and bite the herd on the nose. If the dog would bite a sheep on the nose it would be an automatic disqualification but if the cattle are going kind of slow they can tell the dog to go in and bite the cattle on the nose. It's amazing what those dogs can do. They do it by listening to the commands of their masters.

When I was a little boy the favorite TV shows on were Lassie, Rin Tin Tin, Roy Roger's with his dog Bullet and then Sargent Preston who had a dog named King. I grew up always wanting a very well trained dog. However, I grew up with Scotties. Scotties don't know a thing. They can come to you but other than that they are pretty much useless.

When our sons were growing up I thought we would get into Shelties. Shelties are pretty good dogs. They are smart dogs just ask Jowett. They can do a lot of things. The only problem is they like to do their own thing and not necessarily your own thing. Now I have had some of them that have been fairly smart and would do some of the things that I wanted them to do. I wanted them



to be herding dogs and they were very good at herding the four-wheeler. They would circle around the four-wheeler and keep me going left and right all the time. That's not exactly what I wanted.

When I first went to one of these Stock Dog Trials I decided this was the kind of dog that I wanted. My goal in life someday would be to have a dog like that. Now as Debbie and I have been back on the farm there have been several times when we needed extra help like that. Debbie is pretty good in a pickup. You put her in a pickup and she can herd about anything. She's even got the dents in the pickup to prove it, but sometimes the pickup and the four-wheeler can't always go where they need to go.

You hate to drive them across the bean field. You hate to take them up and down ditches although we have probably tried it a few times. Sometimes you need someone to watch a gate or get cattle back in. Bob and Tanner aren't always there to help you. You just need a little extra help to do some things like that, and I wanted a really well-trained dog.

We've always been kind of dog poor to be honest with you. Probably at the top of our dog-raising days we had thirty dogs. We've whittled it down probably over the past few years to seven and then we finally got Jowett to take his home with him so that left us with two. I finally said it's time that I get some border collies. Border collies seem to be the best at herding although there are other breeds that can handle this too. Last January a neighbor said that he had a litter and I could come and pick one out. I couldn't choose just one. I chose three. It just seemed like the right thing to do at the time. These three all kind of looked alike and were all three females.

One of the three dogs ended up in Warrensburg, MO with our son, Brock. That puppy is doing a really good job of training Brock right now. He's learning all sorts of things that he didn't know how to do before. I still have high hopes that I will be able to get the other two trained to help me with the cattle. They are getting close. I guess when I

got these pups I thought the next day they would be out there herding cattle. It didn't quite work that way. The trainers said that I needed to wait about ten months before I started training them. WOW!

Do you know how long ten months is? It seems like it's been forever but they are finally getting close to that age. I'm finally getting one slightly trained. They have learned some things. Most of the time they will come back to me, unless there is something that they would rather do. They will sit and stay a little bit. I thought they were doing pretty good until I took them out with a herd of sheep.

**I** found out that they had the instinct for herding but they have a lot more to learn. A lot of this comes instinctively to them. They are a very intelligent dog and want to please their master but there are things that you have to change in their nature. The puppy wants to go straight out into the herd and then run around and around and around them. If you are trying to get the herd to the house and the puppy is chasing them in the opposite direction sometimes it doesn't do you a lot of good. You need to have them come around behind the herd and just bring them quietly, calmly up to the house and not get them too stirred up. You have to break them of that. The trainers basically break them of barking. The border collies don't bark much and in these trials they don't want them barking at the animals. Like I said earlier they don't like them biting the sheep at all. That's a BIG no, no.

They have to be trained in areas that is just not in their nature to do. They really have to focus on their master and they have to listen for his commands. If they are not listening to the command they will just take off and do whatever they want to. I found out already that it does take a lot of patience to train them because you have to practice over and over and over again, work with them constantly and get them so that are doing things just right.

I was a little surprised when I watched the first tape of training dogs. I always thought you trained a dog by

giving him treats but the trainer in this first video that I watched said that you needed to treat them like their mother did. The mother will growl at the puppy when she wants to correct her. Sometimes she will smack it down. She doesn't really hurt the puppy but she gets its attention. In the 10th chapter of John he talks a lot about the sheep hearing the master's voice and in the 27th through 29th verses he says, *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

As members of the restored church of Jesus Christ we have chosen Jesus as our Lord and Master. It didn't just happen. We were trained to do this. To some it came more naturally than others. When Ralph Bobbitt was our pastor any time he spoke he would say that man was born to be carnal, sensual and devilish. I never liked it when he said that. It always bugged me and I think the reason it did was because I didn't want to think that I had these characteristics.

If you think about it when we are babies what are we like? We are selfish aren't we? Everything is "us." Take care of me, feed me and do all these things for me. It takes a while to be trained to start doing things for others. We believe it takes us to the age of eight to understand that there is a Master to serve. I had a lot of tendencies that I still have from those early days. I still can be somewhat selfish and there are things that I still need to overcome in my everyday life.

We hear the voice of Jesus. We hear it in the scriptures. We hear from our teachers. We hear it from those who have heard God's voice and we hear it when we spend time in prayer. I know I need to study more so that I will hear that voice. I need to read more good books so that I will hear what the Lord is telling me. I need to spend more time in prayer, more time communing with my Heavenly Father so that I will know His will. I need to listen more for the





voice of my Master.

What Jesus wants us to do is really pretty simple. In Mark 12:33-36 Jesus is telling us what we need to do. *And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is; Hearken, and hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.* It sounds simple doesn't it? If we would follow these commandments we pretty well got the others covered don't we? I wonder why we don't do a better job of keeping these two commandments? I guess it takes more practice.

The stock dogs, especially the younger ones, can get distracted sometimes. A different site, a different smell, a different sound can throw them off course. When that happens they don't listen to their master. They go off and do their own thing. This keeps them from accomplishing their goal. Sometimes it is another dog that will come along and influence them and cause them to lose their focus and causes them to get into trouble with their master until they realize that they need to be listening to him and heeding his call. Sometimes we get distracted by the things that go on in our lives.

Another voice calls us away from our Lord and we listen to it instead of listening to Jesus. We sometimes think we can find happiness by following what the world tells us instead of listening to our Lord, and we realize that that wasn't the right path to choose and that we need to listen to the voice of Jesus. When that happens Jesus says that we should ask for forgiveness and we should repent of our sins so we can listen to His voice and do His will.

This scripture from the Doctrine and Covenants tells us how important repentance is. This is from the 16th Section, verse 3c through f. *Remember*

*the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; for, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him on conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth. Wherefore you are called to cry repentance unto this people. And if it so be that you should labor all your days, in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!*

Sometimes, in the cattle trial especially, things don't always go the way that the dogs and I'm sure the Master want them to. Sometimes the cattle don't cooperate. Sometimes like in the dog trials the dogs will get kicked hard or they will have a calf turn around and charge at them and butt them.

**W**hen this happens instinctively for most of the animals, especially the aggressive ones, their nature is to turn around and go after that animal, to bite them or to show them who is boss. When they do that they lose control. They don't hear the voice of the master telling them what to do and sometimes the herd gets scattered and it's hard to ever get them back together and accomplish the task that needs to be done. Some of the dogs will just quit and run away.

They don't want any more to do with the herd but the really good ones, the ones that are really well trained and that are doing the job will stay right on course and do what they are supposed to do. They keep listening to their master's voice and they accomplish their goal.

Sometimes in life we have things that don't go as we want them to. Sometimes we get our feelings hurt. Sometimes we get sick. Sometimes we get physically hurt. Maybe we have pain. Maybe we have grief. Sometimes this makes us angry. Sometimes we get frustrated and sometimes we rebel and sometimes we just quit, but if we keep doing God's will and listening to His voice, we stay the course, He gets us through those hard

times. He helps us get through times of pain and times of grief.

I think and pray for Kyle Chown a lot. I think Kyle is such a good man and I enjoy his company. I enjoy listening to him. He walks with God. What more can I say. I don't understand why he has to go through what he is going through and what he has gone through already. I know I couldn't handle it nearly as well as he does. I am so glad that he has such a strong faith. I believe he speaks to God and I believe that God speaks to him. I know Kyle listens.

I followed Isaac Akers life the past few weeks on Facebook. I've seen the pain and suffering that he has gone through and I have tried to keep him in my prayers. I really admire how his family has been handling this ordeal. It would be so difficult. God has been speaking to them and I hope they will continue to listen and be comforted in the days ahead.

My son, Brock, has been unhappy in his job. He doesn't like it at all. I can identify with a lot of what he has been



Rodney Bastow



going through. I hope he will turn to God. I hope he will have the faith to listen as God leads him through this current situation that he is in. I pray that he will find a job that he can be happy in so that he can do God's will.

One thing I really enjoy about the dog trials is the enthusiasm of the dogs. When you see those dogs getting ready to go out there they are so excited. They're just wiggling every part of their body that they can wiggle. You can just tell. They are so anxious to get out there and do this job. You can tell they are having a great time when they get out there. They just love what they are doing. They are really trying to please their master. That's really important to them.

I was really excited last Sunday and again this Sunday as Sherman presented the priesthood calls of Matt (Anderson) and Chris (Cunningham). Aren't we special to have a church where God speaks to us? He speaks to our priesthood to make such a call like this. Aren't we special to have a church like this? I believe we are. We are fortunate to have these two young men that have been listening to God, that have been listening to His call, that are willing to do what He wants them to do and to serve Him.

Last week when Sherman read the duties of the office of Teacher, I was afraid that he was going to scare Matt off. I thought, Wow, that's a lot to be put on that guy. I remember the excitement that I had when I received my priesthood call and I sure hope you are feeling the same type of enthusiasm and excitement over receiving yours regardless of the duties that you have to do. Just remember it's not you, it's God that will do that with you.

I really enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit and I like the feeling that the Holy Spirit gives me when I am serving Him. As we listen to the voice of our Savior we learn of the work that He has for us to do. I hope we all enjoy serving our Lord and that we will always do it with enthusiasm.

At the trials the dogs are judged on how they do. They are judged on how they respond to their master's call. They are judged on how they respond to the

livestock. They are judged on how well they perform. They can get the cattle all to go through the right places but they might not win because someone else might have done it better than they did. Someone else might have done it in a straighter line or might have been more focused.

There will come a day when we will be judged. There will come a day when we will stand before our Master. What will our scorecard look like? How well did we respond to our Master's call? How well did we treat others? Did we fulfill God's purpose for us here on earth? How well did we perform?

I looked for something to close with and remembered hearing the verse, *Well done, good and faithful servant*. I looked that scripture up and what I found was a reading. After reading this I knew I needed to share it with you this morning. It goes like this.

**Y**ou and I were born to make manifest the glory of God.

Many times folks have asked me, "What are your goals in life?" Granted, I have many, both short and long term goals, but the bulls eye, the center of the target, the one goal upon which my eye is constantly fixed day and night is this, to one day stand before my Lord and hear these simple words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." That will be my barometer for success in this life.

Right now, even thinking of that joyful moment brings tears to my eyes. More than fame and more than fortune, more than any of the laurels that this life can bestow upon me, my burning desire is to simply see the look of pleasure on my Lord's face when I have finished my course in this world.

*His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant. Matthew 25:23*

And, as Paul said:

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. II Timothy 4:7,8*

The following is an excerpt from "An Iron Will" by Orison S. Marden. It was written over 100 years ago, but it still speaks to the condition of our time. It is the story of a young man whose sole motivation for entering the Olympic race was to see a look of pleasure on his father's face.

#### A STRUGGLE IN THE RACE OF LIFE.

There had been no great parade about the training of this champion runner. From his work at the plough he quietly betook himself to the task of making Greece victorious before the assembled strangers from every land. He was known to be a good runner, and without fuss or bustle he entered himself as a competitor.

But it was not his speed alone, out distancing every rival, that made the young Greek stand out from among his fellows that day. When he left his cottage home at Amarusi, his father said to him, "Sotiri, you must only return a victor!"

The light of a firm resolve shone in the young man's eye.

When at last the excitement of the assembled multitude told that the critical moment had arrived, that the racers were nearing the goal, the old father looked up through eyes that were a little dim as he realized that truly Sotiri was leading the way. He was "returning a victor."

How the crowd surged about the young peasant when the race was fairly won! Wild with excitement, they knew not how to shower upon him sufficient praise. Ladies overwhelmed him with flowers and rings; some even gave him their watches, and one American lady bestowed upon him her jewelled smelling-bottle. The princes embraced him, and the king himself saluted him in military fashion.

But the young Sotiri was seeking for other praise than theirs. Past the ranks of royalty and fair maidenhood, past the outstretched hands of his own countrymen, past the applauding crowd of foreigners, his gaze wandered till it fell upon an old man trembling with eagerness, who resolutely pushed his way through the excited, satisfied throng.



Then the young face lighted, and as old Louès advanced to the innermost circle with arms outstretched to embrace his boy, the young victor said, simply: "You see, father, I have obeyed."

What can I add to that? It encapsulates the race of life to a tee. Some have put it this way, "What you are is God's gift to you, but what you make of it is your gift to Him." Our heavenly Father has charged us to go forth as a victor. My response is, "Father, I obey."

Our Father wants us to be victorious in this life. We do that by exercising our will in obeying His words. Many people expend incredible effort to win a prize or a medal in this life. They do it for a corruptible crown. But the way in which we live our life here on earth, putting God first, is for an incorruptible crown that will never fade away.

*And every man that striveth for the mastery [of life] is temperate in all things. Now they [athletes] do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

I Corinthians 9:25

One day when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, the cries, the adulation, the things of this world, will pale in comparison to the light of his glory and grace. We will see our Lord face to face and look into his tender eyes, and then have the greatest "Aha!" moment ever. Finally ALL of life will make sense and cohere. Finally we will know every detail. Finally we will know God even as He knows us. "Aha!" Finally we, too, will cry the cry of triumph, "My God, my God, for THIS purpose I was on earth! I was born to live for You and to manifest Your glory!"

There may be prizes I will win along the way on this journey of life, because my Father desires that I prosper and bring glory unto Him. But I lay those prizes at the feet of Jesus Christ, I cast my "crowns" at the foot of his throne, knowing he is in me, and that without Christ, I can do nothing.

This life that we now live, is only

part of the whole. Anyone who thinks that only this life is what it's all about, is more to be pitied. The fullness of life begins after the Lord returns, when we will be with him in all his glory.

Set your mind on the greatest goal in life, to be well pleasing to the King of kings, and the Lord of love. It will be your polestar; that which will guide you into right paths all your days here on earth. Then, on that glorious day when Christ returns, you will hear those wondrous words, "*WELL DONE, my good and faithful servant.*" That will repay any work you have done, any effort you have expended, any sacrifice you have made in doing the will of God, one thousand fold.

And your heart will swell with a sense of pure satisfaction when Jesus says to you, "*Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*"



## OFFICERS NAMED FOR 2013-2014 CHURCH YEAR

Pastor/Presiding Elder	H. Alan Smith		Rowlands
Counselors	To be announced	Service Projects	Jim Barber
	To be announced	Facility Coordinators	Michael Jordison
Bishop's Agent	Gordon Winkler		Bob Rowland
Stewardship Coordinator	Cheryl Phipps		Tanner Roland
Home Ministry Coordinator	Jim Barber		Sam Jordison
Secretary/Treasurer	Julia Jordison		Jacob Cunningham
Historian	Linda Winkler	Building Committee 1 Yr.	Sherman Phipps
Caring Coordinators	Pat Bolingbroke		Steve Cunningham
	Diane Anderson		Kent Clisby
Fellowship Coordinator	Jennifer Rowland	2 Yr.	Rob Rolfe
Worship Coordinator	Jennifer Rowland		Bob Rowland
Worship Centers	Sue Beck	Newsletter Editor	Alan Smith
Christian Education Director	Di Smith	Newsletter Recorder/	
Evangelism Coordinator	Ron Smith	Circulation	Cheryl Phipps
Youth Leaders	Barbers and	E-mail Coordinator	Yvonne Galusha



# ALMA'S TESTIMONY TO HIS SONS

**High Priest**

**Alan Smith**

**Mount Ayr, Iowa**

**August 25, 2013**

I've been thinking about the legacy we pass on to our children and grandchildren this week because of a couple of events, and that's what I want to talk with you about this morning.

Valle's cousin Bruce Moore had a face book post recently where he announced that he had been diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig disease, and that his voice was failing and he wouldn't be able to call friends and talk. He noted that he had no idea how fast the disease would progress.

He said that he would be posting more on facebook, since he can still type, "sharing things I would say over the next several years if I were able."

Recently I had the opportunity to present my grandson Eli with his set of scriptures following his baptism. I tried to come up with some words that would help him understand how important his scriptures could be to him.

Trying to put into words what we have learned in our lives to help others as they work on their own life journey is nothing new. I happened to be reading in Alma this week and I came across again the letters Alma wrote to his three sons, trying to share counsel with them before he left and wasn't heard of again.

Maybe that's why the letters from Alma to his sons resonated with me when I read them again this week.

I thought maybe we should be thinking about what our life lessons are that we would like our children and grandchildren to know to help them in their lives or challenge them to follow

Christ more effectively.

This morning I would like to look at Alma's letter, especially the one to his son Helaman, to get a pattern for how we might share our own testimony with our children and grandchildren. I wonder if Alma realized when he wrote them that they would not only be read by his sons, but by millions of people over the years as they were shared in the Book of Mormon. I think the wisdom he shares is helpful to us as it must have been to his sons, even if some of the specific things he called them to do may not be our own missions for Christ.

Basically I'll be sharing the 17th chapter of Alma this morning, so if you get home and want to remind yourself of what we talked about today, you can just get our your Book of Mormon and read it again for yourself.

I'd like to share the letter -- called commandments from Alma to Helaman -- but I would like to think of it more as sharing his testimony of what he had learned in his life and challenging his son with ministry to perform in his place.

As we go along, I'd like to have you think of what you would write in a letter to your loved one that they could keep and refer to at a later date. Not too many of us will be writing on metal plates that will stand the test of time, or that will be shared with millions of people over the years, but I think we can gain something from looking at this letter this morning.

Alma starts with a promise -- that's always a good place to start.

*My son, give ear to my words; for I swear unto you, that inasmuch as ye shall keep the commandments of God, ye shall prosper in the land.* Alma 17:1

This message is the key to the whole chapter -- and Alma is wanting so badly for his son to pick up on it that he re-

peats it over and over again, sometimes in a little different wording, but always the same idea. If he was going to sum up the lessons of his life it was in this concept -- if you will keep the commandments of God you will be blessed. Then he goes on to give some advice about how he has lived his life and offer this life lesson to his son.

*I would that ye should do as I have done, in remembering the captivity of our fathers; for they were in bondage, and none could deliver them, except it was the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob: and he surely did deliver them in their afflictions.* Alma 17:2

How would remembering the captivity of history help Helaman? One -- you know that unless you are diligent one can slip into the ways of captivity. And two -- God can deliver us from all kinds of problems. Alma had several experiences in his life of being held captive and then being freed through the power of God. He was telling his son that this was a promise of which Helaman could be assured as well.

So Alma continues with another promise, this one about deliverance. The first one may have been more temporal -- keep the commandments and you will prosper temporally in the land.

The second one is more spiritual:

*And now, O my son Helaman, behold thou art in thy youth, and therefore I beseech of thee that thou wilt hear my words, and learn of me; for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God, shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day;* Alma 17:3

Alma offers the promise -- saying it has been true for him -- and notes that he didn't just come up with this himself, but that it is of God. This isn't just some-



thing Alma has thought up himself, but something that has been revealed to him.

*And I would not that ye think that I know of myself, not of the temporal, but of the spiritual; not of the carnal mind, but of God.* Alma 17:4

After getting Helaman's attention with these promises, Alma proceeds to share the foundational testimony of his life -- where his life was changed. It's a powerful testimony that most of you may remember, but I'd like to share it in Alma's words this morning again.

*Now behold I say unto you, If I had not been born of God, I should not have known these things; but God has by the mouth of his holy angel, made these things known unto me, not of any worthiness of myself, for I went about with the sons of Mosiah, seeking to destroy the church of God; but behold, God sent his holy angel to stop us by the way.*

*And behold, he spake unto us, as it were the voice of thunder, and the whole earth did tremble beneath our feet, and we all fell to the earth, for the fear of the Lord came upon us.*

*But behold, the voice said unto me, Arise. And I arose and stood up, and beheld the angel. And he said unto me, If thou wilt not of thyself be destroyed, seek no more to destroy the church of God.*

*And it came to pass that I fell to the earth; and it was for the space of three days and three nights, that I could not open my mouth; neither had I the use of my limbs.*

*And the angel spake more things unto me, which were heard by my brethren, but I did not hear them; for when I heard the words, If thou wilt not be destroyed of thyself, seek no more to destroy the church of God, I was struck with such great fear and amazement, lest perhaps I should be destroyed, that I fell to the earth, and I did hear no more;*

*But I was racked with eternal torment, for my soul was harrowed up to the greatest degree, and racked with all my sins. Yea, I did remember all my sins and iniquities, for which I was tormented with the pains of hell;*

(I have always appreciated Alma's use of the word "harrowed" after helping out one summer on by uncles' farms

in Guilford, MO. A harrow was a piece of equipment with a set of many spikes on a metal frame that was dragged over the dirt to break up clods. I could just imagine having that dragged over me.)

*Yea, I saw that I had rebelled against my God, and that I had not kept his holy commandments; yea, and I had murdered many of his children, or rather led them away unto destruction.*

(Here Alma is noting that when he was destroying people's faith when he was working against God, it was the same as murdering them. That's why we need to be so careful in what we say and how we judge others who are seeking to do the Lord's work.)

*Yea, and in fine, so great had been my iniquities, that the very thoughts of coming into the presence of my God, did rack my soul with inexpressible horror.*

*O, thought I, that I could be banished and become extinct both soul and body, that I might not be brought to stand in the presence of my God, to be judged of my deeds.*

*And now, for three days and for three nights was I racked, even with the pains of a damned soul.*

*And it came to pass that as I was thus racked with torment, while I was harrowed up by the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people, concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world.*

*Now as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart, O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who art in the gall of bitterness, and art encircled about by the everlasting chains of death.*

*And now behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pains nor more; yea, I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more.*

*And O, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain; yea, I say unto you, my son, that there could be nothing so exquisite and so bitter as were my pains.*

*Yea, and again I say unto you, my son, that on the other hand, there can be nothing so exquisite and sweet as was my*

*joy;*

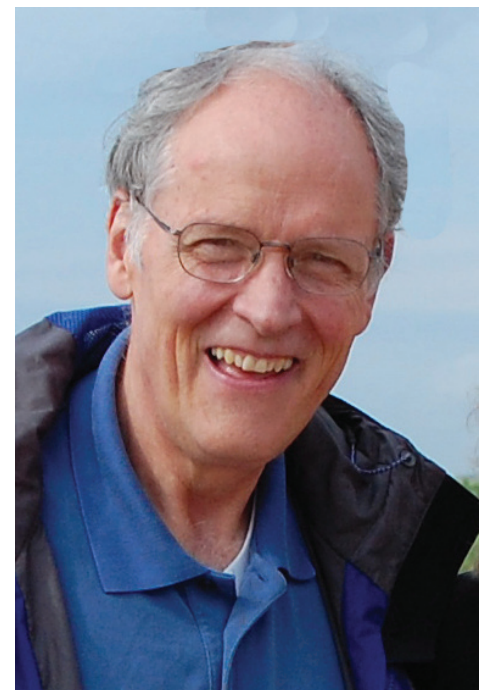
(Here Alma is sharing his experience about what it felt like to finally understand his life from the perspective of God -- what the guilt was like in recognizing his effect not only on himself but others with whom he had dealt -- and yet on the other side what forgiveness of that guilt was like as well.)

*Yea, methought I saw even as our father Lehi saw, God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels, in the attitude of singing and praising their God; yea, and my soul did long to be there.*

*But behold, my limbs did receive their strength again, and I stood upon my feet, and did manifest unto the people that I had been born of God;*

*Yea, and from that time, even until now, I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance; that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.*

*Yea, and now behold, O my son, the Lord doth give me exceeding great joy in the fruit of my labors; for because of the word which he has imparted unto me, behold, many have been born of God, and have tasted as I have tasted, and*



Alan Smith



have seen eye to eye, as I have seen;

Therefore they do know of these things of which I have spoken, as I do know; and the knowledge which I have is of God. Alma 17:5-24

I'm sure Helaman had heard his father's testimony many times, but Alma is putting it down again so he won't forget after Alma is gone. After seeing God there was a moment where he would stay or return and try to live differently. The Lord gave him a second chance to make a difference for good.

Do you have some special testimonies where The Lord has made a difference in your life? Wouldn't you want to share them in your letter to your family just like Alma? Maybe your experiences have not been quite as dramatic -- or maybe they have. In either case they need to be shared.

After sharing this marvelous testimony Alma -- adding some weight to why he believes it -- Alma goes back to sharing about the promise of God's deliverance that he made to his son.

Next Alma shares how the promise that he is giving to his son worked in his own life. If it worked for me, I believe that it will work for you.

That would be helpful in sharing a message with our children too -- I have tested out these promises and believe they are true. Here's how knowing Christ has changed my life. You can rely on these promises as you test them out yourself for your own testimony.

*And I have been supported under trials and troubles of every kind, yea, and in all manner of afflictions; yea, God has delivered me from prison, and from bonds, and from death; yea, and I do put my trust in him, and he will still deliver me;*

*And I know that he will raise me up at the last day, to dwell with him in glory; yea, and I will praise him for ever, Alma 17:25-26*

Then Alma goes on to amplify his admonition to remember the concept of captivity and release -- citing historical precedent. He is saying that what has worked for me has worked through all time.

*for he has brought our fathers out of Egypt, and he has swallowed up the*

*Egyptians in the Red Sea; and he led them by his power into the promised land;*

*Yea, and he has delivered them out of bondage and captivity, from time to time; yea, and he has also brought our fathers out of the land of Jerusalem; and he has also by his everlasting power, delivered them out of bondage and captivity, from time to time, even down to the present day;*

*And I have always retained in remembrance their captivity: yea, and ye also ought to retain in remembrance, as I have done, their captivity.*

*But behold, my son, this is not all; for ye ought to know, as I do know, that inasmuch as ye shall keep the commandments of God, ye shall prosper in the land;*

*And ye ought to know also, that inasmuch as ye will not keep the commandments of God, ye shall be cut off from his presence. Now this is according to his word. Alma 17:26-30*

**A**lma wraps up this section of the letter by reiterating the two promises again -- prospering in the land and in a negative version, being lifted up at the last day. Only this time its the consequence for not keeping the commandments of God.

Alma then spends some time laying out a vision of what Helaman can do for the future as he continues the work that his father has done. This specific duty has to do with keeping up the record on the plates while also sharing the message of the scriptures from the past recorded on the plates. This section is more of a command than maybe other sections.

*And now my son Helaman, I command you that ye take the records which have been entrusted with me; and I also command you that ye keep a record of this people, according as I have done, upon the plates of Nephi, and keep all these things sacred which I have kept, even as I have kept them: for it is for a wise purpose that they are kept;*

*And these plates of brass which contain these engravings, which have the records of the holy scriptures upon them, which have the genealogy of our forefathers, even from the beginning.*

*And behold, it has been prophesied*

*by our fathers, that they should be kept and handed down from one generation to another, and be kept and preserved by the hand of the Lord, until they should go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people, that they shall know of the mysteries contained thereon.*

*And now behold, if they are kept, they must retain their brightness; yea, and they will retain their brightness; yea, and also shall all the plates which do contain that which is holy writ.*

*Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things, are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances, doth confound the wise.*

*And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise, and bringeth about the salvation of many souls.*

*And now, it has hitherto been wisdom in God, that these things should be preserved: for behold, they have enlarged the memory of this people, yea, and convinced many of the error of their ways, and brought them to the knowledge of their God, unto the salvation of their souls.*

*Yea, I say unto you, were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates, Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites, of the incorrect tradition of their fathers;*

*Yea, these records and their words, brought them unto repentance; that is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God, and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer.*

*And who knoweth but what they will be the means of bringing many thousands of them, yea, and also many thousands of our stiff-necked brethren, the Nephites, who are now hardening their hearts, in sins and iniquities, to the knowledge of their Redeemer.*

*Now these mysteries are not yet fully made known unto me; therefore I shall forbear.*

*And it may suffice, If I only say, they are preserved for a wise purpose, which purpose is known unto God: for he doth*



*counsel in wisdom over all his works, and his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round. Alma 17:31-42*

Remember that promise that is the key to what Helaman wants Alma to know? He repeats it again to make sure that Helaman remembers these words to live by:

*O remember, remember, my son Helaman, how strict are the commandments of God.*

*And he said, If ye will keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land; but if ye keep not my commandments, ye shall be cut off from my presence.*

*And now remember, my son, that God has entrusted you with these things, which are sacred, which he has kept sacred, and also which he will keep and preserve for a wise purpose in him, that he may shew forth his power unto future generations.*

*And now behold, I tell you by the spirit of prophecy, that if ye transgress the commandments of God, behold, these things which are sacred, shall be taken away from you by the power of God, and ye shall be delivered up unto Satan, that he may sift you as chaff before the wind;*

*But if ye keep the commandments of God, and do with these things which are sacred, according to that which the Lord doth command you (for you must appeal unto the Lord for all things whatsoever ye must do with them), behold no power of earth or hell can take them from you, for God is powerful to the fulfilling of all his words:*

*For he will fulfill all his promises which he shall make unto you, for he has fulfilled his promises which he has made unto our fathers.*

*For he promised unto them that he would reserve these things for a wise purpose in him, that he might shew forth his power unto future generations.*

*And now behold, one purpose hath he fulfilled, even to the restoration of many thousands of the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth; and he hath shewn forth his power in them, and he will also still shew forth his power in them, unto future generations; therefore they shall be preserved;*

*Therefore I command you, my son Helaman, that ye be diligent in fulfilling*

*all my words, and that ye be diligent in keeping the commandments of God, as they are written. Alma 17:43-51*

Not all the records are to be shared however, Helaman is told. He is not to share the information that is given on a set of 24 plates that he is entrusting to Helaman's care.

**A**nd now, I will speak unto you concerning those twenty-four plates, that ye keep them, that the mysteries and the works of darkness, and their secret works, or the secret works of those people, who have been destroyed, may be made manifest unto this people;

*Yea, all their murders, and robberings, and their plunderings, and all their wickedness, and abominations, may be made manifest unto this people; yea, and that ye preserve these directors.*

*For, behold, the Lord saw that his people began to work in darkness, yea, work secret murders and abominations; therefore the Lord said, if they did not repent, they should be destroyed from off the face of the earth.*

*And the Lord said, I will prepare unto my servant Gazelem, a stone, which shall shine forth in darkness unto light, that I may discover unto my people who serve me, that I may discover unto them the works of their brethren; yea, their secret works, their works of darkness, and their wickedness and abominations.*

*And now my son, these directors were prepared, that the word of God might be fulfilled, which he spake, saying: I will bring forth out of darkness unto light, all their secret works and their abominations.*

*And except they repent, I will destroy them from off the face of the earth; and I will bring to light all their secrets and abominations, unto every nation that shall hereafter possess the land.*

*And now my son, we see that they did not repent; therefore they have been destroyed; and thus far the word of God has been fulfilled; yea, their secret abominations have been brought out of darkness, and made known unto us.*

*And now my son, I command you that ye retain all their oaths, and their covenants, and their agreements in their secret abominations; yea, and all their*

*signs and their wonders ye shall retain from this people, that they know them not, lest peradventure they should fall into darkness also, and be destroyed.*

*For behold, there is a curse upon all this land, that destruction shall come upon all those workers of darkness, according to the power of God, when they are fully ripe; therefore I desire that this people might not be destroyed.*

*Therefore ye shall keep these secret plans of their oaths and their covenants from this people, and only their wickedness, and their murders, and their abominations, shall ye make known unto them:*

*And ye shall teach them to abhor such wickedness, and abominations, and murders; and ye shall also teach them, that these people were destroyed on account of their wickedness, and abominations, and their murders.*

*For behold, they murdered all the prophets of the Lord who came among them to declare unto them concerning their iniquities; and the blood of those whom they murdered, did cry unto the Lord their God, for vengeance upon those who were their murderers;*

*And thus the judgments of God did come upon these workers of darkness and secret combinations; yea, and cursed be the land for ever and ever unto those workers of darkness and secret combinations, even unto destruction, except they repent before they are fully ripe. Alma 17:52-64*

Next Alma talks about the message he hopes Helaman will continue to share in his ministry -- the commandments of God that will result in the blessing of being lifted up at the last day. They are what he wants Helaman to teach and what Helaman is to do in his own life as well.

*And now my son, remember the words which I have spoken unto you: trust not those secret plans unto this people, but teach them an everlasting hatred against sin and iniquity;*

*Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ: teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ;*

*Teach them to never be weary of good*



works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls.

O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support;

Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good:

Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou riseth in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day. Alma 17: 52-70

How are we humble? It's really pretty easy -- talk to The Lord about all your doings -- pray unto God for your support and then thank him for all he has done. Really this is just a more detailed rendition of the promise that Alma has been trying to share over and over again with Helaman. This time he lists some of the commandments that need to be followed in detail with the promise of being lifted up at the last day again.

As the Doctrine and Covenants says, after lifting all the wonderful creation that God has made for the use of man --

*and in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments.* D&C 59:5b

Along with the plates, Alma is passing on the Liahona I would guess. He doesn't say so directly, but he explains its use.

*And now my son, I have somewhat to say concerning the thing which our fathers call a ball, or director; or our fathers called it liahona, which is, being interpreted, a compass; and the Lord prepared it.*

*And behold, there can not any man work after the manner of so curious a workmanship.*

*And behold, it was prepared to shew unto our fathers the course which they should travel in the wilderness; and it did*

*work for them according to their faith in God;*

*Therefore if they had faith to believe that God could cause that those spindles should point the way they should go, behold, it was done; therefore they had this miracle, and also many other miracles wrought by the power of God, day by day;*

*Nevertheless, because those miracles were worked by small means, it did shew unto them marvelous works.*

*They were slothful, and forgot to exercise their faith and diligence, and then those marvelous works ceased, and they did not progress in their journey:*

*Therefore they tarried in the wilderness, or did not travel a direct course, and were afflicted with hunger and thirst, because of their transgressions.*

*And now my son, I would that ye should understand that these things are not without a shadow; for as our fathers were slothful to give heed to this compass, (now these things were temporal,) they did not prosper; even so it is with things which are spiritual.*

*For behold, it is as easy to give heed to the word of Christ, which will point to you a straight course to eternal bliss, as it was for our fathers to give heed to this compass, which would point unto them a straight course, to the promised land.*

*And now I say, Is there not a type in this thing? For just as surely as this director did bring our fathers, by following its course, to the promised land, shall the words of Christ, if we follow their course, carry us beyond this vale of sorrow, into a far better land of promise.* Alma 17:71-80

The Liahona is a type and shadow of how Helaman is being challenged to life his life. If he will live by the word of Christ in his life, it will lead him to his own promised land, a city built without hands.

While Alma has had some rough spots and is promising that God can pull Helaman through them, Alma also wants to warn Helaman of what can happen if his life -- on the other hand -- seems to be going pretty well.

*O my son, do not let us be slothful because of the easiness of the way; for so was it with our fathers; for so was it prepared for them, that if they would look,*

*they might live; even so it is with us. The way is prepared, and if we will look, we may live for ever.* Alma 17:81-82

When life is easy, it's easy to become slothful. When you are depending on the Lord of survival from day to day, it is easier to recognize his hand in all things.

Alma is referring to directors but maybe also to Moses and the serpent on the staff that would allow people to live at his time. It didn't take a lot to make the difference between life and death. But people had to look up to live.

Next Alma ends with a sending out statement -- a statement of challenge to his sons just as Jesus would challenge his disciples to service.

*And now my son, see that ye take care of these sacred things; yea, see that ye look to God and live.*

*Go unto this people, and declare the word, and be sober. My son, farewell.* Alma 17:83-84

Alma also writes to his other sons, though we won't go into them this morning except in passing.

For his middle son, Shiblon, Alma essentially says that what he wants to share is the same as he shared with his older brother Helaman, except for the keeping the records portion. Maybe like many middle children, Shiblon sort of gets passed over when it comes to an individual message. I'm not sure if this letter is short or if the abridger decided that it didn't all need to be repeated again.

His third son, Coreanton, has been one that has been a problem child and as well as some of the other promises and words of wisdom, he offers one of my favorite pieces of advice -- "Wickedness never was happiness."

So having looked at Alma's message to his son Helaman, what would be your message from your life to your children and grandchildren? Alma's was that if you will keep the commandments, you will prosper. The Lord will pull you through your afflictions. The words of Christ, like the Liahona, will give you direction in your life. Look to God and live. Especially when things are going well, give God the credit. God's way will lead to happiness but Satan's never will.





Alma is sharing these sometimes hard lessons from his life so that his sons will be able to not make the same mistakes as he did.

What would be your message -- the

promises of God that you could share as knowledge to you that you children should be sure to try out? I challenge you to take the time to write a letter to each of your children and grand-

children. Whether you send it to them now, or wait and leave it to by your last word to them, I'm sure it can be a blessing to them, just as Alma's letters were to his sons and still are to us today.



## *September 2013*

### **The Workings of the Spirit of God in the Children of Men**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Romans 8:9 <b>The Spirit of Christ</b>	<b>2</b> 1 Peter 1:11	<b>3</b> Moroni 7:14	<b>4</b> D&C 17:7d	<b>5</b> Mosiah 1:120	<b>6</b> Ether 1:105-107	<b>7</b> Psalms 5:11 <b>The Holy Spirit</b>
<b>8</b> Isaiah 63:11	<b>9</b> Helaman 2:111	<b>10</b> D&C 55:1b,1d D&C 76:5c	<b>11</b> D&C 53:2b	<b>12</b> D&C 46:1b	<b>13</b> Alma 3:95	<b>14</b> Ephesians 4:30 1 Thessalonians 4:8
<b>15</b> 1 Nephi 1:49 2 Nephi 15:2	<b>16</b> Mosiah 1:120 Alma 3:80	<b>17</b> D&C 76:7a; 8b	<b>18</b> 3 Nephi 5:25 3 Nephi 5:46 Genesis 6:69 <b>The Holy Ghost</b>	<b>19</b> 3 Nephi 8:71 3 Nephi 9:10 Genesis 7:13	<b>20</b> Moroni 6:4 Genesis 6:53 Genesis 5:1	<b>21</b> Matthew 5:8 Matthew 3:38, 40 Matthew 28:18
<b>22</b> D&C 34:5a D&C 35:1b <b>The Comforter</b>	<b>23</b> D&C 39:2b D&C 50:4c Moroni 8:29	<b>24</b> John 14:26 John 15:26 John 16:7	<b>25</b> D&C 19:3a D&C 30:4b	<b>26</b> Genesis 6:64 <b>The Record of Heaven</b>	<b>27</b> Ephesians 1:13 <b>The Holy Spirit of Promise</b>	<b>28</b> 1 John 3:9 D&C 107:38
<b>29</b> D&C 76:5d	<b>30</b> D&C 85:1c					

Spiritual Preparation Calendar for September, 2013; Prepared by the Quorum of High Priests



# FIVE-MINUTE PSALMS

*As part of a Sunday evening activity, we sang Psalm hymns, read some Psalms and then had a few minutes to write our own psalms. David probably had more time. Here are the results. This was a great exercise.*

O Lord, our God,  
Unto whom we look for our  
strength.  
Thou art the source of all we enjoy.  
Thou art the creator and giver  
and sustainer of our families.  
Thou alone are our guide and  
the source of our joy.  
In you do we trust.  
Upon you do we lean.  
Thou hearest our every word  
and our every plea.  
Sustain us and uphold us.  
Keep your people forever.  
Praise God, the creator of all  
things. -- **Sherm**

Thank you Lord for our beautiful  
earth  
The majesty of mountains  
And the vastness of the plains  
The trees of different kinds  
And the never ending pallet of  
color and creativity.  
We praise your holy name. -- **Julie  
and Josh**

From eternity's bosom,  
His voice broke the silence  
Like color on a page that long lay  
black and silent.  
We thank and bless Thee, oh Lord  
For the melodies that weave our  
being,  
In the tapestry of your life, that  
we are seeking.  
Grant us vibrance in our lives to  
color our souls.  
Each one a child of yours,  
each one a part of the whole. --  
**Michael**

Glory, glory to the Lord on high  
Sing praises to his name.  
Sing praises for his creation  
which is full of love,  
His creation witnesses of His love.  
The majesty of all his creation is  
around us to behold.  
So glory, glory to the Lord on high.  
Sing praises to his name.  
--**Lynda**

My Lord is so gracious  
He filleth my cup.  
I come to his table  
He invites me to sup.

Too bad for the wicked,  
The base and corrupt,  
When they who are coming  
Will burn them all up. -- **Rob**

God is great  
God is good  
Let us thank him for our food.

God is loving  
God is kind  
A better friend you will never find.

God is mercy  
God is Grace  
Without him there's no hope for the  
human race.

God is compassion  
God is love  
His love descends on me from above.

God is mild  
God is strong  
With him by your side you'll never  
go wrong.

God is beginning  
God is end  
He is my eternal friend. -- **Valle**

Wickedness never was happiness.  
No matter how hard you try  
To find the way to joy and peace  
Without responding to Christ.

Love is always the answer  
To the questions that come in life  
His light, his love, his power  
Can overcome all strife.

Praise God that he has given us  
The way that leads to Him  
That offers the life we yearn for  
On earth and for eternity. - **Alan**

Oh Lord, you provide everything I  
need  
I am so grateful.

Oh Lord, you are always with me  
I am never alone.  
I am so grateful.

Oh Lord, your understanding is so  
perfect,  
You know everything from the end  
to the beginning.  
I am so grateful.

Oh Lord, you are always willing to  
forgive me when I repent.  
I am so grateful.

Oh Lord, you have provided your  
word for me, a rod of iron.  
I am so grateful.

Oh Lord, your creation astounds me,  
your power and majesty.  
I am so grateful.

Oh Lord, you have restored your  
gospel to the earth,  
I am so grateful.

There is no one but you, the great  
I AM.  
I am so grateful. -- **Cheryl**

I'm thankful for...  
My family and friends who play  
with me again and again,  
My home which will always be  
here wherever I roam,  
And my church where I will  
search for Jesus who gave me  
all my blessings,  
And my Sunday School and  
teachers,  
And I thank Him especially for  
my sister! -- **Elyse and Isabel**

Oh my Lord, I am forever  
thankful for your loving spirit  
and forgiveness.  
Thank you for protecting me and  
leading me to your path.  
May I never leave that path.  
And may I always have your strength  
with me to share of You.  
-- **Jen**

Our God is wonderful---  
He created the heaven  
And the earth  
For us.

He gave us our agency, but  
He wants us to choose him  
Most of all.

He gave us his son,  
Jesus Christ,  
Who died for our sins  
That we might have eternal life with  
him. -- **Linda Barber**

I love you Lord  
You lift me up,  
You take the pain away.  
I love you Lord  
I know you're here to stay.

Chorus:  
And I praise you oh my God  
I praise you with song  
I praise you with my heart  
Because I love you Lord.  
-- **Teegan and Cede**

I will praise the Lord my God  
For he has created all things.  
The heavens are full of his  
majesty.  
Nature abounds with his  
creation.  
His love for his creation is  
everlasting.

I will thank the Lord my God.  
His greatness has provided me  
with every need.  
He has lifted me up in times of  
despair.  
He has fed me when I was  
hungry.  
He has enlightened my mind  
When those around me have  
sought to know his will.  
Praise him, thank him  
Give Him the glory.  
He is our creator and our God.  
-- **Pat**

Thank you for family, friends and  
church

Chorus:  
God is so good, He knows our every  
need.  
God is so good, He knows our every  
need.

Thank you for forgiveness, compas-  
sion, comfort and love.  
Chorus:

Thank you for guidance, protection  
and health.  
Chorus:

Thank you for discernment, peace  
and your spirit.  
Chorus:

Thank you for healings, beauty, and  
our country.  
Chorus:

Thank you for your love, your son  
and his sacrifice.  
Chorus: -- **Linda Boswell**

(Watch for more next month)



# September 2013

## Sunday Schedule

	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6
Presiding	Gordon Winkler	Michael Jordison	Rob Rolfe	Rodney Bastow	Steven Smith	Sherman Phipps
Speaking	Ed Anderson	Rob Rolfe	Steve Cunningham	Ron Smith	MUSIC SERVICE	Gordon Winkler
Pianist	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbrok	Pat Bolingbroke	Cheryl Phipps	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke
Special Music	Sue Beck	Beth Knotts	Michael Jordison	Rob Rolfe		Di Smith
Family Devotions	Cheryl Phipps	Steve Smiths	Gordon Winklers	Ed Andersons	Alan Smiths	Jim Barbers
Greeters	Bob Rowlands	Bob Rowlands	Ron Smiths	Bob Rolfes	Steve Smiths	Alan Smiths
Custodians	Rod Bastows	Michael Jordisons	Ed Andersons	Sherman Phipps	Rob Rolfes	Bob Rowlands
Sunday Evening	Ron Smiths	Rob Rolfes	Rob Rowlands	Steve Smiths	Ron Smiths	Rob Rolfes

## Wednesday Night Prayer Service Schedule

	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
Location	Bob Rowlands	Rob Rolfes	Gordon Winklers	Ron Smiths	Bob Rowlands	Alan Smiths
Presiding	Ron Smith	Rodney Bastow	Jim Barber	Rob Rolfe	Ed Anderson	Geroge Knotts

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sunday, Sept. 1** -- Priesthood Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Potluck Dinner

**Fri.-Sun., Sept. 13-15** -- Retreat in Woodbine, IA

**Tuesday, Sept. 24** -- Movie trip to Des Moines

**Fri.-Sun., Sept. 27-29** -- Retreat in Nauvoo, IL

**Sunday, Oct. 6** -- Priesthood Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Potluck dinner, Branch planning session following potluck dinner

**Happy Birthday:** Bob Rolfe (1), Elyse Jordison (13), Ron Smith (15), Pat Bolingbroke (22), Ed Anderson, (24), Debbie Bastow (28) and any others we may have missed.

**Happy Anniversary:** Bob and Jennifer Rowland (23), George and Yvonne Galusha (26) and any others we may have missed.

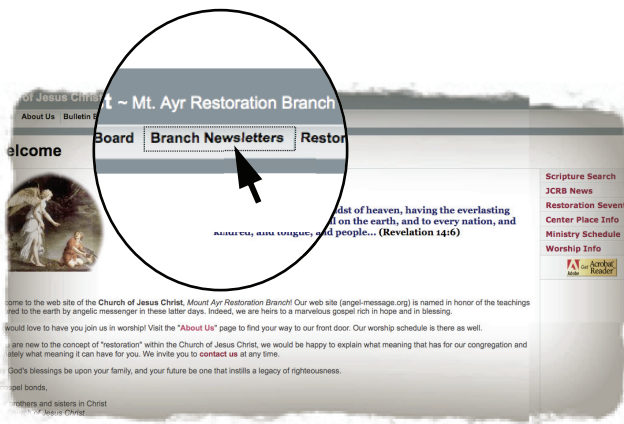


# Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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

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Visit the Mount Ayr Restoration Branch website at:

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



## CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

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

# News & Notes

*Continued from front page*

### Priesthood calls

Calls to the office of teacher have been processed for two young men in the Mount Ayr branch.

Approval has been given to the calls for Matt Anderson and Chris Cunningham to serve in these offices.

Their ordination services will be set at times of their choosing in the next few months.

### Movie trip to Des Moines

We will be going to a movie in Des

Moines on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Susie Cunningham has made arrangements for us to attend the event.

Tickets will be bought ahead of time.

### Fall retreats

Members of the Mount Ayr branch have been invited to share in two fall retreats this year.

The first retreat will be the weekend of September 13-15 at the Followers of Christ camp

grounds in western Iowa. This retreat will include some work projects along with the regular retreat schedule.

The second retreat will be the weekend of September 27-29 at the Nauvoo Reunion Grounds with the Iowa District.

We are sure all those who attend will be blessed richly. Check with Alan Smith for details.

### Planning session

A branch planning session will be held Sunday, Oct. 6 following the potluck.

We will be looking at the calendars for October, November and December as well as any big special events for the year.

Come with your ideas for worship and fellowship.