

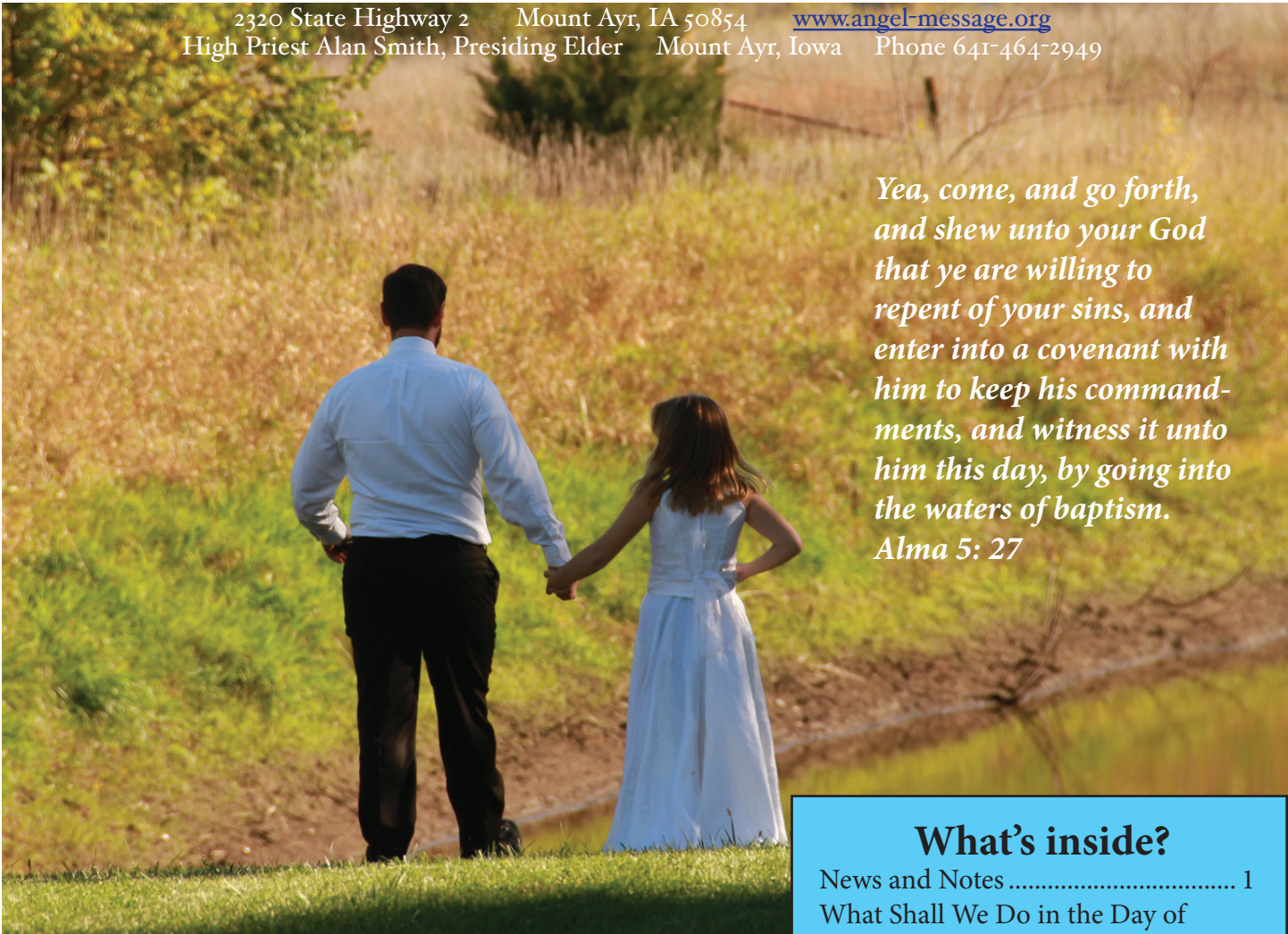


Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

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 High Priest Alan Smith, Presiding Elder Mount Ayr, Iowa Phone 641-464-2949



*Yea, come, and go forth,
 and shew unto your God
 that ye are willing to
 repent of your sins, and
 enter into a covenant with
 him to keep his command-
 ments, and witness it unto
 him this day, by going into
 the waters of baptism.
 Alma 5: 27*

News & **Notes**

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our special event for November will be our annual Thanksgiving Dinner set for Sunday, Nov. 24, following the church service.

We invite you to bring your family and friends to share with us with the service and the meal.

A signup sheet will soon be available to sign up for what you

want to bring for the meal.

December activities

In December there will be the Book of Mormon musical in Independence, MO on Sunday, Dec. 8, the annual caroling party on Sunday, Dec. 15, and the New Year's Eve party on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

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What Will We Do In The Day of Judgement?

Priest Ed Anderson
Lamoni, Iowa
September 1, 2013

Good morning everyone. It is good to see each and every one of you here. Such a privilege to come and partake of the sacrament and worship and fellowship with one another. I've selected a scripture from Alma 5: 38-41.

And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him; that ye may walk after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received. And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times. Asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive, And see that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works.

Today we have come to partake of the sacrament. Before creation, the plan of salvation was laid out that we might partake of it. Even before the creation of the Garden of Eden that Christ would come and believe on His name would give us eternal life.

I am thankful for the angels who have declared this. Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden and were told to sacrifice. An angel came and asked why they sacrificed. Adam said he didn't know, he was just told to do it. It was explained to him about the blood of the lamb and it's role in salvation, that whoever should believe on

His name might be saved.

Through the ages, prophets have declared the message. Those who believed were saved and those who didn't believe, I'm going to let God judge on that one. I know what the scriptures say, but I'm not going to judge individual people on that one.

I am thankful for Joseph Smith who listened to the angel, who was dutiful about the commandments that were given him as far as translating the Book of Mormon, establishing the church, and preaching the gospel of salvation to everyone around him.

When Israel, the northern kingdom, was attacked, they were a chosen people but they weren't doing what they were supposed to be doing. They were attacked, warning given. The prophets at the time tried to tell them what was going on. He told them they had to get rid of the idols, the groves, and return to their God. Did they listen? No, they didn't. They went on their merry way and tried to do it their way.

I've been reading a book. Actually I've read it a couple of times now. I just couldn't get away from it when I was trying to prepare for this sermon.

They were issued a warning. It was the first time their nation had been breached as far as being allowed to be attacked. It was kind of a shot across the bow of warning to them. They didn't take that warning. If we were there, if we were walking in their footsteps back then, would we have listened? Would we have responded? We really don't have a way to know. We can't really put ourselves back in there and say we would or would not have responded.

But should we have responded? And how should we have responded? If we knew there was going to be a calamity in the United States, wouldn't

we want to tell somebody? Wouldn't we want to warn somebody. Wouldn't we want to exercise charity and love for one another?

Enos, when he received his forgiveness, what is the first thing he did? He prayed for his fellow man. We find ourselves in this country, in this day, turning from God. The nation was founded on prayer. We've pretty much taken prayer out of the schools. There are some that still probably get by with it, that nobody has probably complained about it. But in this day and age, when we see this, don't we feel that we need to say something?

In this case, what are we going to do in the day of judgment of our nation? The book kind of points out that 9/11 was the shot across the bow. It was the same as the initial attack on the northern kingdom. They didn't respond, they didn't listen, and they didn't repent. Our country is not repenting. What is the call to the country? It is to return to God and His ways. Are we doing that as a nation? No.

What will we do in the day of judgment? I'm not talking specifically about our nation. I'm talking about individually. What will we do in the day of judgment? We promised here that we are going to keep his commandments and do His will and remember Him. Are we successful in that? How many days do we get away from this before we make a mistake? I know I don't get very far away from today before I fall off the mountain top, fall off my commitment of what I promised to do.

We have a tendency to judge ourselves by our own eyes. We can excuse ourselves a lot by judging ourselves by what we make up and not by God. The book I'm reading kind of talked about the Nazis. Did any of the Nazis really



think they were bad? They were good Nazis, upstanding, moral, Christian Nazis. But they were judging themselves by what they had decided and not by what God's judgment is.

When we sin, how far does that put us away from God? An infinite distance? How great is that judgment against us? An infinite judgment? How long is it going to take us to bridge the gap between our sins and what God expects? An infinite time? Eternity? What is it to be infinitely separated from our God?

To be infinitely separated from our God is hell. Separated totally from the spirit of God. So if we have an infinite separation from God, what does it take for us to come back? An infinite sacrifice? Is that something we can do, to reach out and say this is what is going to get me into heaven? No. It is the reverse. The infinite sacrifice is an undeserved gift for those who choose to worship, to humble themselves, to kneel before

Him and take Him as their Savior. It is the only way to bridge that infinite distance between us and God.

What will we do in the day of judgment? We are all going to stand before God. We are all going to be judged of what we have done and how we have acted. Will there be any excuses? I don't think so. He is going to know our hearts and minds.

We really won't have to say anything because we are going to know and we won't want to be in His presence once we realize the choices and mistakes we made and when we purposely separated ourselves from God.

Today we made a commitment. We promised God we would always remember Him, and through His infinite mercy and only through His forgiveness can we work the two of them out. Because of our human nature, we are going to make mistakes. It is through that infinite atonement that we bridge that gap between Him and us.



Ed Anderson



Remembering Jesus

Seventy Ron Smith
Lamoni, Iowa
October 6, 2013

I'd like to read for you from John 1:10-12 ...*the Son of God ...was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God; only to them who believe on his name.*

This morning we've come together to remember Jesus. I teach school, and I am giving a big test tomorrow morning at 8:00. Yesterday, as I was doing the review, I told my students they were going to need to know the trigonometric identities like

$$\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$$

(cosine squared theta plus sine squared theta equals one). Their question

was, "Why do we have to know that?" Maybe you have asked a similar question.

Sometimes students these days think, I've got a cell phone and I can ask Siri (the voice on the Apple iPhone) "Siri, what is cosine squared theta plus sine squared theta?" I haven't tried that yet, but if she can't find it she will at least look it up on the web and say, here's what I found on the web for you.

I think of that when I think about remembering Jesus. Can you imagine us at the judgment throne of God? He calls us forward and asks, "Do you remember Jesus?" We flip out our cell phone and we say, "Let me see... Jesus... Jesus... Oh yes. He was born at Christmas time ...and he was in Bethlehem ...and, let me see, he died ...and oh, yes he rose from the dead. Yes, I remember Jesus."

The problem is, that is not going to be the question. The test question I give is not going to be, "is cosine squared

theta plus sine squared theta equal to one?" What you need to be able to do on my test to be able to use that information to figure out something else.

When we get asked if we remember Jesus, it will not be enough to say, "Oh, I remember him. I read about him one time and I can look him up on the web and find out all kinds of things about him." The question will be, "Have you used your relationship to Jesus to help live your life? Have you put it into practice?"

I'd like to talk about remembering him in three ways and hopefully there will be a connection between our remembering him and how we are going to use this information in our lives in the next week or the next month or the next year. The first way to remember him is to recall what he has done. The scripture that I read says that Jesus created the whole earth. He was the creator. He made it all. He made you and



He made me and he came to us and we didn't receive Him. Some times we look at that scripture and say, oh those old people back then. They didn't receive Him. But the question is not about them. The question is about whether we are receiving Him. Yes, He made the earth. But there are other things He did besides that.

Three weeks ago I was at that retreat over in western Iowa and I got a real lesson in remembering what Jesus would do. My crew's task was to go up to the top of the hill where there is a big cross and cut down the cedar trees so that the cross could be seen from the campground. So we climbed the hill. I had a chainsaw and some others had a bow saw and some loppers. We cleared out the cedars around the cross.

On our way back down somebody said, "Here's a cedar that's going to be blocking our path pretty soon, maybe we need to take it out too." I sat down on the ground so I could reach underneath the lowest branches to cut off the trunk right at the bottom. I soon discovered that I was sitting right on a hornet's nest. They started stinging me. I didn't know what was happening at first, but I found out really fast.

By the time I got out of there, I was stung on my nose, on my cheek in several places, on my head and on my arm—I still have a little spot just to remind me. My lip was about three times the size it normally is. I went to the kitchen where there was some baking soda to put on my face. Cara Smith covered my face with baking soda plaster. As I left the kitchen, I had to walk through the dining area where some of the young children were having a class. I saw Sherman Phipps and Adam Gard and asked them to come over and administer to me. Sherm asked if we should go away from the kids. I said no, that the kids need to know that people get administered to from time to time. Their teacher was absolutely mortified as she was sure the kids would be terrified of my swollen face with all this white plaster all over it.

There were a number of hornets buzzing around there all the time so

she was afraid the kids were going to be really afraid. I was administered to. The kids said they were okay. One said, "he's been prayed for, so he's okay." Somebody gave me some Benedryl and I went to sleep. When I got up a couple of hours later, it felt as if someone had scraped skin off my face, but the swelling was basically down and by the end of the day there was hardly any swelling at all.

There was one little place on my cheek where there is still a spot, but it was basically gone. Not long before that, Di had gotten into some hornets at our house and she got stung on her legs, etc. and she was swollen for two weeks. I know everybody responds differently, but I was administered to and the Lord healed me. That's not the only time that he's done that, but that's one that I remember really well.

How many of you have been healed by the Lord? Raise your hands. Look around. I want you to see what the Lord has done. He heals us, and we can remember this morning the things that He has done. The Lord has given a helping hand many, many times. As I was trying to remember some of the testimonies, this one came to mind. It is not my own. It belongs to my sister Karen. I hope that telling it will help someone this morning.

Right after graduating from high school, my sister Karen went to Quebec, Canada, to study French. The first or second night, they put them all into vans and took them to a music concert. The concert was really, really loud, so Karen excused herself and walked outside the building. When the thousands of people left the concert, she missed seeing the people she was with. They got in the vans and left without her. Everybody was gone and she didn't know the address of the place she was staying.

She knew the university name but not the address where the dorms were. She bowed her head and prayed. She said that after she prayed, she felt someone take her by the hand and walk her down the steps toward the street. There was a taxi sitting there. The taxi driver

was standing outside the taxi and asked if he could help her. She said she didn't know, that she was there with the university. He said, I know where you go, get in. She got in the taxi and he drove her to the door of her dorm. She got out and said wait a minute, let me run in and get you money. He said that's okay and drove off. Does God take care of us? Yes He does.

Do you remember when God has taken care of you? Does he help you when you really need help?

I remember taking a test at the end of my senior year in high school. We had moved up to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan that year. Before graduating, everyone in the province took the same test at the end of the year. The tests were used for getting out of high school and getting into the university system there. We studied all year for those provincial exams.

A lot of the kids bought old exams, the last five or ten years worth, to try to memorize all the questions because some of those questions must surely be on the next exam. Some years they did have reasonably the same exam from year to year and some years they changed them all together. Buying the old exams was not cheating: the exams were available, but it did not seem quite right to me. I thought that for literature and history and so on we ought to just learn the subject material and let them ask us what they would.

Sure enough, the exam was totally different that year from the previous year's exams. I opened it up and there was a blank map of Canada with dots on it. We were supposed to tell what the names of the cities were. I had not studied the geography. I was so intent on getting to the history that I did not know the geography. I knew that Toronto was somewhere in Eastern Canada and Montreal was in Quebec, etc., but I did not know where all those places were. Now I always prayed and asked the Lord to help me remember the things I studied because intelligence is the glory of God. Being able to remember and recall and use your intelligence is something that glorifies God. So I



prayed that way.

Then I took my best guesses about what would be on the lake and what would be some place else. There wasn't much to work with but a few things could be narrowed down a bit. I did the rest of the test.

The next fall, after I came to Grace-land, I received a phone call. They said I had received the Governor General's award for the top marks on my exams over all in the province. One of my good buddies from school was the new class president. He called me up on the phone to interview me because I couldn't be there to get the award in person. They were going to give it to Mom and Dad. He said, Ron, how did you do it? I said, I prayed a lot. That was my answer because it really was through prayer. We remember those things that God has done.

The second way of remembering was brought to mind last night as Cede got excited about a book she has called "How to be a Christian in High School." It came from Isabel. (They are both smiling big here.) Cede wanted to read it to us. She started reading the first chapter. The man said that whenever he left home, his mother said, "Remember whose you are." We often said that to our boys as they were leaving the house. I've said both, "remember who you are" and "remember whose you are." Usually when I say "remember who you are" are Di says "and remember whose you are too." We try to get that message across to our charges. It was a great reminder that we need to remember whose we are.

The scripture I read this morning, John 1: 10-12, says that to everyone who believes on the name of Jesus, God has given the power to become the sons, (and I'll put in daughters) of God. The author of the book was saying we're all creatures of God, every single one of us, but we are not all children of God. The scripture says it's only those who believe on His name, whom He has given the power to become the sons of God.

When we remember whose we are, we need to remember that we belong to God. We belong to the creator of the universe. We belong to the one who

made the stars, the earth, the moon and everything around us, the animals, the plants, the things we eat, and the things we use. What difference should that make—whose we are? I was thinking about a discussion we had this week about guns and whether you should have one in your house or not. Some say everybody ought to have a gun because if everybody had a gun then everybody who came to shoot up schools would be stopped. Others say, can you imagine how many would be killed with friendly fire if everybody had a gun? Nobody would know who's shooting, and who the bad guys were. If you had your gun out and trained on the bad guy, someone else would say, he's got a gun, shoot him.

My observation is that whether or not a gun is good or bad depends on whose it is (and of course, what it is used for). The same gun that a policeman carries around to enforce the peace can also be used by the bad guys to rob the bank or to spread terror. It's the same gun. The question is, who is using it, and for what purpose.

Id like to suggest that it makes a difference whose we are. Let us read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20. *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? (If we remember whose we are, we are going to remember that our bodies are members of Christ.) shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What! know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man committeth is against the body of Christ, and he who committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

If we really belong to God, the things we do in our body as well as our spirit belong to God. It's not enough to just come and say, I belong to God so on Sunday I'm going to come and lis-

ten and pay attention in church. It's not enough to say, I belong to God so on Wednesday night I'm going to come to church and sing the right songs. Or I'm going to pray each day. If we belong to God, then what we do with our bodies has to glorify God.

Bob, when you are building things, it's not enough to say I'm going to build things so my family can have their food and insurance. Those things are important, but you are building things because you are a co-creator with God and you are helping to create the things that God wants on the earth. If you do it for that reason, you do it because God owns you. The guy that made everything owns you. He's using you to bring beauty and structure and all of those things you have talents to do, to the earth.

Sam, Cede, Isabel, Teegan, and all the rest of you who are in school, when you are learning all of those things in school and you are saying, why do I have to learn this, is that going to be on the test, that's not why you are learning it. You are learning it because God's glory is intelligence, light and truth. You are learning it because you are going to need to know how to think, how



Ron Smith



to react, how to use the knowledge He has given. It has got to be used for His glory.

The reason you are learning is because intelligence is the glory of God and if we are going to glorify God in our bodies, we have to be intelligent. We have to use our intelligence. We have to remember things. We have to exercise that ability.

Rob and Sherm, when you are sitting there judging people, you are not just doing that to have a job. You are doing it to glorify God because God is the judge. You are doing that to bring His righteousness to pass. We are commanded in the scriptures to do much to bring righteousness to pass. I know it is easy to lose track of the fact that judgement is about righteousness, but that is the heart of the matter. That's why we have to remember Him. That's why we have to remember whose we are.

Pat, Julie, Valle, those of you who are teachers. We are not doing that just to get a job done. We're not doing that just to make money. We're not doing that just to help the kids so they can make money when they get out of school. We are doing teaching because God has entrusted to us His most important creation.

The ones He loves the most are the children. He said, I want you to be part of their lives. I want you to bring to pass much righteousness within them. I want you to help them know about the wonders of the universe. I want you to help them know about the complexities of nations and the dilemmas they face. I want them to know about mathematics and the structure of the universe and the way to describe things and do things. All of that can glorify God. That's why you are there.

Sue, you get a chance to take care of people's bodies and help them with their minds. Gordon and Linda and those of you who are involved in the health professions, this is the thing the Lord has made. If we remember Him, if we remember whose we are, we can call on Him for help in doing those very things.

Linda, you work in a deli. You can prepare those things that God has helped bring to the earth to gladden the eye and please the heart and you can

bring joy and compassion and love to people's lives.

This is what it means to remember Him and to remember whose we are. If God owns us, He gives us the power to become the sons and daughters of His, which means that we are going to be new creatures. It means that we are not bound by the person we were. It doesn't matter what's happened to our past.

In a really powerful sermon, Eric Odida said, "We don't get to choose what family we are born into. We don't get to choose how rich we are going to be. We don't get to choose a lot of things about life, but there is one thing that we all get to choose and that thing is whether or not we are going to live in the Kingdom of God as children of God." Everybody gets to choose that.

We are asked to come and remember Him and remember whose we are so that we can live, not as we were in the past, but so we can break with the past, so we can become new. The scripture says we can become new creatures. We don't need to see ourselves as victims of the past any more. That's what God can do. He gives us the power to become His sons and daughters.

Finally we come to my third point about remembering. Often we think of remembering as the opposite of forgetting. This is the sense of the word "remember" when we remember the great things God has done, and when we remember whose we are. But there is another word that is opposite of "remember;" and that is "dismember." If you dismember something, you cut off the limbs. You take off the arms and legs and spread it apart.

The church at this moment is dismembered. Its parts are lying around. Its parts are separated from one another. Today, as we took communion, there were people all over the world taking part in the communion. They were all doing it for the same reason—to remember the body of Christ. You need to know that you are part of something that's bigger than just what is here in Mount Ayr.

You need to know that you are part of God's great work in restoring the House

of Israel and the covenants to the House of Israel in these latter days. When we begin to re-member, and when we put that first in our minds, we're going to understand that we are part of something that's bigger than our little group. It's going to give meaning and purpose to our lives. God doesn't command us to do very many things.

But He does command us to remember Him and come to this service and partake of the communion in remembrance of Him. Today I hope you will recall the great things He has done for you and I hope you'll remember whose you are when you go from here, when you go into school, when you go into the workplace, when you go to your homes, remember who created you and that because He owns you, you are responsible for using your body and your spirit for those things which would glorify God.

Finally, as we have opportunity to go to the conference this week, pray that we can remember whose we are, and pray that we will be engaged in the great work of bringing to pass the restoration of the covenants to the House of Israel in these latter days. May God bless you as you remember Him.





TEWA

Guarding Our Thoughts, Emotions, Words and Actions

Elder Steve Smith
Lamoni, Iowa
October 13, 2013

Today I am going to present for you the idea that there are four categories of actions or expressions that apply to our response to God.

These categories start with our: thoughts and emotions. Now some people think things thru prior to acting and some people just act on emotion. Your thoughts and emotions tend to overlap, but I will consider them as separate. Generally your words and actions follow your emotions and or thoughts. That is the reason love, as an emotion, is valued so highly in the scriptures.

Since I like acronyms, I will shorten thoughts, emotions, words, and actions and call them TEWA. I will attempt to convince you that God wants a response that requires all four of these categories integrated from you. (Four pieces of paper with one letter each are taped to the front of the podium, and are turned to reveal TEWA).

I will also present six trials with a reward. These are trials of your faith, or a test of your knowledge. Sometimes we are not prepared for trials of our faith, and things end up badly, but I will attempt to make this a rewarding experience. Anyone living with their parents may answer... and if you don't know the answer, you can ask your parents or any adult. Just like the promises from God, if you do your part correctly you will get a reward.

Trial Time #1: What does TEWA stand for?

A. Elyse Jordison raised her hand and she was called up to the front. Her answer was Thoughts, Emotions, Words and Actions. She proudly sat down

with her nickel.

Sin

These four things, TEWA, can be used for sin.

Mosiah 2:48-49 *And finally, I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I can not number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves (emotions), and your thoughts (thoughts), and your words (words), and your deeds (actions), and observe to keep the commandments of God (thoughts, emotions, words, and actions), and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish.*

Now watching yourselves may not be all emotional so I will add another scripture that indicates that emotions can also be a part of sin.

James 1:14-15 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (an emotion) and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

Trial Time #2: Name four ways you can sin that start with TEWA.

There was some excitement about who would get their hand up first and Sam Jordison got his hand up and was called upon...No one else raised their hand.

Sam Jordison correctly said: Thoughts, emotions, words, and deeds (making TEWD rather than TEWA). Sam got a nickel.

Treating our enemies

Now it is time to practice looking for the relationship of these in the scriptures. We will start with a promise about how you treat your enemies and hopefully your friends, parents, children, and siblings as a baseline.

Matthew 5:46-47 *But I say unto you, love your enemies (emotion); bless them that curse you (thoughts, emotions, words, and deeds); do good to them that hate you (actions); and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you (words); That ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven;*

All four elements are mentioned in how to treat your enemies.

But what if I do not feel like making it all consistent? What if my actions are inconsistent with my words...based on emotions? Let's read more about how to treat, or not treat, your enemies. Matthew 5:23-26 *Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time that, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill (action), shall be in danger of the judgment of God. But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother (emotions), shall be in danger of his judgment; and whosoever shall say (words) to his brother, Raca, or Rabcha, [Steven interrupted to ask if anyone had called someone Raca or Rabcha. No one had. Explained that it was a term of derision that meant "empty one", or utterly stupid, or loser"] shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say (words) to his brother, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. [Again Steven interrupted to confess that he had called folks fools, but once thought he was safe by not saying thou in front of it.] Therefore, if ye shall come unto me, or shall desire to come unto me, or if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, Leave thou thy gift before the altar, and go thy way unto thy brother, and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift*

Not killing them is not enough...avoiding the destructive thoughts, emotions, and name calling,



then taking the first step toward reconciliation is necessary to come to God.

What happens if my actions are inconsistent with my emotions?

Matthew 23:20 *Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cummin; and have omitted the weightier things of the law; judgment, mercy, and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

Paying tithing is important, but so is the judgment, mercy and faith...We must integrate our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions, or we become hypocrites.

What if my words or thoughts are inconsistent with my emotions and actions?

Mark 7:7-9 *He answered and said unto them, Well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written This people honoreth me with their lips(words), but their heart(emotion) is far from me. Howbeit, in vain do they worship me, teaching the doctrines and commandments of men (words). For laying aside the commandment of God (action), ye hold the tradition of men; the washing of pots and of cups; and many*



Steven Smith

other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Yea, altogether ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

To be acceptable to God, we must integrate our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions in accordance with his commandments.

What if my emotions and words are good, but inconsistent with my actions?

Alma 16:219-224 *Yea, humble (emotions) yourselves, and continue in prayer (words) unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid- day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you. And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, Do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need; I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith;*

Here we describe an individual who prays always for everything, and that is admirable, but whose actions are inconsistent with constant prayer and he is labeled as a hypocrite.

It takes an integration of your thoughts, emotions, words, and actions both to do that which good and avoid that which is bad to avoid sin

Trial Time #3: Which four types of conditions do you need to integrate to prove one of God's promises?

This time Josh and Elyse both had hands up. They were called up and both

given a chance to answer, and both got a nickel. (The answer was: Thoughts, Emotions, Words, and Actions)

Steven explained that like God, all who respond can get rewarded. Soon we had many more willing to come and answer the same question and get their reward.

DC 59:2a-e *Wherefore I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart (emotion), with all thy might, mind (thoughts), and strength (action) and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him. Thou shalt not steal (negative action); neither commit adultery (negative action), nor kill (negative action), nor do anything like unto it (action). Thou shalt thank (words) the Lord thy God in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice (action) unto the Lord thy God in righteousness; even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit (emotion) .*

I wondered why "might" was reiterated by the word strength, so I looked it up in the dictionary of etymology, which tells where a word came from. Might has two meanings that came from different words

Old English- mihte/ meahte- is a verb and the past tense of may (at one time Megan) meaning "possibility" The archaic form turned to a noun meant possibility.

We also have the proto Germanic noun, "makhti"- to be able, to have power...or "bodily strength"

I tend to like the idea of loving the Lord with all your "possibility", although that is a long shot for meaning.

Trial Time #4: What four ways do we show we love God?

Again a bevy of respondents eagerly volunteered to answer the question and were handsomely rewarded with a nickel each. The answer was "Thoughts, Emotions, Words, and Actions".

Repentance

We are to use TEWA when looking at the promises; when learning; when judging; when avoiding sin; when using faith; but most of the TEWA scriptures indicate that we should integrate TEWA when we are repenting.

Thus, When we repent we must change our:



Josh and Elyse Jordison answer one of the trials correctly for the nickels Steven Smith was giving away during the sermon.

Thoughts (3 examples)

DC 16:7b *and by your hands I will work a marvelous work among the children of men, unto the convincing of many of their sins (changing thoughts), that they may come unto repentance, and that they may come unto the kingdom of my Father;*

Alma 19:112 *And now, my son, I desire that ye should let these things trouble you no more, and only let your sins trouble you (change in thoughts), with that trouble which shall bring you down unto repentance.*

Mosiah 11:139-140 *Yea, and as often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me. And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses (thought change): for verily I say unto you, He that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repented, the same hath brought himself under condemnation.*

In fact if you have accepted Christ's atonement for you, you must accept that Christ died for others too. God will not force you to forgive, but you remain un-

forgiven until you repent by forgiving, at which time you will be forgiven. If you do not accept that, then you are committing the unforgivable sin, a sin against the Holy Ghost which otherwise blesses you when you repent, you will remain in that sin until you repent.

Being convinced of sin, letting your sins trouble you, and forgiving others are all examples of changes in thought that can be done when you repent.

Emotions (3 examples)

3 Nephi 5:66 *And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. (emotional change)*

Alma 17: 66 *Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ: teach them to humble (change emotions) themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart (change emotions); teach them to withstand every temptation (thoughts) of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ;*

DC 28:12d *for they can not be redeemed from their spiritual fall, because they love not (not love... an emotion), for they will love darkness rather than light, and their deeds are evil, and they receive their wages of whom they list to obey.*

Words (3 examples)

D&C 18:2k *wherefore, I command you again to repent, lest I humble you by my almighty power, and that you confess your sins (change words), lest you suffer these punishments of which I have spoken, of which in the smallest, yea, even in the least degree, you have tasted at the time I withdrew my Spirit.*

Steven said; "A friend and I were having a discussion about a couple who had lived together and then got married. I held that they had repented. He suggested that they needed to confess before the church because they lived together in public. I suggested that it did not serve a purpose to state details since the sin was inferred as it had not been witnessed. I maintained that it was placing a stumbling block in the way



of these (spiritual) little ones to extract such a public confession. One of the effects of confession is that the confessor no longer deludes themselves as to what is sin...public confession can come with time. So although there are many examples of how to integrate TEWA when we repent they remain examples that point to the greater concept. The importance is in the integration of the change of your TEWA. "

Steven went and turned off the light to make an analogy. We were in darkness. He knew the light would go on if he flipped the switch. He loved the light. It was not necessary for him to confess that he had chosen darkness... He talked about his preference for having light. He flipped on the light as an analogy to repentance.

Mosiah 2:16 *And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart (change words) that he would forgive you:*

DC 83:8b *And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say (words), but to do according to that which I have written*

Confessing, asking (through prayer) and speaking according to the commandments are all ways that our words are affected as we repent.

Actions

D&C 58:9d *By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins. Behold, he will confess them and forsake them (actions).*

Jeremiah 26:13 *Therefore now, amend your ways and your doings, and obey (actions) the voice of the Lord your God, and repent, and the Lord will turn away the evil that he hath pronounced against you*

Acts 26:20 *But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance (actions).*

Forsaking sin, amending your doings, obeying the Lord, and doing the

works meet for repentance, are all actions that accompany repentance.

Trial Time #5: When you repent, what four things must be changed?

Again many got up with the correct answer (Thoughts, Emotions, Words, and Actions) and got a nickel apiece, although the reward was not enough to get some of the older children back up.

When you repent, and the Lord forgives you and gives you his Spirit, the Spirit changes us. We can group that change into four categories.

Thoughts

We get knowledge (thoughts), as in Alma's faith experiment in Chapter 16, where faith is used to grow the word, and there are actions to make sure that it continues to grow (repentance). In the end we get knowledge.

Emotions

The Spirit changes some thoughts and emotions, sometimes enumerated as the fruit of the spirit... the love, joy, peace, long suffering, goodness, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance, all righteousness, goodness, and truth.

If you choose to be baptized as Elyse is doing today we find that baptism for remission of sins further changes our words and actions. Now I hold that there is a difference between forgiveness from sin and remission of sins, but that is a topic for another day. So remission of sins allows us to change our:

Words

The Spirit gives us the gifts of the spirit...this has overlap with the fruit of the spirit (love) and the power of the spirit (healing).

Actions

Our actions are awarded to us as the power of the Spirit... so we can move mountains.

Trial Time #6: When we are blessed by the Spirit, after repenting, list four things that change that we sometimes call knowledge, fruit of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, and power of the Spirit?

Again, many respondents, came up and supplied the congregation with the proper response of Thoughts, Emotions, Words, and Actions. All were rewarded.

Salvation

People have argued that salvation is

given by God's grace once you believe, but we also know that we are judged by your works.

Many people throw out some of the scriptures to make their point.

If you say that you are saved by grace, you are correct. However, if your belief is that accepting Christ saves you, without further repentance, because you already have salvation when you sin, you need to repent. This is the unforgivable sin, for God will not force you to be forgiven. Remember however, that God will forgive you when you repent. Not integrating works with your words is destructive to you.

Belief that going out and doing a few good things (works) without integrating the thoughts, emotions words, and actions, won't save you either.

If you believe that you must incorporate and integrate TEWA, you cannot believe without doing something about it.

2 Nephi 11:44 *For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, (with the condition) after all we can do.*

Now its trial time again, (a sense of anticipation among the respondents caused a shuffle through the audience) but

You get to ask the questions.

You get to discover the answers. If you cannot find the answers you get to ask for help and look in the scriptures, ask God, ask your parents, ask the priesthood (especially the Aaronic priesthood), or ask any one in the church.

You get to choose to change your Thoughts, Emotions, Words, and Actions to meet the conditions of each promise because God gave you agency.

Then God will reward you through his Spirit, as you find the answers...

learning line upon line, and precept upon precept.

Finally, let me close with this last scripture

Luke 11:14 *If ye then, being evil (and this is talking about me), know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give good gifts, through the Holy Spirit, to them who ask him.*





Here I Am, Lord

High Priest
Sherman Phipps
Lamoni, Iowa
October 20, 2013

As a call to worship, Priest Ed Anderson shared Helaman 5:85-86. *And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge, and he hath made you free; He hath given unto you that ye might know good from evil, and he hath given unto you that ye might choose life or death, and ye can do good and be restored unto that which is good, or have that which is good restored unto you; or ye can do evil, and have that which is evil restored unto you.*

Ed Anderson shared that he had learned something Saturday. "I was out cutting wood. I had a chainsaw but the blade wasn't long enough for what I needed so I bought a 25 inch blade. I slapped the new blade and the chain on and went to the tree where I was cutting. I put the saw down to the tree but it just cleaned off the bark. I thought what's wrong with this chainsaw? Then I wondered if I had put that chain on backwards and sure enough I had. It's kind of like we are sometimes with our relationships and our worship, we have our chain on backwards. Maybe we should all see if we can turn our chains around and get ourselves all together and someday when we have all of our chains turned the right way, Zion will be."

Chris Cunningham was ordained to the office of Teacher by Elders John Mundy and Eldon Cunningham prior to the message by Brother Sherman.

Well, Chris, I am going to kind of address my remarks to you today. But in a sense, I hope, if the Spirit allows it,

that my remarks will address all of you because what we are dealing with here today in relationship to Chris is a covenant that he makes with the Lord. All of us here have made a covenant with the Lord. Some of us have made more than one covenant. I hope what I say, if the Lord will direct me, is relevant to all of you and you won't feel like I'm excluding anyone.

I wanted to start, Chris, by reading Doctrine and Covenants 17:11. I'm sure you've read this a number of times and perhaps discussed it with others. Before I read this I want to also say that I hope when you go home today you will take the bulletin for today's service and you will keep track of the hymns that we have sung (Praise Him, Praise Him #68; Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling #381; The Voice of God is Calling #394; and Send me Forth, O Blessed Master #424), and read the words of these songs as well as the scriptures that will be so important to you. I don't know how anyone other than the Lord could have directed the selection of those songs and what they say. I'm also very grateful as I stand up here for the prayers that were offered in your ordination this morning. I hope that you heard those. I am sure that they are being recorded and will be printed off for you. I heard a number of things in those prayers that I had felt as I tried to prepare for this morning.

Section 17:11a-f says, *The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and be with, and strengthen them, and see that there is no iniquity in the church, neither hardness with each other; neither lying, backbiting, nor evil speaking; and see that the church meet together often, and also see that all the members do their duty, and he is to take the lead of meetings in the absence of the elder or priest, and is to be assisted always, in all his duties in the church, by the deacons, if occasion requires; but neither teachers nor deacons have authority to baptize, administer the sacrament, or lay on*

hands; they are, however, to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.

Chris, when I was about 16 I was ordained to the office of Teacher. I read those words and thought how in the world could a 16 year-old do these things. It became very, very clear to me that I, personally, could not do those things except by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, I began to try to understand how I could have the Holy Spirit in my life at all times. I am not saying that I accomplished that then or now, but I really began to struggle with how to have the Holy Spirit with me all the time because I could not do these things and you cannot do these things except you have the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit.

There's another thing that struck me. I don't know how important this will be to anyone else but in Section 80 of the Doctrine and Covenants paragraph 1 starting with g which was speaking to the High Priests. . . . *wherefore, be faithful, stand in the office which I have appointed unto you, succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees.* It goes on and you might want to read the rest of it but as I considered what it says to the Teacher and to the High Priest (apart from the fact that it says you're not to have the authority to baptize and administer the Sacrament or lay on of hands), it appears to me that your duties as well as the High Priests and probably all of the priesthood are very similar in nature. They all go back, and I heard this in your grandfather's prayer, to being a servant.

In fact, your grandfather in his prayer used the very words that I had written down here in my notes to the effect that your ordination today, the covenant that you make with the Lord, and again all of us have covenanted, but these covenants that we make with the Lord are not about our becoming a hero. They are not about somehow



gaining God's attention and saying, 'Look what I'm doing for you,' because obviously we do nothing for Him unless He allows and enables us to. Anything we do that we might say is for Him is from Him and so there's nothing in this for us in terms of glory for ourselves.

In fact, I hope you will be very cautious. Maybe I'm speaking to myself here a little bit because over the years I think there have been times when I wanted to serve so badly because somehow I wanted the Lord to recognize me as His servant. That's not what it's about. In fact, as I thought about that I was reminded of the scriptures that talk about Lucifer in the beginning when he was speaking with God and he said, 'Send me, I'll make sure nobody's lost but I get the honor and the glory.' We have to be very careful that that's not our motivation, that our motivation is centered in God's charity and His love for His children, our charity and love for our brothers and sisters, and our concern for their souls that their souls not be lost.

This calling is about being a servant, a shepherd to the Master's flock. Again, I don't know how you could have picked a better song, Lynda. It's about holding His children in your heart like Jesus does, and, of course, Jesus is our main example. I'm sure you are familiar with some of the people in the scriptures who held the Lord's people in their hearts because I think you have read your scriptures. I hope you will continue to do that. I want to mention a couple of these people in the scriptures who understood this and who have left a record for us.

One of those is Alma. You probably know the story of how he had been out in the mission field for a long period of time. When he came back he met with some of his other brothers who had also been out in the mission field. In visiting with them, he says, *O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of mine heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people; Yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder, repentance, and the plan of redemption, that they should repent and come unto*

our God, that there might be no more sorrow upon all the face of the earth. (Alma 15:52-53) I hope this will be the desire of your heart also. That you will find this real true desire for the welfare and redemption of The souls of mankind, your brothers and sisters. Then Alma goes on and says, *But behold, I am a man, and do sin in my wish; for I ought to be content with the things which the Lord has allotted unto me.* (54)

I hope you will be sensitive to this too, Chris. Again I am looking at my own experience. I couldn't tell you how many times I've prayed and said, 'Lord, let me do your work, let me serve your people,' and then turned around, most often in my relationship to Cheryl or maybe my kids and said, 'I don't want to do that! I am too busy.' I forget that every contact with the people around me is an opportunity to serve Him if I'm sensitive to His Spirit. We ought to be content with the things which the Lord allots unto us. There's no telling what that will be. I don't know what He will allot unto you, Chris, but it's kind of neat for me to be here today and to look at you and to say to myself, there is somebody coming along behind me who hopefully will be dedicated and committed and will fulfill his covenant to serve the Lord's people as the Lord will allow him to do, whether it's in little ways or big ways.

Alma says, *I ought not to harrow up in my desires, the firm decree of a just God, for I know that he granteth unto men according to their desire, whether it be unto death or unto life. . .*(55) This is true for you this morning also, Chris. He offers this to everybody but he offers unto you also the choice between life and death. But, he also has called you to make sure that others know that they have that choice. We didn't read the Call to Worship out loud but I thought it was interesting that that's what the Call to Worship's says too.

Alma goes on and says, *I know that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable, according to their wills; whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction; Yea, and I know that good and evil have come before all men; or he that knoweth not*

good from evil is blameless; but he that knoweth good and evil, (which you and I do, Chris) to him it is given according to his desires; (The Lord will give you, if you participate in this ministry unto which He has called you, if you are obedient unto His words, He will give you what you desire. That's a promise.) whether he desireth good or evil, life or death, joy or remorse of conscience. Now seeing that I know these things, (maybe I should say, 'seeing that we know these things') why should I desire more than to perform the work to which I have been called? (55-57)

I hope that you will find that you don't desire anything more than that which the Lord calls you to. The world is full of things that would try to distract you and get your attention. The adversary, because you have responded to this call, will try very hard to distract you and overcome you but my prayer would be that that would not happen. My prayer for all of you who have made covenants with the Lord is that you will remember those covenants and that you will not become tired or weary and overcome but that you will fulfill those covenants.

In verse 61 Alma says, *Yea, and this is my glory, (to the extent that we have glory) that perhaps I may be an instrument in the hands of God, to bring some soul to repentance; and this is my joy.* Chris, as you fulfill this covenant that you have made here this morning which is really an ongoing thing, an extension of the covenant that you already made at baptism, you will, in fact, experience this joy that comes from serving the Lord and watching Him reach out to your brothers and sisters and being a part of that.

Another person in the scriptures that I think understood what it meant to be a servant is Nephi. In the particular situation which I will reference this morning, Nephi had the privilege of hearing the voice of the Lord speak to him. Chris, if you humble yourself and you continue to study, be faithful and steadfast and to obey the Lord's commandments, you'll hear His voice also. He will speak to you when you need to hear Him. There are those who would



say that God does not speak in this day and age and that's not true. He speaks in every day and age to those who will listen but in this case He was speaking to Nephi. He says in Helaman 3:115-117, *Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou hast done; for I have beheld how thou hast with unwearyingness declared the word which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but have sought my will, and to keep my commandments. And now because thou hast done this with such unwearyingness, . . .*

Chris, the Lord would promise us just as He promised Nephi when he said, *.... behold, I will bless thee for ever; and I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; yea, even that all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word.* These are promises to those who fulfill the covenants that they make with the Lord and it's your promise today, Chris, that you can expect that the Lord will bless you forever, that He will make you mighty in word and in deed and in faith and in works as He has need of you to be mighty in those things for the sake of His people. Even to the point that all things shall be done according to your word inasmuch as the Lord directs you in those words.

Chris, none of us have any way of knowing as we sit here today what fulfilling our covenant will mean in terms of what we will be called upon to do. You don't know how you and your life, when you respond to the Lord and let Him work with you and through you, will influence those people around you, the people who come after you as well as those that walk with you. I know that you are being deployed to Kosovo. I don't have any idea what that means. I've never been there but the Lord has been there from the beginning and He knows what you are going to deal with and He knows what will be expected of you and exacted of you. He will go before you if you obey Him and submit yourself unto Him and follow where He leads you.

You can be, as all of us can be when we fulfill our covenants, an instrument in His hands in ways that you may never

have imagined, in ways that I may never have imagined. You have no idea who will need you. Maybe it will just be an encouraging word or a hand on the shoulder. Maybe it will be more than that but if you are sensitive to the Spirit He will lead you and guide and direct you. Maybe you can be an instrument in His hands for assisting your brothers and sisters in fulfilling the covenants that they have made with the Lord and in bringing those who have not made those covenants yet to Him that they might enter into those covenants and that they might also fulfill their covenants and become that which the Lord created them to be.

When I think about all that, Chris, I wonder what would it take to enable all of us to be effective servants? One of the first things, of course, that probably pops into all of our minds is the need to study His words. We need to know what His word is. There's not much sense in Him speaking to us if we've ignored all the other words that He's given us and laid before us all of our lives. I'm grateful to know that you have studied your scriptures. That's my impression anyhow.

I would encourage you to continue to study the scriptures even as you go to Kosovo. I don't know what everybody else over there is going to be doing, probably not studying their scriptures, but you may find a few. My own experience is that if I spend my time studying the scriptures instead of engaging in all those other worldly activities that other people normally engage in the Lord really blesses me. Sometimes it's little things. You know the scripture that says He will teach you line upon line, precept upon precept. He'll do that. You will be going along in your daily activities, and you may not at the that moment be consciously thinking, 'I'm a Teacher and I need to be carrying these people in my heart.'

You may not be consciously thinking that but He will teach you moment to moment little things that you need to know, truth that will sustain you and uphold you and allow you to serve those around you. He'll do that and it will be constant and you'll be amazed at what

He shows you and how He opens your eyes.

Another big thing, of course, is prayer. There are several scriptures that deal with prayer and how important it is. I'm sure you have read those too but let's look at 2nd Nephi 14:11-12. *For if ye would hearken unto the spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray: for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. But behold I say unto you, that ye must pray always, and not faint: that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.*

If you feel like you're too busy to pray or if you are just worn out and can't bring yourself to do it, don't let that happen. The adversary is the one who will try to discourage you and keep you from praying but the Spirit of the Lord will always prompt you to pray. When you do pray He will be responsive to that prayer. It might not be the way in which you had thought He would respond but He will be responsive.

That reminds me of another thing I wanted to be sure and say this morning, Chris. There are several scriptures that



Sherman Phipps



talk about how all things work for good for the Lord's people if they remember Him and worship Him and obey His commandments. It's said a couple of different ways in different places.

My own experience in life has been that no matter how bad things look and no matter how much I might say, 'Why me?' that if I don't forget to look to the Lord and put my faith in Him and continue to pray unto Him and obey His commandments somehow they do work to good. It's amazing. That's happened to me with a number of things that I would never have believed could possibly work to good but when I didn't lose my faith and continued to look to the Lord and tried to submit to Him, He turned them around and they did work to good for me just like He promised. All of His promises are absolutely sure and without question.

There's another scripture that I had here that talks about prayer. I'm sure that you are familiar with it and I probably don't need to read it to you but it talks about praying over everything, absolutely everything in your life. I don't know what that will include, Chris. I don't know what will come up. I don't know the decisions you'll have to make. There are some obvious ones that most of us end up making with respect to occupation and choosing a companion. If you choose a companion and end up with a family you'll have lots of questions about how to address issues with your children. All of those things you need to take to the Lord in prayer.

Again, there are those who would say that's foolishness that He really doesn't hear you and won't really respond. My experience has been that He hears every word. Again, He doesn't always respond like I had hoped or thought but that's because He's a lot smarter and wiser than I am and He has a plan.

There's one prayer that I had in particular. I prayed about that particular issue for years and I couldn't figure out why He wouldn't answer me. Then I realized that He had. He was working on this thing long before I even started praying about it and He directed it. He went ahead of me and He did answer

that prayer. In fact, He had answered it even before I thought to offer the prayer.

During your grandfather's ordination prayer this morning he talked about the Lord working with you from the time that you were a child. I'm sure, Chris, that that's true. He has been working with you probably even before you were born and came upon this earth. He's prepared you for a specific service but it's up to you whether or not you accept the call. It's up to you day-to-day whether or not you live according to His will and His commands and allow Him to work with you as He's willing to do.

Section 83:4e talks about how John the Baptist was ordained unto his calling for a specific purpose even from the time that he was eight days old if I remember correctly. I'm going to suggest to you, Chris, that no matter what happens to you from this day forward, you can know that God knew what was going to happen before it happened and He's prepared a way for you if you will look to Him and be faithful to deal with and address every issue that comes up. Again, this isn't just for you. This is so that you can be a servant to His people and available to draw others unto the Lord.

Let's look at another scripture in Section 83:6c. I hope you will hear these words. *For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies.* If you live in such a way that you can have His Holy Spirit to be with you always you can expect even a renewing of your body, both physically and spiritually. It's all spiritual to God. It goes on and says that those who are faithful in obtaining these two priesthoods, become the sons of Moses and of Aaron, and the seed of Abraham, and the church and kingdom and the elect of God. This is a promise to you, Chris.

And again becoming the elect of God doesn't mean being lifted up. You know the scriptures that say to whom much is given much is required so being the elect of God I believe means you will be allowed to serve. It means

you will have the privilege of serving with your Heavenly Father and being His son and receiving much great joy when you return unto Him in heaven or Zion.

This scripture goes on and talks about how important it is for you to keep this covenant you have made today and fulfill it. He talks about how the covenant cannot be broken. When you first read it, it almost sounds like there is a conflict because it says here's what happens if you break the covenant but then it says it can't be broken. I think what it's saying is you might decide you are no longer going to respond to the covenant but it's still there. As between you and God there's still a covenant. He will require an accounting of you and of each one of us. You might sometime read Section 83:6-7.

Christ is our example. He's the one we look too. He's the one that will show us the way that we need to walk in all things. Again, you are going to get tired of me saying this but I want you to remember that it's not just for us that He does this. He does it for the accomplishing of His will upon the earth and for the bringing to pass the salvation of the souls of all of His creation. As you deal with various people throughout the years in your ministry, some of them will seem very weak to you but they are His children and He didn't create anyone with the idea that they were inferior and not important. They are all important to Him. This is your calling to care for His people and to assist them and help them that they might fulfill their covenants, and as Lynda sang to hold His people in your heart.

Section 87:6e says *Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good, if ye walk uprightly, and remember the covenant wherewith ye have covenanted one with another.* All of us have a responsibility in this covenant to uphold one another.

May the Lord bless you, Chris, as you strive to be His servant and may you have great joy in bringing His people to a knowledge of Him and the plan of salvation which He has set before all of His children.





Blessed are they who seek to bring forth Zion

Priest Jim Barber

Bethany, Missouri

October 27, 2013

For his scripture reading, Jim Barber opened with 1 Nephi 3:187-189:

And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;

And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;

And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

I've got some good news to share with you first. Those of you who were at prayer service Wednesday night, Dick Hahn said that his granddaughter was going to be playing in the state championship softball game. He offered a prayer that all of the teams would be safe and they would all play their very best. I heard on the news this morning that Maysville won, but that it was a very close game, so evidently both the teams played well but Maysville came out victorious. So next time you see Dick, you can tell him we shared in the blessing of his prayer.

I'd like to talk this morning about Lehi's vision. It seems like every time I start reading the Book of Mormon I get into the second chapter of Nephi and enjoy reading Lehi's vision. It always seems like I learn more each time that I read it.

Lehi had a vision and then Nephi had a similar vision, but Nephi's vision went into more detail to explain what Lehi had seen.

What allowed Lehi to have this vi-

sion? He was a man just like us, but yet he was a man who was told by God that he needed to move his family out of Jerusalem because it was going to be destroyed. God promised him that he would be sent to another land, which would be a blessing above all other lands.

So I think that Lehi was a very faithful man. He asked God several times and I think that was why he was allowed to see this vision. Sometimes we think about why we don't see these visions or have these dreams. Maybe its because we are not seeking them, or maybe its because we are not spiritually ready to see them.

If you want to turn to the vision to follow along, it's in First Nephi, Second Chapter, beginning about with verse 42. I'm not going to read it all. I'm going to read portions of it and point some things out this morning.

Lehi said:

And behold, because of the thing which I have seen, I have reason to rejoice in the Lord because of Nephi, and also of Sam; for I have reason to suppose that they, and also many of their seed, will be saved. 1 Nephi 2:42

Wouldn't that make you feel really good if you could see into the future and know that all of your children were going to be saved? But in the next verse it says he feared for Laman and Lemuel, and wouldn't it make you feel equally bad to believe that some of your children would be lost?

In verses 44 to 45 Lehi says he saw a personage that was dressed all in white. This personage was leading him and all at once it became dark and dreary and he became afraid, so he called upon God. It kind of reminds me of Joseph Smith Jr.'s experience when he went into the grove seeking for God's

guidance. He saw a personage also and it became dark, so he was afraid and he called upon God and that darkness was lifted.

Lehi said he traveled for the space of many hours and then prayed to God and the darkness was lifted and in verse 48-49 it says:

And it came to pass after I had prayed unto the Lord, I beheld a large and spacious field.

And it came to pass that I beheld a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.

What to you think that fruit was? If you turn over to 3 Nephi 3:63-65 it was explained to Nephi.

Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?

And I answered him, saying, Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore it is the most desirable above all things.

And he spake unto me, saying, Yea, and the most joyous to the soul.

We often think how great will be our joy if we bring one soul to Christ. There is no greater joy.

Now back to Lehi's vision.

And it came to pass that I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof; and I beheld that it was most sweet above all that I ever before tasted.

Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.

And as I partook of the fruit thereof, it filled my soul with exceeding great joy; Wherefore I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit. 1 Nephi 2:50-51

He said he looked he saw a river of water a little way off. There he saw Sariah, Nephi and Sam and invited them



to come eat of the fruit and they did. Then says he saw Laman and Lemuel and invited them to come take part of the fruit, but they would not.

Again how sorrowful that would be to think that maybe your children would be lost and not obey God's commandments.

And I beheld a rod of iron; and it extended along the bank of the river, and led to the tree by which I stood.

And I also beheld a straight and narrow path, which came along by the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood;

And it also led by the head of the fountain unto a large and spacious field, as if it had been a world; 1 Nephi 2:62-64

And what was this rod of iron?

And it came to pass that I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life.

And I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God. 2 Nephi 3:69-69.

I've got the three books up here and this is the rod of iron. If you just hang on to this rod of iron and don't stop once in awhile and look at what's inside, it might not get you there. This is God's word, but you have to read it and ask God to give you the understanding of what you read.

It goes on and says in verses 68 to 70:

And it came to pass that I beheld others pressing forward, and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron;

And they did press forward through the mist of darkness, clinging to the rod of iron, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed.

Why would you be ashamed? This is the love of God. It kind of reminds me of the parable of the sower in Matthew where the sower goes out and throws seed out. Some of them landed on rocky soil and some of them landed among thistles and were choked out.

The ones that landed in the rocks took root but weren't strong enough to survive and they fell away.

That's the way it is with the rod of iron. You just hang on and start moving and don't really know the scriptures or the word of God, then you fall away. A lot of times we are afraid to say that we are believers because someone might label us as a "Jesus Freak" or a "churchy" or something. I'm not sure what the kids say now but it's what the kids said when I was growing up any way.

There's been a number of times in my life after I joined this church and knew about the Book of Mormon -- I'm not sure I had a real good understanding for awhile since I was a convert into the church -- but when I would see people and they would ask me where I went to church, I was a little hesitant to tell them because then I'd have to explain what the Book of Mormon was and what we believed. I just wasn't quite ready for that. So I guess in a sense, I was ashamed. But I hope I've outgrown that.

Continuing our story in verses 71-72:

And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld on the other side of the river of water a great and spacious building;

And it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth;

Then in Nephi's vision -- 1 Nephi 3: 93-95 it gives us this interpretation.

And I beheld that they were in a large and spacious building, like unto the building which my father saw.

And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying, Behold the world and the wisdom thereof;

And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world;

And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying, Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The building was filled with all ages of people who were dressed very richly and who were mocking and pointing their fingers at those who were eating the fruit. Here again some of these peo-

ple who came up to the tree looked and saw the people in this building pointing their fingers -- sometimes this is hard to overcome. But you have to. But as I said, you have to know what is in the scriptures. You have to believe and stand up for that belief.

Again in Lehi's vision verse 76:

And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

I'd like to share with you and experience that happened to me. I'm not quite sure how it fits into this but it's something that's been on my mind. You remember several weeks ago we went to Des Moines to see the movie "Unstoppable." I had some good thoughts and some bad thoughts about it, but in all I thought it was good.

The next morning I was out unloading some wood when I saw this red van slow down going down the road. I thought maybe it was Norman and Cathy that were going by and coming in to visit. It wasn't Norman and Cathy, it was the Jehovah's Witnesses.

I don't know if I've got a mark on my mailbox or something that says the Jehovah's Witnesses are welcome here or what, but it seems like they stop by quite often.

I always kind of enjoy visiting with them, and they always have a scripture that they want to share with you. The scripture they were talking about was in Psalms 34 -- I'll read part of it.

They looked unto him, and were lightened; and their faces were not ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psalm 34:5-8

It was just interesting to me that they were talking about when bad things happen to good people, God is always there. That's what I got out of the movie too. God is always there no mat-



ter what happens to you.

I just felt like God was directing me to say something to them, so to begin with I told them that God was definitely with me. They hadn't heard my testimony, because actually the guy who was talking to me was from Massachusetts. There were three women with him

I said several years ago I got my hand caught in a corn picker. I was there by myself, no one around. All I could do was holler and finally I prayed to God. I said, "God, if you want me to live, send someone to help me." And I told them there were two men who came to my rescue immediately after I said those words.

They were astonished by that testimony. And I said not only did they save me, but through something I said to them, they started going to church too. I said that those men still come to my place and stay at my cabin and go hunting. They've been there on and off for the last two weeks.

Then I went on and was talking some more. I'm not sure what I did say. One of them said, it seems like you know your scriptures. I said "I don't know them all, but I try to study. But I also study the Book of Mormon."

Well that was kind of a shock to them. Then I explained to them what I thought the Book of Mormon represented. It was for the convincing of both the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God.

And I said if you read the Book of Mormon you can't deny what is in there because it proclaims Jesus Christ, his gospel and his kingdom and he wants everyone to be a part of his kingdom.

Continuing on with Lehi's vision, 1 Nephi 2:79-81 it says:

But, to be short in writing, behold, he saw other multitudes pressing forward; and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.

And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards that great and spacious building.

And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain; And many were lost from his view, wandering in strange roads.

And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards that great and spacious building.

And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain; And many were lost from his view, wandering in strange roads.

And in verse 85 it says

And Laman and Lemuel partook not of the fruit.

Then in the third chapter of 1 Nephi, verse 254 it says:

And I bear record, that I saw the things which my father saw, and the angel of the Lord did make them known unto me.

If you haven't read this account for awhile, I would encourage you to go back and read it. You can read both of them, but Nephi's vision went a lot further than that which is recorded in Lehi's vision. In Nephi's vision he saw the birth of Christ, he saw the virgin Mary, and how it would all take place that Jesus would be born -- the son of God. He saw John the Baptist (or one that came to prepare the way and who baptized Jesus) and it goes on to talk about the crucifixion.

Nephi's vision is still going on today, because he saw this seed, how they dwindled in unbelief. But he saw the promise that in the last days God would come to them again, and that knowledge of the covenants with them would come through the Gentiles. He saw also how the Gentiles would come to the New World as people seeking religious freedom. The Church of England of that time and the Catholic Church didn't want the people to have scriptures. They were dictated to by the church leaders. That's when a lot of the Reformationists came forward. They did a great work, getting the Bible interpreted into the modern languages of the time and got the scriptures into the hands of the people. They were persecuted because of that and some of them lost their lives.

That's one of the reasons they came to the Americas -- for freedom of re-

ligion. They wanted to be here where they could try to live out their religion as they felt led to do. But Nephi saw all this, and that the people would be decimated when the Gentiles came, and that has all happened. What hasn't happened yet is for us as Gentiles to take the gospel back to the Lamanites. It says in there that we need to tell them that they are part of the house of Israel. How can we do that? Do you remember the scripture that I read in the beginning?

And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;

And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;

And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be. 1 Nephi 3:187-189

Until we have become so spiritually minded and so close to God that nothing can lead us away from God -- like the things that led people away in the dream that we still have today -- we won't be answering this call. It seems



Jim Barber



like we can find time to do all sorts of things but we don't find the time to follow Jesus like we should. Until we come to that time, we will not be allowed to have God's Spirit in the power needed to fulfill his work.

I hate to mention this, because last

year I mentioned this on kind of the same topic -- the law of tithing. We're not doing very well, but we are doing worse now than we did a year ago. We need to be filing our tithing statements and paying our tithing. We can't be blessed if we do not follow God's prom-

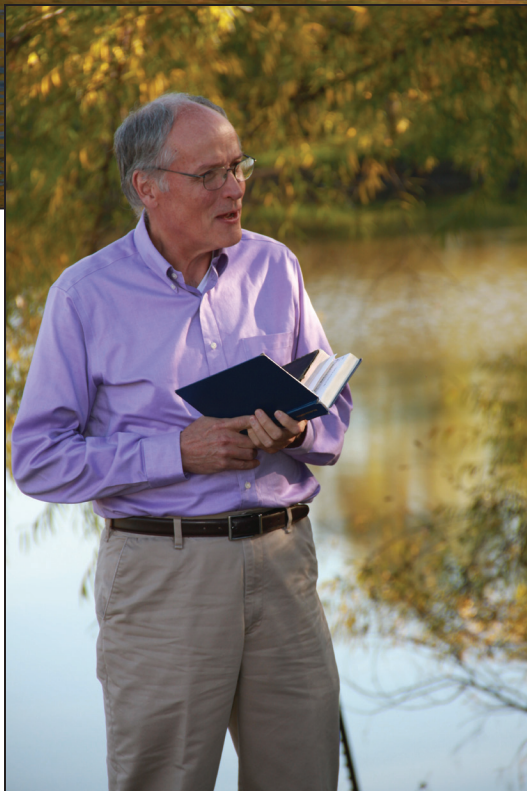
ises.

So I hope that we can work on this and strive somehow to build God's kingdom, to remember him everyday. We need to open the scriptures and find out what's in them and then ask God to lead us. Thank you.



Baptism held

Elyse Jordison was baptized in the pond at Ron and Di Smith's home in Lamoni in a service Sunday, October 13. Photos by Diane Anderson.







Fall Outing

The annual fall outing at the farm of Jim and Linda Barber was held Saturday, Oct. 19. After pumpkin carving in the afternoon, a hayride, cookout and campfire were held. Stephanie Cunningham got bucked off a horse and broke her arm, which added a bit more excitement than planned. She has a testimony of her blessing even in this experience.



Day	Theme: NOVEMBER	Thoughts	Scripture
1	One Stick for Judah and One Stick for Joseph The majority of this calendar is from an article in the Jan/Feb <i>Glyph Notes</i> , Vol. 10, No. 1 written by Elder Lyle L. Smith. These edited excerpts are used with his permission. The references used by Brother Lyle are taken from the K.J.V. of the Bible . Use the material below to reacquaint yourselves with these scriptures and the prophecy that is found in them. It may help us to understand why the Book of Mormon was given to us and to tell the story more effectively to our non-member and member friends alike.	We start this study with a scripture that tells us to "prove all things." Jesus brought ministry to the House of Israel including "other sheep." The prophecies begin with the dividing of Israel. In 720 B.C. Assyria took Israel (Northern Kingdom) captive. Ten tribes, lost "until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." In 600 B.C. Babylon took Jerusalem captive. Later the Jews returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. About 70 A.D. Rome destroyed Jerusalem and scattered the Jews, until the present age. Many scriptures indicate that God will gather all Israel in the latter days.	1 Thess. 5:21 John 10:16
2			1 Kings 12 2 Kings 17:5-6; 18:10-12
3			2 Kings 25:1-11 Ezra 1 & Nehemiah 7 Luke 21:24
4			Isaiah 1:24-27; 60:14-15; Jeremiah 30:18-24; 31:7-14
5			33:6-7; 23:6-8; Ezekiel 20:33-42; 28:25-26; Amos 9:9-15; Ephesians 1:10
6	<i>Some additional references and quotes from the Book of Mormon, Inspired Version, and Doctrine & Covenants have been added to enhance or provide additional scriptures for completing all 30 days of the calendar. Bob Giertz</i>	Gathering of Israel continued. In the great gathering Ephraim is the firstborn.	Gen. 48:17-20 Jeremiah 31:9
7			Isaiah 11:12; 18:3; 49:22; 66:19-20
8			Isaiah 11:10 2 Peter 3:13 Isaiah 66:22
9			Matthew 4:23 Matthew 23:37
10			John 13:34-35 Matthew 6:10
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20	Remember these two sticks, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, provide the witness of the Gospel of the Kingdom. 	As the Jews did not accept the Gospel of the Kingdom as taught by Christ, He foretold that at the end time the Gospel of the Kingdom would be preached again. It would be preached as a witness to all nations, and then the end comes. This ensign, the Gospel of Christ, was to come forth in two sticks, or records: the "stick of Judah" and the "stick of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim." The records will become one; bear one witness. The records will have to agree. The stick of Joseph also has the law. They are to be united and effective in the gathering of all Israel, the ten tribes and the dispersed of Judah (Judah and Benjamin). Where will we find these sticks? The stick of Judah is easy to identify; the Bible came from Judah. From Judah "came the chief ruler"; but the birthright was Joseph's, not Reuben the firstborn. Where is the stick of Joseph/Ephraim? To answer, we have to find out where Joseph (the blessings of Ephraim) lived. "Westward from Palestine" and separate from his brethren. Joseph will be a fruitful bough whose branches run over the wall (sea), unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills.	Luke 14:16-24 Jeremiah 16:16 Matthew 24:14 Ezekiel 37:16-19 Hosea 8:11-12 Ezekiel 37:19-21 Ezekiel 37:16 1 Chr. 5:1-2 Hosea 11:10 Deut. 33:13-16 Gen. 49:22 & 26; Psa. 80:8-11; Isa. 16:8; Jer. 48:32; Num. 32:33-38 Gen 48:19 Gen. 49:26 Deut. 33:17 Isaiah 18:1-3
21			
22			
23			
24	The Land Shadowed with wings 	Joseph will grow into a multitude of nations. The blessings to Joseph are greater than those to his brothers. There were to be ten thousands of Ephraim and thousands of Manasseh. When we look at the above scriptures what land fits other than America? "Land shadowing with wings." If the stick of Joseph is to come from America, how will it come forth? "Truth shall spring out of the earth...."	Psalms 85:11 Isa. 29:4, 9-24 Ether 3:6-13; 1 Ne. 5:169-181, 211-217
25			
26			
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28			
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30			
	The last two Paragraphs were contributed by Seventy Bob Moore. They are from a paper he wrote a number of years ago called <i>Ezekiel's Two Sticks</i> .	Book of Mormon: Jesus's words were taught as He had expounded them. "That which had been lost, has been found." Why: That the promise may be fulfilled unto Joseph, that his seed should never perish. (2 Nephi 11:40) (1) "When the time came to gather scattered Hebrews from their long dispersion, God sent ambassadors from a land shadowed with wings and upon which he raised an ensign to bring this covenant people "to the place of the name of the Lord of hosts, the mount Zion" (Isaiah 18:7). (2) "The national emblem of the United States is an eagle with outstretched wings. It is the land to which scattered Israel is invited to gather by ambassadors who bear the gospel message. It is the land on the other side of the globe, or as the Bible states, at the end of the earth, on which the promised ensign is to be raised. Isaiah said, "He will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth" (Isaiah 5:26). The latter-day task that God anciently bestowed on Ephraim and Manasseh is to push the covenant people to the land of the free on the other side of the world."	3 Nephi 5:10-17; 33 3 Nephi 3:56 3 Nephi 10:21-41 Zech. 8:13 3 Nephi 14:1-3 3 Nephi 9:92-93 2 Nephi 12:63-73 Ether 1:35 3 Nephi 4:46-53 4 Nephi 1:1-19 3 Nephi 11:1 1 Ne. 3:192-195 2 Nephi 11:40 Isaiah 5:26; 18:7



Ordination service
Chris Cunningham was ordained to the office of Teacher in a service at the Mount Ayr Branch Sunday, Oct. 10. Here his grandfather Eldon Cunningham and John Mundy ordain him. See Sherman Phipps' sermon for more from that day.





November 2013

Sunday Schedule

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	
Presiding	Alan Smith	Steven Smith	Michael Jordison	Rob Rolfe	Gordon Winkler	
Speaking	Rodney Bastow	Michael Jordison	Steve Cunningham	Alan Smith	Rob Rolfe	
Pianist	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	
Special Music	Jim Barber	Alan Smith	Di Smith	Sue Beck	Beth Knotts	
Family Devotions	Sherman Phippses	Bob Rowlands	Rob Rolfes	Ron Smiths	Alan Smiths	
Greeters	Ed Andersons	Rodney Bastows	Sue Beck	Steve Cunningham	Michael Jordison	
Custodians	Jim Barbers	Michael Jordisons	Bob Rowlands	Ed Andersons	Rob Rolfes	
Sunday Evening	Rob Rolfes	Bob Rowlands	Ron Smiths	Steve Smiths	Norman Nelsons	

Wednesday Night Prayer Service Schedule

	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	
Location	Bob Rowlands	Alan Smiths	Steve Smiths	Rob Rolfes	Ron Smiths	
Presiding	Gordon Winkler	Rodney Bastow	Rob Rolfe	Ron Smith	Ed Anderson	

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 3 -- Priesthood Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Potluck dinner.

Sunday, Nov. 24 -- **Thanksgiving Dinner** following Sunday service

Happy Birthday: Matthew Anderson (2), Jim Barber (6), Joshua Jordison (10), Yvonne Gallusha (13), Alan Smith (14), Samuel Jordison (20), Doug Calford (20), Jazmyn Galusha (25) and any others we may have missed.

Happy Anniversary: Any others we may have missed.

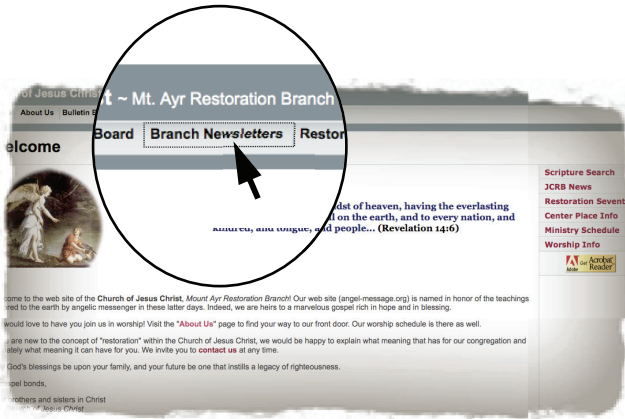


Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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

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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

Witnessing weekend

A witnessing weekend is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Bell, MO branch sometime after the first of the year.

Branch retreat

A branch retreat will be held at Lucas on the weekend of February 28-March 1. We hope everyone will put that weekend down on their schedules.

We are looking forward to a wonderful time together at the campgrounds

there. If it is snowy, there are plenty of snow activities to take part in as well.