



Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

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*O give thanks unto the Lord;
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth for ever. . .*

*To him that made great lights:
for his mercy endureth for
ever. Psalm 136*

News & Notes

Community Sing March 30

The branch has been invited to participate in the community sing at the United Baptist-Presbyterian Church in Mount Ayr at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30.

We will meet for supper at the church in Mount Ayr at 5 p.m. and then clean up and leave to be at the church by 6:15 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come share

in this opportunity for ministry in the community.

JCRB Conference

We will again be sending delegats to the Joint Conference of Restoraition Branches conference in Independence, MO, April 6-12.

We will have a business meeting on Sunday, March 22 between classes and

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LOVE IN DEED AND TRUTH

Priest
Rodney Bastow
 Mount Ayr, IA
 February 2, 2014

Seventy Ron Smith read 3rd Nephi 8:39-42 as a Call to Worship and then shared the following. Jesus had served the bread and the wine to His disciples who served it to the multitude. When the disciples had done this Jesus said unto them, *Blessed are ye for this thing which ye have done, for this is fulfilling my commandments, and this doth witness unto the Father that ye are willing to do that which I have commanded you. And this shall ye always do unto those who repent and are baptized in my name; and ye shall do it in remembrance of my blood, which I have shed for you, that ye may witness unto the Father that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you. And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things.*

We are very privileged to be able to have a place where we can come and remember together what Jesus has done. I was just in the Congo not too long ago and they had the first communion service that they've had in the Congo because of their scattered condition. I wasn't there for the service because I was preaching in another place but the people had not been able to have a communion service before that. I think of the 14 people that have been baptized in the Congo probably 8 of them were there.

We are very, very fortunate to be able to be close enough together and to have the means and transportation and to have the opportunity to share in this thing which Jesus has commanded us to do. He's commanded us to do it because He wants to have His Spirit with us always. If we will remember Him always and do the things that He said to do, then we can have His Spirit to be with

us always, and we don't have to worry about not having His Spirit because He's promised that it will be ours. As we come together those of you who have been baptized are commanded to examine yourself and see if you are willing to do what He's told us to do. Then you are commanded be willing to partake of the Sacrament and to share in this service in order that you may always have His Spirit to be with you.

I have chosen for my scripture this morning from 1st John 3:16-18. *Hereby perceive we the love of Christ, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue only; but in deed and in truth.* I feel very privileged to be here this morning. I pray that during this hour we might draw closer to our Heavenly Father and feel His Heavenly Spirit with us and that we might draw on His power to direct our lives this morning and remember to praise the Lord and give Him all the glory for this.

What I have chosen to talk about this morning is my dogs. You are probably getting tired of this by now. I talked about them back in August and you probably think it is crazy that I would be talking about them again but I thought I needed to give you an update. I told you back then that I really wanted to have a trained dog, one that could get out there and herd the cattle and watch gates. That's just been something that I've really wanted for a long time so I bought these two puppies Lily and Abby for this purpose.

I've had to wait for a year for them to be trained because they wouldn't allow them to be trained until they were almost a year old. I finally got an opportunity to send one of them to be trained. I decided to send Lily. She

seemed to be the one that focused the most on the cattle. I didn't realize that that's not necessarily a good thing because the trainer really wants the dog to be focused on you rather than on the cattle. They want the dog to be listening to what you are telling them to do.

She spent sixty days with the trainer, and I've had her back now for about a month. It was interesting to see the progress that she made from week to week. I would go every Tuesday to see how she was doing and watch her. The first two Tuesdays I thought, 'This isn't going to happen. This is pretty hopeless. I'm just kind of wasting my money with what I am doing here.' But then kind of like you turn on a switch, one week I went up there and she was doing it. She was listening, going from left to right, she was getting around the sheep and bringing them to you. I thought, 'Wow. This is going to be fun. This is going to be amazing.'

She got close to the end of the training and I thought, 'Maybe I should be trying to do this myself without the trainer.' The trainer had been doing all of this up to this point. So toward the end of the training I decided that I would get in there and I would make the commands and see what I needed to do so when she was back home I'd be able to do what the trainer had been doing. Well you know that looks really easy. You watch the trainer do it and it looks so easy. They say, 'Come by' and the dog goes clockwise. If they say 'Away' the dog goes counterclockwise. If they say 'Move in' the dog moves in. It looked so easy.

They use signals a lot to train them. They have a paddle that they use which is really how they train the dog. If the paddle goes up, that dog better stop. I presume if the dog hasn't been stopping during the sixty days of training, the dog got the paddle because she was really respecting that paddle. I'm not coordinated enough to know that if I raise the paddle this way I am supposed to



say 'Away' and if I raise it this way over here I'm supposed to say 'Come by.' I am not that talented I guess so I was having a little trouble with doing what I was supposed to be doing. We didn't get along quite as well as Lily did with the trainer, but still I felt that we were making progress and things were going good. I was so anxious to get her home and see what I could do with her. I was thinking that I would get her home and she would listen to me. She would do the things that I wanted her to do.

Finally I got the OK to bring her home. I have one little pen of 14 heifers, and I decided that it would be good to take her there and see if she could bring the heifers back into the lot. I don't know quite the right word for this. Disaster might be a little too strong but let's just say it didn't go the way that I had hoped for. She chased the cattle. She did a really good job of that. She chased them around and around, through fences and around fences and over fences and under fences. It was quite a thing to see!

The last week that I had been up there with the trainer, the one thing that they had suggested to me and the one thing that I was doing wrong was raising my voice too much. Now Michael suggested today that maybe we didn't even need a microphone because normally I talk fairly loud. Maybe Tanner's heard me yell but probably very few of you have heard me really get into it as far as raising my voice. You've heard me Ryder? I didn't know that. Here I was trying to get her to do what I wanted her to do without raising my voice, speaking softly and slowly so she would get the command. It didn't work. She wouldn't lie down. She wouldn't come to me. All she wanted to do was chase. It took me a little while but I finally got her corralled and back to her cage where I thought she needed to stay for a while.

We tried this for a little bit and I decided that I would go back to the trainer. I had permission to go every week if I needed to. I told the trainer some of the problems that I was having. She said, 'It sounds like Lily has learned how to push your buttons.' Boy was

that ever true. If you saw this little sweet dog you wouldn't believe that she could do that. You look at that sweet face and you wouldn't think this little dog would do that to me but she really did. The trainer showed me some things and we worked a little bit. With the trainer, Lily was just fine. She did the things that she needed to do.

I learned that using the paddle did help a lot more and saying less than what I had been saying was an improvement too. She told me to keep working with her and that I might want to experiment with some things. There are some things that will work and some that won't. She told me that I would do better on my next dog. I don't know if you know this or not but these people that are really serious into stock dogs if a dog doesn't work out, it gets disposed of. One thing you hear a lot from these people is the number of dogs on their woodpile. Well, I can't do that. I'm too soft-hearted for one thing and this little dog and her sister are just such sweeties. Lily's going to have to work or I am in trouble because I had a hard enough time talking Debbie into letting me get these two to try it with some others.

We've been working. I've learned that it's going to take some work. She is doing better but I still have a lot to learn. I know the only way that she will get better is we keep practicing, if we keep working. I had this expectation that I could send Lily to a trainer and I would automatically have a trained dog just like that without me really having to do anything, without me having to work at it. It didn't work that way. I've had a glimpse of what Lily can become and what I can have and I really want that.

So much of what I see in life is like that. Think of why the casinos are so popular. It's people wanting to get rich without having to do anything. People don't want to work at things. I remember being a teacher. There were some kids who had all the ability but didn't want to use it, didn't want to put forth the effort to either be a really good student or a really good athlete or really good at anything. I've seen people that could have been very successful at any

occupation that they chose but they didn't choose to work at to be as successful as they could have been.

I wonder what's important to us in life? We have all chosen to be followers of Jesus Christ. We've made our commitment. We entered the waters of baptism and this signified that we wanted to give up our old ways and follow Jesus. We were confirmed as members of His church with the gift of the Holy Spirit and that gift was given to us. We've studied, we've listened to His word, and we know what we are to do to be able to serve Him. How are we doing with that? Do our lives show that we are followers of Jesus? Do we love Him? Do we love our neighbor? Are we sharing the love of Jesus with those around us or are we giving in to our basic instincts and going around and around in circles not making much progress. I want to share with you a reading that I found. It's called "Actions Speak Louder Than Words."

My Mom used to say that all the time. "Actions speak louder than words. Remember that."

I remember growing up going to church I always asked questions. Why were people rude to each other when



Rodney Bastow



they left church? Did they understand the prayers they were reciting?

In various friendships, my parents would often say, "You might be surprised who comes to your aid in a crisis. Those who you think will, might not, and those who you don't think, will."

That's been an honest and sobering fact. I can tell you one of the hardest things I really had to let go of happened after I came to know Jesus years ago and started having a personal relationship with Him. It was letting go of hurts from people who did not follow through with their words. They said one thing, but their actions spoke another. I took people's words seriously and to heart. But I became so broken when the words were just that - words.

I'd always hear and hear it frequently, "Oh love ya. You are just like family. You are just like a son (or daughter) to us. Whatever you need I'll be there. Love ya!" Has that happened to you? The words "I love you" were so frequent. But I often wondered if there was meaning behind it? People are human. We all mess up. The only one who will never fail, leave or forsake us is Jesus. From that experience, I've learned a lot of lessons and by sharing this, I hope it helps you too.

Of course people have good intentions. They probably didn't even realize it or mean to hurt intentionally. But all too often, when the actions did not back up the words - let's be honest - it does hurt.

Here's the encouragement today. Let's be more mindful of our words. What would Jesus do? I think Jesus would compassionately speak and reach out to those in need. His actions would back His words.

So if you say something, mean it and follow through with your actions. Actions do speak louder than words!

That reading kind of goes both ways. I'm sure some of us have been hurt by other people's words, by other people not coming through with what they said they would do. But I'm more concerned with have we done that? Have we said things or proposed to be something and then we didn't back it up. I see a lot of times people ask for prayers

on Facebook and other places. I think that I should pray for them but I don't know that I do. I think of people that I need to visit and I tell them that I will come and see them but then it doesn't seem like I do. I tell my wife I love her but then some of the things I do don't show that to her.

Over Christmas we went to see the granddaughters. We really enjoy doing that. We probably should do it more often. We probably would if I would just suggest it. Sophia is seven and Grace is five. They are really at that stage in their lives where they are learning things. Their folks are very careful about not letting them watch certain TV programs that are too violent, have bad language or sexual content because they don't want the girls to be exposed to that. I've always thought that was a good idea. Probably if it's not fit for the girls to watch we probably shouldn't watch it either.

We were sitting there talking and I made a comment about somebody that was rather mean and Sophia picked up on that right away. It felt really bad that I had said such a thing because those little girls are going to learn from us. They will be more inclined to say mean things and talk about others if they see us doing it. Likewise they will be more inclined to love others and be nice to them when they see us do that. Jesus said that we should be like a child because that's what His kingdom was like. I can understand that because they are innocent and they don't have the baggage that we grow up with sometimes.

Sophia had a progress report here this last week. The teacher was a little concerned. She said that Sophia tends to take the easy way out. I wondered how you could tell with a seven year old that they were doing this. The teacher said she reads easier books and she tries to get other people to do things for her. I thought that's my girl. She's catching on pretty fast because that's probably what I would have done when I was her age. I guess we want her to do better.

We've had a glimpse of what's it like to have the Holy Spirit with us. We have or we should have a testimony of Jesus

in our lives. How new is our testimony?

Today we will have an opportunity to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ. We will remember that gift that we received of the Holy Spirit. We need to listen for His direction. We need to do the things that He has taught us to do. Our lives need to reflect that His Holy Spirit is with us. Life isn't always easy. It isn't always fair. Sometimes people and things push our buttons. We have to work at it. We have to pray more. We have to study more. We have to listen more. We need to love more.

Matthew 7:1-4, 21-23 it says, *Now these are the words which Jesus taught his disciples that they should say unto the people. Judge not unrighteously, that ye be not judged; but judge righteous judgment. For with what judgment ye shall judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And again, ye shall say unto them, Why is it that thou beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Repent, therefore, and enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be who go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. May ye find that narrow gate.*

Ron Smith shared: At the end of his life King Benjamin gave a speech which many of you are familiar with. It's in the Book of Mosiah. He ended that with these words, *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, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, 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. And now, O man, remember, and perish not. (Mosiah 2:48-50) And the people all said*



that they wanted to enter into a covenant to remember Him. They said, And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days, that we may not bring upon ourselves a never ending torment, . . . (Mosiah 3:6)

So the King replied to them, And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters: For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts

are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters. And under this head ye are made free; and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free.

There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this, shall be found at the right hand

of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ. (Mosiah 3:8-12)

So I would that you would remember and always retain in remembrance the love of God for you this day and the name by which you are called so that we might be found on the right hand of Christ. Watch your thoughts and your deeds and your words this week, this month and you'll be found on the right hand of Christ. May God bless you.



ALL WE NEED IS LOVE, GOD'S LOVE

Priest Jim Barber
Bethany, MO
February 9, 2014

Priest Ben Anderson shared Alma 18:12-16 as a Call to Worship. *Behold, he is the life and the light of the world. Behold, he is the word of truth and righteousness. And now, as ye have begun to teach the word, even so I would that ye should continue to teach; and I would that ye would be diligent and temperate in all things. See that ye are not lifted up unto pride; yea, see that ye do not boast in your own wisdom, nor of your much strength; use boldness, but not overbearance; And also see that ye bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love; see that ye refrain from idleness; do not pray as the Zoramites do, for ye have seen that they pray to be heard of men, and to be praised for their wisdom. Do not say, O God, I thank thee that we are better than our brethren; but rather say, O Lord, forgive my unworthiness, and remember my brethren in mercy; yea, acknowledge your unworthiness before God at all times.*

As a scripture reading Priest Jim Barber read 1st Nephi 3:64. *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.

I had a tough decision on what to talk about. I had one subject that I thought I wanted to talk about and then I decided against that. Then I got to thinking that Valentine's Day is coming up so why not talk about love. I began looking at scriptures and looking on the internet and came up with some ideas that I'd like to share with you this morning.

Some things happened this week that was a part of history, a part of my history any way. Fifty years ago last Friday there was a group of singers that appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. It was the Beatles. They were a British group and had some pretty nice songs I thought. I'm not sure what they sang that first night but one of their songs was 'All I Need is Love.' I can't remember the words to the song right now but over the years I have thought about those words. Love is really all we need. All we need is love but we need God's love.

When you think about God and His gospel it's hard not to think about love. Most of us are taught to love God

and one another from the time we were born. For some it is a struggle to learn to love or to display love. I think about my own life when I grew up. My mother and father always took us to church. I always knew that there was love there but my mother and father were not ones to show much affection or much love. We grew up not doing a lot of hugging, not telling other people that we loved them. I always knew that my parents loved me and I hoped that they knew that I loved them. Sometimes my actions didn't really show that but I did love them, and they taught me right from wrong. I appreciated that but like I say it was hard for me to show affection to other people because of how I grew up. I've seen a lot of other people that hug each other. We just never did do that so it is hard for me to do that. Shaking someone's hand was about all I was comfortable doing.

The Book of Mormon gives us some insights into love. There are three main points about love that I'd like to share with you this morning.

Number 1: Love is powerful and can have a consuming effect on us. In 2nd Nephi 3:31 Nephi bemoans his own weaknesses when he exclaims, . . . *O wretched man that I am. . .* Then he



remembers God's help in the past. Second Nephi 3:36 says *He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh.* Through this Nephi learned the power of love.

Number 2: He talks about the pure in heart are allowed to feast on the love of God. Jacob says that the pure in heart if they receive the pleasing word of God will feast on His love. This is found in Jacob 2:50. *O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love; for ye may, if your minds are firm for ever.* In order to receive this love of God we have to be firm in our resolve to remain pure in heart.

Number 3: The Book of Mormon talks about love casting out all fear. What a wonderful statement that is to know that we don't have to fear. In Brother Thomas' song this morning he sang that because He lives there is no fear. In a letter to his son Moroni Mormon states . . . *I fear not what man can do; for perfect love casteth out all fear.* . . . (Moroni 8:18) We also find this in the New Testament. 1st John 4:18-21 says, *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.* Just imagine what a life without fear would be like.

Sometimes we find it difficult to love certain people. Maybe somebody has done us wrong. We don't get along with a neighbor. Sometimes children can be kind of difficult and it's kind of hard to get along with them. I'm sure that there are teachers that sometimes have students that are a little difficult to deal with. But then students sometimes think that a teacher is not quite fair or might be unfair to them. I can remember a few that I thought were unfair but I think it was probably because I just didn't want to do what they wanted me to do. Sometimes it's difficult for us to love those people we have differences

with.

Nephi had a faith in the Lord when he said in 1st Nephi 1:65, . . . *I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.* He commands us to love so He will make a way for that to happen but I think in order to do this we have to be able to be filled with God's love and love the way He loves. King Benjamin in the Book of Mormon taught his people to keep the commandments of God that they might rejoice and be filled with love towards God and all men. In Mosiah 1:32 King Benjamin says if we keep God's commandments it will be easier to love God, ourselves and all mankind. If we do not become full of love we are actually enemies to God. That might sound kind of harsh but it's what King Benjamin says in Mosiah 1:119-120. *For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.* Notice at the end it says we must be full of God's love.

I tried to mention three different steps here in which we can learn to love God. First of all we need to keep His commandments. Second, we need to be humble and third, we need to seek God and learn about Him. Alma gives us some answers to these three steps. Alma 10:28-29 says, *But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord. Having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at*

the last day, and enter into his rest.

These three steps are to keep His commandments, humble ourselves and to pray continually and call upon the Lord. Both Alma and Moroni associated prayer with the gaining of love. Mormon urged his people to pray. Moroni 7:53 says *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure.*

Could it be that the reason why we may not feel love for others is that we really haven't prayed for that love? It also says that we must be true followers of Jesus Christ. I ask the question, are we really true followers of Christ? If we are then we should have God's fullness of love within us. Mormon further says that we receive His love through the remission of our sins. . . . *the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.* (Moroni 8:29)

Whenever we examine our lives and see that we have fallen short it is a pretty humbling experience, or at least it is for me to know that I haven't lived up to His expectations, but as we realize these things and ask God to forgive us then His love will come into us. In order to be filled with God's love we have to first get the bad stuff out of us, the evil thoughts, the sins that we commit. If we get rid of those then God is going to fill us with His love.

Once again I am going to express the three things I mentioned earlier. If we have the desire to be filled with God's love we first have to keep His commandments. We have to pray continually and we have to be meekly led by His Holy Ghost.

Christ was able to endure the per-



secution that we put upon Him because of His loving kindness. In 1st Nephi 5:237-238 it says, *And the world, because of their iniquity, shall judge him to be a thing of nought; wherefore, they scourge him, and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-sufferings towards the children of men.* After they did all these bad things to Christ He was still able to forgive them because of His great love. In Luke 23:35 it says, *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. . .*

Can we do that? If somebody spit on you could you forgive that person? It would be tough, wouldn't it? I remember a few times that some people have said some pretty nasty things about me and cursed me. One time I was working with a man building a fence. His neighbor, the one who cussed both of us out, didn't want us to build that fence. We were going to put in a new fence for him but he didn't want us to. He got really mad and cussed me and the man I was working for out. Somehow I had to forgive him. It was tough but you know two or three months after that happened I ran across him and he apologized to me. That took something for him to do too.

Another result of love is that God shows mercy to those who love Him. Abinadi taught the people of King Noah that the Lord is merciful to those who love Him. Mosiah 7:114 says, *And again: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: (and I think he's talking about other gods) for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Another result of love is that people will get along well with one another. Alma taught his people in Mosiah 11:16 that every man should love his neighbor as himself and that there should be no contention among them. Obviously if we love our neighbor as ourselves there will be no contention. Can you imagine what it would be like to live in a com-

munity where everybody got along? If you could stretch that a little bit further the Missourians could get along with the Iowans, the Iowans could get along with the Minnesotans and the United States could get along with the other countries. We could have Zion. If we loved the way God wants us to love we would not want to go to war or to harm anybody in any way.

Again in the Book of Mormon Ammon attributed great love to the Lamanites who were converted. The fruits of his labor were great because of his love for the people and their love for him as told in the book of Alma. In fact their love for their brothers was so great that they would not take up arms against them. The converted Lamanites refused to fight even though many of their people were killed. They would rather sacrifice their lives than take the life of an enemy as it says in Alma 14:118. For behold, they had rather sacrifice their lives than even to take the life of their enemy; and they have buried their weapons of war deep in the earth, because of their love towards their brethren. Since they had already sinned so much in their battles with the Nephites they wanted to be free from killing. Their love prevented them from killing even in self-defense. They were called the Anti-Lehi-Nephis.

Those who were killed were able to return to God because of their love and their hatred of sin. We know in this story when their brethren came against them, because they had been converted and started following God, it made the other Lamanites mad at them and they came and killed a lot of them. Finally the Lamanites got tired of killing so they quit and went away. God protected the rest that weren't killed. Those that were killed, like I said, were able to return to their Heavenly Father. Sometimes giving your life is better than not standing up for what you believe.

Another result of love is God's grace. Moroni tells us that when God's grace is sufficient for us we may become perfect in Christ. We are promised that if we love God with all our might, mind and strength then His grace is sufficient. When we love others we want to help

comfort or share their grief. In Mosiah 9:39, 40 Alma was describing a loving people when he said, *And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times . . .*

To summarize the results of loving, we are able to forgive and as we forgive God will show us mercy and there will not be contention and we will be able to return to God and have His grace which will make us want to help and comfort others. The Book of Mormon is very definite about whom we should love and what is not worthy of our love. As I stated earlier Alma tells us that every man should love his neighbor as himself and that there should be no contention among them. The word 'every' means that all of us should love all of our neighbors no matter what.

Once again God tells us to love our



Jim Barber



enemies. In 3rd Nephi 5:90 it says, *But behold I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you.* We may think we have enemies but imagine the enemies of the early Saints or Christ and the early Christians. Last spring the youth went on a tour of the different places where the Church started around the Independence area and further north in Missouri. We talked about how the Saints were treated. A lot of them were killed, tar and feathered, thrown out of their homes in the dead of winter and forced to flee. It would be hard to love those that did this to the Saints wouldn't it? But, yet that's what God wants us to do.

In Mosiah 1:32 King Benjamin was talking to his people and told them that it was possible to be filled with love towards God and all men. Later he mentioned children and told parents not to allow them to fight, quarrel or serve the devil. Children should be taught to love and serve one another. In Mosiah 2:27 it says, *But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.* The book of Mormon 4:50 also talks about how some people love their material things more than they love the poor, the needy, the sick and the afflicted. *For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted.*

Sometimes we feel like we don't have the time or resources to care for others but those who suffer from afflictions could be there because of a lack of love for others or themselves. Showing our love can sometimes make the difference between life and death. We must learn not to be so concerned for our own problems that we don't love and care for those around us.

In summary I'd like to go back over some of the things we have talked about. We have been told to love our neighbors, ourselves, our enemies, the poor, the needy, the sick and afflicted, God and all men. Doesn't this include everyone? We also must love others

more than our material possessions. We must remember that love is powerful. The pure in love are allowed to feast on the love of God and love casts out all fear. God will prepare a way for us to love if we keep His commandments. If we don't become full of love we are actually enemies of God.

Once again I will mention the three steps for becoming full of love. Keep His commandments, humble yourselves, call on His Holy name and watch and pray continually. The results of love are we are able to forgive and have God's grace and mercy. We want to help others, comfort others and there will be no contention and we will be able to return to God.

I would like to refer back to the scripture that I read earlier. Lehi had had a vision and had seen all of these things and then Nephi was having the same vision and getting the interpretation of what his father had seen. I'd like to back up to verse 1st Nephi 3:62 but include verses 63 and 64. *And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw? You remember in Lehi's vision he saw this great, spacious field and there was a tree there. He went and partook of the fruit and it was the most delicious thing that he had ever eaten. This is what Nephi answered. 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.*

I think sometimes too that the tree that he's talking about is not only the love of God but maybe the word of God. We can't learn to love God unless we read His scriptures. I'd like to challenge you this morning. I would like for each one of us this week to at least study the scriptures fifteen to thirty minutes every day. I don't think that's too much. You can pick a topic like love or wisdom and just look up scriptures pertaining to that topic. If you pick love it's probably going to take every day this week because there are lots of scriptures that pertain to love in the Book of Mormon, the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants. Think about what the results would be

if we did this. Would we be filled with God's love?

Ben Anderson shared: Jim talked about a really good topic today and I hope each one of you were listening. If we really want to be a witness to other people we'll love them like God loves us and they will recognize that that love is from God. I also hope each one of you take up the challenge about studying your scriptures. Think about this. You spend 7-8 hours a night sleeping which is like a third of your day. Jim asked you to give like 1/96th of your day to studying the scriptures. I don't think that's too much to ask.



New website

The Mount Ayr Restoration Branch has a new website. We missed renewing the old one domain name -- angel_message.org -- and so have a new site to visit.

Come to:

www.gospelrestored.org for back copies of the newsletter and other information about what is going on in the branch.

You can share the site with friends who may want to be able to read the current newsletter and past newsletters on line as well.

We are sorry for any confusion for people who have been to the old website location and not found us.



WHAT ENDURES?

Elder Nathan Smith
Kansas City, MO
February 16, 2014

For a call to worship, Nathan Smith read Psalm 111:1-10:

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

His work is honorable and glorious; and his righteousness endureth forever.

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He hath given meat unto them that fear him; he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

He hath showed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

He sent redemption unto his people; he hath commanded his covenant forever; holy and reverend is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth forever.

Presider Sherman Phipps then asked Valle Smith to offer a mother's prayer for Nathan before he began to offer the message for the day.

I'm thankful for this opportunity to come together and worship our Lord this morning, and as we think about the message of today, I would like to bring to your mind three names. First is Marit Bjorgen, then Wang Meng and finally Petter Northug. Do any of these mean anything to you? I'll read them off to you again. (And he did).

Not too many of you are seeming

to recognize these names, so I'll tell you who they are. Those are the three people who won the most medals at the Winter Olympics in 2010 when they were held in Vancouver, Canada. Marit and Petter are cross country skiers and Wang is a speed skater. Of all the people who competed four years ago in the Olympics, they won the most medals. Marit won five, Petter won four and Wang won three. As we think about these medals, what a wonderful achievement that represents. The very best in the whole world.

Can you imagine how many hours that must have taken to prepare and the great discipline to go with athletic gifts they were born with? But also as we think about those names, it's kind of striking that the next Olympics aren't over again and yet none of us remembers hearing about them. Our fame is very fleeting.

There's a poem that I remember from my high school English class by Percy Bysshe Shelly. It says:

I met a traveller from an antique land

Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone

Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,

Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,

And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,

Tell that its sculptor well those passions read

Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed:

And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

Nothing beside remains. Round the

decay

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Can you imagine traveling out in this desert and coming across this great statute that has collapsed, with only two legs still standing and the rest scattered round about it. At one time it must have been quite an impressive monument to his power. The inscription quotes the king as asking people to look on his works and despair.

Over time the works didn't stand. The king has mostly been forgotten except for that statue and that poem.

This question about what endures, what lasts, is taken up in Ecclesiastes and it's frank and honest as it assesses our condition. The writer says "all is vanity;" and even if you work really hard and are really smart, chance has a lot to do with your success. And even if you are successful in building something great, you will eventually die and won't be able to enjoy it after that. It will be inherited by people who didn't built it, may not appreciate it, and probably won't be able to maintain it. That's just the facts.

We perish and even our greatest achievements are forgotten, but God endures. And that's the contrast I would like us to think about today. It's the contrast that is brought out in 1 Peter 1:24-25:

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;

But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

So death is part of God's plan for us and it's part of the plan of redemption. I've been thinking about that lately because I've had the opportunity to preach a funeral sermon for my grandmother on Friday and some of the same ideas are part of this sermon which I actually



prepared before that one.

Death is part of God's plan of redemption for us. God knew in the very beginning in the Garden of Eden that if we were to have knowledge of good and evil, that we would also need to have a knowledge of death. Because by death and separation from our loved ones, we can understand some of the sorrow that God feels at our separation from him that is brought about by our sins.

Through Jesus' death we can understand somewhat of the sacrificial and redemptive love that God has for all of us, and through Jesus' resurrection, we understand that death is not the end. So our works, our accomplishments, even our lives do not live forever, but God does endure.

I would like us to spend just a few moments in meditation directed by the words of the Psalms on how God endures.

Psalm 102: 24-27 says:

I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days; thy years are throughout all generations.

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed;

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

From Psalm 135:13:

Thy name, O Lord, endureth forever; and thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations.

How profound that is. Thy name O Lord endureth forever. Even though we have different languages and sometimes haven't even known what to call God, his name endures forever. That's something that connects us to the very beginning and throughout all time. The name of the Lord endures forever.

Here is Psalm 119:160 :

Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

Psalm 117 :1-2 says:

Oh praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him all ye people.

For his merciful kindness is great

toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord.

As we think about different types of truth, the truth of the Lord endureth forever. If it doesn't endure forever, it must not be the Lord's truth.

Now as we think about what endures, I'd like to take us to Psalm 136. This is a great example of reminding us of what endures. You know the Psalms were originally written as music and the music has since been lost and probably might sound a little weird to us today because our musical vocabulary is probably very different from what it was back in those days. This was originally intended to be sung, and I imagine when it was sung, there was maybe a soloist who sang some parts and then the congregation or choir sang the rest. So I'm going to be the soloist and I would like you to be the choir. Your part goes like this:

For his mercy endureth forever.

So I'll read a part and then you can say back, "For his mercy endureth forever." There are 26 verses in this psalm and every single one of those verses has the same refrain: "For his mercy endureth forever." We'll do a little choral reading together. We won't sing it but we'll say it.

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:

The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:

The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And brought out Israel from among

them: for his mercy endureth for ever:

With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:

But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

It's powerful to say those words because those words endure and God's mercy endures forever. That psalm touches on a lot of different topics -- the creation of the world, God's great acts in history in the passover and delivering Israel from their bondage in Egypt. It talks about our everyday needs and how he gives us food from day to day. The theme, the refrain, that continues throughout all those topics and all those stories is the enduring mercy of God. That phrase is used over and over again, especially in the Old Testament. It tells that God is merciful and that God is enduring, that his mercy lasts and doesn't fade with time or diminish. It's something that is eternal.

I think that God has placed within



each of us a desire for things that endure, for things that won't fade or things that aren't diminished by time.

John 6:22-27 says:

The day following, when the people, which stood on the other side of the sea, saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;

Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks;

When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, how camest thou hither?

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye desire to keep my sayings, neither because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves and were filled.

Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man hath power to give unto you; for him hath God the Father sealed.

At that point in Jesus' ministry, he had fed 5,000 people from just a few loaves of bread and the people wanted more. They wanted to follow him and find out what happened and how he did that. They wanted to be part of this great miracle again. But the thing that impressed them most was that they got a free lunch. They could eat the loaves and be filled. But Jesus told them that is not where their labor should be directed, and that's not where our labor should be directed either. We'll eat lunch in an hour or so and we'll be hungry again about the time supper rolls around. That's the situation for so many things that we spend out labor in, that they don't really last. But there is meat that endures unto everlasting life where we can direct our labors.

In Hebrews 10:31-37 it says:

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

Partly, whilst ye were made a gazing-stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Here Paul is commending those people who have suffered because of their testimony of Jesus Christ. They've had many earthly things taken away from them. They've lost possessions -- people carried away their worldly things that were valuable. They were made a gazingstock -- they lost their place in society and were made fun of. And yet, they knew in themselves they had a better and enduring substance.

All of this thinking about things that endure has reminded me of the parable of the sower. Jesus said there was a sower who was throwing seeds out of his bag on the ground. Some of them landed in a place where they were on the sidewalk or beside the way and the birds could come down and pick up those seeds because they didn't have anywhere to sink into.

Some of the seeds fell in a place where it was kind of rocky, so the seeds could spring up a little bit but they didn't have deep roots and when it got hot they withered and didn't produce anything.

Some of the seeds fell on a place where it was thorny, so there were other thorns that came up and crowded out those that were trying to be planted.

On the other hand, some of the seeds fell in good soil where plants could grow up and be strong and healthy.

Jesus explained the parable of the sower to his disciples this way in Mat-

thew 13:17-21:

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

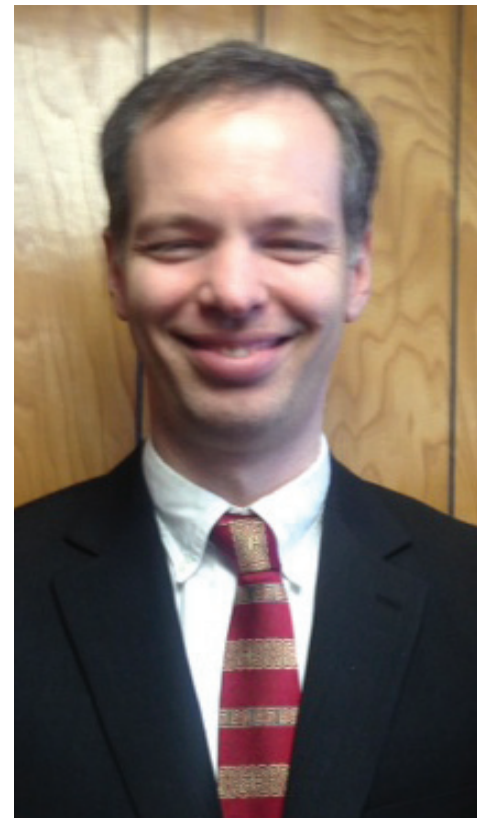
When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart; this is he who received seed by the wayside.

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word and readily with joy receiveth it, yet he hath not root in himself, and endureth but for a while; for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

He also who received seed among the thorns, is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

But he that received seed into the good ground, is he that heareth the word and understandeth and endureth; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, and some thirty.

So as we contemplate that parable that Jesus told and explained to us, it



Nathan Smith



occurs to me that at the beginning of the story we are represented by dirt and at the end of the story we are still represented by dirt. Dust to dust. That didn't really change the person in that story.

In the middle, some people were able to bring forth fruit, and that fruit was harvested and endured, even beyond the season it was grown. That good fruit could be gathered and last and some of it would go on to bring forth fruit over and over.

Julie and I teach the fourth grade Sunday school class at our congregation. We do this parable with the children every year and we try to think what that fruit represents. Jesus tells us most of what everything else is. The seeds are the word of God. The soil is us. But what is the fruit? That is a little bit of a mystery for us to think about. The kids usually think about it and come up with ideas. I think that's something that we all must take some time to think about. What is that fruit that God would be developing in our lives and would want us to bear?

A lot of times the children come up with ideas like people with whom we share the gospel who are converted. I think also it could be the good things we do, the way God's word is reflected in our actions.

This concept is something that is in the scriptures quite a lot. When we look in the book of John, Jesus explains in a different parable that he is the vine and we are all branches that have to be connected into the true vine if we are going to be able to bear fruit. That we have to have that sap of the Holy Spirit, connected from Jesus, flowing through us. Then we can bear fruit for him.

For my grandmother in her final period of life, the scripture that seemed to mean the most to her was also about fruit. It comes from the book of Galatians 5:22-25:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Here are examples of fruits we can bear in our lives because we are walking in the Spirit. If we are sharing love, joy, peace, long-suffering sometimes thought of as patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance sometimes called self-control, those are the good things that happen because the Holy Spirit is living in us. Those things that can endure -- things that last even if our other accomplishments, our fame, our reputation, or our material things get lost or broken and not passed down to future generations, can endure.

In the book of Moroni 7:48-53 it specifically tells us about one of these fruits of the spirit that God says will endure.

Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope; for without faith there can not be any hope.

And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart;

And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.

And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth.

Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus

Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.

In that passage of scripture there are so many things that are tied directly to the fruits of the spirit -- having faith, enduring -- all of those things are related and tied into this attribute of charity. Charity endures. All things must fail, but charity is the pure love of Christ and endures forever. Charity is a piece of God's nature that can be found within our hearts -- that can dwell within us -- that can last.

As I think about people that have gone on before, the things that endure in my mind are the ways they have expressed God's love to me.

Being back here in Mount Ayr, I was remembering Florence Irving, who was a Sunday school teacher when I was a very little boy here and I know some of you remember her from days before and the way she expressed God's love to us as very little children and the lessons she taught to us in Sunday school.

And I was particularly remembering an Elder named Guy Mannering who I went to church with in Independence, MO. Guy and his wife were very special to me. Liz played the organ and was the music director at church so we worked together closely over the years. What I particularly remember about Guy is a time that I was ill and the gentleness and the way he expressed God's love through that ordinance of administration. It really stuck with me and endured.

I was also thinking about Verle Cornish. He performed the wedding ceremony for Julie and me and he also gave us our patriarchal blessings that we have been reflecting on lately and receiving direction for our lives. Those moments of love that he shared with us endure in my life much more than any other accomplishment or other professional accolades which he achieved. The things I remember and endure with me are the times he shared God's love.

So that is the challenge that I would leave with us today. Think about the fruit that our life is bearing. What are



the things we need to clear away that are really not important -- that won't last in

the long term -- so that we can be able to be the fruit in people's lives that Jesus

is calling us to be. What fruit are you bearing for Jesus?



DON'T LET GO OF THE WHEEL

Elder

Steven Cunningham

Boone, Iowa

February 23, 2014

Elder Michael Jordison presided over the service. A lot of times after I hear a sermon I think it's really good but I don't think much more about it through the rest of the week. Something about Nathan Smith's sermon last Sunday really touched me especially about the parable of the sower. I'd like to read from Mark 4:9-13. What really caught me last Sunday was that usually when I think of the parable of the sower and look at the four responses, I tend to look at the world as being the ground and the wayside. But I think there is another meaning to that and it is the church. This takes place immediately after Jesus had spoken to the multitude about the parable. *And when he was alone with the twelve, and they that believed in him, they that were about him with the twelve, asked of him the parable. (They didn't get it when He shared it either.) And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but unto them that are without, all things are done in parables; That seeing, they may see and not perceive; and hearing, they may hear and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? (Those of you who are my friends and are listening and diligently inquiring, Don't you know about this?) And how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word. What I think is important about that in relationship*

to the church is that in every congregation one of those four responses to the words of God is found; those who don't heed it, those who allow the cares of the world to come up and choke the seed, those who have no root within them and of course those who do respond.

The next scripture that I'd like to share with you as our Call to Worship this morning comes from a section of the Doctrine and Covenants that I don't read very often, Section 153:9. This is given by Wallace B. Smith. *Let my word be preached to the bruised and the brokenhearted as well as those who are enmeshed in sin, longing to repent and follow me. Let the truths of my gospel be proclaimed as widely and as far as the dedication of the Saints, (that's us) especially through the exercise of their temporal stewardship, will allow. My Spirit is reaching out to numerous souls even now and there are many who will respond if you, my people, will bear affirmative testimony of my love and my desires for all to come unto me. Be steadfast and trust in the instructions which have been given for your guidance. I will be with you and strengthen you for the tasks that lie ahead if you will continue to be faithful and commit yourselves without reservation to the building of my kingdom.*

I'd like to take my scripture reading out of 2nd Chronicles 7:14. *If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

This is another Sunday and another one of those things that can be challenging when you are up front preaching. Life is challenging no matter what's going on, if it's not one thing it's another.

You just have to smile and appreciate what life brings.

I was really trying to figure out what I wanted to talk about. This time my subject came easy so I'm kind of concerned. I know that everybody else who stands behind the pulpit wants to bring something that will touch a life and might do something to change a life or might do something to bring to remembrance something that has happened in their life to bring them closer to God. I pray that as I stand here I will be able to really share what's in my heart.

Driving back and forth to work in Des Moines there are a lot of good things that come into my mind but it's hard to write it down while I am driving down the highway so I try to remember it. Then when I sit down to put things together I can't always remember the thoughts I had. I wrote a few notes but mostly I have scriptures to share with you this morning.

We have watched the movie "Courageous," which we had recorded earlier, several times. At the very beginning of this movie it shows a man fueling his four-door truck. He goes to get into his vehicle and realizes how dirty his windshield is so he decides that he needs to get out and clean the windshield but, of course, the little sponge close to him doesn't have any water in it so he walks across to the other island to get the sponge and water to clean his windshield.

In the meantime someone has been watching his vehicle and as he goes over to get the sponge, he turns around and sees that someone is in his truck. The man runs to his vehicle. The front window is open and he tries to jump inside the window. He's grabs a hold of the steering wheel. As they are go-



ing down the highway, the guy who is stealing the truck keeps trying to fight him off, trying to push him off of the vehicle because he wants the truck. This guy keeps on hanging on to the wheel. His feet are dragging on the pavement as they travel quickly down the road. Finally, the guy hanging onto the wheel actually causes them to go in the ditch. The guy trying to steal the truck jumps out and gets into a vehicle that had been following and takes off.

As the owner crawls back to the truck, a lady stops and tells him that everything is going to be all right after all it was just a truck. The guy who owns the truck replies that it isn't just the truck he is worried about and opens the back door. There is his baby son sitting in the back of the truck. As the police talk to him they tell him that what he did really wasn't that smart. He agrees but says that his son was in the back of the truck and he would give anything for his son. As the sheriff and deputy were driving away, the question was asked, 'Would you have held onto the wheel?' That is sort of what I want talk about today because so many times that's what we need to do. We need to hold onto the wheel.

I'd like to reread the opening scripture which says, *If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* I know that we live in a blessed nation but I look out there each and every day and some of the things that I hear and some of the things that I see just frustrates me. I know at Iowa State University this past week someone complained that there was a Gideon Bible in the drawer of a motel room which Iowa State had bought. Because one person complained they took that Gideon Bible out of the drawer and now it is in a library where you can go and get it. It befuddles me how one person can make a difference and how we as people are so afraid of what we believe and some of the consequences if we stand up for what we believe.

I look at some of the laws that are being passed within our land. I look at some of the issues that we see. We sit

back and listen to people that we have elected to office. We have people who we think believe the same way we do that flat out tell us that we need to not stand up for what we believe in but we need to stand for what will get them re-elected. That really concerns me and you see that on a daily basis. I am grateful that there are men out there who are willing to stand up for what they believe in. It's so hard to stand here and explain exactly what I'm talking about without getting into politics but I know that our nation is a sick nation and I know that God wants our nation to be a blessed land and He is willing to heal that land. The only thing that I can do myself is exactly what the scripture in 2nd Chronicles says, turn from my wicked ways, pray and seek God and then I will hear from heaven and my sins will be forgiven and the land healed. I can't change what my wife does. I can influence her just as she influences what I do. I can't change what my children do but I can influence them. What I can change is myself.

Jim Barber stood up here a couple of weeks ago and talked with such conviction when he asked us to pick up our scriptures and read them for fifteen minutes a day. When I walked out of here that Sunday that was exactly what I was going to do. When you look at fifteen minutes how much time is that but I didn't do it the first day. I justified that because it was Sunday and I had already been in church. Then the next day something came up. That's life but it is our responsibility to pick our scriptures up and know what they have to say.

Are we going to hold tight to the steering wheel? One thing the scripture I opened with talked about was to humble ourselves. What does that mean? I looked up a few things. Billy Graham put something out there and it was twelve steps to humble yourself. If you really read what he said it was that we need to turn ourselves over to Christ.

We need to become servants. We need to become meek. As the Bible defines humility it is honestly assessing ourselves in the light of God's holiness and our sinfulness. The word humble is used 73 times in the Bible and nearly

every single occurrence of the word is in the context of acknowledging one's sinfulness before our Holy God.

One of the twelve steps was to confess your sins. I think Rob was talking one time and wondered how many people would come to church each Sunday if the people who came confessed their sins. How many people would come just to hear the sins of others? I'm here to tell you today that I don't stand up here as a sinless man. I sin on a daily basis and there are times in my life that I'm just going through life and things happen. But there are other times in life that I stop and I know what I am doing. I am making a conscious decision to go the other way.

Every time we sin we are losing that grip on the steering wheel and not holding on. We need to stop, step back and listen to what the Spirit has to say to us. I know that I pray at times, 'God, please make me aware of the things that I do. Make me aware of the people around me that are in need of prayers or help.' Yet if we are not in the right frame of mind we are not going to hear His direction no matter what we are praying. I tell my sons that before they go and do something stop, step back and look at the situation and try to make sense of it.

I have people that are getting ready to ship to training in the National Guard. There are a lot of things that can get you in trouble so that you will not be allowed to ship to training. I talk about protecting their ship date. That's the day that they are supposed to ship out. Some of them think that since they are getting ready to go into the military, they should go out and party and do other stupid things. I talk to them about protecting the things that might keep them from shipping. They need to make sure they don't get injured; make sure they don't get a ticket; make sure they don't do something stupid where they are thrown in jail. They need to protect that ship date. That's exactly what we need to do. We need to protect ourselves from the world.

My son, Christopher, was getting ready to go to AIT. He was in his senior year of high school sitting up in the bleachers. Unfortunately girls make men do stupid things once in a while.



There was a bunch of girls that he wanted to impress so he jumped off the bleachers. When he did that he actually rolled his ankle which almost kept him from going to training. He wasn't thinking about stepping back and looking at the situation and saying, 'Yeah, this will be cool but something bad could happen.' So many times we need to step back, look at what's going on and make a decision.

As we talk about humbling ourselves, it says when we humble ourselves God promises that He will respond. He never breaks that promise. You will never find a time in the Bible when men humbled themselves before God that He did not hear and respond. God puts the responsibility to humble ourselves on us. Seeking humility means we confess our burdens. Living far from God proceeds every revival in the Bible. We must feel a burden for our own lack of righteousness. When one is humble it does not mean he or she is weak or afraid but the contrary, it means strong and fearless. You submit yourself to God.

Just because we're humble doesn't mean we have to give up our manhood. We need to be willing to lay our lives down as servants to God's people. Christ taught that we are to humble ourselves as children. A child depends on his or her parents for their needs and for instruction and example. We are to remember that is His way not our way. As Christians we are blessed with a gift from God but have done nothing to earn those blessings. If we humble ourselves we have the assurance of a rich life on earth and His place and kingdom after we die.

There are things that I tell my children. I know better because I have done these things. I've made these mistakes and I share with my children trying to make sure that they don't do the same things that I have done. There are so many places in the scriptures where He is telling us what we need to do because He doesn't want us to go through the same problems that others have gone through. First Peter 5:6-11 says, *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your cares*

upon him; (He wants you to cast your concerns and cares upon Him. So many times we have these burdens and concerns within us and we try to hold them in ourselves. He says to cast them upon Him.) *for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour;* (We see this on a daily basis. We see satan out there each and every day.) *Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.*

I know each morning that I get up there will be things trying to pull me away from Jesus Christ. There are things trying to get me to go the other way whether it be the shows I watch on TV, whether it be the people that I associate with, whether it be the other drivers on the road. There are many things that pull us from Jesus Christ. If we don't have Jesus Christ and we don't have a prayer in our heart at all times, we tend to do things that we shouldn't do. First Peter 3:12-16 says, *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer with meekness and fear to every man that asketh of you a reason for the hope that is in you: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conduct in Christ.*

You must have a testimony in your heart at all times. I was talking to my wife Sue and that's what she said on the way down today. At all times you ought to have a testimony within you so that you can share it. I know a lot of times that we dwell on the negative things in

life. We dwell on the things that happen on a daily basis but we need to look at what Jesus Christ has done for us. We need to look at some of the blessings that He has given us. I would recommend that we write these blessings down because so many times there are little things that happen that we don't even stop and think about.

I keep this book that is completely full now. I need to get another one. I go through it quite often that's why the pages are falling out but it has sermons all the way back to 2003. In fact I was going through it today and, Gordon, it has your first sermon when you were ordained to be an Elder. I look through here because there are a lot of good things that I write down when they happen. One thing I have written down is keeping His commandments and one of those is keeping the Sabbath holy. As I was reading through these things in this book today it brought something up that I wouldn't have remembered if I hadn't written it down. It's minor but it sort of made me chuckle. It says that Sue and I were home with the kids on Sunday evening. We had been talking about keeping the Sabbath Day holy. Later on that evening we talked about going down to the store to get ice cream. Sue said that we shouldn't do that because we were trying to keep the Sabbath Day holy.



Steve Cunningham



Jacob stated that it was OK because she had already gone to the store that morning so it was all right if they went that night. Since we had already done it once and broke the Sabbath it was all right to break it again and go down and get ice cream. I have no idea when this happened but it shows me that we are able to justify things. Here we were talking about keeping the Sabbath Day holy but we wanted ice cream so we justified getting it.

We need to look back at how Christ has affected our life through the little things that happen. We need to have a testimony on our heart. I have a tendency to dwell on the negative things in my life. There was a rough time that we went through after my brother passed away. A lot of things had happened within our family. Sue had miscarried. We had two other people within the church who had miscarried. Lois Lane's husband who was a member of our church had passed away as well as Max Wilkinson. Poor Steve was having a pity party. At a reunion one year, I was in a service and writing some things down. When I look back at that time I was feeling sorry for myself.

All I was doing was thinking about myself and the things that I had gone through. It was just like someone audibly talked to me. I can hear it today just as I did then. It said, 'Take your eyes off yourself and serve my flock. Your pain will be great but your reward even greater.' The pain that we have inside is the pain that we allow to build up inside us. God never said our lives would be easy. We do have pain whether it's a loss of a loved one, loss of a friend or the trials and tribulations that we go through but God flat out told me that yeah my pain was great but my reward would be greater if I served Him.

That probably happened in 2007 or 2008. I still dwell on the negative things but what the Lord told me has gotten me through many times in my life since. This experience is something that I can share with people who might have lost a loved one. Yeah you go through this pain but if you keep His commandments He will reward you. One thing I had a big problem with was praying because I

had prayed and prayed for Max Wilkinson to be healed. I remember one time someone called me and told me that I needed to go down to Des Moines. I knew my Dad and John had gone down to see Max Wilkinson and I was sure that he would be healed. I thought they had called me because they had Max in the van and that he had been healed. I had so much faith that he was going to be healed. I got down to Des Moines and guess what? They called because the engine had blown out of the van. Several weeks later Max passed away. I can't explain it but the one thing I will say is it says in the scriptures to pray continually and that is the only thing that has kept me going. 'Your pain will be great but your reward will be even greater.'

Look at what Jesus did for us. Look at the sacrifice that He made for us and He did it willingly so one day we could stand with Him and His Father. Psalm 100 says, *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.* Then it says in Psalms 69:32, *The humble shall see this, and be glad; and your heart shall live that seek God.* God has told us through the scriptures what He is willing to give to us. If we believe in what Jesus Christ has told us, we wouldn't have a question of what we should do on a daily basis.

Last night I was talking to my sister-in-law. She was talking about one of her nephews. It seems like every time you turn around this young man is in trouble. She said that the problem was that every time he got into trouble someone would reach down and help him up. She made the point that she felt like it was time that someone just let him go so he hits rock bottom and realizes that there is no one there to help him but Jesus Christ. That's exactly what I feel

about myself. I know that I'm not a really bad person but I know that I don't do what I need to do on a daily basis to bring forth Zion. That's exactly what we should do each and every day as we get up and at the end of the day we should ask ourselves what we have done to bring forth Zion.

James 4:4-10 says, *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* (Look at what's going on in the world. If you live within the world you are going to be serving satan.) *Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

Here I am 48 years old and I am still trying to examine my life to figure out where I want to go with my life. As I examine my life it opens up a lot of questions of things that I do. It is a constant struggle in our walk with Christ but He says it won't be if we follow Him so the way I look at it is if you are having a problem you are walking the fence. You are trying to stay in the world at the same time as you are trying to live with Jesus Christ. If you are going down a road trying to figure out which way to go it's because you are not walking closely with Jesus Christ but you are walking with the world.

James 1:21-25 says, *Wherefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness, the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, (So if all we do is come here and talk about it at church we're just being hearers and we need to be doers.) deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a*



doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straight-way forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Towards the end of the movie “Courageous” there’s a part where one of the deputies is caught stealing some drugs that were supposed to be going into the evidence locker. He was taking the drugs and selling them. They caught him doing it. What was ironic

was even though he was a police officer he tried to justify why he did what he did. He wasn’t making enough money even though he put his life on the line each and every day to give his family some of the things that he thought he should give them. Later on after he was arrested and thrown in jail, the sheriff visited him. They were talking and the deputy looked at the sheriff and made the comment that somewhere along the way he had let go of the wheel.

I am telling you right now, brother and sisters, letting go of the wheel is something that we can do easily. You don’t mean to but satan is right there

and every time we step the wrong way he’s there to open up another door. I pray that you won’t let go of the wheel. I pray that you will stop and look at the things that Jesus Christ has given you. With those gifts that He gives you there is an expectation.

I pray that you will go back and read 2 Chronicles 7:14 because I know at times I ask myself what can I do? The scripture says, *If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR ACCOUNTING?

BY ALAN SMITH

The promises of the scriptures are sure.

When we make our accounting and offer our tithing to the Lord, we will be richly blessed.

I believe that if our branch had 100 percent of the members filing their tithing statement and making an effort to offer their tithing to the Lord, our branch would see the difference in the spiritual blessings we share with each other and others around us who are in need of knowing Jesus.

Knowing where we spend out money is important if we are going to be stewards over it. Making an accounting of our financial resources every year, helps us see where we are spending our resources. It also gives us an opportunity to decide what things are “needs and justified wants” and those things which are just . . . wants. We pay tithing (one tenth) on the increase, the difference between our necessities for life and our total income.

“...it is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to RENDER AN ACCOUNT OF HIS STEWARDSHIP, both in time and in eternity.” D&C 72:1c

Accounting is officially done on tithing state-

ments. Tithing statements are available at the branch (front lobby) or from various websites.

The Conference of Restoration Branches has forms and aids available at www.conferenceof-branches.org. Pull down the “Resources” blue box on the left and go to “Member Tools and Resources.” Three is a list of stewardship accounting tools there for download.

They may be available at other sites, but I haven’t been able to find them on line in other places. Let us know if you find other places, and we can share them next month.



The accounting statements are then submitted to a bishop for the church. Valle and I send ours to Brother Carl Cederstrom at the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches office.

Tithing can be paid in the branch by noting how a contribution to the branch is being made. Monetary blessings shared with the Lord on the branch level can be for tithing (which goes to the bishop), offering (which goes to pay expenses on the branch level), and oblation (which goes to help the needy).

Take some time this week and make your accounting. I am assured your family will be blessed.



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		The Principle of	Obedience in the life of the	True Disciple of Jesus		1 Genesis 4:6-13 2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Nephi 63:66
2 Genesis 22:1-22 Genesis 26:2-5 Exodus 15:26	3 Exodus 19:3-11 Exodus 20:1-26 Leviticus 22:31-33	4 Leviticus 26:3-12 Leviticus 26:21-39 Deuteronomy 4:1-2	5 Deuteronomy 4:30-31, 40; 5:32-33; 6:17, 24-25	6 Deuteronomy 11:1, 8; 11:13-15; 22-25, 26-28; 32.	7 Deuteronomy 13:4, 27; 9-10; 1 Kings 8:61	8 Psalms 1:1-3; 111:10; 112:1-3; 128:1; Ecclesiastes 8:5; 12:13-14.
9 Isaiah 1:28-29 Isaiah 5:24 Isaiah 48:18-19	10 Jeremiah 6:19 Jeremiah 7:23 Jeremiah 11:3-5; 18:9-10	11 Jeremiah 26:3-6 Jeremiah 38:20 Jeremiah 42:21-22	12 Jeremiah 44:10-14 Jeremiah 44:23 Ezekiel 18:5-9	13 Daniel 9:4 Matthew 4:3-4 Matthew 5:21 I.V.	14 Matthew 7:30-35. John 14:21 John 15:10; Acts 5:29	15 Acts 5:32 Romans 2:12-13 Romans 6:16
16 Romans 13:1-5 Ephesians 6:5-8 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9	17 Hebrews 10:26 1 Peter 1:13-16 1 Peter 1:22	18 1 Peter 2:7-8 1 John 3:24 2 John 1:6	19 2 John 1:9 Revelation 1:3 Revelation 22:14	20 1 Nephi 1:56 1 Nephi 1:116 1 Nephi 5:59-60	21 1 Nephi 7:68-70 2 Nephi 1:10-26	22 2 Nephi 1:34 Alma 17:46-49
23 Alma 21:135-140 D&C 42:21a	24 D&C 51:1c-e; 5b D&C 52:4c-e; 5a	25 D&C 58:1b D&C 63:6b; 7b	26 D&C 66:1 D&C 77:1g; 4a,d,e	27 D&C 81:1a-3b D&C 86:3c-d	28 D&C 92:1a-3f D&C 94:1e-g	29 D&C 95:3a-f D&C 97:4a-d
30 D&C 9:a-b D&C 10:a-d; 11:a-d. D&C 102:2a-2b	31 D&C 103:1-3c D&C 128:7a-e D&C 137:6a-b					

2013



MARCH 2014

Sunday Schedule

Date	MARCH 2	MARCH 9	MARCH 16	MARCH 23	MARCH 30	APRIL 6
Speaking	LUCAS RETREAT	Michael Jordison	Alan Smith	Ed Anderson	Ron Smith	Gordon Winkler
Presiding		Rob Rolfe	Rodney Bastow	Jim Barber	Alan Smtih	Ron Smith
Pianist		Pat Bolingbroke	Cheryl Phipps	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke
Special Music		Steve Smith	Sue Beck	Alan Smith	Jim Barber	Di Smith
Family Devotions		Gordon Winklers	Bob Rowlands	Steve Smiths	Ed Andersons	Jim Barbers
Greeters		George Knotts	Michaael Jordisons	Sherman Phippses	Rob Rolfes	Alan Smiths
Custodians		Ron Smiths	Rodney Bastows	Michael Jordisons	Sherman Phippses	Bob Rowlands
Sunday Evening		Steve Smiths	Rob Rolfes	Ron Smiths	Community Sing Mount Ayr	Rob Rolfes

Wednesday Night Prayer Service Schedule

Date	MARCH 5	MARCH 12	MARCH 19	MARCH 26	APRIL 2	APRIL 9
Location	Alan Smiths	Ron Smiths	Steve Smiths	Rob Rolfes	Gordon Winklers	Ron Smiths
Presiding	George Knotts	Alan Smith	Michael Jordison	Gordon Winkler	Ben Anderson	Sherman Phipps

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, MARCH 2 - - LUCAS RETREAT

Sunday, MARCH 19 -- Short business meeting to elect delegates to JCRB Conference

Saturday, MARCH 22 -- Heartland District Conference at Keosauqua

Sunday, MARCH 23 -- Business meeting to elect delegates to JCRB conference

Sunday, MARCH 30 -- COMMUNITY SING, 6:30 P.M., at Baptist-Presbyterian Church

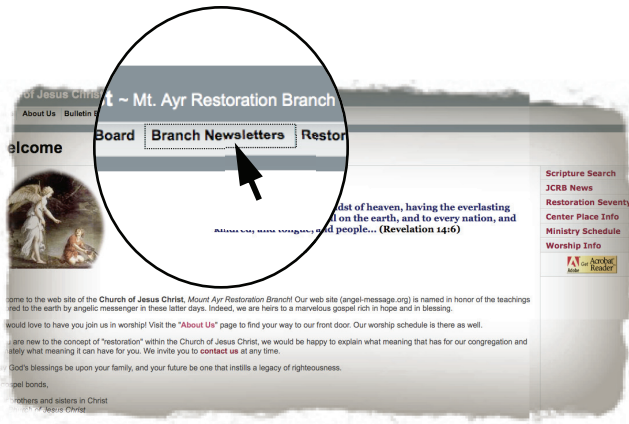
Happy Birthday: Isabel Jordison (1), Kathy White (4), Barbara Houston (6), Tanner Rowland (11), Megan Clisby (12).



Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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

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



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

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

MORE NEWS AND NOTES

worship to elect our delegates.

This conference will be different from those of recent years, in that we will be engaging in a visioning process meant to unify us in focus and begin assigning leaders and planning activities the JCRB will be engaged in over the next two years.

Retreat planned

We will have an archeological dig retreat at Nauvoo, IL on the weekend of June 6-8.

We will take part in an archeological dig on Saturday and share the Sunday service with the Nauvoo branch.

We will be staying in the Nauvoo

House and food will be provided.

Let Steven Smith know if you plan to attend.

Witnessing Weekend

The witnessing weekend originally scheduled for MARCH at Bell, MO has been postponed.

As soon as the date is reset for this, we will let everyone know.

Heartland District activity

Mount Ayr branch members have been invited to attend a couple of activities planned by the Heartland District in coming months.

The Heartland district conference

will be held Saturday, March 22, at the Keosauqua Restoration Branch in Keosauqua, IA. While the Mount Ayr branch isn't a member of the district, they welcome participation on an individual level.

On the Memorial Day Weekend, there will be a retreat in Nauvoo, IL, along with the opening of the Cornerstone of Zion visitor's center in Nauvoo.

Volunteers who can spend a weekend or a week in Nauvoo acting as hosts at the center are being sought.

Housing is provided in a church-owned trailer near the site.

Contact David Drummond at dd-drummond@yahoo.com to volunteer. Speakers in some of the Heartland District groups are also welcome.