



# Church of Jesus Christ

## Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

# NEWSLETTER

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## Blessed Thanksgiving




## News & Notes

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### Holiday activities planned

Four special events are planned for the Christmas and New Year's holidays in the Mount Ayr branch this year.

These include singing at Liberty Hall in Lamoni, a caroling party, helping out families in need and a New Year's Eve party.

The branch will carol at Liberty Hall Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m. This will be during the annual Christmas open house at Liberty Hall.

The branch caroling party will be

held Sunday, Dec. 14. We will meet at Ron and Di's home at 5 p.m. to begin caroling. We will have a soup supper following the caroling at their home. More details will be announced.

The branch is helping with the Christmas project at the MATURA Neighborhood Center in Mount Ayr again this year.

Cards with the needs of children in the community are available at the church. An outfit of clothes and a toy

*Continued on back page*



# ARE WE HUNGRY?

**Priest Ed Anderson**  
**Lamoni, IA**  
**November 2, 2014**

Our Call to Worship, read by High Priest Robert Rolfe, was taken from James 1:22-25. *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, 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 straightway 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.*

**G**ood morning. It's always a challenge for me to stand before you in the stead of Christ and give the message that He would want you to hear. I always wonder is it my thoughts or His thoughts. The little girl in the front row has the clue here though. She said, 'I'm hungry.' My question is, are we hungry? Are we hungry because we want to eat because our stomachs are growling or are we hungry for the gospel of Jesus Christ? Which are you hungry for? Then the next thing she said was is it over yet? Is it because she wants to get out of here or does she anxiously want to spread the gospel, to tell the story that we hear in church?

There's a lot of information in our scriptures that gives us a good foundation. What we've done today is to partake of the bread and wine which is a culmination of many things. It's something that was planned from the foundation of the world. From day one and even before everything was created the plan was to put men and women in the garden of Eden and let them live there. The plan was that after they fell they would have a way to return into the presence of God. Adam and Even partook of the apple and departed from the word of God.

One of the reasons why the growth of the Mormon Church is so phenomenal is that they have something that they can grasp on to, the Book of Mormon. Right or wrong they have something solid to grasp on to. You remember in Lehi's vision and Nephi's subsequent vision the multitude of people that were searching for something. What were they searching for? It never really does say, does it? They were traveling many roads and getting involved in a lot of different things. What were they searching for? What is the nature of man? What is inside of man? What did God place in man? He placed a desire to know Him, to be hungry, to search out His ways.

When we reach out to partake of the sacrament it is a culmination of a lot of things. You have Melchizedek. You have Noah desiring to serve God. Noah, obviously, and his wife and sons and daughters were the only ones that survived the flood because they adhered to what God wanted them to do. You have Joseph. We talked a little bit about Joseph in our church school class today and his going down to Egypt and saving both the Egyptians and the Israelites from famine. Then we have Moses

who brought them out of Egypt. Was this just by accident or is there a master plan? I believe there is a master plan from the foundation of the world. You might think that is bordering on predestination but it's not. God has a plan to save His people and provide salvation for all men.

We come down to Joseph Smith. After the falling away and the death of Christ, the church went into apostasy and Joseph Smith was moved on by the Spirit of God to seek out God. What happened to Joseph Smith? An angel came and explained and gave to him the foundation of His church. What about all the other people? We lie somewhere in between here because we aren't prophets and haven't been given any great mission personally to establish the church. We've been given the commission to establish Zion but individually we are a culmination of what, the things that have been taught to us by our parents. I am thankful for my parents who raised me and gave me the desire to worship and serve God. They gave me the basis, the foundation with which to act.

If you look around you in our so-

# HUNGER

"U" ARE THE MISSING INGREDIENT





ciety today you hear so many philosophies and so many different ideas that aren't necessarily truth. There is truth. If standing before the judgment seat of Christ is the only way you are going to find out what that truth is, you will know the truth. There is no getting out by saying, I didn't know. The truth is there.

Are we hungry? Do we want to seek that truth out? Do we want to better ourselves? Even more do we want to know that truth so that we can reach out and minister in His name? Is this too big a task for us, too big a task to change our lives, to change our hearts? Along the way we evidently have changed our hearts at one time or another. The question that is, do we still feel that way? Do we still feel like our hearts are changed?

I bought a new truck when I graduated from veterinary school. It was a pretty blue truck. I treated it very well. If you haven't figured it out, I totaled out the orange car. I hit a deer so I don't drive the orange car any more but I bought another car. Do you know where it's sitting? It's sitting in the garage at home. My wife won't let me drive it at night because I might hit a deer. The reason why the car is still in the garage is because I have hit somewhere around 15 deer over the years.

When we have our hearts changed can we still feel that change? Moreover, it's like my truck. When I buy a new vehicle I treat it gently and try not to get any scratches or dents in it. How do I treat it after I get the first scratch? Not as well as before. After I get the first dent I drive a little faster on the gravel roads until I really just drive it. What are we doing with our conversion? When we first have that great conversion experience we're all fired up and enthused and hungry but the first time that somebody puts us down because of our beliefs, what is our response. Maybe we don't speak up quite as fast to share with someone else and then we get complacent through the various negative influences that happen to us when we try to bear our testimony. When we stop doing the things we know we should do it kind of dulls us, it dulls our edge. In athletics you say that the team that wins

has the competitive edge. They are the ones that are hungry and want to win.


Do we want Zion? Do we want to be a part of it? What is necessary for that to happen? It requires preparation and planning, changing our hearts again and keeping them changed. Repentance is a daily affair. We shouldn't just repent one day a week. We should repent every day of the week because we fall. We can't quite get to what Christ wants us to be.

I think one of the problems that the church had in the past is that we lost our faith. We couldn't quite see how Zion could be established. We're human and we're involved in life and we can't see how life can change, how we can put Zion into our life. There's a lot going on around us so how does Zion work? I promise you I don't know exactly but I do promise you that it will happen because God has said that it will happen. Zion will be but will we be there? We must have faith.

**I** like the Book of Hebrews and I found a chapter that I really like that talks about faith. It's the 11th chapter of Hebrews. *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (1) That could be Zion, right? We don't see Zion but we hope for Zion along with a lot of other things. *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, . . . By faith Enoch was translated. . . But without faith it is impossible to please him. . . By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house. . .* (4-7) All of these things are happening because of the faith of these individuals.

*By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed. . . Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child. . .* (11) *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac. . .* (17) *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a-dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph. . .* (20-21) *By*

*faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel. . .* (22) *By faith Moses, when he was come to years of discretion, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. (24) He stepped out of his comfort zone on that one. He had everything. He was the son of the daughter of the Pharaoh but by faith he said, no I am not the son of the daughter of the Pharaoh. By faith he forsook Egypt. . .* (27) *Through faith he kept the Passover. . .* (28) *By faith they passed through the Red sea. . .* (29) *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down. . .* (30) *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not. . .* (31) *and saved Israel. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. (33-34)*

Are we hungry enough to have faith, the desire really to do the work of God? Are we finished yet or just starting, starting when we leave here to be changed, to be an active participant in the building of God's kingdom. 



Ed Anderson



# BEING DILIGENT, SINCERE AND PATIENT

**Elder Steven Smith**  
Lamoni, Iowa  
November 9, 2014

“Pumpkin Pie.”

I have found that every great feast in my life ends with pumpkin pie: Christmas... Thanksgiving... One day it occurred to me that a feast starting with pumpkin pie would be greater, or even a feast with both starting and ending with pumpkin pie had the potential to be the greatest. Probably anything that starts or ends with pumpkin pie would be great...even a sermon.

Today I would like to make an analogy between cooking and keeping the promises in the commands.

In both cases, we need to:

1. Have faith that the reward will follow our compliance
2. Comply with the recipe..not doing things that don't help...doing things right that do help (sometimes called repentance)
3. Integrate changes in our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions
4. Then look for the reward
5. And revisit the promise to modify it if it does not work as intended

Today I would like to demonstrate that three other characteristics also help us in cooking or spiritual promises. These are:

1. Being diligent, or enduring to the end
2. Being sincere
3. Being patient

So today for our spiritual feast, I wish to make pumpkin pie, soup, bread, and cookies .

My Mom made the best pumpkin pie, and wrote a cook book, that promises if I take the proper ingredients, I too can have the reward of the promise of

a pumpkin pie. This is much like the scriptures which contain promises if we keep the conditions. The difference is that Mom's recipe book gives amounts, an order, and even temperatures that make my efforts successful. The writers of the scriptures, often made observations or wrote inspirations that need to be gathered and experimented on, to get the reward.

Mom starts her directions for making pumpkin pie...(Steve cuts out the top of a pumpkin, making a hole big enough to place his fist into.) In it I should put brown sugar, whole wheat flour, salt, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, sorghum, melted fat, eggs, vanilla and milk. Now I combine them in the pumpkin... and I do not have pumpkin pie. I have combined all the ingredients asked for. What else do I lack? Oh yes, heat. (A match is lit and held under the

pumpkin). I used all the right ingredients, but I did not end up with pumpkin pie. Is the promise from my Mom no good?

I have not been diligent in obeying the command to combine only the ingredients listed, in the amounts listed, in the order listed, with the needed preparation (like mashing the pumpkin flesh into a pulp ahead of time). If I want the reward of a pumpkin pie, I am going to have to try again to get all the ingredients prepared properly, and again until through diligence and enduring to the end, I can eat the pie. Today, I have not been diligent and will not receive my reward.

Next, I wish to mention being sincere. Sincere is a compound latin word that comes from “sin” and “cere”.

Sin is an archery term that means not or without. An good archer would



*Cookie dough is tasted following the service to prove that following the recipe yields the greatest reward.*





aim at a 2 1/2 brass disc. This was about the size of an enucleated eye from a bull, or a bullseye. If you could hit the disc, you could hit the “kill zone” of small game. If you missed, it was called a sin. If you couldn’t kill small game, the wages of sin were death because your family would starve to death.

“Cere” is Latin for wax. Ceramics that cracked could be salvaged and sold by melting wax into the defect. The defect was camouflaged with wax. When you put hot soup into the dish, the wax would melt, and you would get a lap full of a total mess.

(A cracked bowl is produced that has a defect that has been repaired by wax. Tap water is poured in and it holds the water. The tap water is removed and replaced with boiling soup. The wax melts and floats on the soup, but the crack remains filled with soft wax... the leak appears after two attempts. This bowl was not sincere. In fact, sincerity would have helped in the pumpkin pie fiasco.

Reputable pottery vendors would advertise that their wares were “sincere” or “without wax”.

If your heart is broken, Christ has asked that you would bring your broken heart to him. He will not repair your heart with wax...he will heal it. Sometimes we carry sins which are tearing us apart, but we try to camouflage it, and try to hide it from God and others... much like putting wax over a defect in a pot.

Christ has said he is our potter. He can make it like new without having to cover it with wax. Sincerity is necessary when we integrate our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions to use faith in order to repent by keeping the commands.

Now let’s turn to page 69 of my mother’s book to making bread. I was diligent to get the right ingredients, in the quantity that was needed.

So I have combined:

In bowl #1- 1 1/3 cups warm milk,  
2/3 Tablespoon of yeast,

add and mix in: 1 beaten egg, and  
1/9 cup of sugar mix

Bowl #2 -- 3 cups of flour

Bowl #3- 1 1/3 tablespoon of melted

butter

Bowl #4-1/3 Table-  
spoon of salt

I will combine the wet ingredients with the flour, adding salt, then cover the dough ball with the butter. I then want the bread to rise....(fidgeting while waiting silent for about one minute)...It is not rising, what did I do wrong?...Come on bread, rise! I am sure that I added the right amount of ingredients, in the right order, but the bread has not risen? What do I lack now?

Sam Jordison responded, “Patience.”

Well, I’ll just cover that and go on.

On page 113 of my mother’s book, she gives a promise for my favorite cookie. I truly want one of those cookies, she is not here to make me one. I am going to try the promise that she put in her book to make Cowboy cookies. I am sincere in wanting the cookie, I have been diligent to get the right ingredients in the right amounts. In fact, I have tried this recipe before.

Sometimes the cookies have come out looking like bread, sometimes the cookies have run all over the tray and combined in a tasty thick chunky scum layer on the tray. In each of those instances, I have used diligence, and Mom’s input, to review what I did wrong, so I could be rewarded with the ideal Cowboy cookie.

I have combined:

In quart bowl #1 -- 1/2 cup table  
fat, 1/2 cup white sugar, 1/2 cup brown  
sugar, 1/2 tsp vanilla

In pint bowl #2- 1 cup whole wheat  
flour, 1/4 tsp. soda, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/ tsp.  
baking powder

In cup bowl #3 -- 1 beaten egg

In pint bowl #4 -- 1 cup oatmeal,  
1/4 cup chopped pecans

In a bag- chocolate chips

I have not measured out the 1/4 cup  
of chocolate chips, so I ask Elyse Jordi-  
son to let me know when she thinks I



have enough chocolate chips in the cookie dough. Steve ends up adding the entire bag of chocolate chips. (Elyse asks if she could try the dough)

Normally I would bake at 350 for 12 minutes to get cookies, but so far it looks like I have been successful, and we can tell success if we indeed eat the dough. Do I have a volunteer to taste the dough to see if it is would make a good cookie? (Many volunteers came forward and use the plastic spoons provided.) Some take seconds... and more. The only volunteers are children

Oh, and look, with a little patience, the dough has risen.

This demonstration has been an analogy for keeping the commands. If we believe in the recipes...promises of God (have faith), to the point that we do something about it (repent), and we are diligent (enduring to the end), sincere, and patient, we will get our reward, and nothing is out of our reach, even the reward of a ...” pumpkin pie”.



Above picture: Steven Smith kneads  
dough for the bread he is making.



# HAVING PEACE

**High Priest Rob Rolfe**  
**Lamoni, Iowa**  
**November 23, 2014**

Brother Rolfe read Isaiah 26:3-4 as his scripture reading. *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.*

**B**lessed Thanksgiving family! It is a privilege and a pleasure to share this day with you. To enjoy a national holiday that was, at least at first, designed to set aside 1 day to thank God for all of our blessings. Blessings that we would not have, if it weren't for Him.

My text, this morning, says we need to keep our minds "stayed" on God. How do we do that? Why can't we do that? For most of us, it is because we suffer from S.A.D.D. That is spiritual attention deficit disorder. We are told to "pray" unceasingly. How is that possible? Isn't it hard to keep our minds on the prayer if we keep praying for more than a few minutes. Yet, the prophet says, you can have perfect peace if your mind is stayed on God. Most of you have heard about A.D.D. There are a lot of articles and accounts about people with attention deficit problems. What causes it? I don't know. There are a lot of opinions about that. At my age, though, I think sometimes I suffer from A.A.A.D.D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. I'll give you a short example:

*I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since*

*I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the glass of cold water I'd been drinking. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the water aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. The water is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the water, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye—they need water. I put the water on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid; there is a warm glass of water sitting on the counter; the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only 1 check in my check book; I can't find the remote; I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired.*

I realize this is a serious problem, and I probably need to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.... Is this why you didn't study your lesson for church school today! Is this also why you didn't get anything done yesterday. So much for the adults, what about our

children?

Seriously saints, do we expect or teach our children to focus their attention on anything and just hold it. Our minds can be trained to attend and stay focused. It is possible to do it. My text said that God will keep a person in perfect peace when that person's mind is stayed upon Him. Romans 14:17 says: *The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.* We have talked and heard a lot about righteousness. What have we thought, or done about bringing peace into our lives. The text says: keep your mind stayed on God! How do you train your mind to attend and stay focused on God? Teaching, training and effort!

Have you ever tried to train a dog to sit and stay? If you can do that, and some of you have, you can train your mind to stay on God and His Word. To train a dog to sit, you may have to push his hind end to the ground and say, "sit". Take a couple of steps and say, "stay". You may have to do this over and over until the dog learns to sit and stay at your command. Some dogs can learn to sit and stay for very long periods of time, if trained properly.

Can you train your mind the same way? Yes you can! It likely will be hard for you to do it. Why? Because your mind, my mind, is used to wandering. When you are trying to train your mind to stay upon God, you must keep commanding it back to God and to His Word when it wanders. Grab your mind, push it down and tell it to stay put. It helps if you have something to focus on. I suggest you put the Word of God in your mind. That means learning some scripture, maybe memorizing, learning to pray and staying focused on God.

Keeping our minds on God. Is your mind on God this morning? If not, with what have you replaced God in your mind? Was your mind on God this week? If not, with what did you replace God? Anyway, how do we keep



our minds on God? There is so much in the world that pulls our attention away from God. But Isaiah says, "if you want perfect peace, keep your mind on God". Perhaps modern men and women do not want that kind of peace.

Well, are we suffering from spiritual attention deficit disorder this morning? If you are, perhaps you haven't been feeding your mind properly. How you feed your mind? And, with what? Is your mind stayed on God or is it starved? Nephi says if we feast upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, we shall have eternal life. Nephi says, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Alma tells us that if we feast upon "this fruit" we will not hunger or thirst and that we shall reap the rewards of our faith.

Is your mind spiritually starved this morning? If it is, it is likely because you are neglecting to focus your mind on God. I tell you this,---if you have never used your mind to place yourself before God, begin to do it now. BUT..... How do we turn our minds to God?

To do this, we must start focusing our thoughts, our eyes, our hearts, away from all of those other things that are pulling our attention from God, and look to Him for everything. What are the things that pull your attention from God? You know what they are, if you are honest with yourself. Are these things all bad? Of course not! But if they keep your mind from Christ, they are bad for you. In the words of the hymn we sang Wednesday night

*I would be prayerful, through each busy moment;*

*I would be constantly in touch with God;*

*I would be tuned to hear his slightest whisper;*

*I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod;*

*I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.*

If you truly keep your mind stayed on God, then you will be able to do what the words of that hymn so aptly express.

When you think of all the gifts that God has given you, what do you think is the greatest gift? Could it be your mind? If your mind is God's greatest

gift, do you believe it should be devoted entirely to Him. As Paul said to the Corinthians (2 Cor 10:5) *We should cast down our imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*" There is a mouthful. Overcoming our imaginations! I can imagine a lot. And my imagination has gotten me into trouble more than once.

Paul counsels us to take our imagination captive. In other words, we control it. It doesn't control us. Take your mind captive. See to it that your thoughts are from God. If you do that, your mind will no longer be at the mercy of your impulses, and ready to be of service to your heavenly father. But what if you think, "God is not talking to me right now"! He may not be, but He ought to be! Remember,--remember, whose you are and whom you serve. Encourage yourself to remember. Remember the covenant you renew every month at the Lord's table. We eat and drink in memory of the body and blood of the Lord. Isn't promising to always remember Him like saying, I promise to keep my mind stayed on Him.

**Y**ou might say to me, it is harder today than it was for our parents, or grandparents. We have TV, cellphones, Ipads, Facebook, Twitter, email, music from many sources. But, I don't think it is harder than our grandparents. It was simply different then. For one thing, life was harder for our great grandparents and grandparents, but God told them to keep their minds focused on him, just like is telling us. What was it like 100 years ago for most of our families?

*"Great-grandmother, on a winter's day, milked the cows, slopped the hogs, saddled the mule and got the children off to school, did a washing, mopped the floor, washed the windows and did some chores, cooked a dish of homegrown fruit, pressed her husband's Sunday suit, swept the parlor, made the bed, baked a dozen loaves of bread, split some firewood and lugged some in--enough to fill the kitchen bin, cleaned the lamps and put in oil, stewed some apples she thought might spoil, churned the butter, baked a cake---*

*then exclaimed,*

*"For goodness sake, the calves have got out of the pen!--and went out and chased them in again, gathered the eggs and closed the stable, went back to the house and set the table, washed up all the dishes, fed the cat and sprinkled the clothes, mended a basketful of hose--then, opened the organ and began to play, "When you come to the end of a perfect day."*

That was your great grandmother... Do any of you remember when your grandmother used to sit at the spinning wheel, spinning yarn? Many of our mothers and grandmothers today still sit at a spinning wheel, but unfortunately, it is in the casino!!! What is their mind stayed on?

*The Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind...* (Gen. 7:23) How did they get to be of one mind. We have been talking about building Zion. To do that, how do we become of one mind? Solution: Everyone must agree with me? I don't think that will work, unless what? The first thing we must do is all of us must keep our minds on Christ. Search His



Rob Rolfe





thoughts and His ways. If we have the “mind of Christ”, as stated by the Apostle Paul, we will be much more likely to have one mind in our beliefs and actions. To the Romans, the Apostle said, *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Who hath been his counselor?* (Romans 11:34) And to the saints in Corinth he said, *Who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.* (I Cor. 2:16) Whom do you think is the instructor in this last verse?

When Jesus was asked what was the greatest or first commandment, Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind...* (Matthew 22:35-36) We must love with all our mind. How do we do that? Isn't love a matter of the heart and not the mind? You need to think about that commandment, and try to put the mind of Christ in your mind. Keeping our mind on God or on Christ, will greatly help you to avoid sin and its destruction.

I have observed that modern Christians not only don't agree and are not of one mind, we are not trying to agree. Many modern day Christians won't even get together to discuss their differences. If they won't associate with each other, how can they ever come to a unity of the faith? If we truly love one another, we will labor with each other until we are in unity in the faith of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the words of Genesis, when “we embrace the truth”!

**C**an you see your sin this morning? Can you see the effect your sin has on your life? Our Master is a fisher of men. But, Satan is also a fisher of men. Think of what happens when he goes fishing. When you fish, sometimes you put bait on the end of your line. Perhaps a worm or something else that is tasty to a fish. The fish sees, or tastes that morsel and eats it. What is it that will keep him from enjoying it? Just one little snap and down goes the worm. The fish is satisfied. BUT, that little worm has a hook inside of it...and that hook is attached to a line. The fish can swim only so far before the hook is set. The more

the fish struggles, the tighter the hook sets. The poor fish had no idea that the tasty little morsel he enjoyed for such a short time was actually controlled by a pair of hands, in a world he did not even know existed!

Isn't this what the adversary does to us? Once we are hooked on our sin, our righteousness, peace and joy are gone. Unlike the fish, who can't unhook itself, we have a Savior that can save us from our sin, even if the adversary has his hook in us. Though our sins be as scarlet, He can make them white as snow.

Are you troubled by sin? There is one sure solution that will make you forget your sin for a while. Simply wear a pair of shoes all day that are too tight.

We are all going to have problems. God can tell us the solution, but we have to act. If we want peace, and righteousness and joy, we must keep our minds stayed on him. It is hard to do and so easy to forget. Try it anyway. If you fail, try again and keep trying. Moses prophesied to Israel that they were going to have some severe trials. What

did he tell them to do? Remember! Remember what? They were to call to mind all of the things that God did for them.

*And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither I the Lord thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou, and all thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; then...* (Deut. 30:1) they were to return to the Lord and obey His voice. Wouldn't that be a good thing if we followed that advice today? Particularly on Thanksgiving Day?

May the peace of God rest upon you, upon your homes and upon your life's work; upon all that you possess; upon your husbands and wives, upon your children, according to your faith and good works, from this time forth.





# Adopt

## a Family for Christmas!

**Help make Christmas more joyful for the 150 youth in Ringgold County that need some extra help to make their Christmas merry.**

1. Pick up a youth's slip (or the slips for all the youth in a family) from the MATURA Neighborhood Center or from your church.
2. Purchase an outfit of clothes and a toy for the child or children.
3. Bring the unwrapped items in a bag with the slip to the MATURA Neighborhood Center by Wednesday, December 17.

You can also help with the Christmas dinner for a family in need by gathering all the items for a dinner to go along with the meat provided by the MATURA Neighborhood Center and bring these to the MATURA Neighborhood Center by Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Join area churches and individuals to help make this a Merry Christmas for others and experience the joy of giving this Christmas season as we remember the reason for the season.

## Ringgold County Ministerial Association





# 35 boxes

A total of 35 boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child box program were put together this year to send to children around the world. Each box had items like school supplies, personal hygiene items, clothing and toys. Notes were also included from the people who sent them. Each was to be prayed over as they were being packaged. At a Wednesday night service we had a prayer for the program and that the boxes would provide needed ministry and a testimony of Jesus. Ava and Alister Courtney are shown with the boxes.

# 15 meals

Thanksgiving meals for 15 Ringgold county families in need were provided by the Mount Ayr Restoration Branch this year. The bags included the fixings to go with a turkey provided through the MATURA Neighborhood Center. Happy Thanksgiving!







# Thanksgiving Dinner



A crowd of more than 50 shared in the annual Thanksgiving dinner served after the worship services on Sunday, November 23. A delicious cooperative meal was served to the branch. The church family Thanksgiving dinner was an opportunity to share in fellowship and praise for the bounties the Lord has provided the past year. We are abundantly blessed. In the top picture Tony Crandall offers the blessing on the Thanksgiving meal. Other pictures show the crowd at the meal eating together.







# The Christmas Scout

BY SAMUEL D. BOGAN

In spite of the fun and laughter, 13-year-old Frank Wilson was not happy. It was true that he had received all the presents he wanted. And he enjoyed these traditional Christmas Eve reunions of relatives, this year at Aunt Susan's, for the purpose of exchanging gifts and good wishes. But Frank was not happy because this was his first Christmas without his brother, Steve, who killed by a reckless driver. Frank missed his brother and the close companionship they had together.

Frank said good-bye to his relatives and explained to his parents that he was leaving a little early to see a friend: from there he could walk home. Since it was cold outside, Frank put on his new plaid jacket. It was his favorite gift. The other presents he placed on his new sled.

Then Frank headed out, hoping to find the patrol leader of his Boy Scout troop. Frank always felt understood by him. Though rich in wisdom, he lived in the Flats, a section of town where most of the poor lived, and his patrol leader did odd jobs to help support his family. To Frank's disappointment, his friend was not home.

As Frank hiked down the street toward home, he caught glimpses of trees and decorations in many of the small houses. Then, through one front window, he glimpsed a shabby room with the limp stockings hanging over an empty fireplace. A woman was seated near them weeping.

The stockings reminded him of the way he and his brother had always hung theirs side by side. The next morning, they would be bursting with presents. A sudden thought struck Frank, he had not done his "good turn" for the day.

Before the impulse passed, he knocked on the door. "Yes?" the sad voice of the woman inquired. "May I



come in?" "You are very welcome," she said, seeing his sled full of gifts, and assuming he was making a collection, "but I have no food or gifts for you. I have nothing for my own children."

"That's not why I am here," Frank replied. "Please choose whatever presents you'd like for your children from this sled."

"Why, God bless you!" the amazed woman answered gratefully. She selected some candies, a game, the toy airplane and a puzzle. When she took the new Scout flashlight, Frank almost cried out. Finally, the stockings were full.

"Won't you tell me your name?" she asked, as Frank was leaving. "Just call me the Christmas Scout," he replied.

The visit left the boy touched, and with an unexpected flicker of joy in his heart. He understood that his sorrow was not the only sorrow in the world. Before he left the Flats, he had given away the remainder of his gifts. The plaid jacket had gone to a shivering boy.

But he trudged homeward, cold and uneasy. Having given his presents away, Frank now could think of no reasonable explanation to offer his parents. He wondered how he could make them understand.

"Where are your presents, son?" asked his father as he entered the house. "I gave them away."

"The airplane from Aunt Susan? Your coat from Grandma? Your flashlight? We thought you were happy with your gifts."

"I was very happy," the boy answered lamely.

"But, Frank, how could you be so impulsive?" his mother asked. "How will we explain to the relatives who spent so much time and gave so much love shopping for you?" His father was firm. "You made your choice, Frank. We cannot afford any more presents."

His brother gone, his family disappointed in him, Frank suddenly felt dreadfully alone. He had not expected a reward for his generosity. For he knew that a good deed always should be its own reward. It would be tarnished otherwise. So he did not want his gifts back, however, he wondered if he would ever again truly recapture joy in his life. He thought he had this evening, but it had been fleeting. Frank thought of his brother and sobbed himself to sleep.

The next morning, he came downstairs to find his parents listening to Christmas music on the radio. Then the announcer spoke: "Merry Christmas, everybody! The nicest Christmas story we have this morning comes from the Flats. A crippled boy down there has a new sled this morning, another youngster has a fine plaid jacket, and several families report that their children were made happy last night by gifts from a teenage boy who simply referred to himself as the Christmas Scout. No one could identify him, but the children of the Flats claim that the Christmas Scout was a personal representative of old Santa Claus himself."

Frank felt his father's arms go around his shoulders, and he saw his mother smiling through her tears. "Why didn't you tell us? We didn't understand. We are so proud of you, son."

The carols came over the air again filling the room with music.

"Praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on Earth."



# December

# 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Micah 2:1a; 4:5	2 Micah 4:5-13	3 Ezekiel 11:12,15-21	4 Jeremiah 26:1-6	5 Jeremiah 50:4-5	6 Lamentations 3:20-31	7 Eph. 2:3 2 Peter 2:18
8 1 John 2:16 John 6:63-68	9 2 Peter 1:3-4 1 Nephi 7 30, 32, 36	10 1 Nephi 7:46-62	11 Romans 13:14	12 1 Peter 4:2	13 Mark 4:16	14 John 8:21-27
15 Romans 1:24, 26 1 Tim 6:9-10	16 Romans 6:12 Galatians 5:19-26	17 2 Tim. 2:22 Titus 3:3-5	18 2 Peter 1:11-17	19 Titus 2:11-15	20 1 John 1-10	21 1 John 2:1-10
22 1 John 3:1-11	23 1 John 4:1-10	24 2 John 8-10	25 3 John 4-6	26 Jude 1-4	27 Romans 8:1-6	28 Jonah 3:9-10
29 D&C 6:3 D&C 19:2 D&C 28:1b	30 D&C 66:5f D&C 82:2	31 D&C 98:6-9c; D&C 100:3				

Notes: But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Micah 4:1, 2

The Journey is fraught with peril, but those that seek to wear the robe of righteousness will find the way.



# DECEMBER 2014

## Sunday Schedule

Date	DEC. 7	DEC. 14	DEC. 21	DEC. 28		
<b>Speaking</b>	Alan Smith	Richard Rupe	Jim Barber	Sherm Phipps		
<b>Presiding</b>	Ed Anderson	Gordon Winkler	Tony Crandall	Rod Bastow		
<b>Pianist</b>	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke		
<b>Special Music</b>	Steve Smith	Jim Barber	Bonnie Major	Rob Rolfe		
<b>Family Devotions</b>	Steve Smiths	Michael Jordisons	Sherman Phippses	Rob Rolfe		
<b>Greeters</b>	Rod Bastows	Ron Smiths	Sue Beck	Alan Smiths		
<b>Custodians</b>	Rob Rolfes	Bob Rowlands	Michael Jordisons	Steve Smiths		
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	Steve Smiths	Ron Smiths	Bob Rowlands	Rob Rolfes		

## Wednesday Night Prayer Service Schedule

Date	DEC. 3	DEC. 10	DEC. 17	DEC. 17	DEC. 24	DEC. 31
<b>Location</b>	Ron Smiths	Alan Smiths	Bob Rowlands	Steve Smiths	No Service	Ron Smiths
<b>Presiding</b>	Joel Loving	Ron Smith	Joel Loving	Alan Smith	No Service	New Years Party

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sunday, December 7** -- Priesthood Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Communion Service and Potluck  
2:30 P.M. -- Caroling at Liberty Hall in Lamoni

**Sunday, December 14** -- 5 P.M. Caroling Party in Lamoni, meet at Ron and Di Smith home

**Thursday, December 31** -- 6 P.M. New Year's Eve Party at Ron and Di Smith home

**Happy Birthday:** George Galusha (12), Erica Clisby (15), Cathy Nelson (16), Cheryl Phipps (24), Di Smith, (26), Jennifer Rowland (30) and any others we missed.

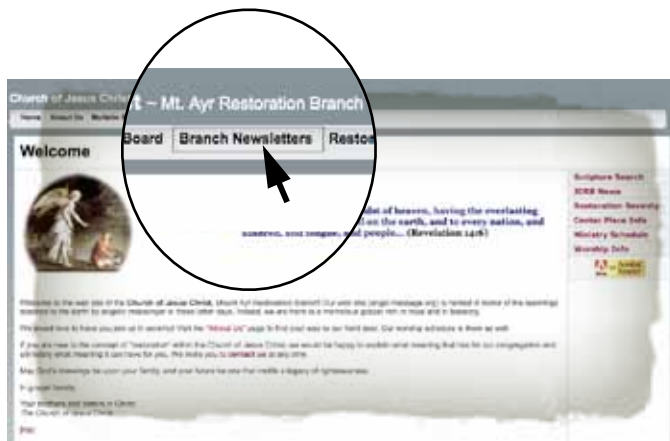
**Happy Anniversary:** Rodney and Debbie Bastow (27) and any others we missed.



## 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](http://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

are to be purchased for each child. We need to put the items unwrapped in a bag and get them back to the Neighborhood Center by December 17.

We also are helping to provide meals for families for Christmas. Items to make the meal for a family to go with the meat provided by MATURA can be brought to the church to go to the center by December 17.

A New Year's Eve party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the home of Ron and Di Smith in Lamoni.

We will meet at 6 p.m. Bring snacks and games for the evening. We will also have a short worship service.

### Youth activity held

Youth of the congregation met in Trimble, MO, at the home of Chris and Stephanie Loving for a paint ball experience Saturday, Nov. 29.

The youth and their leaders had a great time in fellowship, which was followed up with a campfire.

Youth have special activities the first and third Sunday of each month.

### Other Sunday services

During the month of December, we had our first service cancelled because of bad weather.

Sunday, Dec. 21, there was no Sunday service held because of the snow.

The prayer for the Samaritan's Purse boxes had to be moved to Wednesday night.

Sunday, Dec. 28, we had our fifth Sunday sharing service at the church. A number of people shared their talents in praising God that morning.

This is the reason there are just three sermons in this month's newsletter.