

# Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

# NEWSLETTER

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*To please the eye  
and gladden the heart*



## News & Notes

### No Summer Newsletters

This newsletter has the schedule for the summer months and we will not have another newsletter until the fall.

With summer activities, people may be away on Sundays when they are scheduled. Please trade with someone else to make sure your responsibilities are covered.

### June Activity

A group from the branch plans to attend the Booth Brothers gospel trio concert postponed until Friday, June

12, at the Country Meadows Baptist Church in Independence, MO.

That event was postponed because of the weather in February.

### Missionary Family Reunion

Mark your calendars for the Missionary Family Reunion June 21-27 at Graceland University and get your registrations in to Cheryl Phipps.

We look for another great week of worship and fellowship with Saints from around the country.

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# WE NEED TO KNOW THE WORD OF GOD

**Priest Ed Anderson**  
**Lamoni, IA**  
**May 3, 2015**

Brother Rob Rolfe opened the service with a Call to Worship from Matthew 7:34-36. This is a parable about a couple of men, one of whom built his house upon the rock and the other one built his house upon the sand. There's only one difference between them other than the object they chose to build their house upon. Your challenge is to figure out what was the difference between them. *Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand; and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass when Jesus had ended these sayings with his disciples, the people were astonished at his doctrine.*

**G**ood morning. It's great to be here today and to see everyone. It's great to see some new faces. As a sermon this morning I was thinking of what we can share with people who've already heard pretty much the gospel from the ground up. Most of us have been born and raised in the church and most of us baptized at 8 years old. What is there in the gospel that we can talk about that hasn't already been said or done?

In the adult church school class, we talked about keeping the commandments of the Lord but we have to know them first. I've selected a scripture from

2nd Nephi 11:45-48. *And notwithstanding we believe in Christ, we keep the law of Moses, and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ, until the law shall be fulfilled; for, for this end was the law given; Wherefore, the law hath become dead unto us, and we are made alive in Christ, because of our faith; Yet we keep the law because of the commandments; And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy of Christ, . . .*

Throughout the scriptures we find stories of an effort to know the word of God. I have about three or four different stories from the scriptures I would like to read or paraphrase. The first one is about Nephi and his brothers. Does everyone remember that story? They had to go back to Jerusalem for the Plates of Brass. Do you realize that there are nine pages of the Book of Mormon that are dedicated to that story. That's a lot of space to dedicate to one story when the space on the plates was precious.

The story starts out with Nephi saying, *Behold I have dreamed a dream, . . .* (So it's not just him that has this idea. It's God that is telling him.) *that thou and thy brethren shall return to Jerusalem. . . . to the house of Laban, and seek the records, and bring them down hither into the wilderness. . . . it is a commandment of the Lord.*

So Nephi and his brothers went to the land of Jerusalem and cast lots to see who would approach Laban. It fell on Laman to go in and talk to Laban. Laban wasn't really happy with Laman's story. He didn't have any sympathy for Laman. He thrust him out and threatened to kill him. Nephi and his brothers hid in a cavity of a rock. Nephi and Samuel still believed they would obtain the plates but they were being abused by Laman and Lemuel.

Nephi says, *And behold it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these*

*records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which have been delivered unto them by the spirit and power of God, since the world began . . .* (1st Nephi 1:82-83) There was information on the plates even down to the present time that Lehi and his family didn't have yet.

The brothers came up with another plan. I'm not sure that these were inspired plans because the first one of casting lots and sending Laman to talk to Laban wasn't successful. Their next plan then was to go down to the land of their inheritance and gather up all their silver and gold and take it to Laban to buy the plates from him. Laban was a little happier this time because he saw all the silver and gold but he wasn't happy that they wanted the plates. He thrust them out again and sent his servants to slay Lehi's sons that he might keep the gold and silver that Lehi's sons had brought to Laban.

This time Laman and Lemuel were really unhappy with Nephi and Sam. They spoke many hard words to them and began to smite them with a rod. However, this time God got involved in the situation and sent an angel who came and stood before them. The angel questioned them why they were smiting Nephi. He was chosen of God and getting the plates was necessary for Lehi's people as they traveled to the Promised Land. *The angel said, Behold ye shall go up to Jerusalem again, and the Lord will deliver Laban into your hands.* (1st Nephi 1:95)

This time they went up to Jerusalem without a plan. Nephi decided to enter Jerusalem even though he didn't know where to go or what to do. He saw a man lying in the street and lo and behold it was Laban. I'm not sure Nephi



had any idea what he was doing when he drew Laban's sword but the Spirit told him to slay Laban. Nephi wasn't real hep on that commandment. He had never killed anybody before but the Spirit said, *It is better that one man should perish, than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief.* (1st Nephi 1:115) It was given to Nephi . . . *That inasmuch as thy seed shall keep my commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise.* (1st Nephi 1:116)

Now how can you prosper and keep the commandments if you don't have them. The next verse says, *Yea, and I also thought that they could not keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses, save they should have the law. And I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of brass.* (1st Nephi 1:117, 118) So, they had to have these plates for the spiritual welfare of the colony coming to the Promised Land.

Does anybody know who Hilkiah was? Hilkiah was a priest in the time of King Josiah. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign and he reigned for 31 years. He did something that was different than his predecessors on the throne. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. All the other kings had built up their high places and groves to worship other gods and idols. They had desecrated the Temple and were doing all kinds of bad things. He was trying to again use the Temple for what it was intended for which meant that that they were casting out all of the idols used in pagan worship in the Temple. He was bringing down all the high places. He sent up to Hilkiah the priest silver to be given to the doers of the work, those that were repairing the breaches of the house of the Lord.

Hilkiah had a surprise for the scribe whose name was Shaphan. Hilkiah told Shaphan, . . . *I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.* (2nd Kings 22:8) I looked in some Bible commentaries and found out that this Book of the Law had disappeared for 75-80 years. Shaphan read it and knowing the value of what he was reading gave it to King Josiah saying, *Hilki-*

*ah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, . . . Go ye, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, (They didn't even have it for 75-80 years.) to do according unto all that is written concerning us. . . .* (2nd Kings 22:10-13)

**A**nd the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant. (2nd Kings 23:2, 3) So Josiah made the covenant, read it to all the people and all the people then made the covenant to follow the words of the book.

Now, what was lost for 75-80 years? And the king commanded all the people, saying, *Keep the passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant. Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah.* (2nd Kings 23:21, 22)

Now they knew that they had to keep the passover. What else was in the law of the book? What else was in there besides the ordinances? Where does the law of Moses point us? Mosiah 8:6-7 tells us. *And now I say unto you, that it was expedient that there should be a law given to the children of Israel, yea, even a very strict law; for they were a stiff-necked people: quick to do iniquity, and slow to remember the Lord their God; Therefore there was a law given them,*

*yea, a law of performances and of ordinances, a law which they were to observe strictly, from day to day, to keep them in remembrance of God, and their duty towards him. So for 75 years they didn't have this remembrance.*

There was something else missing for 75 years. They didn't have the book of the law directing and pointing them to the Messiah which was the intent and purpose of the law of Moses. *Wherefore, the prophets, and the priests, and the teachers, did labor diligently, exhorting with all long suffering, the people to diligence; teaching the law of Moses, and the intent for which it was given; Persuading them to look forward unto the Messiah, and believe in him to come, as though he already was. And after this manner did they teach them.* (Jarom 1:24-26) If you didn't have the law of Moses you wouldn't be looking for the Messiah.

The third story I would like to share is from 1st Nephi 3rd chapter which talks about us to some extent. *And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was*



Ed Anderson



with them. (152) *And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them. (157) . . . Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. . . (160) . . . which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; And it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets. (161, 162) After it went forth from the mouth of the Jews as we know plain and precious things were removed from the book. Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall for ever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back. . . (179) Wherefore, saith the Lamb of God, I will be merciful unto the Gentiles. . . (180) For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious. (184) . . . these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb. (185)*

We have to have the words to be able to obey them. King Josiah had to have the book of the law. Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi were to obtain the Plates of Brass from Laban. They needed those. They needed to keep those words in front of them as a remembrance and to learn.

Now there is another story that is not quite as positive. When the church was broken up after Joseph Smith Jr.'s death, Brigham Young took the majority of the people to Utah. Some of the people who were disenfranchised and became unhappy with the leadership in Utah returned. Some of those returning Saints from Utah told a weird tale saying that they were encouraged to not read the scriptures. There was a logical reason for that. They were told that Brigham Young as a prophet of the church gave sufficient revelation to lead the church in the right way. Brigham Young's own statements in the Journal Discourses showed that he had a pretty high opinion of himself. He said, 'I say now, when they (his courses) are copied and approved by me they are as good a scripture as is couched in this Bible. . . (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 13, p. 264)

He also said, 'I am here to answer. I shall be on hand to answer when I am called upon, for all the counsel and for all the instruction that I have given to this people. If there is an Elder here, or any member of this, called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who can bring up the first idea, the first sentence that I have delivered to the people as wrong counsel, I really wish they would do it; but they can not do it, for the simple reason that I have never given counsel that is wrong; this is the reason. (Journal of Discourses. Vol. 16, p. 161)

I'll read you a couple of his doctrines that he taught.

**Blood Atonement:** There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenant made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it. (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p. 247)

Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned. (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p. 266)

Those people that went West that forsook reading and studying the scriptures became susceptible to listening to a prophet who wasn't a prophet. Those people who don't have the scriptures available to read become susceptible to false teachings. Those people who do not have the scriptures do not have the law of the Lord. How can they remain true to the gospel?

There's a song that I think was originally sung by Hank Williams Sr. but I'm not totally sure. I know it was sung by other people later.

#### Dust on the Bible

I went to a home one day to see some friends of mine  
Of all their books and magazines not a Bible could I find  
I asked them for the Bible, when they brought it what a shame  
For the dust was covered o'er it, not a finger print was plain.

You can read your magazines, read of love and tragic things,  
But not one word of Bible verse, not a

scripture do you know.

When it is the very truth and its contents good for you  
But if dust is covered o'er it, it is sure to doom your soul.

If you have a friend you'd like to help along life's way  
Just tell him that the Good Book shows a mortal how to pray.  
The best advice to give him that will make his burden light  
Is to dust the family Bible, trade the wrong way for the right.

#### Refrain:

Dust on the Bible, dust on the Holy Word  
The words of all the prophets and the sayings of our Lord  
Of all the other books you'll find, there's none salvation holds  
Get that dust off the Bible and redeem your poor soul.

There are some very good teachings. There are some very good people out there in the world who are led by the Spirit to do right, to sing right, to teach right. They may not have the fullness of the gospel but they are being led by the Spirit.

There's so many techniques that have been developed to remember things. I am totally amazed by post-it-notes. Does everybody know how those came about? A man wanted to know how to mark a book. He went to his friend who happened to work at 3M who gave him some sticky stuff that he applied to the back of his notes and it worked. You could put the note on and take it off and put it on again, and you didn't tear the paper when you took the note off.

We have iPhones to tell us when our appointments are. Our immune system also has a remembrance. Everyone has been vaccinated for various diseases but what does the vaccination do? It challenges the immune system. Actually the vaccination gives a person the disease to a lesser degree and the immune system responds to the vaccination.

Then what happens? That vaccination causes your body to remember the antigens of the bacteria that was pre-



sented to it before.

I remember talking to a man whose son was a baseball player. His son was drafted into the pros and assigned to a rookie camp. The father thought he would go down and check it out and experience all the excitement that was associated with this rookie camp. After he got there for an entire two weeks, all his son did was to take grounders, eight hours a day for two weeks. It was a lot of repetition. The more we pick up our scriptures to read them the easier it becomes to do so. We develop habits by doing things over and over and over again. We can lose habits by not doing things over and over and over again, letting other things get in the way.

I looked up a couple of terms. One was contract and the other was covenant. According to the dictionary they are the same. Do you think a covenant

and a contract are the same? Technically they are. A legal contract is the only contract I am familiar with. If you sign it and have your signature witnessed, it becomes a legal document. There are penalties for not obeying a contract. You can be taken to court or be arrested for stealing or not living up to the contract or penalized in some way for not living up to the contract.

**I**s there any enforcement to a covenant? We don't make contracts with God, usually, but we do make covenants with Him. These covenants are pretty much all internal aren't they? What's the enforcement? What's the negative for not upholding your covenant, maybe losing the Spirit or salvation. Nobody is going to come to your door and put cuffs on you because you haven't lived up to your covenant but they would a contract. I

think a lot of us approach our relationship with God as a contract. We leave it on the worldly level and don't bring it up to the spiritual level and make it a covenant. Yes, I was baptized but if we look at it as a covenant, as salvation I think we would look at it differently. I don't think a contract and a covenant are the same. Technically they are but a covenant is usually made with God.

Today we have reached forth and partaken of the bread and the wine renewing our covenant, promising that we would do His will. To do His will we need to study and learn about Him, to exercise the gifts He has given us, do good deeds, look out for your neighbors and friends, and immerse ourselves in prayer. When these habits are engrained in our lives, our very being, we will truly be children of God.



# WE NEED TO BE REGENERATED

**Seventy  
David Drummond  
Farmington, Iowa  
May 10, 2015**

1st Nephi 3:58-62 was used as a Call to Worship by Brother Sherman Phipps who presided over the service.

I did want to say one little thing about Mother's Day. I'll read this scripture first. *And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh. And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; And after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look! And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!*

The thing I want you to think about in regards to Mother's Day this morning

is in the New Testament Jesus admonished his brethren and said that if God wanted to He could raise up children into Abraham out of these stones. He could have done the same thing with His Son Jesus but apparently it was very, very important to even God, the Creator of all things, for His Son to have a mother when He came in the flesh. He knew that that would be important to His Son and He gave Him a mother in the flesh and He gave each of us mothers. I know I very much appreciate mine. When I say mine I'm talking about my Mother but I appreciate my wife as a mother to my children also.

**O**ur scripture this morning comes from Section 36 in the Doctrine & Covenants. I will be reading verse 14. *And it came to pass that Enoch saw the days of the coming of the Son of man, in the last days, to dwell on the earth in righteousness, for the space of a thousand years. But before that day he saw great*

*tribulations among the wicked; and he also saw the sea, that it was troubled, and men's hearts failing them, looking forth with fear for the judgments of the Almighty God, which should come upon the wicked. And the Lord showed Enoch all things, even unto the end of the world; and he saw the day of the righteous, the hour of their redemption, and received a fullness of joy: and all the days of Zion in the days of Enoch, were three hundred and sixty-five years: and Enoch and all his people walked with God, and he dwelt in the midst of Zion: and it came to pass that Zion was not, for God received it up into his own bosom; and from thence went forth the saying, Zion is fled.*

Rob called me earlier and then yesterday Sherm asked me what I was going to talk about. I had some general ideas and some scriptures but I never really know until I stand up here before you what I am going to talk about but I told Rob it was going to be something to do with Zion. The scriptures about



Zion were some of the scriptures God had put on my heart.

I like to share a lot of testimonies as I talk. The Lord's been marvelous to us our whole life together. I was able to retire at the age of 55. I had my time in as a police officer and had the opportunity to retire and I did. Since that time we have been on a journey trying to sanctify our lives and prepare ourselves for that which we understand is coming. When we are in Christ there is no fear. The victory is assured and the battle is won already through Him and not through ourselves.

I'd like to read Psalms 121. There's a good Christian song that if I could sing I would sing it to you. Some of you who listen to Christian music may recognize these lyrics. *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.*

If you don't remember anything else that I say today I hope that you'll remember this scripture. Back in my home congregation I'm known for saying this is my favorite scripture. My favorite scripture of all time is Doctrine & Covenants Section 22:23b. When I look out at the world today if I didn't have a faith in God and His ability to do everything that He has said that He would do this world could be very scary.

About four years ago right after I retired we shut off the television. I found that to be quite good for my soul. Before I'd listen to the talking heads and I'd get all wound up and just be beside myself. One of the byproducts of not having a TV and watching it all the time is I don't listen to those talking heads and so they're not in my head talking to me. I still look at the news on the computer. I'm not saying I went to the stone age or

anything.

I want to tell you that I believe that God is calling everybody to prepare for that which is coming. I want to share with you, because I feel led to, an experience that I had just a couple of months ago at church. Around the first of the year I was preaching at Keosauqua. I was studying and praying about what I should say and the Lord spoke to my mind. I thought I should write them down because this was prophetic but I didn't and I couldn't even think of them the morning before I preached but it came back to me when I got up to preach.

**T**his is what He told me and I think He wants you to hear this message too. There are things coming upon the earth that could shake your faith if you don't find yourself in His will. He didn't tell us this to scare us. He showed me that there's going to be great loss in the Church and otherwise. I've started to see it. People that we know are unexpectedly taken from us. We shouldn't fear. The things that are coming are part of His plan and He reminded me of Doctrine & Covenants 22:23b that says, *... this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.* I've heard that before and I believe that and I've preached that. For years that's been my very, very favorite scripture. There's hardly a sermon that goes by that I don't try to remind the people that I'm speaking to about how much God loves them and His desires for them to have the fullness and the joy that is theirs. Yet there are things that we have to go through and He told me that that was true. He reminded me of that as I was preparing for that sermon.

When I got up to speak He was talking about these losses that we're going to experience, things that we've put our faith in. It's not just people that will be taken from us but institutions that we have thought of as being the backbone of our country. I believe that some of those things are going to be changed irreparably and what we've known is not what we will know. One of the things that I've discovered is that God has a

plan. He tells us in D & C 22:23b that it's to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.

All of these years since 1978 when I was called to the priesthood I have been sharing my testimony. One thing I've come to understand is there have been many times that God didn't act like I thought He should act. But as I look back with the wisdom that comes from grey hair the things that happened to us have been the things that were for the good of the people and were for my good and have made me into a better person than I would have been if those things hadn't come into my life.

I read a book not too long ago. I'll be honest with you and I hope you won't take this the wrong way but I don't read a lot of books written by Protestant authors. I like to read books and once in a while I read one. George Thomas is really famous for sending me books that he thinks that I need to read. He happened to send me this book, *Prison to Praise* and then there's a follow-up book the *Power of Praise*. The author of these books makes a very good case and I believe he is right. It's not doctrinal it's just the way you live your life. Whenever something happens you need to stop and praise God.

I'll give you an example. Kathy and I have been trying to practice this in our lives so that we're prepared for these things that we believe are going to take place in the last days.

Last weekend we had a retreat at Jericho Hills in Lucas, IA. It was a wonderful retreat. The people were of one heart and one mind. The Spirit was with us in our prayer services, the preaching and our classes. It just went wonderful. Sometimes you go to an event and you can't wait to get out of there but everybody just lingered around. We just didn't want to depart from the people that we love so much.

We had taken our camper over and started back for home across Highway 34 and got to Albia. We went into a station to get a little something. When we went to leave this man flagged me down and said, 'Did you know that your wheel is wobbling?' The wheel bearing had gone out on one of the axles on the



trailer.

I just immediately started thanking God that the wheel bearing went out on the trailer right when it did because just a few blocks from where I was I have a friend that I used to work with when I was a police officer. He has a beautiful new home and a beautiful shop with all the tools you could possibly need. He's really handy which I'm not. I just pulled my trailer down to his house and unhooked it. He took it all apart and told me the parts I needed to order. I'm going to go back over this week and help him put it back together.

That's just a simple thing but one of the things that the priesthood need to do is encourage people to understand and be ready for the things that come upon them, whatever it will be, that they know where their strength comes from. We live and are part of a group of people that understand that God is a living God and that He wants to be in our lives in a very personal way.

I want to talk to you just briefly for a moment. We hear a lot of our Protestant friends talk about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. How many want to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? All of you do, don't you. Well, I'm going to tell you there's more. Don't we understand the glories? What does Christ want for us and what did Christ sacrifice on the cross. He wants us and God wants us to have a personal relationship with Him, not just His son but with Him. I hope all of you have thought about the fact that there's more to life than just having a personal relationship with Christ. Christ is there to point us to His Father. Christ is there to help us prepare to come in to His Father's presence.

If my Sunday school that I teach in Keosauqua was here I'd ask them what I was talking about and you know what they'd say? Celestial glory, anything less than that is our choice. If we choose not to make ourselves fit to come into His presence that's our choice. It's not God being harsh with us. You cannot see God in the flesh and stay here on this earth. There's got to be a change of heart to make it possible for you to come into His presence. That's what He desires for

every one of us.

One of the things that I love about the gospel as we understand it in the Restored Church is that God is not a respecter of persons. He desires for everybody to have this gift that we're talking about. Have you thought about the fact that there is a difference between immortality and eternal life? Don't the people that go to the pit live forever? They don't just cease to be. It says that there's going to be wailing and gnashing of teeth forever and ever. It doesn't sound like any place that I want to be. Now, I believe that He wants us to come back. I think that's part of the priesthood's job, that's part of the members' job.

**W**hat's the highest office in this church? Joseph Smith said it years ago. Member. That's the thing that's neat about the restored gospel. Within the office of member resides the opportunity to exercise your faith in most powerful ways. He desires that you take it upon you and not give the responsibility to somebody else. You are blessed in this congregation to have such wonderful men in the priesthood that love you all and seek to help you with the understandings that God has given them but I'm telling you this morning that God has given you a responsibility to live your life like He means something to you, to make choices in your life that are going to allow you to be prepared to come into the presence of God. That's His desire for every one of His creation.

A couple of years ago I made a missionary trip with George Thomas. We went out to the west coast for three weeks in his Prius. Now George is not small but he's not as big as I am. If you think about George and I in a Prius, let me just say this we were in close contact for three weeks. It wasn't quite like being in a pop can with another person but it was close to that but that little car got great gas mileage and it ran perfect. The air worked when it was hot and the windows went down when we didn't need the air so what more could I ask for. There was plenty of room for the things that we needed to take on our trip.

One of the things that George insists upon when you go with him is that we need to reorder the way that we look at our lives and the things that we're talking about as far as schedules. I worked on the railroad for about 10 ½ years and we had to pay very close attention to the schedule. They would put out a lineup every morning which was the order of trains and what time they would be at different locations. When you're out on the track that's kind of nice because if you have the track all jacked up and an unexpected train comes, somebody could get hurt.

If you're going across Highway 34 you can look across before you get to Afton as you're going west and there's a huge bridge south of 34. It's probably a couple hundred feet down to the creek bottom. I remember one time I was out on that bridge on a scaffolding hanging on the side doing some work. I worked on the bridge and building crew and my foreman screwed up. He didn't read the lineup right and we heard a train coming. You know trains are pretty silent when they are out in the countryside and there are no crossings. There's really not a lot of noise especially if they are coming down the hill towards you.

My buddies that were standing up above handing stuff down to me while I worked on the side by the track looked up and saw the train coming. I had a harness on and was sitting on a 4 x 12 board hung off some little metal straps. They just took their tools and threw



Dave Drummond



them in the middle between the tracks so they wouldn't get run over by the train and ran for the end. I didn't have time to get up off the board I was sitting on and unhook my harness so if I did fall I wouldn't go clear to the bottom. I just had to lie over on that board. The board was bouncing up and down as the train was going by.

I wasn't worrying about derailment but trains have great big thick metal bands that sometimes break. You'll see a train sometimes with a metal band flopping back and forth. They have all kinds of chains that a lot of times are flopping on the ground. I am lying there thinking, 'Is a band or chain going to get me?' I got to the other side but I wanted to talk kind of harsh to my foreman. I was scared.

That's not the way that God wants us to be. He doesn't care about time. Time is irrelevant to God. I bet you all knew that. I'm not telling you anything that you didn't already know. I'll tell you what is relevant to Him is the condition of your heart and your attitude toward Him and your attitude toward one another. What are the things that God requires of us? We could quote any number of scriptures about the things that God requires of us, the thing that He desires us to do. I am going to tell you some of the attributes of the people of God in these last days that I believe that we need to have. We need to be a people who are able to look past the things that are happening to those that have need of the testimonies of Jesus Christ that you have experienced in your lives.

Have you ever been in a situation where things are going south and there's one person in the group that is calm and has the ability to see past the chaos and know what to do? I've been there. Have you ever thought about the fact that God wants you to be that kind of person, that you have so much faith in Him, such a close walk with Him that you're allowing Him to drive your car which brings me to a testimony I had recently.

I've been having trouble with my car lately. It was around the first of the year so it's a pretty new testimony. Besides

being pastor of our branch and a Seventy traveling as much as I can, since I retired I am also the County Emergency Management Coordinator in Van Buren County. It's part time and I can do it from a computer so if I go somewhere and there's a little spare time I can work and kind of keep up with the things that I need to do.

One day I was supposed to go into the office because I needed to do some stuff in there. Sometimes I just work from home but that morning I got up early. I was piddling around the house. I don't know if you have ever had a day like this but I just couldn't make myself go out the door. Kathy was sitting there and she wasn't interfering with me. Sometimes she has things she wants me to do and I get aggravated with her because she is interfering with my time schedule, but she wasn't doing that she was just minding her own business. We were just having a nice visit. It got to be 9 o'clock, then 10 o'clock and finally she looked at me and said, 'Aren't you going to go?' I told her I was still going but I just didn't want to go yet.

**F**inally, it got to be after 11 o'clock and I said that I needed to get over there or I might as well not go. I got in my car and started toward Keosauqua which is 18 miles away. Now, I don't know if you can tell by looking at me but I kind of enjoy eating. Just about 7 miles over is the town of Bonaparte. They have a restaurant there that has a really good lunch special. I always tell myself I like to eat there because they always have vegetables and somebody I know is always trying to get me to eat vegetables. They also have meat and homemade bread. I go for the meat but I eat the vegetables.

I came around the corner where Highway 2 goes west and where you would go north and head into Bonaparte. I had my mind made up. I was going to Bonaparte. I got where I should turn off and my silly car was acting up and wouldn't turn off the road. It just went right around the curve heading west. I thought, 'What in the world is the matter with this car? I had every intention of going that way and here I am

going this way.' I can get single minded and I started thinking about where I was going to eat in Keosauqua. Over in Keosauqua there is a place called River Bend Pizza. Kathy loves to eat there. Since Kathy wasn't with me I decided that I wasn't going to River Bend Pizza so I started thinking in my mind what my other eating options were.

Well, there is Misty's Malt Shop where you can get some ice cream and have a sandwich that's pretty good. If you don't want that across the street is a convenience store and they make sandwiches like Subway sandwiches. Those are pretty good and you can get all the fixings on there you like. Now I was in a quandary because I had two choices and I didn't know which one to go to. You kind of come down off a hill and cross the Des Moines River and you are right in Keosauqua. Just as you come off the bridge, all you have to do is turn your wheel just a little bit into the angled parking in front of Misty's. That silly car wouldn't go in there. It wouldn't go so I tried to go the other way to the convenience store and the car wouldn't go. I got up to the first street and the car just went like this and I thought, 'Who is driving this baby?'

I pulled into a parking spot and I'm looking right at the front door of the River Bend Pizza. I said, 'Lord, I didn't really want to go here, but there must be something that's going to happen.' I went on into the restaurant and ordered and started looking around. I've had some experiences like this before and generally the Lord makes something happen. There's an opportunity to witness that I would have missed if I didn't go where He wanted me to go. I was almost done with my lunch and in came this man.

He's a contractor in the area. He put a roof on our house and I had witnessed to him a little bit. Right before the Seventies Reunion last year a real bad hailstorm went through our area. It just destroyed my daughter and her husband's home. There was hail the size of a softball and it destroyed the roof and hit so hard that it broke the siding and the windows and beat in the doors and the garage doors on their house. They got a





new roof, siding and windows and new garage doors basically they got a new house. This fellow that had come into the restaurant was the contractor that had worked on their house. While he was at their house my son-in-law Tim, who is an elder in the church, was witnessing to him.

He ended up giving him some church tracts and then he gave him a Book of Mormon. This fellow happens to be interested in Indians so when Tim tried to relate to him about the Lamanite connection in the Book of Mormon he was very interested. He took the book and he's actually been reading it.

I was just about done with my lunch and in came this man. He waved at me but he didn't come over to my table so I thought what's going to happen, Lord? Why am I here? The guy ordered soup and came over and asked if I had a few minutes to talk to him. I said to myself, 'Yes, Lord, that's why I'm here.'

He sat down and shared a funny story. We were talking in class today about all the different doctrines and all the different churches. This man was sitting there talking to me and he said, 'I've got some questions.' He asked me some things about the Book of Mormon and I shared with him my understandings. Then he said, 'What do you think about baptism?' I said, 'I think you need to do it. I think you need to have somebody that has authority baptize you.' He said, 'How do you do it?' I said, 'In our church we believe that you have to be immersed, that you can't just be sprinkled.' He said, 'That's what the Bible says.' I said, 'I know.'

He finally said, 'You know my grandpa was a preacher and he used to preach at this little country church out here. I got to reading about baptism in the scriptures and I've been talking to Tim and I decided that I needed to be baptized because when I was little kid I was sprinkled. I just know that wasn't enough.' I said, 'No, we don't believe in sprinkling.' So he went out to the church where his grandpa had preached and asked the pastor if they immersed people. The pastor replied that they believed in immersion. He said, 'You know I just can't be baptized out there.'

I said, 'Really?' I'm thinking he needed someone with authority to make it really work but I didn't say that to him right then.

He said, 'In that church where my grandpa preached they believe you have to go down into the depths of humility in order to be fit to be baptized and join their congregation.' I said, 'We believe that you need to be humble and full of love if you're going to covenant with God to be a servant of His.' He said, 'Yeah but I don't think you understand. He told me that if I wanted to join the church and be baptized there they baptize people who are buck naked and that was the way it had to be because that showed that you had humility. I put my arm around him and said, 'Let me assure you of one thing. In our church not only do we want you to have clothes on we insist on it.' I told him that if he still wanted to be baptized I could take care of that. I haven't gotten him baptized yet but I'm still working on it.'

**I**t's kind of humorous and fun to hear that story because it's hard to believe that anybody would actually say something like that to somebody. I don't know if the pastor was trying to scare him off and didn't really want him to come into the church or if that's what they really do. I don't really know but the point is there are so many different confusing stories out there. One of the things that you need to do as members to exercise the authority that God has given you is that you need to be willing. Paul said that we needed to be willing and ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us. Who was he talking to? Was he talking about the priesthood? No, he was talking about every one of you. He was talking about those that occupy the office of member in the Church of Christ. I don't know if you've thought about that.

Let me share just a quick thing about my mother. My Dad was a southern Baptist. Some of you who grew up around Lamoni might have known them. My Dad is still living and is a wonderful man. He had the state-line station south of Lamoni. My Uncle Mervin owned the Conoco right there

at the state line but if you went down Highway 69 to the right on the old road my Dad had a station there. I think the building was still there the last time I went by. It was an old block building and that was his truck stop and they had a restaurant in there. One side of the driveway was in Iowa and the other side was in Missouri. My Mom was a church member.

When I was in about eighth grade I was interested in this young lady and we were going together. We didn't go anywhere but we were going together. She invited me to come over to this church that she went to. They were having a big revival and were trying to get a lot of people there. She said if I came we could sit together and spend more time together. I'm an eighth grade boy. I'm thinking that's OK so I go to that church.

I'll never forget my experience there. They brought in an evangelist. Now they don't understand what an evangelist is the same way that we do. An evangelist in the Protestant faith is really someone who comes in and tries to stir up the people. He might be preaching for the Baptist this week and the Methodist the next week. They just go in and try to increase the enthusiasm in an area and bring people into the church.

This guy preached a nice sermon. I thought it was real good. I'll never forget. He had a cowboy hat on, a western cut jacket and instead of a regular tie he had a little bolo tie. I'll never forget he told us about his pigskin boots. When he got done speaking he told everybody that was in there that was saved to raise their hands. A majority of the people did. Then he asked those who were not saved to stand up. A bunch of people stood up and were invited to come down to the mourner's bench to speak with someone about how to get saved. They thought that was what they needed to do. Then he said that if there was anyone who didn't know whether they were saved or not to stand up. There were two or three who did that.

Now me I'm sitting clear in the back of a congregation of 250 people. The place was packed and I was sitting back in the back. I've got to admit that even



though I was only in the 8th grade I was still a big man. I was bigger than most men.

I was sitting back there visiting and not paying too much attention and all of a sudden I hear from the front. 'Deacons, that big boy in the back doesn't even know if he's saved or not. Get him!' So they came back and took me out of the pew and marched me down in front of the congregation. I'll never forget we went in a door off to the side. This man went back with me and started reading from John 3:16.

I told him that I knew that scripture. He was trying to get me to get saved. I told him that I was a member of Christ's church. After he talked to me for a while I was looking out the window in the door and I looked at the man and said, 'You need to understand one thing. I'm going out that door and please don't try to stop me.' And out the door I went. I headed for home. I could almost see my house from church. It was just two blocks away and I was glad to get home.

I'm not putting them down. It's just that we don't do altar calls in our church. We have a different understanding of what salvation entails. I'm not putting them down for that. I'm just saying I wasn't prepared for that. Thursday night was the night when they went visiting. It wasn't just their minister that went out it was the whole membership of the church. For weeks after that two guys kept coming to our house. They would visit with my Mom and my Dad would just sit there and not say anything. When they came to the door I headed for the other room. I was afraid they were going to try to take me in another room and get me saved.

I'll never forget. You see we have this understanding that God has made it His work and His glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. He's not a respecter of persons and just because I happened to have born in a home where Jesus name was spoken of in joy and just because I had had an opportunity to go to a Christian church and just because I'd had an opportunity to really understand what Jesus had done, God didn't love me more than He

loved somebody else. My Mother understood that.

That's one of the neat things about the restored gospel that we really believe, our doctrine tells us that God is not a respecter of persons. Your circumstances have something to do with your judgment. It tells us in the restored scriptures that we are judged on what we know and what we did with what we know. Right? I'm not telling you anything that you don't already know.

**F**inally after several weeks of them coming and trying to expound the gospel the way they understood it, my Mother, who was a member exercising the authority that she had since she didn't have a priesthood member there only my Dad, said, 'You've been coming for a long time, and I understand that you are trying to be faithful to what you understand God wants you to do. But I have a question for you, There's this man that lives over in Africa way up on a mountain. There are no cities around and no white people around. All he knows is what he knows and he is the best person he can be. He's kind to other people. He's generous to a fault with the things that he has. If he sees someone in need he goes and meets their need. If someone's sick he helps them. If a traveler comes by and they need sustenance he provides it. He's the best person that he knows how to be and he passes that on. What you've been telling me is that the God that we worship is going to send him to hell.' The man replied, 'Yes, that's right.' She said, 'You don't know God,' and they got up and left. They weren't mad. They just got up and left.

Now, I want you to fast forward a couple of years. I was called into the priesthood when I was about 22. People would come to the church and my Mom would say, 'Let me call my son. He's in the priesthood. He'll come over and explain that to you.' That's OK but is that what you think God wants you to do. I'm not picking on my Mother. God bless her. She helped form me into the person that I am today. She was such a blessing to me. I think about what she meant to me in my life every day. No-

body is perfect and I don't believe my Mother was. I don't think that all of you would be right if you were not grounded in the scriptures enough to be able to give an answer for the hope that's within you.

The world that we live in is crumbling before our very eyes. Why is it crumbling? Because, we're allowing people to use language against us. They say that we need to be tolerant. They don't mean that we need to love people in spite of the things that they do that we know to be sin. Their definition of tolerance is that they agree with that sin and tell them it's OK. Now if we love those people and have an understanding that we truly believe, are we supposed to be conformed to this world or are we supposed to be transformed by the gospel and the presence of Jesus Christ? I think that we are supposed to be transformed to His way.

I'm going to read to you from the Book of Mormon. As I was thinking about what I wanted to share today, this is what the Lord put on my heart. It is from Moroni the 9th chapter. Mormon is writing these things to Moroni. He sent him off with the records but Moroni hasn't left yet to deliver them to New York. I want you to think about this. This man, Mormon, loved his people. He loved them in spite of their sin. He recognized his duty to try to bring repentance into their lives so they could find the blessings of God. He was writing to his son and said this, *My beloved son, I write unto you again, that ye may know that I am yet alive, but I write somewhat that which is grievous. For behold, I have had a sore battle with the Lamanites, in which we did no conquer; and Archeantus has fallen by the sword, and also Luram and Emron; yea, and we have lost a great number of our choice men. And now behold, my son, I fear lest the Lamanites shall destroy this people, for they do not repent, and Satan stirreth them up continually to anger, one with another. Behold, I am laboring with them continually; and when I speak the word of God with sharpness, they tremble and anger against me; and when I use no sharpness, they harden their hearts against it; wherefore I fear lest the Spir-*



*it of the Lord hath ceased striving with them. For so exceedingly do they anger, that it seemeth me that they have no fear of death; and they have lost their love, one towards another; and they thirst after blood and revenge continually. (1-5)*

I want to tell you if we allow our country to continue down the road that we're on without fighting back that is our end and that could be the end of our children but I don't think it has to be that way. It's not His plan or desire. He desires for something that He's prepared for us. What do we call what we look forward to? Don't we call it Zion? Remember it says in the scriptures they were called Zion because they were of one heart and of one mind. They cared for each other. They understood the sacrifice that Christ would make when He came. They understood the mission of Christ. They chose to be obedient servants to Him.

I want to read to you something about Zion that I found in a book. Since I was called to the Office of Seventy I've read many books: Into the Latter Day Light, My Book of Acts, *The Red Man's Hope* but one of the ones that I got ahold of was one by Harold Velt. He's kind of shirttail relation to Valle. He married a Loving. I got to meet his daughter this year at conference. I have nothing against those other books that we all treasure but if you haven't read his book called *Not in Word Only* you should do so. We have been reading this book when we have a few minutes. That man had all kinds of wonderful, powerful testimonies. This is what he said around the time of the Great Depression when the world as they knew it changed right then.

I'm not saying that there are going to be armies coming through to slaughter us but I think the institutions that we have supported are going to change. He gives us the way wherein we can not be afraid. What I am going to read is on page 176 in his book.

*The only real way of life which will safeguard against possible depressions has not yet been accepted by our nation or the world. (I'll add one thing to what he says here, our church) It is the way of gospel stewardships which may be*

*summed up in the following:*

*Social reform by individual regeneration*

*Love, the dynamic*

*Righteousness, the principle*

*Justice, the basis of social relationships*

*Organization of men and women into the kingdom of God*

*Assignment of each to the task he is best able to perform; the product to be distributed so that each has all that he needs, and none more than he can use.*

*It is the only way of utter unselfishness, and selfishness is the cause of all ills. Freedom from fear and depression will come in no other way. It can be practiced only by a regenerated people. Let none of us think that we are free from the dangers of economic depression apart from Zionian living. Neither can Zionian living become a reality apart from learning unselfishly to keep the whole law and commandments of God.*

**T**hat may not be scripture recorded in one of the three books but I'm telling you that that is truth. If we hope to have the joy in Christ that we need to have we need to think about these things. We need to go back and be in the word so that we understand the ways that we need to live our lives. We need to be able to do those things with great joy in our heart. We need to care more about those that we love. God is working miracles. If He can make my car not go up to Bonaparte where I wanted to eat, He can work miracles.

I want to share another testimony with you. My brother called me this past Monday. Two or three years ago his father-in-law had colon cancer real bad. They didn't think he would live but he did. They thought everything was going well with him. Saturday my brother and his wife flew down to Puerto Rico to get on a cruise ship and cruise around the Caribbean. They like to do that every year. While they were down there they got a call that his father-in-law was really ill. The medical personnel felt like the cancer had come back and was moving aggressively. They rushed him to Des Moines and were going to start radiation and were thinking about

surgery. He had this mass in his chest and he had so much fluid buildup he couldn't breathe. They put in stints to drain off the fluid. They'd done all these tests and discovered that his cancer had returned.

Of course my brother and his wife flew back before getting on their cruise ship. My brother asked me to pray for his father-in-law on Monday and we did. He called me Thursday and said, 'You know, Dave, I'm up here in Des Moines. I came up to see Harold today. You're not going to believe what the doctors told us today. They've tested the fluid that is draining from the tubes they put in his abdomen and chest. They've tested it and they can't find one cancer cell in that fluid.' I said, 'Wow, that's miraculous!' He said, 'What's more they did another MRI and that huge mass that was so obviously there is gone. I just called you to thank you for your prayer.' I said, 'Don't thank me, thank Him. Don't put your trust in me. Put it in Him who is above all.' They have ceased cancer treatments and as soon as they can get the fluid drained off they're going to release Harold.

I share that with you because I want you to be reminded. This is a congregation that I love and respect. I know many of you personally and understand your deep and abiding love for Jesus Christ and your desire and your commitment. In fact, if I couldn't be where I am at in Keosauqua and I had to choose where I would attend there are only a few places in the restoration that I would like to come and this is one of them.

Saints, as good as you are in this congregation, as good as we are at Keosauqua, as much as we love each other, we're not quite ready. We haven't thrown ourselves totally into the work. We haven't done what Brother Velt has told us where he says that we need to fully accept the way of gospel stewardship. We need to really become regenerated people not a partially regenerated people that we are now. For a long time I think the church has been willing to live at less than a celestial level. The choice is ours but it's only going to happen if we do it by the Celestial Law. We



can't continue to live at some response that is different than that.

I want to read just two scriptures in closing. The first one is found in Doctrine & Covenants Section 141:8. This was given not that many years ago by Israel A. Smith but I believe it's more prudent today than the day it was given. It's an admonition to the church. I'm focusing on the member's response to their covenant commitment with Christ this morning and this ideal of Zion principles, this idea of being able to overcome the things that come against us. We're only able to do that through Him and being obedient to Him. *The church is admonished (We're the church, right?) again that joint responsibility is laid on all. Properly and equally borne, this responsibility will insure success, and the consummation will be glorious, and all will share in that glory.* Is that not true? Isn't that what Brother Velt was trying to tell us in that book that was written so many years ago?

Going back a little bit farther in our history in Section 61:6d-e of the Doctrine & Covenants it says, *Gird up your loins and be watchful, and be sober, looking forth for the coming of the Son of man, for he cometh in an hour you think not. Pray always that you enter not into temptation, that you may abide the day of his coming, whether in life or in death. Even so. Amen.*

**B**rothers and sisters, we need to be of one heart and one mind. We need to be determined that we are going to respond to the Spirit that moves within all of us, that we're going to love people that are hard to love, that we're going to share with those that have needs and we have extra. We need to understand that the things that we possess are not ours but we are stewards over them. We need to change the way that we look at life so that we can abide the day else when the times come that I believe are coming do we have any more promise than

those that don't know the restored gospel? I would say we have less because I truly believe we are judged on what we know and what we've done with what we know. It's too late for us. We can't pretend we don't know this stuff. He already knows we do.

Saints, I look forward to working with you as we work together to do the things that God is calling us to do, that we can become a regenerated people who want to live close to their Heavenly Father, that want to live close with one another, that have a love and an abiding faith in our God and have a desire to be of one heart and one mind. That we might join with our brothers when Zion comes back to the earth and that it can be said about us that was said about them, indeed they were of one heart and one mind. God bless you all. I love you very much and I'm thankful that you allowed me to come here and share with you today.



# THE GATEWAY TO TRUTH

**Brother Joel Loving**  
Lamoni, Iowa  
May 17, 2015

Brother Alan Smith read Doctrine & Covenants 10.6-7 as a Call to Worship. *And now, verily, verily I say unto thee, Put thy trust in that Spirit which leadeth to do good; yea, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit. Verily, verily I say unto you, I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy, and then shall ye know, or by this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which is pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive.*

**T**here are times in our lives when we more completely rely on the Holy Spirit to bless us to help us come through. This would be one of those times. Maybe that's exactly as it should be, not so

much about what I would say but what the Holy Spirit would say. I will speak to you from my heart. This is a message which comes genuinely from inside somewhere deep beyond myself even. I suppose the theme of my sermon would be something like the great quest.

What is the quest? I think it is for the truth. Not something new and fancy and razz matazz. I don't have a showy talk but a bold pursuit of something foundational, something powerful, something very important, the very core of truth. So I start with a scripture. I have seven scriptures that I am going to read. They are short and I will link them together throughout my sermon. This came to me in the nighttime some time ago. I just woke up and was thinking and linking these scriptures together so we will go through this adventure together as we pursue this great quest for truth. Moroni 10:4-6 is my beginning scripture. *And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in*

*the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things. And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is.*

I want you to empathize with Jesus. I want you to get inside His mind. What is He thinking? They have entered the coast of Caesarea Philippi and He stops the disciples and says, *Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?* (Matthew 16:14) It's always curious when the Lord asks questions because I suspect He already knows the answer. What's He seeking? What's really going on here? They respond, *And they said, Some say John the Baptist; some Elias; and others Jeremias; or one of the prophets.* (Matthew 16:15, 17-19) He stops them. I don't want to hear what others are saying. You've been walking with



me. You've been with me. What do you think? I can just imagine His eyes catching theirs. And Simon Peter answered and said, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Folks, I know you've heard this before, maybe a hundred, maybe a thousand times but it is with a new zeal and a new appreciation and a new depth of the foundational power that this message comes. In my humble opinion this is the greatest truth of all time and will be for eternity. We cannot just sort of take it for granted or pass through it. I know that. Jesus is the Christ.

I remember the conversation that I had with a mother who was concerned about her daughter not wanting to come to church any more. She said to her daughter, 'Well you need to learn more about Jesus.' And the daughter said, 'I know Jesus. That doesn't mean I have to go to church. I know who He is. I know salvation comes through Him.' Folks, without sounding condemnational or overly judgmental of anyone, I would like to suggest that's not knowing Jesus.

Knowing Jesus is transformational. It's moving. It's power itself. It's light itself. When Jesus asked His disciples He was saying do you really know me? Do you really know me? Don't pretend this. Don't fake it. Don't do this in a superficial fashion and when Peter answers, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God the greatest truth of all time is known, it is revealed.

It's rather fascinating. I have a question. Why then or why now in this story? If it was the greatest truth of all time why would it have been withheld until this moment in the history of mankind? A little bit later in verse 21 in the Inspired Version he says something rather strange. Listen to this. *Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus, the Christ.* Isn't that strange? We hear this powerful, foundational, essential truth and then

He says shhhhhh, don't tell anybody. Does that sound rather fascinating and why could that be? Why would that be? Why is that?

Let me give you a clue. We'll go to Matthew 3:25 in the Inspired Version. This is just one verse speaking of Christ's youth. *And he served under his father, and he spake not as other men, neither could he be taught; for he needed not that any man should teach him.* Whoa! Nobody taught Jesus? Mary didn't teach Jesus? Joseph didn't teach Jesus? As a child growing up He wasn't taught? What does this scripture mean? May I suggest that He told them not to share this with others because it was going to be reserved for the Holy Spirit to reveal it.

**O**nly the Holy Spirit could really adequately, appropriately reveal that truth, to carry the weight of what that really was to mean in terms of its transformational power in the hearts of men. This isn't some trite truth. Yes, I know Jesus is the Christ. This is at the heart and the essence of creation and of life, of God. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Alpha and Omega, and the Holy Spirit is to reveal this truth to all of us.

So when Jesus was saying don't tell anybody, He was really saying allow for the Holy Spirit in those people to prepare their heart for the condition where they can understand that and have it revealed to them. When it says here, *And he served under his father, and he spake not as other men, neither could he be taught; for he needed not that any man should teach him.* The Holy Spirit was His teacher and the Holy Spirit, I would like to suggest, wants to be your teacher. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** I want you to have good teachers. I want you to have good parents and good leaders but I would like for the Holy Spirit itself to be the informer, to be that connection to you with the Divine and the light and the truth that comes through Jesus Christ.

Isn't this amazing! OK, I'm excited by it. Why are the disciples just now being informed of this truth that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God? Why wasn't it really widely known before this? If this is the greatest truth

there's a question. Why would the Lord wait so long? We've had lots of people come and die and be alive and live and we're just now finding out in the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Why did it take so long?

Let's turn to Malachi 4:6, the 4th scripture in our review of 7 scriptures. I love this. We're going to answer that question that I've been posing and it starts here for me. *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. It's talking about the return of the Lord in the last days,* and verse 5 says, *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.* This is a fascinating scripture for a number of reasons. When it says he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children really semantically I think we would want to say and he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children not heart but He uses a



Joel Loving



singular “heart.” This is strange. This is unique. Why a singular heart when he’s talking about fathers plural? Do you remember why God called the people Zion? They had one heart.

How many hearts do we have in this room? Can we all have one heart? How does a diverse group of people, a very gifted group of people have one heart? I think when you invite Christ into your heart, when you turn over your life to the Lord Jesus Christ your heart is given to Him and it becomes one with all those who have been given to Him and we become ONE HEART. So when we say, And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children evidently the fathers which would be those who had gone before. We have to interpret what that means. I think it’s the prophets. I think it’s the ancients. I think those who have lived before even parents. Evidently that group, that multitude, that plural group had one heart.

Who are the children? It certainly would include us now I hope, you, your children. And the heart of the children to their fathers. We must have one heart lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. This is fascinating to me because it supposes that if the heart of the fathers needs to be turned to the children and the heart of the children needs to be turned to the fathers it is because the fathers have already passed. They must have had their heart in the right place. And the children must come to that awareness and put their heart in the right place. What did the fathers have their heart on? What was so important to the fathers, to the parents?

Our next scripture is chapter 3:1-5 in Jacob in the Book of Mormon. Basically what’s happening here is that Jacob is answering this question posed in Malachi about what the fathers had their heart on and what the children should have their heart on as well. *Now behold, it came to pass that I, Jacob, having ministered much unto my people, in word, (and I can not write but little of my words, because of the difficulty of engraving our words upon plates, ) and we know that the things which we write upon plates must remain;* (So he’s basically just saying, look this is a pain. I

don’t want to have to go through all this but it’s so important I’m willing to do it for your sakes.) *But whatsoever things we write upon anything save it be upon plates, must perish and vanish away; but we can write a few words upon plates, which will give our children, and also our beloved brethren, a small degree of knowledge concerning us, or concerning their fathers.* (This is a direct tie back to the Malachi question in 4:6. You and I as children need to come to an awareness of what our fathers knew because they knew something important that we have to have our hearts upon.) *Now in this thing we do rejoice; and we labor diligently to engraven these words upon plates, hoping that our beloved brethren, and our children, will receive them with thankful hearts, and look upon them, that they may learn with joy, and not with sorrow, neither with contempt concerning their first parents: For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and we had a hope of his glory, many hundred years before his coming, and not only we, ourselves, had a hope of his glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us. Behold, they believed in Christ, and worshipped the Father in his name; and also, we worship the Father in his name.*

**T**his is an outstanding revelation to the world. Those who don’t want to believe in the Book of Mormon get left out of this enormous truth which is what? That Christ was revealed from the very beginning and we now have scripture, historical record, testifying to the truthfulness of Jesus. They knew him. They called him by name. Do you know when this was written? Some 500 plus years before Christ was born, they’re talking about Jesus Christ. The truth is that this truth was so important that it was always known by those who were righteous. God could not have withheld it. It’s the greatest truth. It makes the most difference. This is the gateway truth. This is the entrance into everlasting life, immortal life, salvation and it was known from the beginning. It was told from the beginning and yet somehow it has become this hidden secret?

I’m going to read verse 7 from Chapter 3. This is powerful. This is Jacob talking again to the people. *Wherefore, we search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea.* Now you and I may think we know Jesus. When’s the last time you had a mountain move or moved a tree without a shovel? They knew Him. They really knew Him and we’re called to know Him as never before.

It’s kind of interesting. The restoration churches as a whole have a huge dilemma. We have this message that comes from the Book of Mormon which preaches Christ throughout. Our Methodist, Baptist and all the other Christian religions say, you call this a second testimony of Christ but we don’t need it. We believe now in Jesus Christ. We already believe in the salvation Christ brings. We know the gospel story. We’re saved by faith through grace in Jesus Christ. What need is there of the Book of Mormon? Frankly I believe every single one of us should have a wonderful answer to that question.

Here is what I will say to you and I hope you receive it not necessarily through my voice alone but by the Holy Spirit and by the virtue and the power that it has to bear record of the truth. The gospel story is the good news of Jesus that brings salvation. This is known in the New Testament. What salvation has done is prophesied and spoken of in many scriptures. I will suggest to you it is spiritual salvation. It means that when we die we can go to our Lord. We can go to Paradise. We can live with him again united.

Then what need is there for even a phrase that says the fullness of the gospel. Is there something better than that? That’s the greatest gift you can have, salvation. The Book of Mormon is talked about as the fullness of the gospel as well as the new covenant. What’s the fullness of the gospel mean compared to that?



Folks, it's about bearing record of covenants to the children from the fathers that the Lord is very respectful of and wants to come true. They knew of Jesus Christ in a way that we must come to understand as well. The good news of salvation is not just spiritual salvation but the fullness of the gospel or the fullness of the good news is not just when you die you can go to heaven and be with God, but it's a temporal salvation on earth. Here. The kingdom. Jesus among us sitting in this room, sitting next to you, looking across from you here on earth, alive. You don't have to die to be in that kingdom. Spiritual salvation and temporal salvation will be united on earth. The kingdom returns because we know the truth.

Are we ready for what's about to occur because it is truly great and wonderful and magnificent. It is clearly beyond my ability to preach. This isn't about me exciting you and me being a good preacher. This is about foundational truths that we have to understand and come to appreciate. We are the recipients. The world relies upon people like us to bear record of these covenants and the truthfulness thereof.

In Genesis 7:68-70 it says, *And the day shall come that the earth shall rest. But before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth. And great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven, (that's the Holy Spirit) and truth will I send forth out of the earth, (That is both in record that has come out of the ground already and more to come from the libraries as well as people who will bear record of the truth. Those will be prophetic in their utterances and testimonies of that which is about to occur.) to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men. And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth*

*for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem.*

I don't know how you respond to these scriptures. Almost all of them have been from the Inspired Version and from the Book of Mormon. These are words yet unheard by most of the population of the earth and heaven weeps over that and over us and over them.

**T**he everlasting covenant which is the seventh and final scripture that I want to share with you comes from Genesis 9:21-23. *And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant, which I made unto thy father Enoch; (speaking to Noah) that, when men should keep all my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself. And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity (in other words the children) shall embrace the truth, and look upward, (Let's stop there for a second. What does that mean? What does it mean to embrace the truth and look upward? It really means to understand that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. That's the difference maker. That's the big one and there are children of this covenant that don't know yet. There are people of the House of Israel that don't yet know that they are the inheritors of the covenant. When they come to a knowledge of who Jesus is and all He has done as their fathers have covenanted with the Lord, great things will occur. This embrace the truth is both specific and general. It's like the fractals that Ron talks about. It is both small and humongous. It is very large. It is very new and renewing. It is old and very ancient. This embrace the truth means to embrace Jesus Christ. That's what it has always revolved around and we cannot take this for granted. There are so many lives and there is so much at stake. There are everlasting souls that we should be concerned about their welfare that do not know this.) then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble*

*with joy; And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch. And great are the covenants that the Lord made with Enoch.*

So we are left with this. God yearns mightily to return to earth in a human form in a kingdom with you and me. Folks, you don't have to die to be with God and the Holy Spirit. It can be now. You know I don't believe it's a time on a chronological chart that we have to hit. It's not about waiting for that moment. It's about pursuing that condition that our hearts are ready. It's a condition. It means we could arrive at that spiritual condition tonight or tomorrow. Unfortunately it seems to be the condition of humanity that we don't really get it until stuff really, really bad happens.

So I fear that some of the shaking that is going to happen on the earth and in heaven and some of the dire things that the scriptures talk about will come to pass because that will lead to all of us coming to our knees praying for repentance and forgiveness and calling out to Jesus in a manner fitting for His honor.

May we perceive, understand and remember that. You have parents and grandparents and great grandparents. Do you think they longed for you even now to respond, to understand these truths, to do great things, to move mountains and trees. The greatest truth is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I can say nothing greater.





# THE TIME OF SALVATION IS NEAR

**Priest Rodney Bastow**  
**Mount Ayr, Iowa**  
**May 24, 2015**

Brother Jim Major used Philippians 3:13-14 as a Call to Worship. *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

**T**he scripture I have chosen this morning is Romans 14:16-19. *Let not then your good be evil spoken of; For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*

I am really grateful for the opportunity to be here this morning, and I want to thank all of you who have offered prayers on my behalf. Don't stop now. I also want to thank those of you who have prayed for us to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit like we did Wednesday night. I really appreciate Jim's recognition of how much I was in need of that Spirit as I prepared for today. If I have anything to say that touches anyone this morning I would ask that we would give all praise and all glory to our Heavenly Father.

I have been blessed. Yesterday I had several things I wanted to do. My cousin's granddaughter had a reception in Des Moines that we kind of wanted to go to. Mount Ayr's high school track team was up at the State Tournament in Des Moines. It would have been fun to have been there too. A friend of mine was having a book signing at the Hy-Vee in Maryville, MO. She's writ-

ten a couple of devotional books and I would really have liked to have gone down there and gotten her books and have seen her again. There was an auction here in town that would have been good to have gone to. I have a friend who likes to take me to garage sales and flea markets. He called wanting me to go with him but I decided I should stay home and better prepare myself for today.

It's funny how things work. I knew before I did anything I needed to go check my cows. It's just a given that you have to do that. I had some that I wanted to switch to higher ground because I knew it was going to be raining. For some reason I went and checked this one bunch of 32 heifers. This pasture where they were is about three or four miles from home. I don't check them real often but I do so every so often. I thought that since I hadn't checked on them for a couple of days I better go see them so I drove up there and there weren't any heifers there.

I drove around and finally found them in the back corner of the field. Somehow the electricity to the electric fencer went off so it didn't work. The cows found out sometime, hopefully not too long ago, that they could go through that electric fence without any problem. Not only did they go through that electric fence which is string with wire running through it but they managed to take a half mile of that and wind it into a great big gigantic ball. If you ever enjoy putting things together that is kind of what this was like. It was a real mess.

When I found that mess I wasn't in the best of moods. I'm thinking this isn't helping me to prepare to speak. I was afraid Debbie was about to feel the brunt of it because I'd gone and gotten her to come and help me. I sent her back to get another fencer and some

other things that I needed. While she was gone I said a prayer. 'Lord, I don't want to be like this. I'm trying to prepare myself for Sunday and I need to have your love with me.' That's what I wanted. When Debbie got back I had kind of unraveled most of the ball. Some of it somehow disappeared. I suppose I'll find it someday. Once we got the fence back up and put a battery-operated fencer on it, we felt like that maybe we could contain the cows now.

We went and found the heifers who were over close to my alfalfa field. Maybe you don't realize how serious that might have been if they'd have gotten into that field. Not only would they have really messed up the alfalfa field which is really tall right now but they might have bloated on it and died. Plus the gate to the road was open so who knows where they might have been if I hadn't just somehow happened to check on them. I wouldn't have done this if I had done any of the other things I could have done on Saturday.

We moved forward to get the cows in. Do you remember the previous dog stories I have told you about the dog I've been working with? She did great. She was unbelievable. I've never seen that dog do almost exactly what I wanted her to do. Now she didn't want to cross the ditch too well but after a little bit of encouragement she did that and brought the heifers on around in through another gate. They started heading off the wrong direction and we circled around them. They'd gone right past the gate but she came across and brought them right back in. It was just unbelievable. Debbie and I both felt so blessed because usually if it's just the two of us doing that there's a lot of angry words involved but the dog worked great. Everything was good again there so I felt really blessed with that.

A few weeks ago Debbie and I went





to a stockholders' meeting for our grocery store up town. Mount Ayr has two grocery stores. One of them is Hy-Vee which is Hy-Vee and the other one was started by some local investors twenty or so years ago just to give Hy-Vee some competition.

Without any competition Hy-Vee can do what Hy-Vee does and put their prices up pretty high. We weren't living in Mount Ayr at the time but my folks bought some shares and they bought some shares for us too. We heard about this meeting so we decided we'd go and see what a stockholders' meeting was all about. It was very educational. They talked about how the store was doing well and was making a profit but they really wanted it to do better. They were really having trouble competing with Hy-Vee and their Fuel Saver cards. It had really hurt their store.

Debbie and I sat and listened to everything but we really didn't get involved. It came time to leave and they said, 'You, folks, haven't said anything. Would you like to have some input?' That was the wrong thing to say. Of course I wanted some input. For some reason I just told them how I felt. I said, 'First of all this board needs to be made up of your wives instead of you because they are the ones that do the shopping. They should be here.' I said, 'To me the most important thing for your store to do is to have friendly smiling faces.'

Isn't that important? You go into a business and what do you want to see? You want to see people who are enjoying working there. Don't you? That's what we want to see. You would go some place that's maybe a little higher priced if you enjoyed the people that worked there so I told them that was important. I said, 'Another thing that is important is for the store to meet a need. You really have to have something that is kind of unique to your store. Something that people can't get any other place. Debbie goes there because that's where she likes to get our milk. She thinks your milk is better.' They do have some other things in the store that are unique to them and I think that's important.

That's kind of like us here isn't it? We want to see friendly, smiling faces

when we come here. We have a need that needs to be met and that's why we're here. The Spirit that we talked about used to be unique to us. I don't think it is anymore. I think other people are seeing how important it is to have the Spirit with them. If we didn't believe that we would find the Spirit of God here, we wouldn't be here this morning would we?

I read a story on Facebook and I really liked it. I kept referring back to the person's page who had posted it because I couldn't figure out how to copy it off or save it. I should have written it down but I didn't. As I prepared for today I thought that I needed that story but I couldn't find it. It wasn't there. I even asked the gal who had shared it to see if she could find it but it was gone. I remember most of the story and I would like to share it with you. It might not be quite like the written version but it went kind of like this.

**A** preacher noticed a man was visiting his church every day. He noticed this pattern. This man would come every day right about the same time. He thought maybe he was casing the joint to rob it. Isn't that our first thought. We always think the worst about something that's going on.

The guy apparently was dressed kind of shabby and the preacher didn't understand why he kept coming to the church. One day the preacher asked him what he was doing there? He said, 'Well every day I come here during my lunch hour. I'm working construction right across the street. I kneel before the altar and then sit down in the pews and I say, 'God, this is Joe' and I wait a little while and God says, 'Joe, this is God.' Then we share with each other. He shares with me and I share with him.'" The preacher thought that was really neat so he looked forward to seeing Joe come to the church.

But then one day the man didn't show up and the preacher wondered where he could be. Days went by and Joe didn't come so the preacher got worried about this man and started checking around. He went to the construction site and tried to find him and was

told that Joe was in the hospital and was not doing very well so he went to the hospital to visit him.

The people at the hospital said, 'We know Joe. He's the happiest guy you've ever seen. He's so positive and bubbly and upbeat. You know it's really weird that he's like that because no one comes to see him.' When the preacher got to his room he said, 'Joe, how are you doing?' Joe said, 'I'm just doing great.' The preacher said, 'Joe, how are you able to stay so upbeat? How are you able to stay so happy?'

Joe said, 'Well, every day about lunch time God comes to see me and He says, Joe, this is God and I say, God, this is Joe. Then we share with each other and that brings happiness to me.'

Isn't it great, isn't it wonderful that we can come here to see God? How happy we should be to be able to come here every Sunday to see God. In 1st Peter 3:15 it says, 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.

I asked Suzanne if she could find



Rodney Bastow



the previous story and she couldn't find it like I said but she found another one that I liked too. It was similar to the first one and I'd like to read it to you. It's called the Shoe Man.

I showered and shaved. I adjusted my tie.

I got there and sat in a pew just in time, Bowing my head in prayer.

As I closed my eyes. I saw the shoe of the man next to me. Touching my own. I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side.

I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"

It bothered me, his shoe touching mine. But it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: "Our Father." I thought, "This man with the shoes has no pride.

They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!"

"Thank You for blessings," The prayer went on. The shoe man said a quiet "Amen."

I tried to focus on the prayer but my thoughts were on his shoes again. Aren't we supposed to look our best when walking through that door?

"Well, this certainly isn't it," I thought, glancing toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended and the songs of praise began.

The shoe man was certainly loud sounding proud as he sang.

His voice lifted the rafters. His hands were raised high.

The Lord could surely hear the shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering and what I threw in was steep.

I watched as the shoe man reached into his pockets so deep.

I saw what was pulled out. What the shoe man put in.

Then I heard a soft "clink" as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me to tears, and that's no lie.

It was the same for the shoe man for tears fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service as is the custom here.

We must greet new visitors and show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet the shoe man.

So after the closing prayer I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark and his hair was truly a mess.

But I thanked him for coming for being our guest.

He said, "My names' Charlie. I'm glad to meet you, my friend."

There were tears in his eyes but he had a large, wide grin.

"Let me explain," he said wiping tears from his eyes.

"I've been coming here for months and you're the first to say 'Hi.'"

I know that my appearance is not like all the rest.

But I really do try to always look my best.

I always clean and polish my shoes before my very long walk.

But by the time I get here they're dirty and dusty, like chalk."

My heart filled with pain and I swallowed to hide my tears

As he continued to apologize for daring to sit so near.

He said, "When I get here I know I must look a sight.

But I thought if I could touch you then maybe our souls might unite."

I was silent for a moment knowing whatever was said would pale in comparison

I spoke from my heart, not my head.

"Oh, you've touched me," I said, "and taught me, in part;

That the best of any man is what is found in his heart."

The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know.

Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

**T**his reading went on to say, How we "look" at our neighbor makes a huge statement about our relationship with God. How we greet the "stranger" among us speaks volumes about the role of grace in our lives. Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.

I take several medicines every day,

blood pressure, cholesterol and potassium. One day I went to fill my pill box again and I found this little bottle of pills that I didn't know what they were for. I said, 'Deb, should I be taking these?' She said she presumed so because we had just had it filled but I couldn't figure out what they were for. I said, 'Well, why don't you call the doctor's office and find out what these pills are. I don't want to take them if I don't need to.'

So she called the doctor's office but they can't just tell you over the phone what the prescription is and what it's for. No, they want you to come into the doctor's office. They said it was time for me to have my blood drawn again but I thought I just had had it drawn. So I went in and had my blood drawn. They called back a few days later and said, 'We need to have your blood drawn again. This time you don't have to fast but we need to check for some other things.' I was a little bit alarmed. It's bad enough to have blood drawn the first time but then to have to do it again.

So I went back in for the follow-up to this and they said, 'Everything looks pretty good, fairly normal but your triglycerides are really way to high and you are overweight. You're what we call pre-diabetic. We want to check you again in three or four months to see if you're diabetic or not.' Well, I've known for some time that I need to eat right and get more exercise. They didn't have to tell me that because I already knew that but I guess saying that I'm pre-diabetic kind of made more of an impact on me.

Now I think I really need to eat better and exercise so we've been trying to watch our diet a little bit and cut down on the carbs and the calories. Exercise hadn't quite kicked in yet. The weather hasn't been real conducive to exercise. Now keep in mind I love meat and I love sweets and I am married to the all-time best dessert maker. She is great and when she gets bored she likes to make a dessert. Now that we can't eat sweets what does she have to do? I do understand what can happen if I don't do something about this so I know that I need to change.

The thing about that is that I've looked at my spiritual life lately and I



really need to change. It's kind of like what we talked about in class. If you are not doing the things that God wants you to do, He can't be with you. I really want God to be with me. I really want that but there are things I need to change like shut the TV off more often, get off the internet more and some things on Facebook I need to block.

How long ago, Sue, was it that we sang at the nursing home? She replied a couple of weeks. Sue's sister and brother-in-law Larry White go sing at the nursing home about every year. For some reason they invite me along. I've always been able to sing loud, not necessarily good but loud. If you're going to go sing at a nursing home loudness is a good thing. I really enjoy doing this because we sing the good old hymns.

Of course singing with Sue is a great pleasure too although I sing so loud I can't hear her. We have a meal afterwards and the fellowship is great. This year when we went to sing, I looked out there at the people and a lot of them were my old teachers, my favorite teachers. I thought that I needed to visit the nursing home more often. As I was walking out someone called my name. It was a sweet lady that's kind of a shirt-tail relation that I really enjoy talking to. I really do need to spend more time visiting people like that.

The other day Debbie and I were at Wal-Mart. I always see someone there that I know. It doesn't matter which one it is. Here was Donella and Randy. I'd been thinking that I should go see them and here they were at Wal-Mart. We had to go 30 miles to see somebody that lives two miles away from us. We sat and talked to them. I need to visit them more often as well as others like Donella and Randy. I just need to do this plus it would be good exercise.

I came across another reading that I kind of liked that goes like this. When my daughter had a crush on a boy, I asked her to place his name in 1 Corinthians 13:4-6. She did. "Sean is patient and kind; Sean does not envy or boast; Sean is not arrogant or rude. Sean does not insist on his own way; Sean is not irritable or resentful; Sean does not rejoice of wrong doing, but rejoices with

the truth."

She frowned. "I saw him pick on another boy in the hallway. I guess he wasn't very kind." She began to rethink her interest in him.

This verse has not only given my daughter greater discernment about others, but it also has helped her reflect on her own behavior. I asked my daughter to substitute her own name into that passage. Then I explained that when we become more like Jesus, we become the right type of person for someone else to like.

When you go home today read 1st Corinthians 13:1-13 and when you come to this part put your name in it. "Rodney is patient and kind; Rodney does not envy or boast; Rodney is not arrogant or rude. Rodney does not insist on his own way; Rodney is not irritable or resentful; Rodney does not rejoice of wrong doing, but rejoices with the truth." I wish I could tell you folks that this is true. It needs to be but I'm not there yet.

**O**ne of my favorite scriptures is found in Alma 16:226-230. I really like the part that comes before this where it talks about praying over your flocks and your fields but that's not what I have chosen to share with you. *And now, my brethren, I would that after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scriptures testify of these things, come forth and bring fruit unto repentance; Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time, and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you. For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. And now as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can*

*be no labor performed.*

. . . this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. It's time to repent. It's time to not harden our hearts. The time of salvation is near. We must prepare to meet our Lord. *dead today!* When you are DOWN to nothing. . . God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Did you know. . . . .

When you carry "the Bible" Satan has a head ache;

When you open it, he collapses;

When he sees you reading it he loses his strength

AND

When you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

There was another email that talked about things that God won't ask you when you meet Him.

God won't ask what kind of a car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes in your closet. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.

One last closing thought. Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.





# June- July 2015 Schedule

Date	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun	28-Jun	5-Jul
<b>Speaking</b>	Rob Rolfe	Steve Smith	Alan Smith	Joel Loving	Tony Crandell
<b>Presiding</b>	Michael Jordison	Rodney Bastow	Ron Smith	Sherman Phipps	Rob Rolfe
<b>Pianist</b>		Cheryl Phipps	REUNION	Cheryl Phipps	Cheryl Phipps
<b>Special Music</b>	Lynda Rolfe	Jim Barber	Sue Beck	Rob Rolfe	Bonnie Major
<b>Family Devotions</b>	Ed Anderson	Sue Beck	Rodney Bastow	Steve Smith	Sherman Phipps
<b>Greeters</b>	Bob Rowland	George Knotts	Steve Smith	Alan Smith	Rodney Bastow
<b>Custodians</b>	Sherman Phipps	Ed Anderson	Bob Rowland	Rob Rolfe	Tony Crandell
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Rob Rolfe

Wed. Prayer Service	10-Jun	17-Jun	June	24-Jan	1-Jul
<b>Location</b>	Rob Rolfe	Steve Smith	Alan Smith	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland
<b>Presiding</b>	Alan Smith	Jim Barber	Reunion	Michael Jordison	George Knotts

**Special Events**

**Jun 7- Potluck following Communion**

**Jun 21-27 - Missionary Family Reunion**

Date	5-Jul	12-Jul	19-Jul	26-Jul	2-Aug
<b>Speaking</b>	Tony Crandell	Sherman Phipps	Rodney Bastow	Jim Major	Rob Rolfe
<b>Presiding</b>	Rob Rolfe	Steve Smith	Michael Jordison	Tony Crandell	Joel Loving
<b>Pianist</b>	Cheryl Phipps	Bonnie Majors	Bonnie Majors	Bonnie Majors	Bonnie Majors
<b>Special Music</b>	Bonnie Majors	Michael Jordison	Alan Smith	Lynda Rolfe	Jim Barber
<b>Family Devotions</b>	Joel Loving	Alan Smith	Jim Barber	Michael Jordison	Ed Anderson
<b>Greeters</b>	Rodney Bastow	Michael Jordison	Ed Anderson	Rob Rolfe	Sherman Phipps
<b>Custodians</b>	Tony Crandell	Alan Smith	Jim Barber	Rodney Bastow	Michael Jordison
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Rob Rolfe

Wed. Prayer Service	1-Jul	8-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul	5-Aug
<b>Location</b>	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Alan Smith	Rob Rolfe	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland
<b>Presiding</b>	Michael Jordison	George Knotts	Ed Anderson	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Jim Major

**Special Events**

**July 5- Potluck following Communion**

\*If you can not fulfill your assigned duties, please find someone to fill in for you. Thanks!



# August 2015 Schedule

Monthly Schedule Information-August 2015

Date	2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug	30-Aug	6-Sep
<b>Speaking</b>	Rob Rolfe	Ed Anderson	Kent Clisby	Michael Jordison	Rodney Bastow	Steve Smith
<b>Presiding</b>	Joel Loving	Sherman Phipps	Ed Anderson	Jim Major	Jim Barber	Alan Smith
<b>Pianist</b>	Bonnie Major	Bonnie Major	Cheryl Phipps	Cheryl Phipps	Cheryl Phipps	Bonnie Major
<b>Special Music</b>	Jim Barber	Steve Smith	Sue Beck	Rob Rolfe	Bonnie Major	Michael Jordison
<b>Family Devotions</b>	Ed Anderson	Rob Rolfe	Joel Loving	Jim Major	Gordon Winkler	Sue Beck
<b>Greeters</b>	Gordon Winkler	Rob Rolfe	Sherman Phipps	Sue Beck	Tony Crandell	Jim Major
<b>Custodians</b>	Michael Jordison	Joel Loving	Sherman Phipps	Ed Anderson	Bob Rowland	Rob Rolfe
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Rob Rolfe	Bob Rowland
<b>Wed. Prayer Service</b>	5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	2-Sep	9-Sep
<b>Location</b>	Bob Rowland	Alan Smith	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland
<b>Presiding</b>	Jim Major	Tony Crandell	Sherman Phipps	Ron Smith	Alan Smith	Joel Loving

**Special Events**

August 2- Potluck following communion

\* If you can not fulfill your assigned duties, please find someone to fill in for you. Thanks!



**JUNE**

Happy Birthday to anyone we missed.

**JULY**

Happy Birthday to Sherman Phipps (16), Elaina Smith (19), Steve Smith (24) and any others we missed.

**AUGUST**

Happy Birthday to Sue Beck (19), Adrian Rolfe (20), Norman Nelson (20), Ryder Rowland (27) and Denise Elefsen (29) and any others we missed.



**JUNE**

Happy Anniversary Alan and Valle Smith (2), Sherman and Cheryl Phips (16) and any others we missed.

**JULY**

Happy Anniversary to Alan and Denise Elefsen (7) and any others we missed.

**AUGUST**

Happy Anniversary to Lynda and Rob Rolfe (22) and any others we missed.



# Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

c/o Cheryl Phipps  
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Lamoni, IA 50140

Have you misplaced your MARB Newsletter?  
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[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

Search Missionary Family Reunion on the web for details of the week. "Come to the Water" is the theme this year.

### Graduation, Potluck, Retreat during month of May

It has special activities planned during May.

We had two seniors graduating this year -- Samuel Jordison and Tanner Rowland. We had an evening of celebration with Sam on Sunday, May 3. Tanner's reception was following the graduation on Saturday, May 16 at the fire hall in Lamoni.

For Mother's Day we had a potluck

dinner to share a meal with Dave and Kathy Drummond when Dave was our guest speaker.

We will had another idig Nauvoo retreat this year on the weekend of May 29-31 where we helped with the archeological dig there like we did last year.

We'll report on the retreat in the fall newsletter.

### Food for needy

Please remember that the third Sunday of each month we collect food for the Neighborhood Center in Mount Ayr. The needs to not stop because of the time of year.

Bring your food any Sunday to be taken to the MATURA Resource Center in Mount Ayr and we will deliver it after the third Sunday.

This past month our collection of food was down a bit to 56 items so we don't want you to forget this ministry.

