

# Church of Jesus Christ

*Mount Ayr Restoration Branch*

# NEWSLETTER

2320 State Highway 2, Mount Ayr, IA 50854  
Ed Anderson, Pastor Lamoni, IA 50140

www.gospelrestored.org  
Phone 641-223-0480



*Let the Little One's  
Come Unto Me*



## News & Notes

### Sunday evening class

Special events will be held each evening from September 13 through October 4.

We will be meeting at 4 p.m. for the class and then have our food following the meeting.

Gary Metzger from Independence, MO, will be leading the class for each of the four weeks.

We hope you will come join us for these special classes.

### Hayride/wiener roast

The annual fall hayride and wiener roast at the home of Jim and Linda Barber of Bethany, MO, will be held Sunday, Oct. 11 at 4:30 p.m.

We always have a great time at this fall event that Jim and Linda host.

We will also be able to see the progress of the new home they are building.

### Two Baby Blessings

There have been two baby blessings in the past few weeks in services at the church.

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# MANY ASPECTS OF PRAYER

**Elder Steven Smith**  
Lamoni, Iowa  
August 2, 2015

*Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness.* Alma 16:219

**W**e have been exhorted to pray. We are to pray over our businesses (flocks and fields), our homes, and all people, even our enemies.

So what does it mean when the Bible is translated to include the word "pray"? There are 17 words in the bible that are translated as pray. They give understanding to what we have inherited as the word "pray". They include:

*Na-* to entreat (I pray thee). Used when communicating with other people. Used most frequently in the Bible.

*Athar-* to burn incense. Incense was utilized because the smoke always went up, like our prayers, to God. It was utilized by cultures prior to Jewish history, and is still utilized in some Christian traditions. Even the natives of this continent utilized burning odoriferous plants as a part of prayer. Our tradition does not use this analogy.

The second definition is to meditate and listen reciprocally during prayer,

*Chalah-* (literally) to be rubbed raw, to be sick or afflicted, to be grieved, to entreat one flatteringly. This often describes the condition we find ourselves in when we finally take our concerns to God in prayer.

DC 102:2d says; "*and my people*

*must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.*" When things are going well, many don't think to pray. *Chalah* may be a reflection of the condition we find ourselves in with sin. This may also give an insight into how we sometimes approach God as we try to flatter him to get our way.

*Lew-* to interject a wish with a condition. From the Greek we find a similar word to *lew* which is *euchomal-* literally meaning to wish. A wish is not associated with a promise...it is the desire of our heart, that we must communicate. God knows our heart. Why would he want us to organize our thoughts and emotions into the words of a prayer?

*Shaal-* to inquire by request (demand) The concept of *Shaal* follows the concept of *paga*. This is an urgent prayer where we demand an answer. This aggressive nature is one that we tend to look down on today when we pray.

*Proseuchomai-* to pray to God earnestly. The Greek word *proseuchomai* is a little less aggressive, yet incorporates the idea of earnest prayer.

*Erotao-* to interrogate. This involves the idea that you must listen to understand

*Deomai-* to beg. The Greek word *deomai* or to beg is also a reflection of the intensity of prayer.

**W**hen I was in college at Graceland, my buddy said, "Let's canoe down the Grand River." It was fall, a nice October weekend was coming up. So we went down to the river, and threw sticks in the river and timed their movement to find out how far we would be likely to go in a day. We cached food under a bridge so we would have lunch at the period we guessed would be lunch. We made arrangements for his wife to pick

us up when we pulled out in Missouri.

Two days before we had decided to go, it rained... and rained, then stopped. It turned out that it had also rained upstream, and the river had risen. But the rain had stopped just in time for us to get on the river. Our adrenaline was high. We got up at 6 a.m. We put in at Highway 2 at about 8 a.m. We sped down the rushing river and made our noon portage by about 9 a.m.

We decided that the extra energy we had used would allow us to eat our noon meal at 9:00 am. Then we put back into the river, aware that it had arisen to cover the stubble in the cornfields, and had almost flooded our stash, that was about 40 feet above the normal water line.

As we put back into the river, we hit the hidden top of a tall tree and tipped the canoe. We stayed with the canoe, holding it with our feet, and paddled for the far edge, since the canoe was headed in that direction. The far side was a flooded forest, which would allow us to move from tree to tree until we got back on the road.

Suddenly the canoe hit a bush, later identified as a 20-foot tall tree, and it rolled so that it caught water, creating a waterfall that went over it, and folding the canoe in half. My buddy jumped into the top of the tree that was submerged in the water, and I got washed downstream about 30 feet to a cottonwood that had about a 2 1/2 foot diameter trunk. As I lost control, I said a prayer...a prayer of panic...a prayer of demand...a wish...a request that I would get the desire of my heart. A prayer that went like this..."Help".

I was a strong swimmer, so I decided that I could swim to the shore. I pushed off from the cottonwood, took about three strokes, traveled about 20 feet downstream and decided that I had



better tree up in the young tree that went about 20 feet into the air.

I shimmied up the tree, and sat in the cool October morning shivering. I decided that if I was to be in that tree, I needed to dry my clothes, so took them off and sat, naked, throwing sticks upstream and counting the seconds it took for them to pass me, then mentally calculating the speed of the river, in feet/second. The middle moved faster than the water closer to the trees, in what we call laminar flow. The faster flow undercut the cottonwood, that I had landed at first, and took it down.

Three squirrels and one raccoon had grabbed the debris and went speeding past. A young great horned owl left its nest and made it to the trees on the opposite shore, but its siblings did not.

My prayer had ended the panic, so I settled in to waiting what I thought might be the next two or three days until the water receded.

Suddenly I was aware that a pickup truck was moving between the flooded fields toward the bridge. With all my might, I repeated my one sentence prayer, over and over. The farmer could not see me, so stopped, waited on the bridge, then went on. And I sat, in the tree. I tied my socks together and tied myself in just in case I got sleepy, then I started throwing sticks into the water.

Soon another car came to the bridge. I yelled, and waved my hands. A lady with a camera and a telephoto lens got out so I kept yelling, waving my hands, and attempted to get dressed. Soon there were five or six cars... one of them was a policeman's.

My buddy was on the tree top next to the water with the canoe wrapped around it and water cascading over it, creating a loud...very loud white noise. I told him of the people, but he had a hard time hearing. So with my loud voice, I shouted to him, and he could hear. Knowing we could communicate, I started to describe the people lined up by the cars in an unfortunately unflattering manner. I remember mentioning that the policeman was so large that we could both fit in his pants, one in each leg. It wasn't until the policeman used his bullhorn that I realized that my

voice was easily heard by the onlookers, and I became ashamed.

A Red Cross van pulled up, a duck boat was put into the water, and six large muscular men paddled to the wooded edge across the channel. They then promptly went back, and everyone left. The channel was too deep and swift for them, and I thought that we would not be rescued that day.

We waited for about three hours, and we heard noises...the noises of the duck boat coming from the shore we were on. They had gone to our side, and started paddling through the 1/2 mile of flooded woods to rescue us. They tied ropes from one tree to another, and twice had to go back and get more ropes.

Finally they came within conversation distance, and asked how we were. My buddy had not stripped and dried off, so I instructed them to get him first. They did so and left. It was becoming late afternoon when they returned to get me, but were still short on rope, so they threw out their life buoy on a rope, and I dropped feet first, and caught the buoy. Six large men pulled me into the duck boat, that had about an inch of boat above the water. Slowly we were pulled in.

The wildlife officer taking the report, asked my buddy his name, and Greg responded. He asked for his middle name, and for the first time I found out his middle name was Thomas, which caused me to visualize a train engine, and I giggled under my breath. The officer interpreted my surprise reaction, as a false name being given to him. After 15 minutes of grilling he finally believed that he was being told the truth. When it was my turn, and my middle name was Lynn, Greg snickered in the type of retaliation that teenage friends often do. The officer didn't bite, and asked where I was from. My response was "Saskatoon, Saskatchewan". The officer gently hit his pen against the clipboard that held the paper, and admonished us saying "come on guys, it's been a long day, and I have to make out this report." We finally convinced him that we were telling the truth, despite the fact that our identifi-



Steven Smith

cation had been lost.

When I got back to the college campus, I saw my roommate, and said guess what I did today. He immediately retorted that I was probably the one swinging naked in the trees, like a monkey. Some lady had come into Hy-Vee and told this tall tale, and he knew it had to be me.

In this experience, we see *Chala* (being rubbed raw and afflicted), *lew*-expressing a wish, some *shaal*-demanding, and some *deomai* (begging) were incorporated in a simple one word prayer..."Help."

Here are some more of the words and their meanings:

*Tsla*- to curve as in bowing. Bowing is a sign of submission. Kneeling and bowing allowed the stronger individual to cut off your head if he chose, and was a way of establishing the pecking order. Bowing to God, and saying a prayer, is a tradition from long ago and became synonymous with prayer..

*Chanan*- to bend or bow to an inferior (be merciful. Chanan shows mercy to others and your humility when you will show concern for them. This is a part of prayer when you stop thinking about yourself and include others, especially those in sin and need.

*Palel*- to judge and intercede. Palel



is translated in several places as meaning to pray, and in other places meaning to judge.

Palel is also used in (1 Samuel 2:25) If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge (palel) him; but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall entreat for him?

Judging, yourself or others, is a part of prayer as we organize our thoughts and emotions to be expressed in words.

Paga- to force yourself between, to make intercession. This works well with palel (judging) and chanan (mercy). There are some in pain who cannot figure out what is wrong. There are some who have no relationship with God; who do not know to talk with God; or who choose to go their own way. For them, when we pray, we can communicate with God on their behalf.

Christ makes intercession for us with God. Prayer allows us to follow Christ making intercession for others. It is something that we do not ask to intervene, we force ourselves in without invitation.

*Parakaleo-* to call near. This is a Greek term. Today in the invocation, we asked God to come near, and be in our gathering. Talking to God brings us to closer proximity to God.

*Awna-* (my favorite epiphony from this study) to become one in love.

Some people ask why do we need to pray if the Lord knows my thoughts. When the disciples could not cast out a devil from a child and Jesus was able to, they came to him and asked why.

Jesus had promised them that the could have power through prayer.

Jesus answered and said unto them, *Verily I say unto you, if ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this to the fig tree, but also, if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, it shall be done.* Matthew 21:19

*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, in faith believing, ye shall receive.* Matthew 17:20

But when they had tried to cleanse the child, they had not been successful.

*Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?*

*And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief; for, verily, I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

*Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.* Matthew 17:19-21

The disciples needed to become one with Jesus for this to be a blessing.

To become one in love, awna, is the awesome purpose of all prayer. Prayer is the vehicle that brings us close to Christ, by growing our faith and our love. We are not one. We only become one by growth, and communicating with God increases our faith. Prayer is what makes growth happen.

*Siyach-* to ponder or converse aloud.

Prayer organizes our thoughts and emotions so that we can express them as words. Without organizing and expressing our emotions and thoughts as words, we sometimes do not understand the problems ourselves.

And so I would like to tell you one more testimony. I have told this before. When I was living in Independence, Maurice Davies asked me to come to his home on a Saturday. Maurice was a patriarch in the church and a brother to Bill Davies. He spent much of his time in prison ministries. When I went over, he told me that he was getting old and needed to have me tell others of his testimony. I objected that I do not remember details well. He told me that he had plenty of time and could repeat it until I remembered.

**H**is story takes place in the old J.J. Cornish colonies established between Senlac, Saskatchewan, and Ribstone, Alberta. There was a man there who was a member of the church, but he was reputed to be a scoundrel and a little bit lazy. He had a big heart, so at the time of this story, which was during the Depression, any bum riding the rails could come by his home and get a meal. This sometimes ran him low on food, so when his neighbor's cow wandered onto his property, he thanked the Lord for the bounty and butchered it out and shared the meat.

This did not sit well with the neighbor, and he was thrown in jail. This left his wife with four children, at harvest time in the fall, a situation that some thought was his way of getting out of work. The wife would get the children off to school (except the youngest at about four years of age), then harvest wheat, without machinery, and care for the needs of the family. On Wednesday, she took the laundry down behind the barn, pumped water from the well, heated the water over a fire, and using a washboard, washed, then rinsed the weeks laundry, as her youngest played by herself.

On this particular day, she realized about noon, that her daughter had disappeared, so she stopped her chores to find her daughter. She was unsuccessful. The days are short in the north as you go into fall, and the permafrost freezes the soil at about two feet down. This makes it so grown men laying on the ground uninsulated, have frozen to death overnight, and her daughter was in a yellow sundress without the luxury of shoes.

When she was unable to find her daughter, she put out the word that her daughter was lost. Even though Ribstone, and Senlac are about 10 miles apart, news spread thru both towns, and the people converged on her farm to find the child. People brought food, and set up a potluck. Searchers fanned out. The father in this story was released from jail to help find his daughter.

As night approached, it was decided that they needed to call in the Royal Canadian mounted police. Regina, Saskatchewan had the closest tracker, and the train from Regina came in at 6 a.m. in the morning. The Indian tracker asked that when it became dark, that they stop their search. The people instituted an impromptu prayer service that with the food, allowed people to pray and eat all night. Everyone went down to the train station the next morning to welcome the RCMP Indian tracker and his son.

The tracker and his son, with their horses, started at the house and circled in an ever widening circle, and the people prayed. At noon, the trackers son came back to tell the townsfolk, that



they had found her tracks miles away on a cowpath. The bad news was that on top of her tracks were the tracks of a wolf pack that had caught up with her. Although the people were prepared after the night to accept a recovery rather than a rescue, the thought of wolves eating her was particularly sad, yet the people continued to pray and eat.

The Indian tracker was the best that there was, but as an Indian, he did not get paid without proof of the young ladies death, perhaps a piece of blood-stained dress, perhaps a mutilated body.

The tracker then tracked the wolf-pack down to the Saskatchewan river. The Saskatchewan river, runs fast ...and wide...and cold. On its banks are brush filled Saskatoon berries, a blueberry-like berry that can get up to one inch diameter berries and grow to about 13 feet in height. Saskatoon berries are actually a member of the Service berry family, but can be used interchangeably with blueberry recipes, or eaten raw. All the people and animals depend on the berries, and eating them simply spreads the seeds to new areas, so you cannot eat them all.

There on a path's entry into the Saskatoon berries, the tracker found a yellow piece of sundress on the bushes. In the bushes, he could hear the wolves ambushing mice, so in the event, they had not finished the carcass of the young girl, he shot into the air, and the wolf pack split up and dissipated. He went to pick up the torn dress piece, and out of the bushes, emerged a young girl with a torn sundress, and a purple mouth.

The tracker threw a saddle blanket around the young girl and carried her back toward the house. Her father seeing them come, ran out to see the damage done, and the rest of the people, in deference, allowed him that moment. He was handed the blanket wrapped girl, and opened it to find she was alive. Her father asked how she survived the night, and she responded..."God sent dogs, big dogs."

Later on in life she would recount how as it was becoming dark, the wolves caught up with her, and allowed her to play with them. As it got dark she was



allowed to sleep on and cuddled up to them. Several times during the night, one of the wolves would come over and check on her.

In retelling it, she would hold her hand up to her neck where the warm breath of the wolf, breathed a moist, but comforting breath upon her neck. In the morning, when hunger struck and she had no way of communicating her need, the wolves took her down to the Saskatoon berry bushes, where she could get all that she wanted, until the tracker found her.

Finally we need to remember: As you organize your thoughts into words, you must also coordinate the words with your emotions. Christ said:

*Mark 7:7 O ye hypocrites! well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

**A**nd if you have your thoughts, emotions, and words all coincide, there is one more thing you must do.

*Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.*

*And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, Do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need;*

*I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith;*

*Therefore if ye do not remember to be charitable, ye are as dross, which the refiners do cast out, (it being of no worth,) and is trodden under foot of men. Alma 6:222-225*

When you pray, whether it is a demand, or a wish, an interrogation, or begging, grow in judgement and mercy, as an advocate for others, be emphatic but humble, and listen, for prayer is a conversation that helps us grow in our faith and love until we are one with each other and God.

Then, however you pray, coordinate and integrate your thoughts, emotions, words, and actions, and remember James 5:16: *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much.*





# WHAT IS CHARITY?

**Priest Ed Anderson**

**Lamoni, Iowa**

**August 9, 2015**

I'd like to read a scripture from the Doctrine and Covenants to get us started this morning.

*Behold, I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work;*

*and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care. Doctrine and Covenants 11:4 a-b*

I just read a scripture about some of the things that qualify us for the work. Being humble is one. Another of the things that also qualifies us for the work is charity. I thought it would be a good reminder for everyone, including myself, to remember just what charity is.

In Moroni 7:51 it gives us a description charity. I'd like to look at the scripture piece by piece.

*Charity suffereth long.* Anybody here suffered? I'm kind of assuming that in suffering long it doesn't mean that they suffer and they complain. I'm kind of the assumption that if you have charity, you suffer without complaint -- that the things that come to us that are not pleasing, we can see past the events that are transpiring to the Christ. Did he suffer? Did he complain? We know he suffered and I don't think he complained.

*Charity is not puffed up.* How important are we? No matter what we do, I've got to the point where you see obituaries about people, and we find out that the person was the representative of this or the chairman of that. Does it matter? If he's doing the work of the Lord, if he's carrying the message of the gospel in his every day life and that's why he took those responsibilities, that's what's important isn't it? It's not the positions. Can we as individuals be puffed up? Can we be puffed up and be nobodies. I

see a nod here. We can be puffed up and still be nobodies. We don't have to be the president of a university. We don't have to be the secretary of the company, or anything like that. We can be puffed up on our own without having any fancy labels. Should we be puffed up? No. We need to go back to being humble, right?

*Charity seeketh not her own.* Well what exactly does that mean? Does that kind of imply that we seek someone else's welfare over our own? What does that mean? Does that mean that we ignore our needs? Not necessarily.

*Charity is not easily provoked.* What is it that provokes you. Steve (Smith), what is it that provokes you. Steven answered "Violence." If someone comes after you, then you're provoked? "That tends to be one thing," Steven replied. But if they aren't coming after you physically -- if they are coming after you with words like saying, "You're worthless," does that provoke you? What do you think if you are provoked. What is it that allows you to be provoked.

George Knotts put in "There's a scripture in the Old Testament that says, 'Only by pride cometh contention.'

The thing about a person who is easily provoked is that this is a person who has pride in himself or herself.

"People are being professionally offended every day," Steve Smith interjected.

I agree. People who have pride in themselves are easily provoked. "Oh, you can't do that to me, I'm important. You can't say that about me, I know these things, what I say goes." Today is a world where we go after each other on Twitter and Facebook and try to break everyone down. But if we have faith in Christ, if we know our place and our humble, and we know who we are because we worship and serve Christ, we are not easily provoked, because we understand the point that they are trying to make about us. If someone says something about us and we're disagreeing with it, "Am I really like that?" it's

a time for introspection, a time to examine ourselves. If someone says something about us that we disagree with and initially we have the bristles up on our back, and we're provoked, it's a time to look at ourselves and examine ourselves. We need to ask ourselves, am I really like that? Do I really see myself the way other people see me.

*Charity thinketh no evil.* That's a good one. Is there anyone who has thought no evil in the last couple of days? You'll have to raise your hand if that was you guys because I can't raise my hand on that one.

*Charity rejoices not in iniquity.* No one can assist in the work if we do these things. If we rejoice in iniquity, we say, that guy got his just desserts. I hope we repent. Why? What is it that Christ wants? He wants every living soul to partake of salvation and to come and live with him. When we look at it from Christ's point of view, we recognize that we shouldn't rejoice in someone getting their "just desserts." I have a problem living this definition.

*Charity rejoices in truth.* If the truth hurts us, do we rejoice in it? Do we rail against the truth if it's against what we think? We should rejoice in truth. The truth will make you free.

*Charity beareth all things.* Uh, oh. We had so many bills come this month. The bills are coming no matter what. All that work that I've got to do at work. People are just ungrateful. They don't appreciate what I do for them. If we bear all things, we do the things that Christ would have us do without complaint.

*Charity believeth all things.* I like Rob Rolfe's story. He tells about a lady, who when confronted with a scripture they don't like, tore it out of her Bible. Believeth all things. Does this mean that we have to understand everything that we read in the scriptures? No. But in the future, we will know all things. It will all be revealed to us. We should have faith and believe in the scriptures which are written for us.



*Charity hopeth all things.* We say things like “I can’t do that. I can’t bring ministry to them. I can’t reach out to them. I can’t talk to them. They won’t talk to me. All they do is say bad things about me. (Maybe they’re true.)” But you do hope for their soul. All things are possible. Jim talked a little bit about miracles being done away with in his call to worship. The blessings of the spirit -- prophecy, speaking in tongues, raising from the dead, healing of the sick, these things are still available. What are we really hoping for? Are we hoping that we live after our death that we live with Christ. Isn’t that what we are hoping for. Do we want it just for ourselves? Do we hope just for ourselves? We hope for Zion. Is that a hope just for ourselves? I want you to be part of Zion. I want you to be part of Zion. I want all of us to be a part of Zion. I want the world to accept the concepts of Zion. I want the world to repent. Isn’t that what Christ wants?

*Charity endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth.*

*Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them.* Moroni 5:52

I think we would look at everyday events, the things that seem to bug or irritate us, in a different way if we were always looking with the pure love of Christ. We have a cross to bear. That cross is Jesus. He is who we testify of.

I’ve been looking at the news a little bit recently. I think we’ve all read about the debris from the Malaysia plane crash, flight 370. I was a bit interested about that simply because it’s been a year and they’re finally coming up with parts of the air plane 5,000 kilometers (and I’m not sure how far that is in miles) from where they thought the plane was. It’s taken a year to float across to the place where the remains are beginning to be found.

Also, you know how you go to the seashore and put a note in the bottle and send it out to sea with some con-

tact information so people can get ahold of you when they find it? Well, a girl, named Natalie put a note in a bottle and threw it in the ocean on Nantucket Island. Here’s her note: “My name is Natalie, I’m putting this bottle in the ocean at (I’m not sure what the name is) Beach on the island of Nantucket on August 25, 2013. If you find this, please write to me and tell me you found my 2013 message in a bottle.” Guess where the bottle was found? It was found off of Ireland. It was found on July 13, 2015 in Ireland. It was a distance of 2,800 miles.

Isn’t amazing that things can travel like that in the ocean with not source of locomotion, without any rudder, without any sail. But they could get there much faster if they had power and direction.

**I**’m kind of thinking about us without a rudder or a sail. And the Lamanites, in Mormon 2:44-47, it talks about people without direction.

*For this people shall be scattered, and shall become a dark, a filthy, and a loathsome people, beyond the description of that which ever hath been amongst us; yea, even that which hath been among the Lamanites; and this because of their unbelief and idolatry.*

*For behold, the Spirit of the Lord hath already ceased to strive with their fathers, and they are without Christ and God in the world, and they are driven about as chaff before the wind.*

*They were once a delightful people, and they had Christ for their Shepherd; yea, they were led even by God, the Father.*

*But now, behold they are led about by Satan, even as chaff is driven before the wind, or as a vessel is tossed about upon the waves, without sail or anchor, or without anything wherewith to steer her; and even as she is, so are they.*

How dark it must be in the world when you have no rudder, no sail, no direction.

What is it that Christ gives, what is it that the gospel gives? It gives right and wrong, doesn’t it? What about people that have no concept of right and wrong, that have no hope? How dark their lives must be. Isn’t it Christ that

gives light and life to the world. He gives us the feeling that we are someone, that someone cares. What about the people that don’t have that care?

Last Sunday we reached forth and partook of the bread and the wine. We listened to the communion prayers. God, the eternal Father, was asked to bless and sanctify the emblems to the souls of all those that partook of them. So we were asking God to bless the bread and the wine of we that partook. And we that partook did so in remembrance of the blood and body of Jesus. By partaking of the bread and wine we had a three pronged covenant. We promised to take upon us the name of the Son. We promised to always remember him. We also promised to keep his commandments. In baptism we made the same kind of promise. When we went into the waters of baptism we promised the same things -- to always remember him, to keep his commandments and to take upon us the name of his Son. Last week should have been a life-changing event for each and every one.

Baptism was a life-changing event. Wasn’t it? I remember when I went down into the waters of baptism and how alive I felt and how refreshed I was and how my life was going to be different from that day on. This is the same kind of covenant we made last Sunday.



Ed Anderson



Did we feel that same refreshing, that same commitment, that same energy as we did at baptism?

I remember I bought a new truck one time. It was the only time I bought a new vehicle. For the first week I was shining and polishing and waxing it. After about a year I was not longer doing that. It had a few scratches. I was no longer out there shining and waxing it.

Is that like our commitment to God? Initially we are all fired up about it. It's something important to us. It's something we can give attention to. What happens to us? Do we become comfortable in the gospel, accepting it? What is it? I'm not sure I give the attention to the gospel with the same degree I did at baptism.

What did we do differently this week than we did the week before. If we made a covenant with God in the taking of the sacrament, what difference did it make in our lives? Did we do something different or not? If we didn't, then did we partake of the sacrament unworthily?

We went through the motions, but did it make an effect in our lives? I thought it did in my life because that's what I was thinking about all week. I was focused in on this so I made sure that I did something different. But is it like with the truck? We partook of the sacrament but when we got home we kind of forgot about that renewal of the covenant.

I want to talk a little bit about Lehi's vision. In 1 Nephi 2:62, Lehi tells how the rod of iron extended along the bank of the river and led to the tree by which he stood. He saw a lot of things in that vision. He saw people who pressed forth that they might attain the path and they found the path, and reached the tree and partook of the fruit of the tree of life. Then they looked about and said, "Oh, I'm ashamed. Look at those people over there making fun of me in that big building." And they fell away.

And there were people who took hold of the rod of iron and a great mist of darkness arose so that they couldn't see. The Book of Mormon defines that as the "cares of the world." And they let go of the rod of iron. How could you let

go of the rod once you have it?

"You lose hope," Danny Kinnaman responded. That's right, you lose hope and you don't pay attention to that rod of iron anymore so you let go.

"It won't make a difference if I just let go of it a little," we say. Before you know it it's "Where's that rod? I can't find that rod anymore." And we fall away.

Lehi saw a bunch of people just going to the spacious building across the way, not worrying about the rod of iron. The building represented the pride of the world. He saw people who followed the rod of iron and partook of the fruit of the tree and worshipped and served God.

He saw all kinds of multitudes pressing forward without any direction. They had no rudder or sail to help guide them.

**W**hat is the purpose of God? Doctrine and Covenants 22:23 a-b says:

*And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying, The heavens, they are many and they can not be numbered unto man, but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine; and as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof, even so shall another come;*

*and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.*

He creates us so that he can save us. That's kind of an interesting situation.

Mormon 4:71-73 says:

*Behold, he created Adam; and by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man, came Jesus Christ, even the Father and the Son; and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man.*

*And because of the redemption of man, which came by Jesus Christ, they are brought back into the presence of the Lord; yea, this is wherein all men are redeemed, because the death of Christ bringeth to pass the resurrection, which bringeth to pass a redemption from an endless sleep, from which sleep all men shall be awakened by the power of God, when the trump shall sound;*

*And they shall come forth, both small*

*and great, and all shall stand before his bar, being redeemed and loosed from this eternal band of death, which death is a temporal death;*

The good news which Christianity puts forth begins with everyone being resurrected. Everyone is saved to the point that they are resurrected. The death and resurrection of Christ brings all men to stand in the presence of God. What most of Christianity leaves out at that point is what happens then. Your life is compared to his commandments. The books are opened. If you are found wanting, though you've been resurrected, that doesn't mean that you are going to live with him.

We are at the judgement where we have to reconcile our actions to the words of Christ. We will find out if we lived up to what Christ wants us to do. We can tell ourselves all kinds of things at this present time. Yeah, I'm living the best I can. I'm doing what God wants me to do. I'm giving my tithing. I'm going to church every Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night. I go to all of the classes that are offered. I read the scriptures. I've actually memorized the whole Bible. Does all of this bring salvation? No.

There's more. What is it that God wants? What is that Christ came for. He came for each of you. He wants each individual to make that commitment to change their own lives and follow him. The Sadducees and the Pharisees knew all that stuff. Did it help them? Did they even recognize Christ? They knew all the scriptures, they knew all of it. But did it help them? They rejected him. They crucified him.

We study our scriptures and all our good books. We memorize passages in the Bible. Some of us, if really good, memorize the whole book. The Rabbis are part of that. We are good students of the scriptures, we are well versed in his ways. We know what God wants to do, but Satan does too. Satan knows what God wants.

At baptism and then at communion last Sunday, we promised to keep his commandments and take upon us the name of Jesus. He promises you that if you do these things, with the promise





in the communion prayer, he will give to us his Spirit every minute. Asleep or awake, working or playing, we can have the holy spirit to guide our thoughts

and actions that we truly might be the children of our Father.

That's what the world needs -- the people that are out there with no sail,

no rudder, no hope, in darkness. Knowing Christ and learning to love with his charity will give your lives purpose and bring us to everlasting life.



# THE BODY OF CHRIST

**Priest Kent Clisby**

**Lamoni Iowa**

**August 16, 2015**

Brother Kent Clisby used I Corinthians 13:11 as his scripture reading. *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

**G**ood morning. I have had this book since I was in high school. It's called Reach Out and it's a simple explanation of how the Bible should be read. It makes it easier for me to understand and so I will read I Corinthians out of it. The language it uses is a little more up to date even though it's from the 70's.

*Though I speak with the tongues of men, of angels and not have charity I am become as sounding brass or tinkling symbol. Though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and though I have all faith that I could remove mountains and have not charity, I have nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long and is kind. Charity envieth not; charity vauntheth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth; but whether there is prophecy, they shall fail; whether there is tongues, they shall cease; whether there is knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which*

*is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I thought as a child but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity.*

The last two weeks I have been reading Corinthians. I keep remembering the part that says if I am not the foot I can't be part of the whole. If I am not like George Knotts I can't be as tall as a mountain. If I'm not like Rob Rolfe I'm not as smart or as willing to put forth and I can't be part of the whole. I sometimes feel like I don't contribute in one fashion or another. But I know each of us is needed for the body of Christ to fully function.

(I have ADHD so if the subject changes don't worry I might get back to it.)

Sometimes I have little faith in myself and in doing things. If I start something usually I can finish it. Often I find myself thinking I didn't know I could do that or how did I do that. It's working and that's what counts.

Each of us as, we talked in class, has a piece that they share. What little we do is usually good. What we do is for the church and for the good of God. It may not seem like much but it is comforting to the Lord Jesus Christ. He doesn't expect us all to know and be all. We aren't functioning at full capacity unless we are all together. I think this congregation is more all together than you know.

We had a small group next door to my house yesterday helping Jim and Bonnie to eventually get into their house. It's not quite a temple but it should be used as a temple of sorts. It

should be set aside as a place where God lives.

I have been out of work for a couple of months. I'm doing a lot of different things and still keeping busy. However, it's coming to the end of the line where I'd better find a job. I haven't been really worried about it. I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing.

When I lost my job I felt unworthy wondering what I had done. For a few weeks I sat there and kicked myself. I thought I was going to retire at 65 but that didn't come true so I am going to have to change things, make different arrangements to carry on. Reading the scriptures has been more uplifting than going out and throwing rocks.

This is more of a family group than a lot of places that I have been. We all try to work together to get things accomplished. A week ago I had an extra trailer load of gravel so Jim and I thought we would bring that extra gravel and fill in some holes in the church parking lot, which we did. Then it rained and when we came back the next Sunday it didn't look like we had filled the holes in. It's a continual process to keep the holes in the parking lot filled in.

That's this way with our life. It's a continual progress. We just have to keep filling in the holes within ourselves. We need to read more scripture and be a little more involved with other people in the congregation. We need to figure what we are missing out on.

This coming Friday there is going to be a group of us "young men" who are going down to watch a football game in Kansas City because the Seattle Seahawks are playing. I am going only because Seattle is playing and that was my home. It's going to be close inside my car with six of us so that will be kind of fun. Maybe we can share among



ourselves to uplift each other. We keep trying to engage ourselves with other people.

The family grows. My daughter getting married is going to cause our family to grow. I came in kind of late hoping to let Ed be a little uneasy about me not showing up. He caught me in the back room and said, 'You're here!'

I feel like I am on unfamiliar grounds to be up front and to speak because I feel unworthy to speak to you folks.

Just now looking at Alan and Val-le reminds me of the first time that I spoke. That was down in the basement of the library. Alan told me afterwards that the first time he spoke it was only for three minutes so he repeated the sermon to make it last a little longer. I told him that that made it a little easier on me. I was worried about my sermon that day being short and it was.

I am always hopeful that something that I have said will affect one or two people who will think that the sermon

was worthwhile so I can go home and feel a little bit better about today. Hopefully someone can use something that I've said to share with somebody else.

I am glad to be here and to be able to be part of the whole of this congregation. It makes me feel a little better and I appreciate the fact that you allow me to preach. I hope that the Lord comes into your life so that you can share with others.



# FREEDOM FROM FEAR

**Elder Tony Crandell**

**Lamoni Iowa**

**July 5, 2015**

A lady wrote the following letter:

Dear Fear:

I only refer to you as "Dear" due to our long-term intimate relationship, certainly not because you are "Dear" to me in any way.

In fact, you have been a tormenting influence from start to finish. You have told me lies and have prevented me from doing the things I want to do and should have done. You are indeed a wretched miserable companion, one I am no longer willing to be involved with.

I am writing you this letter to let you know that from this point forward, I will not fear!

Although I may feel your presence, I will not bow down to your demands.

I have a friend whose name is Jesus and he has promised he will never leave me, nor forsake me, but to be with me always. He is indeed, a powerful friend and although you do have some power, he is by far much greater than you are.

You can come against me, but Jesus lives in me and the power of the one that is in me is greater than you are. If you don't believe me see 1John 4:4.

Although I cannot prevent you from coming to visit me, I do want to give you notice that you will be ignored.

I am far too busy now, fellowshiping with my friend Jesus and developing an intimate relationship with Him to give you any of my time.

The more time I spend with Jesus, the more courageous I've become. He is teaching me a new way to live, one that is exciting and adventuresome, and one that is fearless.

I also want to inform you that since I have so much experience with you and know how self-defeating it is to listen to you, that I now intend to tell as many people as I can ...what a thief and what a liar you are. The years I have wasted with you will be redeemed and I will bear much good fruit.

Thank you for driving me to Jesus. You see, you made me so miserable that I sought a way to be free from you and Jesus met me where I was and set me free.

Should you decide to waste my time and try to visit even after receiving my letter, I am letting you know ahead of time, that you will be met by "faith in God" and determination that I will not FEAR!!!

Signed /s/ Joyce (written by Joyce Meyer)

**A**s Christians we hear almost daily about the "Signs of the Times". So much so, I can't believe anyone can doubt that we are nearing the end. Scary isn't it. I think about it everyday. I look at the recent events in the country, the actions of the Supreme Court, the actions of the

Muslim terrorists, our healthcare debacle, the actions of my previous church, recent headlines pertaining to Christian persecution, the purging of Christianity from the military....

Oh worry, worry, worry. Oh woe is us.

Wait a minute! Oh woe is me... On the other hand, I had a birthday this week, The big 74, which means my number is one more number closer to the end for me than it was last hour...so it truly could possibly be the end of time here on earth for me very soon... much sooner for me, than for you!

Our own scriptures foretell a fearful time at the end -- and as I have stated from this pulpit, I don't believe in the Rapture -- which means we would very likely be here during those perilous times.

DC 1:4a says: "*Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth...*"

DC 45:12c says: "...and with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you, and it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God;"

DC 45:13a says: "*And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety.*"

As we discuss here in this room ev-



ery week...Zion Is the Answer, the only answer.

I have a testimony about Zion. As I stood on the Big Island in Hawaii at a place known as the "The City of Refuge" I had an inspiration that the stories were very similar, that being the story of ancient Hawaii and the story of the forthcoming perilous times of the Gentiles.

In ancient times, Hawaiians lived under strict laws. Commoners could not get too close to the chief, nor were they allowed to touch any of his possessions, walk in his footsteps or even let their shadows touch the royal grounds. The penalty for violating a sacred kapu (taboo) was death.

Hawaiians often chased down an offender and swiftly put him to death unless he could reach a place of refuge. There he could be absolved by a (priest) in a purification ceremony, then return home with his transgression forgiven. Defeated warriors and non-combatants could also find refuge here during times of battle.

As I stood there in that place... the concept of Zion as a place of refuge came very, very clear to me. But Zion is not yet...and I fear because of that...I fear that it will not be ready in time for us...I fear that we are not doing our part in preparing for it.

Worry! Worry! Worry!

Let me say from the beginning that fear is something that is never going to disappear completely from our lives. The feeling of fear is never going to completely disappear. Just because you feel fear doesn't mean that you have to be afraid. I don't know about you but that was a real great revelation to me... because I want to not feel afraid, yet God wanted me to feel the fear and be courageous...anyway. Courage means to go ahead and take the action that you feel you should take or that you know God wants you to take...while you still feel fear. We let our personal feelings dictate to us wa-a-ay too much.

The only acceptable attitude that a Christian can have is that "I will not fear." Now that doesn't mean that you will never again feel fear...in fact I can pretty much promise you that you will...but it does mean that you can

feel the fear and still do whatever you believe you are supposed to do...while you feel afraid, and you can learn to do it...afraid...if that is the only way you can do it. Don't let the feelings of fear keep you trapped any longer.

There are 365 times in the Bible where it says "Fear Not". Why do you suppose it is in there so many times? Obviously, God knew that as He offers faith, Satan was going to offer fear. Remember anything the devil offers... is the opposite or reverse of what God offers. We receive from God through faith and... we receive from the enemy through fear. We let God into our life through faith and we let the enemy in... by giving into fear.

So we need to learn how to live from faith to faith to faith to faith and not to live from faith to fear to faith to fear to faith to fear. Satan can place thoughts in our mind...but if those thoughts are not in agreement with the word of God... we need to cast those thoughts out and learn how to admit and say the Devil is a Liar!

Joshua 1:1-2 says "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel."

**W**ow! What a job!!! Joshua had been watching how Moses did his job, he had been watching how the people behaved when they didn't get their way. All of these years they have been out in the wilderness with the Israelites griping and complaining -- murmuring and wanting to blame Moses for everything that didn't go right. But Moses is dead now and the Lord says to Joshua "Now you get up (arise) -- before you do anything you have to "get up"-- but that is a whole other sermon in itself. It doesn't just mean you have to get up physically, it means you have to "get up" on the "inside" first. Getting up on the inside. Determined that you are going to do that which God wants you to do. Confront that -- what you need to con-

front. Be the person that God wants you to be, and have all that Jesus died for us to have.

There has to be a holy determination on the inside of us, we can call it a "Holy" determination. I call it "getting up on the inside"! You have to "get up" on the inside before you can ever "get up" on the outside! You know, the devil is always pushing us to give up and that we can't do something. As soon as we start going downhill -- inside -- everything else will follow and soon we will stop doing the things we are supposed to be doing. The next verse, verse two and three are so amazing. Make sure you don't miss this! He didn't say "if you do this and this...I WILL give you the land...He said I have already given you the land ...now you go and take it!

Inspired Version 1:2 says, "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." Listen again! I have already given you everything you need to live an amazing life -- now you to ARISE and go take it. In other words you have to have a holy determination. Jesus died that we might be free and free we are going to be! Jesus died that we might be bold, coura-



Tony Crandell



geous, secure, and confident...and that is the way we should be. Jesus died that we might spend our days not worrying and being frustrated...and that is the way we should live.

If you are not determined....you will never have what God wants you to have. Nobody can be determined for you! But if you are determined, than no one can stop you! There is no devil in Hell, nor any person on this earth that can keep us from having anything God wants us to have if we just won't quit and give up! So our destiny is not in the hands of all these other people; it's between us and God.

Read verses 2-3-4 again: "*Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.*" Continue on to Verse 5: "*No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.* . . .

Note this. Even though Joshua is to take Moses' place, he doesn't have to be like Moses. You don't have to do what Moses did...or talk like Moses talked, or pray the way Moses prayed, dress the way Moses dressed or do the things in the way that Moses did them. Because -- now get this -- Moses was only successful because I was with him and I will be with you as I was with Moses.

You know what that means to us? Whatever God tells us to do -- however impossible it might seem to us -- if God said it, we can do it. But we won't do it if we don't believe that God will do it through us. Just as he has been with anyone who has been successful with anything in his work, God will also be with you!

Does God need us to do anything...of course not! Will God do anything we ask just because we ask? Maybe? God however will do wonders and miracu-

lous works through us if we make ourselves available to Him. In fact, if Joshua would have tried to be like Moses, he would have failed. I personally believe our church today is failing in its mission, because we don't have the courage to be who we are.

We are still waiting for another Joseph to come along. Or, we are always trying to be someone else...a copy of somebody else...instead of the original of us that God has designed us to be.

Verse 6 & 7 says, "*Be strong and of a good courage; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee; turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*"

So He is basically saying whatever I've (God) told you to do...that is what you need to do. Whatever God has told US to do, that is what WE need to do. Don't turn away from what God has told you to do. Don't look to the right or the left, but keep your eyes straight ahead and go for it!

Verse 9 says, "*Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*"

In three of these four previous verses God says "don't let fear stop you!" God is pretty much saying "This is what I have called you to do. Take the land. I have provided for everything else, I am going to be with you. You can be your own person, keep your eyes on the prize, don't be afraid, don't be afraid, don't be afraid."

And He wasn't saying don't feel fear. He was telling him to fear not, because God said he would feel fear, but He said don't let it stop you.

It is amazing what we lose in life by listening to fear instead of listening to God. What did Jesus purchase for us with His death and resurrection? *Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost...* Romans 14:17

So, how many days as a church have

we felt defeated, helpless, worried, and frustrated and have let the devil steal our goal of peace, joy, and the righteousness of Zion? I am learning that it takes more guts to live free from guilt and condemnation than any other thing that we can stand up against. Jesus has said I have made you right with me through your faith in Jesus Christ, but the devil wants us to feel defeated in everything we attempt to do with respect to righteousness.

If we're praying, we aren't praying long enough, we aren't praying right. If you listen to the word or read the word, you don't remember anything you read or you heard. If you read the Bible, you don't understand it. I mean "whenver is enough, enough?"

It's never enough....if you listen to the devil! Don't we all feel guilty about something—all the time? If we want to seek and launch out in whatever task the Lord has for us, we first must free ourselves of the baggage of guilt, the threat of failure, hopelessness, and idleness of no progress, and the fear instilled in us by the devil.

Well, Tony, what are you saying this morning? Our sins cause us to fear, fear, because the devil continually makes us aware of our shortcomings. Here is the bottom line: when we sin and we do, and we will, the Bible says God has already provided for our forgiveness of that sin though the death and resurrection of Christ if we will but repent. If we will but recognize our failure, our shortcomings, and truly feel sorry for what we did, or the thought that we thought, and then turn away from it. Once we've done that, we believe that God has forgiven our sin, He forgets our sin...and He removes our sin as far as the east is from the west.

Therefore, when I still feel guilty about something that limits my peace and my joy after I have repented, it is a lie from the devil because God said He forgot it and I need to forget it. Jesus died for us to have that freedom. Don't waste another day feeling guilty about the mistakes you made yesterday. I can't do anything personally about your feelings of fear, but I can tell you about the promise that Jesus made to us.



The Communion table is prepared. The Spirit is in this room and it is your opportunity to seize the promise and the opportunity to free yourself from sin and fear. It is not too late. The Spirit is in this room. I am going to pause a moment here; I want you to take this

moment to inspect your inner soul and ask Jesus to forgive...and to forget... and to release you from the effects of fear. (Moment of silence.)

Amen!!

Fear will always be with us...but God has promised us a blessing of peace

and joy and the strength to overcome it Joshua 1:9: "Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



# NO MASTERPIECE LIKE YOU

**Elder Michael Jordison**  
**Lamoni Iowa**  
**August 23, 2015**

**A**t Rob and Lynda's Anniversary reception yesterday afternoon I had the chance to visit with Derek Rolfe. We talked about a lot of things, not the least of which about how we can just enjoy coming together to sing; and being in the Spirit without having to have a traditional service like we often expect. [We just had the opportunity to hear some lovely prelude music from two of the youth (Josh & Isabel Jordison) on violin accompanied by Bonnie Major followed by a touching song by Rob Rolfe about Christ's love for the sinful woman who washed his feet with her hair.]

I'd like to preface my sermon today by reading from the book of Psalms, a very familiar passage to all of us I am sure. *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:1-3*

I'd you to consider that scripture in conjunction with this poem from Rudyard Kipling.

If you can keep your head when all

about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,

Or being hated, don't give into hating,

And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise;

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;

If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet with triumph and disaster

And treat those two imposters just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you're spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,

And stoop and build's up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings

And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,

And lose, and start again at your beginnings

And never breathe a word about

your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,

And so hold on when there is nothing in you

Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,

Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;

If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute

With 60 second's worth of distance run-

Yours the Earth and everything that's in it,

And- which is more- you'll be a Man, my son!

I'd like to also share one other thing from a book entitled "Boyhood and Beyond Practical Wisdom for Becoming A Man," written by Bob Shultz.

"Every day I read from a grand book. It is the oldest book I know. God designed it to be read by every person in the world. It describes what God has done in the past and what He is doing today. The book declares His greatness. Whoever reads it has no excuse for not acknowledging God and His creation and control of the world. The mind of the man who will not believe this book



becomes dark. God will turn him over to wickedness.

Do you know the name of this book?

The chapters of this special book can be understood by anyone around the globe. Men read it before they ever learn an alphabet. But no man has ever read it from cover to cover. Of those who have tried, none has successfully read even one quarter of the pages. Some pages are never read.

Now do you know the title of this book?

Around 1510, a boy named Bernard Palissy was born in France. His life offers an outstanding example of industry and diligence. Bernard purposed to discover the secrets of covering pottery with porcelain. With no one to instruct him, he guessed and tried. When he failed, which he did over and over, he tried again. After sixteen weary years, he fulfilled his dream and became a famous potter, respected by kings. At age seventy-eight, Bernard Palissy died in a Paris prison, refusing to deny his Lord Jesus.

When Palissy began his education, his family did not own a single book. "I had no other books," he said afterward, "than heaven and earth which were open to all."

This grand book that I have been asking you about is called heaven and earth. No one can afford to own the volume, yet it is open for even the poorest to read and receive instruction.

In the book of Psalms we read, *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.* (Psalms 19:1) In his letter to the Romans, Paul the Apostle, wrote: *For God hath revealed unto them the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, which are clearly seen; things which are not seen being understood by the things that are made, through his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.* (Romans 1:20)

You CSI (Crime Scene Investigators) fans out there would tell us that people leave clues behind of their presence; clues that identify that individual which are unique only to them – their fingerprints, their voice print, their

speech patterns, their smell and even the way that they walk. A bullet that is fired out of a gun will bear unique patterns of grooves as it travels along the inside of the barrel. That bullet can then later be matched to that gun. A rubber tire that leaves tracks in the earth can be matched up to it by studying the unique pattern of tread on it. You see all of these things, though on the surface they might seem common and indistinguishable to man, leave behind traces, clues, to who or what left them.

**T**his book that Palissy was referring to, the book of heaven and earth, is really the testimony of all creation. It is the Testimony of our God. When God spoke everything that we know was created. The very resonance of His voice left an indelible mark upon everything that was created. For those of you who might not know - an indelible mark is something that can't be erased. It's there always. So as God spoke the world into existence, a part that was uniquely Him was affixed to the design.

When he reached out with his hands and fashioned the dust of the earth into the shape of a man, His fingerprints were left on that lump of clay. His fingerprints, you might say, literally covered every inch of mankind as we were shaped and molded. Yes, the scriptures say that man was made in the image of God, but even if we might imagine that we were made in the image of some strange extraterrestrial being that bore no resemblance to anything we know and experience now, we would still bear the marks of our creator God.

The Apostle John also spoke of creation, revealing, In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God. The same was in the beginning with God. All Things were made by him; and without him was not anything made which was made. In him was the gospel, and the gospel was the life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4) John has made it clear for us to understand that ONLY through Jesus Christ were the heavens and the Earth, and you and I

made. He said there in verse three, ALL things were made by him; and without him was not anything made which was made.

If we look at the testimony of Moses, the Lord revealed to him saying, *And behold, all things have their likeness; and all things are created and made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath, all things bear record of me.* (Genesis 6:66)

That means that ALL things not only bear the fingerprint of God the Father, our Creator, but they bear the fingerprint of His Son Jesus Christ; in the heavens, the earth, light, spiritual things, temporal things - the created wonderment on and in the earth. It also means that you and I bear the fingerprint of Jesus Christ just by virtue of being made by Him.

So what does this mean?

It means that you and I have value.

It means that you and I have purpose.

It means that you and I have responsibility.

It means that you and I have a relational experience with Him.

Some species of turtles may lay up to 200 eggs and bury them in the sand which are then left to hatch by themselves. Once hatched they must survive on their own with no guidance from their parents; hoping to make it past the first and second and third and fourth predators that they come across without any protection or help from their parents. Some people believe that God has done the same for us. They believe that while He may have created us and placed us on this earth, He really has no concern or care for us and we are left to ourselves to wander around, to escape the predators, to make choices for ourselves and to do the best that we can. They believe that like the Greek and Roman gods of mythology, God really has no interest in our activities and only intrudes on our journey when it suits or pleases Him.

But the God of our scriptures isn't



selfish in this capacity. Yes we were created for Him, but just as much we were created for ourselves. Lehi taught his sons that mankind was created to have joy. (2 Nephi 1:115). A God that has purposed for us to be filled with joy is a God that finds value in us to be worthy of such a gift. Because God values us, He has made a purpose for us to obtain. By virtue of that gift, we have the obligation - we have the responsibility - to achieve and lay hold of that purpose, which he stated: to find joy.

In the Book of Mormon Lehi and Nephi both shared their experiences with this purpose as they spoke of the visions that were given to them of the Tree of Life. Nephi asked for understanding and was given an interpretation by an angel, who asked him, *Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw? And I answered him, saying: Yea, it is the love of God which sheddeth itself abroad the hearts of the children of men; Wherefore it is the most desirable above all things. And he spake unto me, saying: 'Yea, and the most joyous to the soul!' (1 Nephi 3:63-65)*

To find our purpose - our joy - is to find ourselves IN the love of God. If we studied this vision of Nephi a little more we would come to understand that the love of God isn't found in fruit from a tree, but instead in the meanings of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is found in His eternal sacrifice. Remember the old familiar scripture, For God so loved the world that He gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life?

Our joy is inseparable from the love of God. And the love of God is inseparable from the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for you and for me. And for this love to be accepted - though it's given to all - it must come through a relationship with Him. It must come through a relationship with Him. It is evident through the ordinance and prayers that we have in baptism. It is evident through the ordinance and prayers we have when we partake of communion. It is evident by the testimony of the scriptures and the words of all the holy prophets, and it is also evident through the witness of the

Holy Ghost. It also means that you and I not only have the Spirit of Jesus given to us, but we have the potential to bear the Spirit of Christ in all things. Brother Jim Major calls this the "Christ mind".

We are to obtain an understanding of the will of Jesus Christ and allow it to meld with our experience until we think and we move - through the power of the Spirit - in harmony with the God of the Universe. This can only happen when we've accepted our responsibility to come into harmony with the indelible mark of our Creator, Jesus Christ. We are made in His image and we are made through His unique style. Everything about us yearns to return to Him, to find resonance with His Spirit.

**I**n latter day revelation we received these words, *And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God. For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ; And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; And everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father. (D&C 83:7a-d)* Here we understand that the Word of the Lord is Truth. Truth is Light. Light is the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

This is the fingerprint that God has left upon every single one of us as His creation. And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit. From Section 90 we find that *The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth. (D&C 90:6a)* And we also find that *truth is knowledge of things as they are, and things as they were, and as they are to come. (D&C 90:4b)*

Remember that God revealed to Moses that *all things were created to bear record of Him - things which were temporal and things which were spiri-*

*tual, things above the earth, things on the earth and things under the earth. The Lord also revealed through Joseph Smith that, The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receiveth a fullness of joy, and when separated, man cannot receive a fullness of joy. (D&C 90:5e)*

In order for mankind - for you and for I - to find our purpose in this life, to receive this fullness of joy, we must begin to understand that it can only come through meshing our conscious wills into harmony with that indelible mark that has been left upon us. We may have a sin nature - a disposition to turn away from the commandments of God - but we also have His Spirit comprising our very makeup.

In a way we stand as a contradiction of elements. On one hand we have a will and desire to obey the lusts of our flesh, but yet on the other hand we have the very mark of our Creator upon us which yearns to return to the nature of the One who has made us.

We have learned that the Spirit has given light unto every person born in this world. Light is Truth. Truth is Knowledge. Knowledge is Intelligence. Intelligence is the Glory of God. The Glory of God is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. By just mere virtue of the fact that we are made by God, we reflect His



Michael Jordison



glory and we reflect His Son without any merit on our part. Any good that we might do is not because of our abilities to transcend any evil tendencies, rather any good we do comes by way of giving way to the Spirit of Christ which is already printed upon the very fabric of our make-up.

Through the grace of God we are able to overcome. The Greek form of grace - Charis - can be interpreted as, "the Divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life". Simply put, Grace is not something that covers us, but instead Grace is what empowers us to DO the will of God. It is by Grace we are saved through faith, the scriptures say. If by Grace we are saved it is then that God's Spirit - which is already residing within our Spiritual DNA - enables us to exercise our faculties into an experiment of Faith to rely upon the merits of the One who alone is capable of saving us.

When we hear the voice of actor, James Earl Jones, who voiced Darth Vader, we know in an instant who it is. The same could be said for newscaster Tom Brokaw, comedian Johnny Carson, singer Don Francisco and many, many others. Their unique voice prints help us identify who they are. It is the same for some vocal groups. When we hear the five part harmony of the Eagles we know who is singing. One can tell the difference between the Statler Brothers, the Gatlin Brothers or the Oak Ridge Boys even when they sing the same song.

When we see a painting by Andy Warhol or Leonard Da Vinci or by Thomas Kincaid we can identify the artist. When we hear a symphony play music composed by Beethoven, Mozart or Rachmaninov, we know, based on their tendencies to use certain keys, rhythms and instruments, who it belongs to.

God created us to be unique. And because we are created in His image, He made us to be expressive or creative like Him. What we do creatively is a reflection of His creative nature because we bear His fingerprint - His nature - on our very being. If a painting could become self-aware, it would know its painter. If a song being played could

have understanding, it would know its composer. There are lyrics that have been written, songs that have been composed, books authored and sculptures molded that are credited to ones named, Anonymous and Unknown. But if these expressions could speak they would tell us who they belong to. They would tell us who created them.

There are many people that are walking around today who have either given themselves a label of "Anonymous" as to their origins - Atheists or Agnostics - or perhaps they have had that label placed upon them by others. (Many times, even those in the church fail to give credit where it is due in regards to their gifts and talents and even blessings.)

All expressions of creativity - all utilizations of our gifts and talents are done because God first created us and left that same propensity within us. Whether or not we accept, believe or understand that, it doesn't change that fact. We create music, art, skyscrapers, bridges, computer software programs and all sorts of things. We create friendships, relationships, families. We create things that we find happiness in, and we even create problems for ourselves and others. We create because God created us. John put it a little bit differently. He said, *We love Him because he first loved us.* (1 John 4:19)

**S**o because God first loved us we have value. Because God values us He has given us a purpose. And because we have purpose we have the responsibility to discover that purpose through the development of a relationship with the Creator God who made us in His image. And because He created us in His image and fashioned us with His own hands, we bear His indelible mark - His Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Along with our scriptures and the testimony of all the Holy Prophets, we have been given the book of heaven and of earth. Because God has given us His Spirit we can understand this book. It's not just creative expression that has been imprinted upon us by virtue of being made by Him. As we read earlier: the Glory of God is Intelligence; it is

light and truth and it is knowledge of things as they were and as they are. God has given us the ability to read out of the book of heaven and earth and understand according to the knowledge and intelligence that He has already placed within us. His mysteries and His truths are open for all to understand.

King Solomon wrote, *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.* (Proverbs 25:2)

Alma wrote, *And he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God, until they know them in full.* (Alma 9:18)

And the Lord through Joseph Smith revealed this testimony, *He that keepeth his commandments, receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth, and knoweth all things.* (D&C 90:4e)

All who search for creative expression, all who desire after knowledge and understanding will eventually come to the realization that these things come by and through the power of the God who created us. We are not merely products of an accidental universe or an uncaring deity. We are beings of value because we were created and belong to God. And just as any loving parent wants their child to find fulfillment and purpose in life, God wants us to understand this: because He has value - we ALL have value.

If we will explore our world and all that is around us through the power of the Spirit given to each one of us, we will begin to not only understand and find that joy unspeakable, we will begin to find a greater purpose that comes through that joy, and that in the sharing of it with others.

We could say that you and I have no value, much like we could say that a blank sheet of paper has no value, a white canvas has no value, a silent piano, guitar or violins have no value. But through the potential of what the author can do with a sheet of paper or a musician with the keys on the piano or the strings on the violin or the artist with paint on the canvas, these things have value. Sometimes when we feel like we





have nothing to give, when we're at our lowest, when it seems like everyone is looking down upon us and we just want to crawl into a hole and try to get by, we need to remember that we have potential for God to create His masterpiece upon us.

He can take us from where we are and make so much more of our lives than we could ever hope for by ourselves. Jim (Major) said it this morning when he welcomed the congregation and said, 'You are beautiful.' We are beautiful in His eyes. Brother Rob sang about that in his song, that even the most vile woman is beautiful to God. When we begin to understand that we have potential, we can look out and see our world and begin to grow in our understanding of hidden truths, these mysteries that God has placed out there and build upon them. I believe that that's when we can begin to truly build up the Kingdom of Zion. This morning I thought of this song I'd like to play for you written by Steven Curtis Chapman, "Only One and Only

You."  
 I caught you looking in the window  
 at your reflection and  
 I could see you were unimpressed  
 I watch you whither like a willow at  
 what you think are imperfections  
 When you compare you to all the  
 rest  
 And I wish I could find a way to  
 make you see you the way I do  
 So I wrote this song for you  
  
 You're better than a Beethoven sym-  
 phony  
 And Mona Lisa wishes she could be  
 a masterpiece like you  
 More than any Michelangelo  
 When I look at you I know  
 There's no other masterpiece like  
 you  
 You are the only one and only you  
  
 There is music in your laughter the  
 world has never heard before  
 You came and brought a melody  
 The way you say it the way you see it  
 When you're sad and glad and so

much more  
 All these gifts only you can bring  
 Still I know that right now every-  
 thing that you feel says it's just not true  
 So I'll keep reminding you that  
  
 You're better than a Beethoven sym-  
 phony  
 And Mona Lisa wishes she could be  
 a masterpiece like you  
 More than any Michelangelo  
 When I look at you I know there's  
 no other masterpiece like you  
 You are the only one and only you  
  
 Wonderfully, carefully woven to-  
 gether by God's own hand  
 And you're better than a Beethoven  
 symphony  
 And Mona Lisa wishes she could be  
 a masterpiece like you  
 More than any Michelangelo  
 When I look at you I know there's  
 no other masterpiece like you  
 You are the only one and only you  
 You are the only one and only you.



# NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

An election of officers for the Mount Ayr Resto-  
 ration Branch was held Sunday, August 23.

Officers for the church year beginning Septem-  
 ber 1, 2015 include:

- Pastor -- Ed Anderson
- Counselors -- Sherman Phipps and Gordon Winkler.
- Bishop's Agent (appointed) -- Gordon Winkler.
- Stewardship Coordinator -- Cheryl Phipps.
- Home Ministry Coordinator -- Jim Barber.
- Secretary/Recorder -- Julia Jordison.
- Caring Coordinators -- Diane Anderson and Linda Boswell.
- Fellowship Coordinators -- Deni Loving and Bonnie Major.
- Christian Education Coordinator -- Linda Barber.
- Worship Centers -- Sue Beck.

Evangelism Coordinators -- Joel Loving and Sherman Phipps.

Youth Leaders -- Joel and Deni Loving and Michael and Julia Jordison.

Service Project Coordinator -- Sandy Crandell.  
 Historian -- Linda Winkler.

Facility Coordinators -- Tony Crandell, Michael Jordison, Bob Rowland, Jim Major, Cheryl Phipps.

Building Committee --- One year term: Tony Crandell, Rodney Bastow and Gordon Winkler. Two year terms : Jim Barber and Bob Rowland.

Newsletter editor -- Alan Smith  
 Newsletter sermon transcribers/ mailing crew --

Cheryl Phipps, Julia Jordison, Sandy Crandell.  
 E-mail Coordinator-Website -- Michael Jordison.

Membership Directory -- Julia Jordison.



# Summer Worship



Summer worship pictures -- from left: Bonnie Major and Josh and Isabel Jordison have played for several church services. Steve Smith preaches with an overhead illustration. Dr. Alma (Alan Smith) teaches at a reunion class. Joel Loving shares ministry with the group.





# September 2015 Schedule

Date	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4
<b>Speaking</b>	Steve Smith	Sherrm Phipps	Joel Loving	Jim Major	Alan Smith
<b>Presiding</b>	Alan Smith	Kent Clisby	Rodney Bastow	Michael Jordison	Ed Anderson
<b>Pianist</b>	Bonnie Major	Cheryl Phipps			
<b>Special Music</b>	Michael Jordison	Alan Smith	Steve Smith	Bonnie Major	Sue Beck
<b>Family Devotions</b>	Sue Beck	Rod Bastow	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Sherman Phipps
<b>Greeters</b>	Jim Major	Gordon Winkler	Alan Smith	Joel Loving	George Knotts
<b>Custodians</b>	Rob Rolfe	Tony Crandell	Alan Smith	Michael Jordison	Jim Barber
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith
<b>Wed. Prayer Service</b>	<b>Sept. 9</b>	<b>Sept. 16</b>	<b>Sept. 23</b>	<b>Sept. 30</b>	<b>Oct. 7</b>
<b>Location</b>	Bob Rowland	Gordon Winkler	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland
<b>Presiding</b>	Joel Loving	Ron Smith	George Knotts	Jim Barber	Steve Smith

**Special Events**

**Sept. 6- Potluck following communion**



Happy Birthday to Rob Rolfe (1), Elyse Jordison (13), Ron Smith (15), Ed Anderson (24), Debbie Bastow (28) and any others we missed.



Happy Anniversary to David and Barbara Houston (19), Bob and Jennifer Rowland (23), George and Yvonne Galusha (26) and any others we missed.

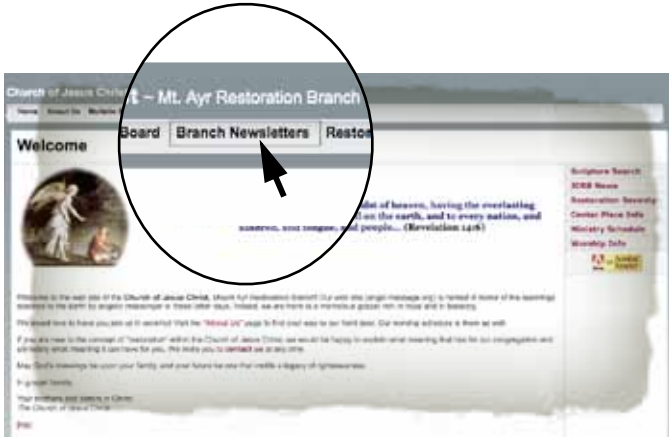


# Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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

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

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



## CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

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

## News & Notes

*Continued from front page*

On August 15, Carson Allen Burks, son of Tiffany and Corey Burks and grandson of Dan Kinnaman was blessed by Alan Smith and Joel Loving. Carson was born February 7, 2013. (See picture on front page).

On August 30, David Lee Allan Mitchell, son of Ben and Erica Mitchell, was blessed by Joel Loving and Alan Smith. David was born August 24, 2015.

### Fall JCRB Conference

National Joint Conference of Restoration Branches conference will be held

October 15-18 in Independence, MO.

Focus of the conference will be how to minister to youth and young adults to keep them part of the church.

“Called For Such a Time” will be the theme.

Several from the branch will be sharing in ministry during the conference and everyone is invited to attend. We will need to elect delegates as well.

### Food Bank Efforts

Remember the third Sunday of each month we gather food for the local food bank at the MATURA Neighbor-

hood Center.

We have been doing a good job of helping the efforts there each month.

Also the annual CROP Walk will be held later in September. More details will be announced closer to the event.

### Busy Summer Past

We had a busy summer of activities and worship during the break from the newsletter.

Many in the branch attended the Seventy Missionary Family Reunion in Lamoni. Several attended our helped out with youth camps. A float trip was held for the youth among other events.

It's good to gather back together with the fall and more normal family schedules ahead of us.