

Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

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God's Fall Beauty Enlivens The Soul



News & Notes

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.

Fall JCRB Conference

National Joint Conference of Resto-

ration 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.

"Chosen 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.

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HOW TO DEAL WITH OUR ENEMIES? PFLT

Elder Steven Smith
Lamoni, IA
September 6, 2015

For my scripture reading I would like to read from Luke 6:27-38.

But I say unto you who hear my words, Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you.

Bless them who curse you, and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you.

And unto him who smiteth thee on the cheek, offer also the other; or, in other words, it is better to offer the other, than to revile again. And him who taketh away thy cloak, forbid not to take thy coat also.

For it is better that thou suffer thine enemy to take these things, than to contend with him. Verily I say unto you, Your heavenly Father who seeth in secret, shall bring that wicked one into judgment.

Therefore give to every man who asketh of thee; and of him who taketh away thy goods, ask them not again.

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

For if ye love them only who love you, what reward have you? For sinners also do even the same.

And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what reward have you? For sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great; and ye shall be the children of the Highest; for he is kind unto the unthankful, and to the evil.

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.

I would like to reiterate a position that I have expounded upon before, but I would like to polish it a bit.

Today we are making a covenant. A covenant has at least two parts. We promise to:

- Take Gods name upon us,
- To always remember him,
- To keep his commandments

Interestingly enough, We reiterate our promise in the prayer on the wine, when we promise to simply:

- Remember him, which incorporates taking his name and keeping his commandments.

God has promised to give us his Spirit to be with us always, if we will do our part.

God has asked us to incorporate our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions into our response to Him and his promises. That is why we have scriptures that say:

Mark 12:35 *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.*

Scriptures such as the first one indicate we should incorporate our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions... it uses words such as:

- Love (Emotion) Do good (Action) Bless (Thought, Word) Pray (thought, Word) Dont revile (Action) Give (Action) Merciful (thought) Judge not (Thought and Action), Don't contend (actions, words), Condemn not (Words, thoughts), Forgive (Emotion/Action), Give/Lend (Action)

There is a reward to this promise...

we become Children of the highest.

How to treat your enemy

PFLT- an example of integrating TEWA (thoughts, emotions, words and actions) on your hand.

I would like to invite two volunteer thesbians to the front to help me illustrate a point.

Who wants to be the villan? A villan is chosen.

Alright we are about to witness a fight. The villan is to throw a right hook in slow motion and connect with the victom on the chin. The victom is then to make an exagerated slow motion fall back, with an exagerated recoil, and hold up a fist, then action will freeze and I will step in.

...Action...

The victim's fist is raised, and the pointer finger is extended. Pointer finger starts with a P as does prayer. It helps us to remember to pray for that person. The victim then repeats after me... "I'm gonna tell God on you." I am going to tell it just like it happened with no excuses....and I am going to pray for you over and over and over again. I'm gonna bug God about it and ask him to change your heart, and repair my broken heart.

We then lift the fickle middle finger which starts with F as does forgiveness. (I explain how while in St. Louis, we turned off the highway too early, then traveled parallel to the highway, stopping at each road to see if we could get back on the highway. A young girl in a sports car, came up quickly behind us and became inconvenienced by our stop and start travel. I was sitting in the back seat, and looked when she honked her horn. To my relief, she was holding up the Forgiveness finger. I of course, was excited to see that she was so considerate, so I smiled a great big smile, started shaking my head yes, and put my hands



together and bowed to remind her to pray for us as well. My enthusiasm was met by her backing off by about a block. So remember to hold up the prayer finger with forgiveness.)

Now repeat after me.

I am going to forgive you, like Christ forgave me. I am not going to give you power to terrorize me. You can take it up with God if you want.

Next you hold up the ring finger, which holds the marriage ring as a symbol of love...which starts with L... and we will call it the love finger.

Repeat after me. (with a smile or perhaps even a smirk) say "I am going to love you, and you cannot do anything about it." Loving you will make it easier to forgive you, and perhaps my prayers will turn toward your welfare...so there!

Finally you hold up the tiniest finger on that hand...Tiny starts with T as does Teach.

Repeat after me...You want equal time?... I would be glad to introduce you to Jesus, and you can tell him your side of the story. I'll show you how to talk to him, and you too may find the power of forgiveness, and loving others.

Now we have the fingers of Prayer, Forgiveness, Loving, and Teaching, all extended. The fighting fist is now an open hand of friendship... and we have fought God's way. If you take the first letter of each finger or P...F...L...T, we have the acronym PFLT.

Some people do not have the time for your little speech, so you can just hold up your fist and say PFLT[puf ult] (kind of like a magic trick) and your hand is open to shake theirs. You must be careful as they are assuradely going to ask you what PFLT means, so you may have to explain it anyway.

Prayer

My father was in St. Louis when a young promising teenager who had not been in trouble overdosed and died. His mother was broken hearted, she was single, and had two sons. The older one was rebellious and the most likely one to have had problems with drugs. Her younger son did well in school, and had the world ahead of him... and he overdosed and died. His mother was fraught with grief and some anger, and

she decided to pray.

The mother's prayer was that the person who gave her son the drugs would feel remorse, and be unable to sleep until they confessed their role. This was a fervent prayer, that seemed to come to no avail for months.

One day as she was talking to her surviving son, he said "Mom", I need to tell you that I gave my brother the drugs that killed him... and I am sorry...and I haven't had a nights sleep since I encouraged him to take them.

Prayer is not only for asking God for goodies...we are encouraged to share our wishes, desires, hopes, and dreams with God. With prayer we mature to where we can become one with Christ. It is the vehicle by wich we learn to use our faith. As we use our faith causing us to convert Gods promises into repentance, we are blessed, and that blessing causes us to grow closer to knowing, and seeing, and living with God. The oceans of prayers that surround God and Christ is a glimpse of his glory. Prayer helps them grow. Prayer for oth- ers helps them grow.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness for me is like the process an alcoholic addicted to their drug sometimes goes through....I tend to fall off the wagon of forgiveness, and need to start over, and over, and over again. Little things act as buttons to re-ignite my addiction to victimhood, and not forgiving

Forgiveness cuts the cord that allows others sins to control us. It empowers us to treat others as beneficiaries to God's plan of salvation.

Forgiving others allows us to understand how God feels, when He forgives us.

In fact an integral part of our repentance, is that we must forgive others. If we choose to not forgive one other person, we are denying the plan of salvation applies to that person... in effect denying that Christ died for him or her and all of us, and denying the Holy Spirit can bless us when we repent. My testimony is that when you start down that road of forgiveness, determined to forgive others, if you slip, and get side-tracked, trying to get out of the ditch

called sin, God will help you succeed, and free you from the energy sucking abyss called not forgiving.

Love

My father advised a young lady who worked in a good job as a nuse in a rest home. She was competant, and well liked, and wrote up the schedules for all the nurses.

The rest home hired a world re-nowned chef. A chef who was so temperamental that it was like he hated everyone. When schedules were made to allow the nurses to eat in shifts, he limited the time that his kitchen was open, so some missed out on meals. The young nurse was heart broken as she once again changed the schedules around. Her discouragement made her feel inadequate for the job, and she came to talk to my father prior to quitting her much needed job.

My father said, "ilt sounds like he is your enemy". She agreed.

My father then said, then lets treat him as an enemy He pulled out his Bible and read Luke 6:27-37, the opening scripture. She hesitated.

He explained that if she would treat him with love one of two things would happen. Either he would respond in love, or he would go crazy... She agreed



Steven Smith



to the experiment.

She greeted him in love when they passed in the hallway. She went out of her way to share schedules with him to get his input, and she made it clear that she valued his input.

About a year later, the church was meeting to consider fund raisers, and it was decided that homemade portugeese sausage would be the ideal item. Portugeese sausage is an ingredient that is rather hot, and only takes a few thin slices in a pot to flavor the stew. I remember it as burning my mouth, causing a pain in my stomach, and burning all the way out.

The young nurse volunteered that she had a cook at the rest home who was world renowned for his portugeese sausage, and she could ask him to help. It was agreed.

When the church offered to bring over a hog, the temperamental cook explained that it was important that only the right pig be used, and he would choose the pig...it was also important to butcher it properly, so he would do that as well.

On the morning that the women

showed up to help spice and grind and case the sausage, they found that he had, in his own contrary way, chosen to make the sausage and then sell it to his preferred costumers, where he got top dollar. He then took his expenses out, and handed over the profit to the church ladies.

Teach

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lrd in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and right way.

If Isabelle drives into ditch (of sin) with water in it, how do I start to teach her. Do I stand on the road and say; "How could you be so stupid as to drive into the ditch. Don't you know that if the water keeps rising that you might drown? You should have known better." then drive off hoping that she learned from my teaching?

Perhaps getting out a chain, helping her out of the ditch, and sending her on her way would be of more help, and create a better teachable moment.

Note: Isabelle has never physically driven into a ditch, while I have, which makes her a better driver than I.

Enemy - PFLT

How many have an enemy? Three? Four? How should we treat the enemy? PFLT.

If your enemy does not believe as you do but becomes "not antagonistic" - They become a neighbor.

Neighbor PFLT

How many have a neighbor? 14? How do we treat a neighbor? PFLT

If your neighbor converts and believes as you do, you have made a brother.

Brother PFLT

How many have a brother? ... in the church? How do we treat a brother? PFLT

If your brother bonds closely, you have made a friend.

Friend

How many have a friend that is closer than a brother? 0? (The point is made without audience input.)

How do we treat a friend? PFLT.

Let's discover the power of PFLT as a response to God's commands, which we have promised to keep this day. Let us discover the power of PFLT when we respond to those around us.



COME UNTO ME

High Priest Rob Rolfe Lamoni, IA July 5, 2015

On July 12, 2013 CVS stores gave notice that it now requires an ID to buy nail polish remover. That is interesting, because you can vote in many places without an ID. That shows you how important nail polish is!

The Federal Reserve is printing 85 billion in bonds every month. They take those bonds across the street where they print the cash to pay for the bonds. A default by the US on our national debt is now close to certainty. Yet no one in Washington will even talk about it. We can expect at least 25% inflation when the American dollar ceases to be the re-

serve currency in the world. If you don't know what a "reserve currency" is, you need to inform yourself.

Can any nation survive that allows millions of people to enter its country and immediately be eligible for billions of dollars of government services. We are certainly following the economic path that destroyed the Roman Empire. Our nation is crumbling morally and economically. All of this clearly points to the need for Zion. When will we build Zion??? It is sorely needed. It is the kingdom of heaven expressed in a group context. It is becoming one as a group. Zion is not only needed, it is the only thing that will save us from a crumbling world.

I ask you this morning, have you entered the kingdom of heaven? When did you enter the kingdom? Let's start

out by remembering Peter's journey into the kingdom. Was Peter in the kingdom? When?

Matthew 5 Peter leaves his boats

Luke 18:28 Left all his worldly goods and followed Jesus

Matthew 14 Peter walked on water

Matthew 16 Spirit of God revealed unto him who Jesus was

Matthew 16 "get thee behind me satan"

Matthew 26 I'll never be offended by Jesus, but a few hours later

Matthew 26 He denied knowing Jesus--All of the disciples said this!

Was Peter in the kingdom or not?

Jesus had many "meetings" recorded in the gospels. Let's join the meeting Jesus was having, as recorded in Luke 18. He had just said that unless you receive the kingdom as a little child you



will not enter the kingdom. One of the people in the crowd, a ruler, was interested in this topic to the point of asking Jesus, what one thing do I lack to enter into the kingdom. It might be well for each of us to stop every so often and ask ourselves, "What do we lack," that keeps us from entering the kingdom.

When the young man spoken of in the scripture lesson came to Christ, Christ looked at him and loved him. He was a noble young man, we would say a good man, he kept all the commandments; but he tried to save himself by the law. There are those today who do the same thing. Go to church, keep the commandments and you'll be in the kingdom. Jesus tells us that is not necessarily true, at least in this man's situation.

He had the law and the prophets, but when Christ touched his heart—for he had his heart set on his possessions—he found that he did not love God with all his heart; he did not love his neighbor as himself. He thought he did, but he didn't know himself. He spoke very well of himself. He had a good opinion of himself.

There are a great many such people, and it is almost impossible for them to do good. Perhaps you are one of them. Come unto me with full purpose of heart! What do you lack this morning? Ask yourself that question honestly and see what Jesus' answer is for you. Perhaps you are a person that "doesn't want to put all of their eggs in one basket." That is a prudent investment tool. Unfortunately Jesus wants us to invest it all. Nothing is to be held back. Come unto me with full purpose of heart!

My mother told me not to carry eggs in my pockets. I tried it out. No problem. One egg, two eggs, three eggs, four eggs. Everything was fine until I raised one of my legs to step through the gate. All of the eggs broke and ran down my legs. I put all of my eggs in one basket. I didn't do what my mother told me and ended up a mess. When we don't do what Jesus tells us, we end up a mess.

In my scripture lesson, the rich young ruler came to Jesus. Jesus didn't contradict him when he said he had

kept all the commandments. YET—he lacked one thing. He only lacked one thing. In one sense, I wish I had only 1 thing that keeps me out of the kingdom of heaven. BUT, What if it were 5 "one things" or "10 one things?" Jesus said, "one thing thou lackest". Just one thing! All dead people lack is life. All that a beggar lacks is money. If you are sick, you only lack health. But, health is everything to a sick person. Money is everything to a poor person that needs everything. What if that one thing was salvation? Don't you lack everything if you lack salvation?

The rich young ruler lacked one thing, and his lacking was deeper than being rich or poor. Being rich wasn't the cause of the condition. The cause was trying to save himself by the law. Perhaps you have been trying to save yourself by the law. If I just could keep one more commandment, I would be in the kingdom.

Many people read these verses and equate wealth with sin and poor with righteousness. That reading is simply not true. All the Marxists in the world would like you to believe being poor makes you morally superior to those who are rich. It is projected as a class warfare battle. They read this scripture, "blessed are the poor", comma inserted. Proper punctuation saves lives! Consider the difference between, Let's eat, grandma, and Let's eat grandma. What did Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount actually say? Blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:5 It's "poor in spirit," not poor.

Come unto me with full purpose of heart! What Jesus is really saying is that a person that is not ruled by their wealth and are willing to give it all, (if that is what the Lord requires), is truly blessed. The test is not whether they are rich or poor, but how they view their possessions. You can find numerous examples in the scriptures of what the disciples thought on this subject and what Jesus said in this regard. The widow's mite, for example. Ananias and Sapphira, for example. Etc. The second chapter of Mosiah makes it clear to me that the

only morally sufficient reason not to give your resources to those in need is because you don't have it. The underlying purpose for this rule is: You can be just as unloving and uncaring being a poor person, as being a rich person. The test is what is in your heart.

In America today- one of the things we lack- is due to our preoccupation with the appearance and acquisition of wealth. Both the poor and the rich suffer from this malady. Wealth is not bad or good in itself. It is our attachment to, and unwillingness to lay down that "good thing" that is bad. That is why Jesus used the example of a "camel going through the eye of a needle," the rich (and some of the poor also) have great difficulty being willing to use their wealth for others. The message of Zion is that IT CAN BE DONE! It not only can be done, we are commanded to do so.

Let me read you two scriptures on this subject. Jacob 2:24 *And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry,*



Rob Rolfe



and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted. Doctrine & Covenants 38:5-6 ...let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me. And again I say unto you, Let every man esteem his brother as himself: for what man among you having twelve sons, and is no respecter to them, and they serve him obediently, and he saith unto the one, Be thou clothed in robes and sit thou here; and to the other, Be thou clothed in rags and sit thou there, and looketh upon his sons and saith, I am just. Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine.

Who is Jesus talking about here? Is it US, or someone else? Are we one, those who are in this room? If we are not one, Jesus says we don't belong to him! Most of us in the Restoration view the other guys, THE OTHER GROUPS, THE OTHER CHURCHES, as those that are not His. We are His. The other guys are not His. That view is scripturally not correct! Pure and simple! If you are living the same as your neighbors, you are not going to be one with Jesus. (Unless you are LIVING in Zion!) The kingdom of Jesus is something that if you really believed it, it would change your life and you would want to change [the lives] of others. I haven't seen too much of that in the saints. We don't want to live differently than our neighbors.

Let's consider the description of what Zion is from Genesis 7:23, And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them.

Of one mind

Dwelt in righteousness

No poor among them.

But before this description is given another description of Zion, which is more important than the "definition" of Zion. What could be more important than being of one mind, dwelling in righteousness and not having any poor? (Genesis 7:200 What is the description of Zion given before the one mind, dwelling in righteousness and having no poor? The Lord came and dwelt with his people,

and they dwelt in righteousness. The Lord wants to live with us. Would you want the Lord to live with you at your house? If He did would you change anything? Probably so. Probably so.

In the Book of Mormon we find in 4th Nephi 1:3 there were no contentions or disputations and that every man dealt justly one with another. How could this happen? The answer is in 4 Nephi 1:17-19 -The love of God was in their hearts. Because of the love of God, they had all things common, no rich or poor, no bond or free.

Sadly today, we see many Christians who are not really sold out to God. They are believers in word only. They say they are believers, but they do not believe in their hearts. These people are inhabitants of Jerusalem, they inhabit many Christian faiths and inhabit so many of our restoration churches. They profess belief with their mouth, but their hearts do not believe. Come unto me with full purpose of heart!

What do you lack this morning? Do you have just one thing or more than one thing, that keeps you from entering the kingdom of God? I suggest to you that one of the things we lack is that we think we are right, but we are wrong. About many things! We think we are right, but we're not. For example, Adam and Eve didn't get in trouble for eating an apple. Is that a true statement or not? Do you believe it is true? It has been said it wasn't the apple on the tree but the pear (pair) on the ground.

If you believe the scriptures say Adam and Eve ate an apple, you are wrong. There was no apple mentioned in the Garden of Eden in connection with Adam and Eve. Check it out for yourself. Genesis 3 is where you will find the answer. Whether it is Bible doctrine, politics, family life or whatever, too often we make decisions based on what we think or what our friends think or both. But to make decisions is not to make the truth. The truth already exists. All that is needed is simply the power to see it, and when all see it, all will see it alike. Because...it is the truth.

If it is the truth, we can see it, (if we are not blind.) The Book of Mormon

tells us the way to judge is as plain as daylight is from dark. (Moroni 7:13) Is there anyone who can not tell the difference between dark and light? You can, unless you are blind.

What do we yet lack this morning? I can't tell you what you lack, but I know what I lack. The most important thing I lack is that I have not turned over every part of my life to God. I keep finding a part that I want to keep back. As Jesus said to the young ruler, YET ONE THING THOU LACKEST! This fact became clear to me when I was asking the Lord when the prophet of power was going to come forth. He asked me if I was willing to be that prophet. I was shocked! I was not willing! Not me! Don't ask me to do it! I wanted someone else to suffer and maybe die, but I didn't want to do it. In that experience I realized that I wasn't as committed as I thought I was.

In a real sense, I was like the rich young ruler. I couldn't take that last step. I was like Ananias and Saphira. I wanted to keep something back and not commit everything. If we are ever going to be a part of Zion, there is no holding back of any part of our lives.

Why hasn't Zion been built? It isn't because we need more instruction! We don't make it into the kingdom of God by what we have in our heads. Jesus said to Nicodemus, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN...OF THE WATER AND THE SPIRIT! I think we have lost the fire. If we are going to be a part of Zion, we need to rekindle the fire in our lives! We need to make a covenant of fire with God. Something like this, Covenant: God, My life is no longer mine!

My talents are no more mine!

My gifts are no more mine!

My money and possessions are no more mine!

They are yours for your use!

I will no more consider everything mine!

I will consider everything Yours!

Do any of us lack just ONE THING—do we lack something today that will keep us from making this covenant? Is it one thing or more than one thing? The rich young ruler asked, What



lack I yet? Are you willing to give that prayer to God today? What lack I yet? Jesus says, Come unto me with full purpose of heart!

One of the problems we have, and one of the things we lack, is a clear vision of where we are going? A clear vision of where we want to be in 1 month, 1 year, 5 years and so forth. We all think we are OK. We're not bad people. We're doing better than most other Americans. But if our way seems right to us, we may be in trouble. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:1) Do you want to find the way to the Kingdom of God today? Right now! You have to decide what you want most in this life. This is so very important.

There is a conversation between Alice in Wonderland and the cat that I like. Alice is lost and asks the cat what to do.

Alice: Would you tell me, please, which

way I ought to go from here?

The Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

Alice: I don't much care where.

The Cat: Then it doesn't much matter which way you go.

Alice:...so long as I get somewhere.

The Cat: Oh, you're sure to do that, if only you walk long enough.

What lack I yet, asked the rich young ruler. He lacked one thing. We in our judgmental attitude say, that rich guy got what was coming to him. Rich people can't get into the kingdom because they are selfish and self-centered, and...so forth. Remember this! Spiritual transformation is hard. Sometimes it takes a long time. How many people do you think have gone to church for decades and remain joyless, or judgmental or bitter or superior? I hope no one here today is in that group.

Jesus had a way of reducing the problem to a clear and simple truth. One of those is found in D&C 39:2.

What is the gospel? Our theme today is about coming to Jesus. Come unto me with full purpose of heart. We want to make it more complicated. We want to have another rule, another organization, another person in charge. Put JESUS in charge of your life.

When I watch baseball on TV, almost always I see a sign being held up that says John 3:16. What does John 3:16 SAY. Many of you can quote it from memory. I believe Joseph Smith, Jr. is a prophet. He has a famous 3:16. I am referring to DC 3:16. Behold, this is my doctrine: Whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church; whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me; therefore, he is not of my church.

Repent and COME UNTO ME. Our theme this morning is to "come unto me with full purpose of heart." If we are to become one, we will have to do that very thing. What do you lack this morning that keeps you from entering the kingdom of heaven?

THE MIND OF CHRIST

Elder Jim Major
Lamoni, Iowa
July 26, 2015

Good morning. I'm excited! Are you? Are you excited this morning? Here we are together that we might experience the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. I can feel it! Can you feel it? It's like a vibration. It's like your hair is standing up. It's amazing! It's amazing! I have a few scriptures to read. I'm not a great reader so when I get all bungled up in what I'm trying to read I get self-aware. When we become self-aware that's when we get in trouble. That's what happened to Adam and Eve. They partook of that Tree of good and evil, and they became self-aware and got into trouble.

Doctrine and Covenants 22:23b says, "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 im-

mortality, and eternal life of man." That's neat, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of us. That's exciting! He's been working at that a long time. I'm looking forward to that immortality and eternal life of which He speaks. Evidently I'm a roadblock to that. You're a roadblock to that. We are inhibiting Him from allowing God to do what He has said He will do. That's because we're self-aware. We're self-aware. We're so caught up in who we think we are that we aren't paying much attention to what the Lord created us to be, to recognize all of the potential that is in you and me. For some reason we're blind to that. Maybe we're just too distracted. Maybe surviving on this earth, living in this world is just too much for us. Maybe we can't handle it. There seems to be an easier case being made in the world for this self-aware state of mind. We see all of what is going on, not only in our country but in all the countries.

I woke up this morning and went

out to my computer and got on MSN and one of the first things I saw is that Europe has got its finger on the trigger. NATO countries are preparing for war. They're setting aside billions of dollars to feed the war machine. With that mindset it won't be long and we will be at war in a much larger scale than we see going on now. That's unfortunate.

There's a scripture that says "we learn if needs be by the things we suffer" and that's true. There's also another scripture that says "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." That's also true. So how do we get out of the mindset that seems to be dominating the world? How do we keep from allowing ourselves to be focused on that? That mindset generates fear -- and fear causes us to do things that we might not otherwise do.

Doctrine and Covenants 85:12e-f says, "The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not; nevertheless, the day shall come when you shall comprehend even God; being quick-



ened in Him, and by Him. Then shall ye know that ye have seen me, that I Am, and that I Am the true light that is in you, and that you are in me, otherwise ye could not abound."

He is in us. He is IN us -- otherwise we could not live. We could not abound. Because He is in us, there lies the great hope. Now to get from point A to point B, there's a transition that needs to take place. It's in all of our scriptures. Jesus talks about that transition which begins with a new birth, a rebirth. We're born of the flesh but we're also born of the Spirit. Having been born of the Spirit we're made aware of the relationship that we have with God. Now it's up to us to cultivate that relationship. It's up to US to cultivate that relationship.

Where in the priority of things in our life, have we placed cultivating that relationship? I think, and I will speak for myself, that we've neglected it. Often times, only because of the things I may be suffering does it get rekindled. After 9/11 it got a little bit rekindled. A lot of people started going back to church for a while. They started thinking about that relationship. It's in situations and cases like that, that we begin to think about it again and how important it is.

I'm excited because God has a plan. He has a pattern for teaching us that's called "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little." As we learn, more is given. George, did you say something about people who start reading the scriptures and when they get too tired or sleepy they put them down, and oftentimes they don't get back to them? That's true. That's true. We don't often realize the things that we are up against. Paul told us about that. We're not just up against flesh and blood -- but powers and principalities. I don't know how much you believe in regards to the opposition that faces us, but there is an opposition. I believe the Book of Mormon says that there needs to be opposition in all things. That's part of our probationary state. Ever since man became self-aware and gets himself in trouble, gets out of it, gets in it, gets out of it. Read your history and you can see how it goes. We're at peace, we're at war, we're at peace, we're at war. It just

goes on and on. That's been the way it works.

The thing that really excites me (and it's been renewed in me recently) is the fact that God is my Father. Like a parent He desires to raise me up in certain ways. We're encouraged in our Doctrine and Covenants about bringing our children up into the Light. That's important. The first elders of the church back in Joseph's time were chided because they weren't following the commandments and raising their children up right. It's important how we raise our children up, because we can see the results of that in today's world.

But He's in us and He is our Father. I look at my parents in particular. I can't say like Nephi said that I "was raised by goodly parents." I wasn't. I could hardly wait to be old enough to get out of the house. I went right into the military -- which I'm glad I did, because there was a certain amount of discipline that I needed and a certain amount of care that was provided. So I'm thankful for my military experience in that regard. It's so important how we bring up our children, because once you have bent the child in a certain direction it's difficult to get them back into going in the right direction. Knowing the right direction, having not been raised by goodly parents, makes it difficult.

Doctrine and Covenants 85:16-17 says, *"And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you, to ponder in your hearts with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon Me while I am near; draw near unto me, and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you; whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you; and if ye ask anything that is not expedient for you, it shall turn unto your condemnation. Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness; in the wilderness, because you cannot see Him: my Voice, because my voice is Spirit; my Spirit is truth: truth abideth and hath no end; and if it be in you it shall abound."* Now if He is in you,

the truth is in you and it shall abound!

Imagine the ocean. That's a lot of water. Imagine a wave in that ocean. It's a part of the ocean, but as a wave it's expressing itself individually. I like going to the ocean. I like watching those waves come in. I even like going to lakes and maybe a pond like the Loving's have. There's not a lot of waves on it but it's water, and being around water has meaning for me. There's a special spirit about it. I could just sit out in a boat in a pond or a lake or go down a river and be soothed. I can meditate and think about life. Think about God.

I want us to be excited because of the potential God has placed within us to accomplish the task, that thing that so many have desired for many, many years -- the thing we call Zion. It's been interpreted to be many things, to the point where we're kind of confused as to what does it really mean and how is it going to be?

The scriptures say that *"Zion is the pure in heart."* The pure in heart -- and how do we get a pure heart? *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* (Proverbs 23:7) It comes down to giving some thought, thinking the right thoughts, listening to His word. There's a transformation taking place in you; in me. The transformation from self-awareness -- this is who I am. I am this way because... and I will continue down this vein because... either my ego or some part of me directs me to do that for the gratification that I can get from all the things that are made available in this world for me, or thinking the Mind of Christ. What did Christ do? What did Jesus do? He wasn't so self-aware that He wasn't aware of all of the needs of the people that were around Him.

Now we can get caught up in just trying to meet people's needs and that's part of having a Christ Mind. He didn't ignore the people. He heals them. He loves them. He cares for them. He tried to be an example of the mind of God.

Last Wednesday night we were at prayer meeting. I asked for their prayers so that I might have the freedom to give expression this morning. The "Christ Mind" kept coming to me. I kept hearing that, "Christ Mind, Christ Mind" --



and I kept thinking what is that? What is that all about? What more is there to that? Then Bonnie and I went up to the VA Hospital on Monday. We were driving on the highway and I noticed the car in front of me, and on the license plate it said, "Mind of God." That's what the letters were on the license plate! "Mind of God." I'd been thinking Christ's Mind -- Mind of God? I said, 'Bonnie, do you think that's a sign?' Duh! Yeah, thank you, Lord.

He does that. He sends little messages to us every once in a while in one form or another. Sometimes it's at the movies. Do you ever go to a movie and all of a sudden the dialogue says something to you, something that has to do with what you've been thinking? And I go, 'Wow! We're eating our popcorn sitting there in the theater and a message from the Lord comes. Amazing! He has a way of reaching out and touching us wherever we are and whatever venue we find ourselves in.

He wants to remind us, 'You're my daughter, you're my son, and I want you to be brought up in the Light. I want you to manifest Me.' This is what He said to Jesus, and Jesus said, "I say nothing except the Father tells me what to say." Jesus did exactly what the Father told Him to do. Read it. It's in the scriptures. He confessed He did nothing except what the Father told Him to do, and that's what He wants us to do. Isn't that exciting? Whenever you get that little message, that phone call, that text sometimes, God has a wonderful way of expressing Himself, but He wants you to know "I Am your Father. I want you to be like Jesus. I'll tell you what to do but you have to listen and you have to be obedient."

He's given us commandments, lots of them, but the two most important ones are to "Love Him and to love one another." Everything, everything hinges on those two commandments. "I want you to manifest Me in the world because it needs to see Me. It needs to see Me in utter contrast to what we are looking at in the world today. It needs to see Me. It needs to know that I Am as much their Father as I Am your Father." There will be no peace on earth until that mes-

sage is delivered and people realize who they really are and who they're called to manifest. When we are able to come to that one mindset, that state of mind, we'll be at peace, real peace. When we can live together in such harmony and accord there will be no sick among us.

We'll put doctors out of business and they'll be glad, unless they're self-aware and it's more important to get that big paycheck. If they have the same mindset as the rest of us they'll be GLAD to be out of business. The policeman will be out of business and he'll be glad. He'll never have to carry a weapon again. The greatest weapon is LOVE. God says love your enemies. Love those who will spitefully use you. Those are not my words. He's our Father. He wants you and me to manifest Him. Bring Him into this reality, into our consciousness, our awareness -- but it takes effort on our part to constantly give thought to the Christ Mind. "Let this mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus." We've got to make some effort, take some time. Go set out in that boat in the water. Open yourself up to that Christ Mind.

Im excited. Zion is almost visible! It's more visible than ever in our history because it's more needed now -- but not just that. It's because He has set the time for it to come forth and He has chosen those who will participate in it because of the Mind of Christ that is in them. You are called to be that people, collectively and individually. I'm telling you the truth. I'm not just up here spouting off some words. I'm telling you the truth. You have been called to bring forth in this time, this generation, that Kingdom which He will, as we go through the transformation, teach us line upon line, precept upon precept, a little here, a little there. We don't have the total picture right now but it's there. We need to listen and be obedient to that which we are receiving, and right this morning you are receiving! When you stand before God Almighty, if my words are true you will have to be responsible for saying why you didn't respond!

I'm not saying I'm anybody special. I'm not any more special than any of you. I appreciate having the opportunity to stand before you this morning to share my enthusiasm for what is going to happen -- and it will happen! Will you be responsible and take the necessary steps? Learn line upon line, precept upon precept. Will you ask the tough questions of how and when? Will you be one who will manifest the Truth? You will be given direction. The Lord doesn't give us a destination without giving us direction. Can you imagine having been told to go someplace and not having a map to show you where it might be?

Transformation -- changing from this personal self-awareness to bring forth the Mind of Christ that we need, so that we might have a better understanding about our thinking that needs to change. You can be self-aware for the rest of your life if you want, but I could not guarantee where you are going to end up. Because we are able to go through this transformation it will transform the whole world. Zion will be an Ensign. It will stand out for people to see and say, "Look at this compared to this. This is chaos. This is utter turmoil. Look what God has presented to us. Look at the people and the way they care for one another!"

I'M EXCITED! I hope you are. Every time we come together we're moving one step closer, but we need to recognize and be aware of who we are, how we're going to do this together or do you want to even at all? I know you've been called and set apart for this time in this generation to bring to pass that Zion. It needs to come sooner rather than later. Because of the times that we are in, it will! It will because of your willingness to be obedient to the Word of God and to His Spirit, and to be guided and be willing to set aside who you think you are, and become ONE with the Spirit, ONE in accord, ONE people.

A Scripture To Remember

By Isabel Jordison

One March morning I got up to read my scriptures before school. For a while I had been hopping around from book to book in the New Testament but this particular day I felt like starting in Joshua. While I was reading, I came across Joshua 1:9

“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.”

For a moment I stopped to think about it. As comforting as it sounded and as much as I have felt God with me while I’m alone, I dismissed it pretty quickly. I have a tendency to exclude myself from the important, happy things the scriptures say because I don’t always feel worthy enough for them to apply to me.

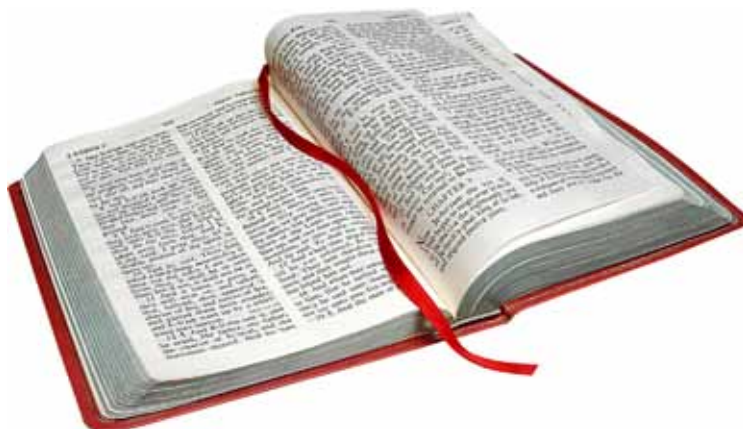
I put a book mark in so I could read

chapter two the next day (though I never did read the rest of the book). The next morning I did the same thing I had done the day before. I got up, said my prayers, and opened the Bible. Looking down, I started to read chapter two, but I hadn’t even finished the first sentence in that chapter when something on the right page caught my eye.

Right there in Joshua 1:9 was yellow highlighter underlining the scripture verse. For a minute my mind raced back to last night.

Had I done that? No, surely not, I don’t even remember getting out the highlighters. In fact I distinctly remember thinking I don’t need to highlight that!

Then I realized what had happened. God is always with me, I know it’s true, and I’m so thankful of how he has shown me that he is.



Schedule for October 2015

Date	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	18-Oct-15	25-Oct-15	Nov. 1
Speaking	Jim Barber	Michael Jordison	Ed Anderson	Rodney Bastow	Steve Smith
Presiding	Joel Loving	Steve Smith	Jim Major	George Knotts	Sherm Phipps
Pianist	Bonnie Major	Cheryl Phipps	Bonnie Major	Cheryl Phipps	Cheryl Phipps
Special Music	Sue Beck	Josh, Isabel, Michael Jordison	Jim Barber	Rob Rolfe	Alan Smith
Family Devotions	Sherman Phipps	Joel Loving	Alan Smith	Tony Crandell	Jim Major
Greeters	George Knotts	Alan Smith	Bob Rowland	Gordon Winkler	Rodney Bastow
Custodians	Jim Barber	Tony Crandell	Steve Smith	Sue Beck	Sherman Phipps
Sunday Evening	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland	Steve Smith	Ron Smith
Wed. Prayer Svc.	10/7/2015	10/14/2015	10/21/2015	10/28/2015	11/4/2015
Location	Bob Rowland	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Alan Smith	Bob Rowland
Presiding	Steve Smith	Jim Barber	Alan Smith	Sherm Phipps	Ed Anderson
Special Events					
October 4th	Potluck following communion			Priesthood Meeting at church - 8:30 AM	
October 18th	JCRB Conference				
November 1st	Potluck following communion			Priesthood Meeting at church - 8:30 AM	
If you cannot fulfill your assigned duties, please find someone to fill in for you. Notify the pastor or president. Thank you!					



Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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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

Skeet Shoot

A skeet shoot will be held at the home of Ed and Diane Anderson on Saturday, Oct. 24.
Listen for more details for this fellowship activity.

Food Bank Efforts

Remember the third Sunday of each month we gather food for the local food bank at the MATURA Neighborhood Center.
Sunday Oct 18 is the day to bring food items for the Center food pantry. You are doing such a great job in providing for those in need.

Operation Christmas Child is coming right up. Collection week is November 16-23. It is so much easier to start early to collect items and pack your boxes. I will have boxes available at church. Here is the web site for ideas and directions for preparing the boxes that bring such joy to children around the world. <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>. Items do not necessarily need to be Christmas items, since the boxes are distributed throughout the year. I will try to find out where our boxes will go this year. I would challenge each family to try to do one additional box this year.

Also the annual CROP Walk was held in September. We did not have any walkers, but many people contributed to the fund, which helps hunger abroad and in Ringgold county.

Sunday evening class

Special events were held each evening from September 13, September 20 and October 4.
We met 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 weeks about associations and how they can be used to further the cause of Zion.