

Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

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HE IS RISEN



News & Notes

Annual Easter Breakfast

The morning of April 16th we will hold our annual Easter Breakfast at the church.

This year we will start at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. because there will be no Family Worship or Sunday School classes. There will be a sign-up sheet for everyone to sign up for what they would like to bring.

Breakfast With the Master

The branch participated in the Breakfast With the Master breakfasts in Mount Ayr in the week leading up to Resurrection Sunday.

Gordon Winkler brought the message for the service on Thursday morning, April 13. It is always nice to worship with other members of the community in this annual event.

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JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

High Priest Rob Rolfe Lamoni, Iowa February 5, 2016

Good morning. I am Gordon Winkler this morning. I like that, because as tall as Gordon is, I'm no longer so much overweight. I left Gordon's name in the bulletin this morning so when you see it, you would be reminded to pray for the Winkler family. They're carrying a heavy load right now and need our continued support in prayer. Could we have two or three prayers for them right now?

The scripture lesson I've chosen is the 6th Chapter of John. This is a wonderful source of many great principles. I'm going to read a few of the verses, 47-58: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. But I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up in the resurrection of the just at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down*

from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead; he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

If you remember, Jesus and His disciples were at what is called the "last supper". Obviously it wasn't really the last, because he talked about doing it again in the future. Basically, this was a going away party. Another way to look at it was as a funeral dinner. They all had such a good time Jesus thought it would be a good idea to do it again. No, that was not it! Jesus had planned this from the beginning, before men became physical beings.

Some have taught that God progressively taught more and more good stuff as the centuries went by. This teaching is in error. John 1:1 says the gospel was from the beginning. Some have taught that Moses gave Israel a "task master" law as an improvement over what they had before. This is also in error. The law before the Mosaic law was the law of Christ. Israel wouldn't obey this law, so God gave them a lesser law and took the Melchizedek priesthood out of their midst.

Deuteronomy 5:3 says that the covenant the Lord made with Israel at Horeb was not made with their fathers. We have eaten the bread, we have drunk the wine. We now need to continue to develop more of an understanding and appreciation of why we eat and drink. You could correctly say, we do this because God commanded it. And He did! While He wants us to obey His commandments, more importantly He wants us to understand why we eat this meal often. I'd like to talk about another part of the "why" this morning. First of all, remember that the gospel of Jesus Christ is ancient. It wasn't created when Jesus was physically on earth. It existed in the beginning. The primary purpose of the gospel is to reconcile man with God. This is God's plan.

Let's start this morning with Exodus 16:2-4. *And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness; And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.*

The subject here is bread. How did Israel get the bread? It came down from heaven. It rained bread, if you will. Jesus pointed out in my scripture, that their fathers ate manna in the wilderness and are dead. But anyone who eats of the bread He gives will live forever. We call that eternal life. Do you think you would like to have eternal life? I would and I do! The scripture I read from John 6 tells you how to obtain eternal life. But, you need to do something. You can't just sit there and expect it to happen. Jesus says this: *I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (John 6:53)*

The Son of man was offered as a sacrifice, a sacrifice for each one of us. Even as Moses of old, under the law he gave, offered a sacrifice which was then eaten, we are to eat and drink of the living sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Each and every Sunday that we eat and drink this meal, we are eating the living sacrifice of our Lord! Remember, in a true sense, we have a physical body and a spiritual body. The little piece of bread and



small glass of juice does little to sustain our physical bodies. However, it does a wonderful thing to nourish our spiritual bodies. Let's go back a few years.

In Exodus 12:3-14 it says, *Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house; Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats; And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste; it is the Lord's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment; I am the Lord. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord*

throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

Jesus is our Passover blood that saves us. The meal we've had this morning was commanded to be celebrated forever. By the way, what was there in the blood that saved those in Israel who put the blood on the doorposts? Not a thing! It wasn't the protein in the blood, it was the obedience to the commandment. If you were an Egyptian and you were in a house that had this blood on the door, you were saved. If you were an Israelite and you were in a house without the blood, you died. In the words of Jesus, you "had no life in you". The whole verse is: I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. I've been talking about physical food. We all eat that kind of food. What about spiritual food-- Food that is designed to feed the soul.

After this service we are going to eat again. We have wonderful physical meals on the first Sunday of the month after the spiritual meal. But, it doesn't take too long, after this physical meal and we are hungry again. However, the spiritual meal we eat and drink, is taking the sacrifice of Christ into our bodies. (Just like is found in Exodus and Leviticus) What are the promises to those who eat and drink? What does the scripture say? *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up in the resurrection of the just at the last day. (John 6:54)*

So eating this meal means you will have eternal life and be part of the first resurrection. *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. (John 6:56)* So God will live

in us, and we will live in Him.

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. (John 6:57) Those that eat and drink SHALL live by Jesus Christ. By our covenant with Him, he becomes our Savior and He becomes our God.

How can God do these marvelous things with a little piece of bread and small glass of wine? Because, he is God! Jesus recognized the need for physical food, but He didn't put the people on food stamps for the rest of their life. If you remember, some of the people were ready to make Jesus their King just on the basis of the food. In fact, despite the miracle of the loaves and the fishes, even His disciples didn't understand.

Many of the people who listened to Jesus at this time, (the text says): *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked with him no more. (John 6:66)* His close disciples didn't understand, but they didn't leave. Why not? Peter stated the issue so well. *Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. (John 6:68-69)*

Do you believe what I read that Peter said? Do you believe He is Christ, the Son of the Living God? If you do, what have you against being baptized in the name of Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost and becoming a disciple that will eat bread and wine that provides eternal life? If you have already made your covenant with Him, what have you against living your life by the Spirit of Christ and the principles He has taught? If you do, you will have His Spirit to be with you. Praise God! What a wonderful Savior!





HE TOUCHED ME

**High Priest
Rob Rolfe
Lamoni, Iowa
March 12, 2017**

For my scripture reading this morning I am going to read from Isaiah 7:10-14. *Moreover the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

My scripture lesson dealt with King Ahaz, a wicked king of Judah. (See II Kings 16 for details) He was like many of us. He would not believe the unambiguous word of God. Not only that, he wouldn't ask God for a sign, even when God told him to ask. God gave him a sign anyway. A virgin shall conceive... This brings me to the question: Was Jesus born of a virgin?

For those of you that are at least 55, do you remember "mood" rings? Invented by Joshua Reynolds, these rings were a fad in the 1970s. They were advertised that if you were happy, they turned blue. If you were mad they turned yellow or brown. Do you believe they actually worked? Many people do, but many do not. I think they worked. My mother had one. When she was happy, it turned blue. When she was mad, it made red spots on my forehead.

Are mood rings like the virgin birth? Yes, they are, in that some believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, conceived Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as a virgin and they believe mood rings work. Some do not believe either! Does it make any difference? I think it makes a big difference whether this prophecy

of the virgin birth is true! Here are a few opinions on the question.

OPINION (CON): The virgin birth implies that the actual father of Yeshua was the Holy Spirit. Numerous places in the Scriptures state the coming Messiah was to be of the House of David. Thus, if Yeshua is the Messiah, then he could not have been born of a virgin; he would have had to have a father who was of the House of David. Conversely, if Jesus was born of a virgin, then he could not have been the messiah, because his father—the Holy Spirit—was not a human descendant of the House of David.

OPINION (PRO) The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is the root from which everything the New Testament says about him grows...Both Luke and Matthew state it up front as a fact, which they are convinced explains the unusual nature of the man, Jesus, and the amazing things he said and did. (From "The Life of Christ")

OPINION (PRO) The virgin birth is an underlying assumption of everything the Bible says about Jesus. To throw out the virgin birth is to reject Christ's deity, the accuracy and authority of Scripture, and a host of other related doctrines that are the heart of the Christian faith. No issue is more important than the virgin birth to our understanding of who Jesus is. If we deny Jesus is God, we have denied the very essence of Christianity. (John F. MacArthur, Jr.)

Most modern liberal theologians generally reject the doctrine of the virgin birth. They call it a "religious myth." Conservative Christians generally acknowledge that the virgin birth/conception happened as a historical event. It is interesting to me that even Islam teaches a virgin birth for Jesus. (19:19) And despite the teaching of the "so-called experts," various polls (if you can believe polls) have found that about 80% of American adults believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. Interestingly, this exceeds the total number of American adults who identify themselves as Christian or Muslim. In fact the polls indicate that

47% of non-Christian adults also believe in the virgin birth. I also believe in what I call the virgin conception of our Lord.

Some who don't believe in the virgin birth don't believe because they don't believe in "miracles."

A virgin birth would be classified as a miracle which the persons who don't believe think is impossible. I look at it this way. The scriptural account says that Jesus healed the blind, the deaf, the dumb, raised 4 people from the dead, changed water to wine, stilled the storm on Galilee, healed lame people, etc. Do we throw out all of those miracles as well and say that didn't happen because for any of them to happen, it would be impossible.

I believe in miracles. I asked Linda's doctor if he had seen any miracles. He said, "I see miracles every day...some are little miracles and some are big miracles." What a great testimony by a cancer doctor. Remember what it says in the Book of Mormon, in Mormon 4:75-84. *And now, O all ye that have imagined up unto yourselves a god who can do no miracles, I would ask of you, Have all these things past, of which I have spoken? Has the end come yet? Behold I say unto you, Nay; and God has not ceased to be a God of miracles. Behold, are not the things that God hath wrought marvelous in our eyes? Yea, and who can comprehend the marvelous works of God? Who shall say that it was not a miracle, that by his word the heaven and the earth should be; and by the power of his word, man was created of the dust of the earth; and by the power of his word, hath miracles been wrought? And who shall say that Jesus Christ did not do many mighty miracles? And there were many mighty miracles wrought by the hands of the apostles. And if there were miracles wrought, then why has God ceased to be a God of miracles, and yet be an unchangeable being. And behold I say unto you, He changeth not; if so, he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles. And the reason why he ceas-*



eth to do miracles among the children of men, is because that they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust. Behold I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.

Jesus was given authority by God the Father to do all kinds of miracles. It is interesting to me that despite the great miracle Christ performed in casting the devils out of the man and into the pigs, the Gadarenes wanted to be rid of Him. They wanted Christ to leave. But, when He returned to the Galileans, they gladly received Him, wished and waited for His return, and welcomed Him with all their hearts when He did return. It is the same today. Some will not accept the blessings Christ offers them, but others will.

How about you this morning? Are you willing to accept the blessings of Jesus? If you seek to do good, you will never lack the opportunity. The needy will always be around you. I invited a woman to come to church on one occasion and you know what she said? She said, "I can't stand to be in your church because everyone is touching each other all the time." Is that statement true in Mount Ayr? I'll leave it to you to determine if it is true. And, if it is true, is that a good thing or a bad thing? The meaning of Touch--to put the hand or finger into contact with something to feel it. Please do not touch the statue. Slowly bend forward and try to touch your toes. He tried to touch the snake with a stick. The top of the Christmas tree almost touches the ceiling. How about hugs, shaking hands, laying our hand on someone, or formally when the ordinance of administration is given? Let's consider the ultimate in touch. The touch of Jesus. What happens when Jesus touches us?

If you had some physical ailment and you heard that a man was in your vicinity healing everyone, what would you do? In Jesus' day, they thronged Him and the crowds kept growing. There is, to me, a fascinating account

of two miracles found in Matthew and Mark. In this chapter, there are two miracles interwoven—the raising of Jairus's daughter to life, and the cure of the woman that had an issue of blood.

As Jesus was in a crowd, a ruler of the synagogue, whose name was Jairus, came to Jesus on the behalf of a little daughter of his, that was very ill, and, in the apprehension of all about her, lay dying. This address was very humble and reverent. Jairus, though a ruler, fell down at Jesus's feet, acknowledging Jesus to be a ruler above him. His request was urgent and very important. He asked him to come to his house; not having the faith, at least not having the thought, of the centurion, who desired Christ only to speak the healing word at a distance. But Christ complied with his request; He went along with him. Jesus appreciated strong faith, but yet weak faith was sometimes not rejected by Him. In the houses where sickness and death are, it is very desirable to have the presence of Christ. When Christ was moving in those days, some people wanted to see Him out of curiosity; others because they loved Him.

Are you willing to accept the blessings of Jesus? Jairus was! But what did it cost him? We don't know for sure, as the account doesn't say. But in John 9:22, it says: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Perhaps Jairus risked everything for his daughter by going to Christ. You might want to consider what you are willing to give or give up, for the touch of Jesus this morning.

I think Jesus knew the daughter was dead already. But He wanted to go. Despite having started on mission of life and death, all of a sudden He said to His disciples, "Who touched Me?" They were perplexed. Better for Him to have asked who hadn't touched Him in such a throng. His disciples may have thought He was losing it for a minute. Who touched Me? Visualize walking through a crowd with no spaces between the bodies. Who touched Me? Jesus was not just being touched, He was likely being jostled. All involuntari-

ly! And then someone touched Him.

There was a woman with a powerful faith, who simply would not give in to her disease. She had suffered for 12 years, the account tells us. Just like some today, she had spent everything she had on doctors and still was not healed. She resolved that if she could just touch the hem on Jesus' robe she knew she would be healed. No one need know. She could in this crowd, touch the hem of his robe and remain invisible. Thanks be to God, for He was able then, and certainly he is able today to provided such a healing. Much to her surprise and her dismay, Jesus knew He had been touched.

That touch not only brought healing, the account says Jesus felt virtue leave Him. Not that Jesus had any less virtue afterward than before, but He knew what had happened. She was discovered. For you ladies that are present here this morning, would you like to have had a public discussion about your disease of this nature? That is what Jesus wanted. Why? Because He wanted her public testimony of her healing. If I can only touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed, and she was!

Thus many a poor soul is healed, helped, and saved, by Christ, that is lost in a crowd, and nobody notices. The woman found an immediate change for the better in herself, and her disease was cured. As believers have wonderful answers to prayer in public, they sometimes have wonderful answers from secret prayers to Christ; secretly, meat to eat that the world knows not of, and joy that a stranger does not even begin to understand.

This is an important point. We cannot be hid from Christ! This point should encourage us to pour out our hearts before Him, and to show before Him all our sin and all our trouble. This woman came trembling, and yet her faith saved her. Note, there may be trembling but yet, there is saving faith. She declared before all the people for what cause she had touched Him because she believed that a touch would cure her, and it did so. Christ's patients should communicate their experiences to one another. The great physician



confirms her cure, and sends her away with the comfort of it. Be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.

The hem of His garment. In those days the hem was called a Tzitzit (zeet-zeet). The fringe to some in those days illustrated authority. It could be because you were rich. It could be that you believed the fringe would provide protection by the gods. It someone grasped the fringe of your garment and made a request, ordinarily such a request could not be refused. A husband would divorce his wife by cutting off the hem of her robe. Sometimes the fringe would be impressed on a clay tablet. In our day this act would be a signature under seal. There has been a lot written about the hems, their color and significance. I'm not going into that today. If you are curious, it is quite a study.

I'd like to point out a scripture that we should consider for our future. Zechariah 8:20-23 refers to taking ahold of the fringe of the garment of the Jews. The hem is what is being referenced. *Thus saith the Lord of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

Now let's go back to the rest of the story... the other story. Jesus was going with Jairus because his daughter was dying. Then one of Jairus's servants appeared with the news that his daughter was already dead and he didn't need to bother Jesus anymore. Do you think it was an encouragement to Jairus, not to distrust the power of Christ, though his daughter was now dead, and they that brought him the tidings advised him not to give the Master any further trouble about her. Fear not, saith Christ, only believe. I wonder what Jairus

thought at that point? Note: our faith in Christ should be bold and daring, as well as our zeal for Him. This is an important point: They that are willing to do anything for Him may depend upon His doing great things for them, above what they are able to ask or think. When the patient is dead there is no room for prayer, or the use of means; but here, though the child is dead, Jairus was told to believe, and all shall be well. "*Post mortem medicus*" —to call in the physician after death, is an absurdity. Jairus was not interested in an autopsy at this point. *Post mortem medicus* may be an absurdity, but not "*post mortem Christus*" —to call in Christ after death.

Jesus knew what He was going to do. He was going to raise her back to life. Who should be present to witness this miracle? Who do you think should be allowed to witness the raising of the child from the dead? A crowd followed Him, but perhaps they were rude and noisy; however, it was not fit to let such a multitude come into this family's house, especially now that the family was all in sorrow. Therefore, He sent them back, and not because He was afraid to let the miracle pass their scrutiny; for He raised Lazarus and the widow's son publicly.

In this case, He took none with him but Peter, and James, and John, those three disciples that He was most intimate with, making sure that these three, with the parents, were going to be the only spectators of the miracle, they being a competent number to attest the truth of it. The check he gave to the mourners. They all wept, and bewailed her for, it seems, she was a very agreeable hopeful child, and dear not only to the parents, but to all the neighbors. But Christ bid them not weep; the text says: for she is not dead, but sleepeth. He means, as to her peculiar case, that she was not dead for good and all, but that she should now shortly be raised to life, so that it would be to her friends as if she had been but a few hours asleep. But it is applicable to all that die in the Lord; therefore, we should not sorrow for them as those that have no hope, because death is but a sleep to them, not only as it is a rest

from all the toils of the days of time, but as there will be a resurrection, a waking and rising again to all the glories of the days of eternity. This was a comfortable word which Christ said to these mourners. Yet they wickedly ridiculed it and laughed him to scorn, for it here, was a pearl cast before swine.

They were ignorant of the scriptures of the Old Testament and considered it an absurd thing to call death a sleep. Yet this good came out of that evil that hereby the truth of the miracle was demonstrated. For they knew that she was dead, they were certain of it, and therefore nothing less than a divine power could restore her to life. The absurdity of *post mortem medicus*.

We find not any answer that He made them; but He soon explained Himself, I hope to their conviction, so that they would never again laugh at any word of His. But, because of their lack of belief, He put them all out. They were unworthy to be the witnesses of this work of wonder. They, who in the midst of their mourning were so merrily disposed as to laugh at Him for what He said would, it may be, have found something to laugh at in what He did, and therefore are justly shut out.

Let us hope we are never in the group that are excluded from Christ's ministry due to our lack of faith. (Remember the virgins). The young girl's return to life, after a short visit to the congregation of the dead: He took her by the hand (as we do by one that we would awake out of sleep, and help up), and He called, saying, Maid, arise. Thus, the hand of Christ's grace goes along with the calls of His word, to make them effectual.

Here that is expressed which was only implied in the other evangelists, that her spirit came again; her soul returned again to animate her body. This plainly proves that the soul exists and acts in a state of separation from the body, and therefore is immortal; that death does not extinguish this candle of the Lord, but takes it out of a dark lantern. It is something that subsists by itself, which, after death, is somewhere else than where the body is.

Where the soul of this child was



in this interval we are not told. It was in the hand of the Father of spirits, to whom all souls at death return. When her spirit came again she arose, and made it appear that she was alive by her motion, as she did also by her appetite; for Christ commanded to give her meat. As babes newly born, so those that are newly raised, desire spiritual food, that they may grow thereby. The touch of Jesus raised her from the dead! Most of you here have experienced death of a loved one. Would you have asked for life, if you thought it would be given? Do you desire spiritual food this morning?

Question. Why did Jesus tell the witnesses to tell no one? I have always wondered why. This was something too wonderful, so good, but yet they were told to tell no one. Yet, someone told, as the account is in our Bibles. Perhaps Jesus knew He would be thronged with requests to raise loved ones from the dead, and that is why He told them not to tell anyone.

In the last verse, we need not wonder to find her parents astonished. What about Peter, James and John? We know what the reaction was when Jesus told the mourners she was sleeping. One thing is for sure, we will be able to ask our Lord when we see him face to face, about the "why".

"He Touched Me"

Eileen Manassian Ghali

Do you know what it is like to be an untouchable?

To be so filthy and disgusting that people shrink away from you

Do you know how it corrodes your soul to see how the stench that follows your rotting

flesh contorts people's faces in disgust even from miles away?

I tell you, you die a thousand deaths each time you see them cover their faces

To protect themselves from the putrid air that surrounds you

And they scurry away, revolted by your very shadow

It doesn't help that you have to scream "Unclean, Unclean" everywhere you go

It doesn't help that daily you have to find your food left behind an agreed upon boulder

It doesn't help when you taste the bread your wife has baked with loving hands

Knowing that the salt of her tears is mixed in the dough that nourishes your rotting body

It doesn't help when visions of her beauty and healthy body ravage your mind...for she has become untouchable to you

It doesn't help when all you remember are the last words

Your crying son sobs into her apron...."Why does daddy have to leave?"

And you quietly slink away...unable even to hold him one last time

Being a leper is the nightmare you can't easily shed

How unlike your body that easily sheds your fingers...one by one

And then you hear of a Healer-A Nazarene-A carpenter turned preacher

Who mingles with prostitutes, With tax collectors, Society's untouchables

Outcasts like you and you think... Maybe...just maybe

I tell you this....All my yesterdays and all my tomorrows

Were bound in the moment I stood before him

His disciples stepped back--I saw a woman get sick at the sight of me

And before I knew it, the words tumbled out "Lord, if you are willing... you can make me clean."

I was a crumpled ball on the ground A discarded piece of human waste not daring to look up

My half eaten face covered Thoughts of my wife, my boy swimming in my head

And pouring out of my eyes in the form of tears

And then for the first time since I was banished to the outskirts of the city.

For the first time in what seemed

like a lifetime

I felt the touch of another human hand-His hand was on my shoulder

His hand was on MY shoulder--The refuse of humanity. On ME!

Ah...I had forgotten how good it felt to be touched

It was a gentle touch, A touch of love- A touch of healing

"I am willing, be clean." I heard whispered in my ear

The warmth of the touch, The nearness of the voice,

Were enough to heal my soul What more could I ask for? And yet...I felt something else

New life coursed through my veins--A wave of energy

Started from the souls of my feet Revitalizing every cell as it rushed up to my dazed head

Bursting into a clarity of vision I had not known I looked at my hands

Yes, these were MY hands The hands that she had loved to hold against her face

The hands that my son had clung to



Rob Rolfe



when he was afraid
 The hands of a workman--Young,
 strong capable hands

 There was silence As they all wit-
 ness my rebirth

Finally, I looked up to see the most
 compassionate face
 That I had ever seen in my life
 I saw tears running down His face,
 And yet, His smile rivaled the sun
 And the next thing I knew I was in

His embrace..Whole...body and soul
 Whole-All because He touched me.

 I hope everyone here this morning
 will experience the touch of the Master.



GOD IS IN OUR HEARTS AND IS ALWAYS WITH US

**Brother
 Tony Newland
 Nauvoo, Illinois
 March 19, 2017**

Brother Joel Loving shared: I welcome you to the house of the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ. That phrase alone signifies something quite miraculous, powerful and even eternal. I pray that you are awake and alert and ready. This Spirit is always anxious to reach us. We have today a wonderful opportunity to hear from a younger minister, and I have looked forward to this for some time. I don't always feel comfortable as the pastor of this congregation. You are quite an amazing group of people and I don't always feel comfortable in this capacity but it affords me opportunity to listen to the Lord perhaps in a way that makes a difference. I have heard the Lord with regard to His desire for us.

We have to understand that the blessings of this congregation individually and collectively aren't just for us to be recipients but for the blessings to go through us to others and in particular to the young people. If you are 60 years old this is a pretty awesome congregation. We do lots of good things that 60-year old folks like. I love that and we should continue to do things that 50, 60 or 70-year old folks like and even

those younger than that. Listen to me. The Spirit looks to us who are older to be grandparents and parents in a very holy miraculous way to those who are younger. We need the young people and the young people, if I may say, need us together in mutual respect and admiration and love and the Christian kinds of bonds that always bring this congregation together.

I am so pleased that Tony was willing to come here today. He has only given four sermons and this is his first one outside of his own congregation. This is a whole new territory for him. Are you ready? Are you? Will you support him? Will you love him like Deni and I have been loved by you. Will you listen as if the Spirit is touching him and his heart and his mind? I've heard him speak when he gave a testimony and the Spirit struck me and I wanted to hear him speak at this congregation. He won't be the only young person who ministers this morning. Josh (Jordison) is doing our special music today.

Folks, we are blessed. We are not just blessed and that's where it stops. The blessings move because they are eternal. They go through us to others and to those who are younger who will be nurtured and grow in their capacities. There are priesthood calls ahead that I can't talk about now. Folks, the Lord is moving, and I pray that you are

on board that train.

I picked this scripture as a call to worship because I do cry tears on my pillow at night for you. *For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry; and I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers, for the gain of my people.* (2nd Nephi 15:4)

As a scripture reading I will be reading from Psalms 23:4. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Good morning. I am so blessed to be here. I want to thank Joel for inviting me. If I were to put a name to my sermon this morning it would be, God is in our hearts and is always with us. I want to start off by sharing a dream that I had about a month ago. In this dream I was riding with my aunt in her car and we were going to church. It was weird because the route we were taking is not the usual route we take to go to church. In this dream we had to go through Hamilton which is the opposite way to Keosauqua where the church is.

As we were driving to Hamilton I knew our goal was to go pick up somebody to take to church. This person that we picked up was a young girl and her mom. This young girl asked my aunt if



she could drive my aunt's car. My aunt doesn't let anybody drive her car. If it's her car, she's behind the wheel. But for some odd reason my aunt decided to let this young girl who I knew did not have any driving experience get behind the wheel of her car.

I was very upset. One, because she never lets me drive her car and two, she was going to let this girl with no driving experience drive her car. I told her, "I do not want to go to church," and I got out of the car. They drove off without me, but as they drove away I saw them come around the corner. I assumed they were coming around the block. I saw a friend coming and I got in his car and slouched down to hide. My aunt saw me get in my friend's car, and they followed me back to the house.

To get back to the house we had to take this windy river road to Nauvoo. We got to the house and as we were driving my aunt called me and said, "Give me your car keys because you are grounded." So I told her I was never going to go to church again then. She was visibly upset and I was upset too. We started to talk once we got to the house and I forgave my aunt. My grandma was in the car too and I didn't understand why she was not upset either with this young girl driving my aunt's car since my aunt won't let my grandma drive her car either.

I forgave my aunt and got back in the car and we started to go. As we were driving the girl who was driving went off the road into the Mississippi. We ended up dying. As we died I ended up in this place kind of like you were about to go into the court room to get judged. As I was sitting there I noticed that there were two places that you could go once you were judged. There was a really bright room and a really dark room.

I was sitting there and I could hear this guy announcing people's sins but for some odd reason I was not hearing anybody else's sins. I was just sitting there wondering where I was going to end up. As I was looking my attention was not drawn to the good room but it was drawn to the bad room and I looked in. I couldn't hear anything but I could see the despair and hatred. I saw

this complete darkness and it was some place I did not want to go. I started to shake in fear.

Somehow it turned out to be my turn to be called up. All of a sudden I heard all of my sins announced and I saw all these people go to the good room. All of a sudden I felt my body drifting to the bad room. I said, "What about me, God?" The announcer named my sins and said he would give me one more chance. Then I woke up in the dream.

It was the same dream but like two different dreams. I woke up and I found myself in this school building. I was looking for somebody to confess my sins for forgiveness. I was looking and I couldn't find him. It was not a small school. It was like a huge school. I looked through all these rooms and I couldn't find him and then I actually woke up.

I went about my morning not really thinking about the dream too much except that it was a weird dream. All of a sudden God sent me thoughts about the interpretation of the dream. God said that the church we were driving to in the first part of the dream represents Zion, that we're headed to Zion. The car and the people in it are basically the church.

We allow ourselves to get angry with one another and fight and bicker and find ourselves going backwards which was represented when we went back home. We find ourselves going further away from the location than what we were at and though we did seek forgiveness we don't know what's on the road back. When we find ourself in that place where we don't know what to do, we kind of just rely on ourselves and kick God out of our hearts.

The person I was looking for in the school in the second part of the dream was Jesus. I was looking for Him. I knew He was there but I just could not find Him. I searched and searched. It dawned on me how often do we allow ourselves to search in the wrong places. How often do we allow ourselves not to find Him because of our inadequacies about ourselves and our own self-judgment of ourselves.



I knew I sinned when I was looking for Him but I made excuses so I couldn't find Jesus. I knew Jesus was in that school. I knew He was with me the entire time just standing by my side but I kept denying myself the chance to look next to me and see Him.

I would like to read Ephesians 3:17. *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.* That goes back to the dream where God is in our hearts. He wants us to have that faith to trust Him because He is right next to us.

Then I am going to read Revelations 3:20-22. *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.* That kind of talks about God's blessings for us, God's blessings and His covenant for us as His church and His blessings to overcome and for our work



to be the outcome of His blessings.

I'll read the blessings from Matthew 5:3-13. *Blessed are they who shall believe on me; and again, more blessed are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins. Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And again, blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. And blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. And blessed are all they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost. And blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. And blessed are all the pure in heart; for they shall see God. And blessed are all the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are all they that are persecuted for my name's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

What this says to me is we are blessed when we humble ourselves and allow Jesus to come into our hearts. We are blessed when we allow ourselves to be poor in Spirit and allow God to come into our hearts and speak the word of God. We are blessed when we live as that word of God commands us to do if we repent with a pure heart and allow Je-

sus to enter and allow ourselves to have a righteous Spirit. Allow God to work within us and do not make excuses for our sins nor try not to justify them for God knows our true intentions. Let God love and your heart have charity.

Luke 3:13 says, *Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, Abraham is our father; we have kept the commandments of God, and none can inherit the promises but the children of Abraham; for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

I want to share a testimony about repentance and a pure heart and being humble. When I was about 12 to 13 I wasn't really living for God in the best of ways. I made some decisions in my life that I'm not proud of. I was raised without a father. I lived in kind of the ghetto. I lived in a poor family and was abused as a child. I was really not cherished or loved. I had a lot of pent up anger in me and I would take it out on other kids. I'd do things that I'm not really proud of.

I got to the point where I started to lose friends. Not like lose them like they left me but they started to die because of the decisions that I made. I lost one friend because we were being dumb and I told him to do something that I'm not proud of and he went and did it and ended up getting shot. I had another friend get shot because he went to a place I told him to go. We were going to meet up but I never showed up. If I had just told him not to go he would still be alive.

I felt really angry that God allowed my friends to die because of things I had done. I was really angry at God and stopped believing in God for a while. One day I decided to go out and pray with a humble heart and I said, 'If there really is a God prove it. Help me. Show me.' I heard a voice and it said, 'I am God and I love you and you know that I love you because I have saved you many times.' It dawned on me a little later that God had never left me when I told Him how much I hated Him. How much I thought I despised Him for taking my friends and making me do things that I really never wanted to do or for allowing me to do things I never thought I should do. He allows us to make our own decisions and He allows us to do our own thing. He forgave me the moment I did them and even before I had done them. He has a job for me to do and so He forgave me.

I want to close with something that God has given me and was on my heart at the time I was writing my sermon. It says, Seek God's kingdom. Seek to humble yourselves in your heart that you will not be puffed up in pride. God is coming and we know not the day nor the hour. Seek to purify yourselves. Let God into your heart. Open the doors. Deny Him not but seek to improve wisdom, knowledge and love. Seek repentance and understanding. Fear not the world or worldly things. Become unconcerned. Seek for the will of God. Hold fast to the word and allow God to enter into your heart.





WE NEED TO WARN OUR NEIGHBORS

Priest Jim Barber
Bethany, Missouri
March 26, 2017

Gordon Winkler who presided over the service used the prayer that is offered by Nephi. I'm sure that Nephi would be fine with you adopting this prayer as one of your own. This prayer is recorded in 2nd Nephi 3:50-66. *Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say, O Lord, I will praise thee for ever; yea, my soul will rejoice in thee, my God, and the rock of my salvation. O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul? Wilt thou deliver me out of the hands of mine enemies? Wilt thou make me that I may shake at the appearance of sin? May the gates of hell be shut continually before me, because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite? O Lord, wilt thou not shut the gates of thy righteousness before me, that I may walk in the path of the low valley, that I may be strict in the plain road? O Lord, wilt thou encircle me around in the robe of thy righteousness? O Lord, wilt thou make a way for mine escape before mine enemies? Wilt thou make my path straight before me? Wilt thou not place a stumbling block in my way? But that thou wouldst clear my way before me, and hedge not up my way, but the ways of mine enemy. O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee for ever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm. Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. Yea, my God will give me, if I ask not amiss: therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, the rock of my righteousness. Behold, my voice shall for ever ascend up unto thee, my rock and mine everlasting God. Amen.*

Brother Jim Barber shared: I had to go to a funeral a couple of weeks ago. The mother of one of my classmates had died. They were our next door neighbors when I was growing up. She called me and wanted me to say a few words. That kind of got me to remembering some things about my life as I grew up.

I was blessed that I grew up in a community where we had really close neighbors. We all cared for one another. We lived in a community where not all of us went to church. Some did but yet even those who didn't attend church were always very good people. If something happened to one of them we were there to help them out. That's the kind of community that I grew up in.

I would like to talk about some big decisions that I had to make when I was 17 years old. I had attended a Methodist Church all of my life. My country school teacher in the little school that I attended was also my Sunday School teacher so she had me for six days out of the week. She tried to keep me on the right path.

When I was 17 years old I had never joined the Methodist Church yet. The pastor of the church came to our home for dinner one day and talked to me and wanted to know if I would be willing to join the church. Well, I didn't really know. I didn't even know what Methodists believed. I went to church and I knew that they believed in God and Jesus Christ. I didn't know whether the beliefs of Methodists were different than other Christians. I had friends that went to Christian Churches. I had friends that went to Baptist Churches. I had a lot of relatives that went to the Catholic Church. I didn't know so I went out in the field and even though I didn't know how to pray I asked God, 'How do you know? How do I know which is the

right church?'

Well, I wasn't as fortunate as Joseph Smith was. I didn't get an answer. No angels appeared to me. Maybe that's because I wasn't worthy of that. I don't know. Anyway the next Sunday I decided that I would go ahead and get baptized. I did and I think it was probably good for me. It kind of kept me on the right path.

Another one of the decisions that I made when I was 17 was what I was going to do after I graduated from high school. I was a senior that year and didn't know what I was going to do after graduation. Finally the thought came to me that I'd go to college. I didn't really like school, never did, but I talked with my shop teacher. I did pretty well with things where I could work with my hands and figure out but English and History were my downfall. Anyway he convinced me that maybe I should go to college and major in Industrial Arts, so that's what I decided to do.

I think those decisions kind of coincided because if I hadn't gone to college I probably would never have met my wife who belonged to this church. You might think that is coincidence but I really don't. I think that God led me to this church. All of those decisions that we make, all those prayers that we pray, if we don't get a response right then just wait a little while. God will lead you if you'll just listen to Him.

About three weeks ago on Communion Sunday in the priesthood meeting that we had before the service, Sherman Phipps said that we should be reading the 33rd and 34th chapters of Ezekiel. That's basically what I'd like to talk about this morning, some of what it says in those chapters.

In the beginning of the 33rd chapter it says, *Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to*

the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman; If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (1-6)

After reading that, I got to thinking about a dream that I had a long time ago. I've never shared it with anyone until a couple of weeks ago when I was preaching at Osceola. I don't know why. I guess probably because I get emotional and I think sharing it is going to make me emotional this morning.

In this dream I was out in the field doing something. I'm not even sure what I was doing. I guess I should back up. I had been reading about what it's going to be like at the second coming of Christ. In the 24th chapter of John it talks about a lot of what is going to happen then. It talks about there would be signs in the heavens. I guess this was on my mind.

In my dream I kept noticing things in the heavens, in the sky, and I couldn't make out for sure what it was. As the day went on they became clearer. It looked like windows were opening up in the heavens. I couldn't tell for sure what it was or if there was any meaning to it but then the windows began to get a little bigger and I saw angels. I think it was a warning that Christ was coming. Later I saw big white fluffy clouds but yet it was as clear as could be. These windows kept getting bigger and bigger. Then the angels came and they parted the clouds and I saw Christ coming. I looked around me and there were people coming raising their hands and worshipping God and I was too. But then I

saw people that were there that couldn't look at God or Jesus. They weren't singing because they couldn't face Him.

Then I looked and some of those people I recognized and they were people that I hadn't shared the gospel with. Then I felt sorry and started crying because I had failed them. As I read these words in Ezekiel that dream came back to me. I feel like that we need to be warning our neighbors. I don't know how we do that for sure but I know that we've got to try.

If you read further in Ezekiel in the 34th chapter it says, *And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed; but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. (1-4)*

When I read these words I thought about the story in Matthew 25:35-41. *Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee; or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in; or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

I think this is one way in which we can reach those that maybe don't be-

lieve in God. I have a lot of neighbors that are good people but they never go to church. I have neighbors that live together and have children but they are not married. How am I supposed to reach them? Yet I'm told that I need to. I need to warn them.

Ever since I've had that dream I have tried to at least be a better neighbor to everyone whether they go to church or not. I've always done that. I just feel like that's important. I think my wife is probably better at it than I am because she is always baking stuff and taking it to the neighbors. I think they at least know that I believe in God and Jesus. This is one way that we can help them. Christ told us that we were to feed His sheep. I think probably that He was talking about spiritually but I think we need to do that physically too. If we can help someone that opens up a door so that maybe we can talk to them spiritually. We just don't know. We have to take every opportunity we have.

I'd like to read a little further into Ezekiel 34, the last few verses. *There-*



Jim Barber



fore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle. And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it. And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land; and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. And they shall

no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid. And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen anymore. Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord God. And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God. (22-31)

He's talking about the House of Israel. I think the movie we saw in our adult class this morning gives us an idea of what we should be doing. We need to be taking the Bible and the Book of Mormon to the House of Israel wherever they are. They might be your neighbors. I know that if you join the church that you are adopted into the House of Is-

rael. I know that the Book of Mormon talks about that the Book of Mormon is about the tribe of Joseph or of Ephraim and Manasseh. The Bible is the tribe of Judah. That's two tribes that we know of.

In the beginning of the Book of Mormon it talks about that the purpose of the Book of Mormon is to the convincing of both Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Son of God. We need to be about our business. We need to be warning them. Christ is going to come before not very long. I don't know when. No man does but we need to be prepared. We need to know that Jesus loves us and we need to share that love with everyone that we see. If we don't then the blame is going to be on us and that's not a comfortable thought. I think warning our neighbor is a very serious thing. I hope that we can all think about this and try to be a little more valiant in our testimonies to reach out to others.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



APRIL

- 15 -- Bob Bell
- 19 -- Julia Jordison
- 20 -- Tammy Fish
- 29 -- Lynda Rolfe
and anyone we missed.



April

- 1 -- George and Beth Knotts
- 24 -- Gordon and Linda Winkler
- 28 -- Ron and Di Smith
and anyone we missed.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

"... Give an account of thy Stewardship," LUKE 16:2

This Statement covers the period from _____ through _____

Form with fields for LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE, SPOUSE, ADDRESS, and TELEPHONE.

Table with columns for INCOME and BASIC LIVING NEEDS, listing various categories like SALARY, WAGES, SHELTER, REPAIRS, etc.

• Items listed after each subsection are for example only. Each family must determine which components qualify as basic living expenses.

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Accounting Time

It's time to think about making your annual financial accounting and sharing your tithing.

There are many promises of blessing if we will respond to the financial law. As a beginning, what would the blessing be if 50 percent of the Mount Ayr branch made their accounting this year?

Here are some scriptures to look at as you think about making your accounting.

Accountability to God

ROM 14:12 So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.

SEC 69:2a And also my servants who are abroad in the earth should send forth the accounts of their stewardships to the land of Zion, for the land of Zion shall be a seat and a place to receive and do all these things.

SEC 101:2 b., c.g. It is wisdom in me; therefore, a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall organize yourselves, and appoint every man his stewardship, that every man may give an account unto me of the stewardship which is appointed unto him; for it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable, as stewards over earthly blessings, which I have made and prepared for my creatures. Therefore, if any man shall take of the abundance which I have made, and impart not his portion, according to the law of my gospel, unto the poor, and the needy, he shall, with the wicked, lift up his eyes in hell, being in torment.

SEC 70:3b And behold, none are exempt from this law who belong to the church of the living God . .

SEC 72:1 c. And verily in this thing ye have done wisely, for it is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and in eternity.

SEC 70:1 c. And an account of this stewardship will I require of them in the day of judgment; wherefore I have appointed unto them, and this is their business in the church of God, to manage them and the concerns thereof; yea, the benefits thereof.



April 2017 Schedule

	April 2	9	16	23	30
Speaking	Joel Loving	Steve Smith	Ron Smith	Rodney Bastow	Healing Service
Presiding	Michael Jordison	Rodney Bastow	Gordon Winkler	Jim Barber	Jim Major
Pianist	Bonnie Major	TBD	Bonnie Major	Cheryl Phipps	Cheryl Phipps
Music Ministry	Sue Beck	Jordison Family	Ron & Di Smith	Jim Barber	
Family Devotions	Jim/Bonnie Major	Sue Beck/Joel Beck	No SS	Steve/Elaina Smith	George/Beth Knotts
Greeters	Gordon/Linda Winkler	Tony/Sandy Crandell	Sherm/Cheryl Phipps	Joel/Deni Loving	Ed/Diane Anderson
Custodians	Sue Beck/Joel Beck	Gordon/Linda Winkler	Tony/Sandy Crandell	Ed/Diane Anderson	Bob/Liz Bell
SUNDAY EVE 6PM	Bob/Jen Rowland's	Linda Boswell's	Steve/Elaina Smith's	Bob/Jen Rowland's	Ron/Di Smith's
Presider	Michael Jordison	Joel Loving	Sherman Phipps	Ed Anderson	Rob Rolfe
Events	JCRB CONFERENCE April 3-8	4/8 Men's pizza gathering -11 AM	EASTER BRUNCH 9:30 AM - no SS Food for Center	Women's brunch 4/22 10:00 AM Lamoni Comm. Ctr.	
4/2 - Potluck Dinner following service 4/13 - Retirement party - Ron Smith 3-5 PM - Heritage Chapel, Graceland		Thursday evenings - Ringgold Singers practice at church Women's mtg Apr 11, 5PM Mondays 5 PM - ladies' prayer time			Thursday evenings 6:45 PM Book of Mormon class. Location - Kacey Courtney's - S. State St, Lamoni
PRAYER SVC. 7 PM	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26	5/3
Host	Steve/Elaina Smith	Ron/Di Smith's	Gordon/Linda Winkler's	Linda Boswell's	Bob/Jen Rowland's
Presider	Joel Loving	Sherman Phipps	Jim Barber	Gordon Winkler	Ron Smith

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR ASSIGNMENTS AND LET SANDY CRANDELL KNOW IF THERE IS A CONFLICT. CHECK SCHEDULES AS PRINTED WEEKLY FOR CHANGES.
 Those giving Presiding Ministry, please share your hymns with the assigned pianist prior to Sunday: Music Coordinator: Rob Rolfe - 641-784-6030; text/call 641-442-5894; Musicians: Cheryl Phipps - 641-442-5570, Bonnie Major 6641-289-0535, Ardna Walsh 641-202-2788.
 Church cleaning should be done prior to Sunday date assigned.

Family Devotions- 9:30 Preaching Service- 11:00 Sunday evenings - 6:00 PM Wednesday prayer service- 7:00



Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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

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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

Ladies' Brunch: Shower of Blessings

On Saturday, April 22, the ladies of our congregation will hold a Ladies' Brunch at the Community Center in Lamoni, Iowa beginning at 10 a.m.

The ladies of several other congregations as well as friends will be invited. We will have a program by Diane Anderson and Sandy Crandell and lots of good food. Hope to see all of you ladies there!!