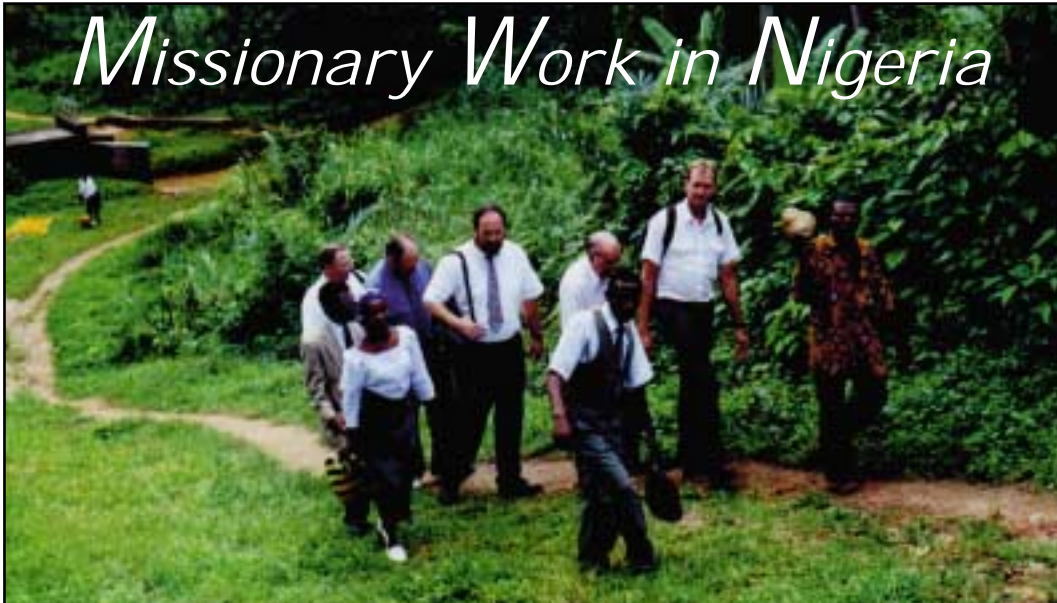


"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain" (Joel 2:1).

TIDINGS *of* ZION

CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

Missionary Work in Nigeria



Year 2001 Conference of Restoration Elders
April 1 - 6, 2001 at Center Place Restoration School/Waldo Restoration Branch
(Preliminary Agenda)

Theme:

<p>"Feast upon the words of Christ" 2 Ne 14:4-7</p>

Teach One Another the Doctrine of Christ's Kingdom

(Doctrine & Covenants 85:21b)

Prepare yourselves...	"Behold this is my doctrine..."	"Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ..."	"And they were astonished at his doctrine; for his words were with power."	"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
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Sunday, April 1

Monday, April 2

Tuesday, April 3

Wednesday, April 4

Thursday, April 5

Friday, April 6

AM		AM	Registration				AM
		8:00					8:00
		8:30					8:30
9:00	Prayer Service		All Worship	Separate Worship	All Worship	Separate Worship	All Worship
		9:45					
10:00		10:00	Break	Break	Presentation/ Discussion	Concurrent Classes	General Session/ Branch Input Meeting
		10:15	Elder's Business Session	Presentation/ Discussion			
10:30	Sacrament Service						
PM			PM				PM
12:00	Registration	12:00	Lunch				12:00
		1:15	Branch Leaders Meeting/ General Class	Small Group Discussion and Worship	Small Group Discussion and Worship	Concurrent Classes	Church History - Kirtland
2:00	Conference Preparation Prayer Service	2:00					
		2:45	Break	Break	Break	Break	2:45
		3:00	Small Group Worship	Elder's Business Session	Elder's Business Session	Elder's Business Session (If Needed)	Open House with International Saints (everyone invited)
4:00	Registration	4:00	(Additional Time If Needed)	(Additional Time If Needed)	(Additional Time If Needed)	(Additional Time If Needed)	
Evening		Evening					Evening
6:30	Song Service & Worship Preparation	6:30	Song Service & Worship Preparation	Song Service & Worship Preparation	Song Service & Worship Preparation	Song Service & Worship Preparation	Song Service & Worship Preparation
7:00	Evening Worship	7:00	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	7:00
							8:30

Purpose of the Conference of Restoration Elders:

"To bring solidarity to a growing number of Restoration branches-and Latter Day Saints in general during this period of disruption and fragmentation" (Conference "Operating Guidelines" accepted 1996).

The Conference exists to:

- Organize the coming together of Melchisedec priesthood, as well as the Aaronic priesthood and members, for:
 - Spiritual preparation and to unify our efforts on behalf of the work to which we are called.
 - Much needed fellowship and fraternity to prepare us to defend and preserve the faith.
 - Identify and seek divine guidance concerning the critical issues now confronting the Church.
 - Chart a course of action that will maintain the gospel as restored in 1830 (Original Letter of Invitation and 1993 Conference Materials).
- Support Restoration branches in their efforts to work together.
- Provide needed resources to branches and members as they are requested.
- Offer ongoing support and resources to Restoration priesthood.

The Conference is not the Church, but a gathering of the Melchisedec priesthood to share in testimony, prayer, legislation, and preparation to return to our branches better equipped and unified to perform our duties to minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In addition, the Conference of Restoration Elders provides a forum for Aaronic priesthood and member alike to share in fellowship and to be nurtured in the Word. The Conference helps the scattered Saints and isolated branches throughout the world to enjoy the hope that we find in Jesus Christ and each other.

***Tidings of Zion* is prepared by the Publication Council for the Conference of Restoration Elders.**

The Relationship of Religious Education to the Building of Zion

FROM THE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Religion has its roots in one's relationship both to God and man. In training ourselves religiously, in the broad sense of the word, we are helping to make Zion possible. We are told that *"Zion can not be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom"* (Doctrine and Covenants 102:2c). Zion, in reality, is the Kingdom of God on earth. It will require a people who have been trained in things that constitute Zion.

Our curriculum could well include materials that will meet that end. The purpose of God is far more than mere goodness, honesty, etc. We must have intelligence and knowledge. The Lord has told us that *"The glory of God is intelligence"* (Doctrine and Covenants 90:6a). But knowledge without righteousness is inadequate. We must have pure hearts and clean minds, along with education.

No school has a curriculum that is so far reaching and comprehensive as this instruction: *"I give unto you a commandment, that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom; teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that is expedient for you to understand; of things both in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; things which have been; things which are; things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home; things which are abroad; the ward and the perplexities of the nations; and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries, and of kingdoms, that ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again, to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you"* (Doctrine and Covenants 85:21).

We must be trained in both the laws of the land and the laws of God. The Scriptures tell us to seek learning by study and also by faith. Religious education and Zion cannot be separated.

John Ruskin said, "Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them." Religious education should begin in the life of the infant—or even before the child is born. Remember that first impressions are the most lasting. Religious education is a

means of fitting us for life so that we may be able to dwell together in peace and knowledge and wisdom. In this we see it is the very thing that will equip us for the glorious task of building Zion.

Zion is an economic, social community which operates under the spiritual or divine law of order. For a people to build and maintain a community of this kind, we must be fully trained and equipped with spiritual, social, and economic insight.

Zion is an outgrowth of proper religious education. In order for it to become a reality, we must have unity of understanding. We must have a moral ideal in our hearts, minds, and daily living. If we are to grow in power, we must work together. In order to accomplish our purposes, we must be of one heart and one mind regarding Zion. *"Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine"* (Doctrine and Covenants 38: 6a).



Meeting the Needs of Restoration Youth

FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council seeks to encourage and coordinate ministry among Restoration branches for the youth of the Church, that they may become active participants in the building of the Kingdom of God and the redemption of Zion.



Priest David Gilmore provides preaching ministry at the Youth 2 the Kingdom 2001 series held in January at the South Chrysler Restoration Branch in Independence, Missouri

We have been actively engaged in providing ministry for our youth through worship services, retreats and youth rallies. The Youth Council holds a monthly "Kingdom Builders" worship service for the Restoration Youth and families. Each spring and fall, we sponsor Junior High and Senior High retreats which are held in Central Missouri. We also sponsor an annual "Y2K" (Youth 2 the Kingdom)

series. This series has a different approach in that the youth were the ones bringing ministry to the Church through music, testimony, and preaching. Response to these programs has been exciting and rewarding.

We also sponsor events that are more social in nature so our youth will have a wholesome environment in which to gather and have fun. Last summer, our youth gathered in Southern Missouri for a fun weekend floating down the river. This spring, we are looking forward to a fun weekend skiing the slopes of Minnesota. These events are always chaperoned, and time is set aside specifically to worship our Heavenly Father.

Another dimension of the Youth Council is to develop resources for both youth and youth leaders. Realizing that adults frequently have a desire to meet the needs of the youth, but feel inadequate to the task, the Youth Council is now sponsoring annual workshops. Experienced and successful youth leaders are asked to come share their knowledge with those who desire to learn.

We are always looking for ways that we can better serve both the youth and the youth leaders of the Restoration. Please let us know if there are ways that we can serve you better, either in the Center Place or in the outer regions. You may contact the Youth Council through the following e-mail address:

youthcouncil@eldersconference.org

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| February 17 -19, 2001 | Ski Retreat for senior high's in grades 10-12. Ski the hills of Minnesota and visit the Great Mall of America. For more information call Scott Eastin @ 816-228-2952 |
| March 10-11, 2001 | Witnessing weekend @ the Kingsville Restoration Branch. Call Steve Mapes @ 816-690-3153 for more information on this. |
| March 31, 2001 | Youth Leaders Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. @ the South Chrysler Restoration Branch. This workshop is designed to help youth leaders add new tools to their tool kit as they seek to reach out to youth. All classes will be new this year so even if you came last year there will be new things to gain this time. You don't have to be a youth leader to attend.
Anyone interested in youth ministry is invited, youth leaders, parents, camping staff as well as those who are thinking about maybe becoming a youth leader. Contact Linda Trimble for more information @ 816-224-6118 or via e-mail @ lindaann@bigfoot.com |
| April 15, 2001 | Kingdom Builders Youth Rally @ South Chrysler Restoration Branch. Elder Dave Downs will be the speaker. The service begins at 6:00 p.m. |
| April 27-29, 2001 | Senior High Retreat @ Knob Noster State Park, Camp Bob White. Pat and Pam Chrislip will be the directors. |

Proposed Conference Focus and Agenda

Once again it is time to share with you the proposed conference agenda for the 2001 Conference of Restoration Elders. As in previous years this agenda represents the culmination of numerous meetings in which many individuals participated.

As last year - It is our hope that those attending this year's conference will experience...

- A greater sense of fellowship and unity-- leaving with hope and feeling energized. Those attending should feel that they are part of something vital, and feel a sense of collective identity. We hope there will be a mutual sense of time well spent.
- A highlighted sense of "true worship".
- A collective sense of direction, as guided by the Holy Spirit. Those attending will participate in a concerted effort to "agree on His word" (Doctrine and Covenants 41:1b). We trust that all will leave with a sure sense that we are on the path where the Lord wants us and that we are in the place He has ordained.
- A genuine opportunity to participate in the week's activities.
- The opportunity to participate in a process of common consent.
- Priesthood and Saints will have been equipped with some practical training and have practical tools/resources to take back for the work in their local branches.
- Attendees will gain a greater understanding of the needs within the body around the country.

For an overall perspective of the week's activities please review the agenda on page two of this issue of the *Tidings of Zion*. The following is a more detailed description of the proposed 2001 conference agenda found there.

1. Worship opportunities: This year, the Conference and the Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch will again sponsor a Sunday morning Sacrament service for all Saints. The Sacrament service will be preceded by a prayer service that will also be open to all the Saints. We encourage as many Saints from as many branches to join in this worship opportunity and experience the sense of oneness that results when we come together as the body of Christ.

Sunday afternoon a prayer service focused on preparing for the coming week will be held. Last year those attending this prayer service experienced the good spirit and we look forward to this occurring again. During the week, on

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, prayer services will be for all to attend. On Tuesday and Thursday morning, separate prayer services will be held for the Melchisedec priesthood, the Aaronic priesthood, women and all others. For the past two conferences opportunities for small group worship have been emphasized with a great deal of success. The Conference schedule will again provide opportunity for small group worship. As in previous years, evening preaching services will be held.

2. Business sessions: Conference leaders are proposing once again that conference legislative business be limited to necessary items to sustain the conference as an organization. Legislative items will include convening the Conference, seating the elders, approving and agenda, accepting council reports, considering council goals and the Conference budget, and electing conference leadership. Of course, the elders meeting in Conference may elect to address other business.

3. Branch participation: Last year branch representatives were invited to come and share with the Conference issues, concerns, and successes that their branch was experiencing. These representatives and others shared with Conference leaders their appreciation for having this opportunity. Once again time will be made available within the agenda to allow branch representatives to share their branch perspectives and needs. Additionally, time will be provided for branch leaders (Pastors, Missionary Coordinators, Women's Leaders, Youth Leaders, Sunday School Directors, etc.) to meet together to discuss issues associated with their respective leadership responsibilities. Particularly, is our hope that Branch Presidents/Pastors from all over the country will avail themselves of this opportunity to come together and establish working relationships with each other.

4. Presentation/Discussion: A significant portion of the agenda has been dedicated for presentation and discussion. The format will consist of appointing one or two to teach on a specific topic and allowing time for the body to enter into discussion on the presented material. Discussion of the topic can continue in the small group setting, where conclusions on specific aspects associated with the topic can be reached and recorded. Information concerning selected topics will be presented in the March/April issue of the *Tidings of Zion*.

The Kingdom By the Power of Prayer

by Pat Chadwick

5. Concurrent Classes: On Thursday, two periods of concurrent classes have been scheduled. Classes aimed at enhancing priesthood effectiveness will be offered. Specific classes for women will be provided. Classes focused on equipping saints to provide their “reasonable service” will be presented. Class titles, topics and teachers will be identified in the next *Tidings of Zion*.

6. General Session: A general session for all those attending has been scheduled for Friday morning. This time will be used for general discussion on the week’s activities and to establish informal points of agreement to be published in the *Tidings of Zion*. This communication will allow those unable to attend to consider and pray about what those attending agreed upon.

7. Open House/Reception: In response to a suggestion, an open house/ reception will be held for the Saints in this country to meet with the Saints from other parts of the world. The open house will start on Friday afternoon and will go till the evening worship time. The evening worship will incorporate aspects of what is happening internationally and will focus on the missionary work in the Church. Following the evening worship a reception will be held to provide an additional opportunity for the Saints to meet and fellowship with one another.

We encourage anyone who has comments and suggestions concerning the proposed agenda to please share them with the Conference Chairman. While much of the planning for the 2001 Conference is done, there is still opportunity to affect some of the Conference detail. We invite each of you to prayerfully consider and support the upcoming Conference. May God bless you always.



Pat Chadwick teaching
“The Kingdom By The Power of Prayer”

I felt very privileged to share with the women at the Fall Gathering concerning prayer. No matter how many times I teach about prayer the subject always seems fresh and exciting to me. One of the reasons this is true is because the Lord continues to bless me with new insights. Recently in my study, I was impressed with all the scriptures that challenge us to pray for the Kingdom of Zion. This has given me a fresh understanding of the need for prayer warriors in this the last days. I believe that our God is looking for those who will not only be diligent in prayer, but will be diligent in praying for His Kingdom to come upon this earth. This is one of the things I shared with the women at the Fall Gathering.

The promises of God concerning Zion are exceedingly great and precious. However, their realization, is in a great part, based on the power of prayer. The promises of God are like seeds that need to be sown, tilled, and watered by prayer to make them fruitful. Prayer takes hold of the promises of God and becomes an instrument through which the power of God flows to bring a promise to its fulfillment. It is by prayer that the power of God is brought into play in the redemption of Zion. Prayer is the channel through which the power of God can flow to redeem Zion.

Jesus set the example for us to pray for the kingdom when He taught his disciples to pray. “*Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven*” Matthew 6:10.

Isaiah prayed for Zion and counsels us to pray for it. “*Ye that make mention of the Lord, [meaning, you who pray] keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth*” Isaiah 62:7.

Section 65 in the Doctrine and Covenants is called a revelation on prayer to the people of the church. “*Pray unto the Lord; call upon His holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people, call upon the Lord that His kingdom may go forth upon the earth*” Doctrine and Covenants 65:1d.

David prayed for Zion. “*Oh that Zion were established out of heaven, the salvation of Israel. O Lord when wilt thou establish Zion?*” Psalms 4:7

It is my hope that David’s prayer will become our prayer as a people in this the last days, and that each of us will pray daily for the redemption of Zion.

2001 Conference of Restoration Elders

Teach One Another the Doctrine of Christ's Kingdom

FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

“And I give unto you a commandment, that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom; teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that is expedient for you to understand;” (Doctrine and Covenants 85:21b).

The Scriptures are replete with commandments and corresponding promises. One of those commandments, particularly for priesthood, is to teach one another the doctrine of the Kingdom. God promised us that if we are diligent in our teaching, that his grace will attend us and we will be instructed more perfectly in all things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. The week of Conference will be dedicated to keeping this commandment of assembling together, and instructing and edifying one another for the purpose of receiving the promises of God. Although we are commanded to do these things, let us do so with the joyful and expectant attitude expressed by Nephi long ago, *“...Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.”* (2 Nephi 14:4).

“And now, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together, ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my church how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given; and thus ye shall become instructed in the law of my church, and be sanctified by that which ye have received, and ye shall bind yourselves to act in all holiness before me, that inasmuch as ye do this, glory shall be added to the kingdom which ye have received. Inasmuch as ye do it not, it shall be taken; even that which ye have received.” (Doctrine and Covenants 43:3a-c). God has commanded that when we gather we must organize ourselves, prepare ourselves, and sanctify ourselves. He has commanded that we should make preparation that he might make us clean, that he might fulfill his promises to us.

The condemnation spoken of in this verse, in some measure, can be applied to us as a people today. The remedy, or God's plan concerning the redemption of his afflicted people, lies in us being united according to the law of the celestial kingdom. The Lord states that his people will continue to be chastened until we learn to be obedient. What

the Lord shared next is of particular importance to the elders. He states in verse 3c that the redemption of Zion will wait for a little season while the elders prepare themselves that they in turn may teach the people more perfectly to know and experience more perfectly their duty and the things required at their hands. In other words the perfecting of the people hangs on the faithful preparation of the priesthood.

In Ephesians chapter 4 we find that the priesthood is given for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ. In Section 43, the Elders are commanded to sanctify themselves that they might be endowed with power. *“Again I say, hearken ye elders of my church whom I have appointed: ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my Spirit; and ye are to be taught from on high. Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be endowed with power, that ye may give even as I have spoken”* (Doctrine and Covenants 43:4a-d). This endowment, as indicated in Section 102:3, is necessary if the priesthood are to ultimately teach the people a more perfect way.

With this understanding, the importance for priesthood to prepare and assemble together, to teach one another and to be taught from on high in all things pertaining to the Kingdom, becomes apparent. If the elders are faithful and humble, God promises in Section 102:3e&f that he has prepared a great endowment and blessing to pour out upon them and he will fight the battles for the redemption of Zion. The task of the elders then is to prepare themselves through faithfully humbling themselves, gathering to be taught, being endowed and in turn teaching the Saints the doctrine of Christ's kingdom.

The following themes and corresponding scriptures are provided to establish a common focus for the upcoming 2001 Conference. As we prepare and assemble together this year, let us again reflect on the wisdom shared by our brother Nephi so long ago; *“Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life”* (2 Nephi 13:30). Let us join together in this precious opportunity to feast upon the words of Christ, which represent to us the words of life.

Daily Themes and Scriptures for Preparation

Sunday

“Feast upon the words of Christ;”

2 Nephi 14:4-7 – “Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye can not understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do. Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ; and there will be no more doctrine given, until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh.”

Monday

Prepare Yourselves

Ephesians 4:14 – “...be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.”

Doctrine and Covenants 85:20a-21a – “Behold, I will hasten my work in its time; and I give unto you who are the first laborers in this last kingdom, a commandment, that you assemble yourselves together, and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves; and sanctify yourselves; yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean; that I may testify unto your Father, and your God, and my God, that you are clean from the blood of this wicked generation, that I may fulfill this promise, this great and last promise which I have made unto you, when I will. Also, I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall continue in prayer and fasting from this time forth.”

Doctrine and Covenants 94:3d – “...that they may be perfected in the understanding of their ministry; in theory; in principle and in doctrine; in all things pertaining to the kingdom of God on the earth, the keys of which kingdom have been conferred upon you.”

Ephesians 4:11-15 – “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work

of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ;”

Doctrine and Covenants 102:3c – “Therefore, in consequence of the transgression of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion, that they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly, concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands;”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “And all scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Tuesday

“Behold, this is my doctrine: Whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church” Doctrine and Covenants 3:16a-b

3 Nephi 5:31 – “Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.”

3 Nephi 5:32-34 – “Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; And I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me; And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Wednesday

“Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection;” Hebrews 6:1

2 Nephi 13:27-32 – “And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done?”

Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save; Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.”

Thursday

**“And they were astonished at his doctrine; for his words were with power.”
Luke 4:32**

Matthew 7:36-37 – “And it came to pass when Jesus had ended these sayings with his disciples, the people were astonished at his doctrine; For he taught them as one having authority from God, and not as having authority from the Scribes.”

John 7:16-18 – “Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory; but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.”

2 John 1:9-10 - “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine,

receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed;”

Friday

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...” James 1:22

Mark 16:14 – “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

James 1:21-25 – “Wherefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness, the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

Mark 16:14-15 – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.”

Matthew 6:26-27 – “Nevertheless, ye shall go forth from house to house, teaching the people; and I will go before you. And your heavenly Father will provide for you, whatsoever things ye need for food, what ye shall eat; and for raiment, what ye shall wear or put on.”

Titus 1:9 – “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

II John 1:6 & 9 – “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it... Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

Romans 6:17-18 – “But God be thanked, that ye are not the servants of sin, for ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

"I Will Cut My Work Short in Righteousness"

by Ronald M. Turner, Independence, Missouri

"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" (2 Nephi 3:50). Of the many names given to God in the Scriptures, *Zur*, in Hebrew, is one: it means "Rock"; and the Holy One of Israel is known as "Zur Yisroel." The Holy One of Israel, the Rock of Israel, is Jesus Christ.

"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away [the dominion of the blasphemers], to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:26-27),

"Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-20; "Bar-Jona" "son of Jonah").

"Verily, I say unto you, [the twelve], whatsoever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 18:18).

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

"The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth" (Doctrine and Covenants 65: It).

The word *key* is usually thought of as an object with which to open that which is locked. But, the word also means to "hold to; to secure." I believe that the latter meaning is more appropriately alluded to in regard to the keys of the kingdom.

To be given the keys of the Kingdom of God on earth, is to be given the authority from God, the message from God, and the ordinances of God to secure to an individual that Kingdom. This is what the Lord gave to the first apostles.

Note, also, that in the quotation from Daniel, the Kingdom of God is an everlasting Kingdom; and it will be set up in the latter days and will be the possession of, or given to, or better, secured to the Saints of the Most High. That Kingdom shall go forth until it has dominion over all the kingdoms of men, and the Kingdom will fill the whole earth.

Such is the Kingdom of God upon the earth for which we have been taught to pray: "Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen" (Matthew 6:10-15).

That prayer is a prayer for Zion. The priesthood must understand that the Kingdom belongs to God. It is only through His power that it shall come forth. What we call the "Lord's Prayer," is not His prayer, but a prayer He commanded the disciples to pray; it is a prayer for Zion and recognizes His power. The prayer pictures the same Kingdom spoken of by all the prophets who have prophesied regarding the work of the last days. It is the Kingdom for which the only means of entrance—securing for themselves and for others—will be preached by the Lord's servants who go forth in the last days, being sent out by the Presidency of the Church and under the administration of the Spirit of God. This is the Church which the Lord has decreed shall "...stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world, that you [the Church] may come up unto the crown prepared for you, and be made rulers over many kingdoms, saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Zion" (Doctrine and Covenants 77:3d-e).

From the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist until his death, the Kingdom of heaven had suffered violence, and the violent had taken it by force.

The Lord gave His disciples, the twelve, the means to secure the Kingdom to the Jews. They were sent out to preach that the Kingdom was "at hand," and their message was specific. The Kingdom of heaven was secured to those who acknowledged the authority of the disciples, heard their message, and obeyed. Our Lord's initial command to

the Twelve was: "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and enter ye not into any city of the Samaritans. But rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick; cleanse the lepers; raise the dead; cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:4-7).

Later, our Lord chose "other seventy" and "...sent them two and two before his face, into every city and place where he himself would come. And he said unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest...behold I send you forth as lambs among wolves.... And into whatsoever house ye enter...say, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you; notwithstanding, be sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I [the Lord] say unto you, it shall be more tolerable in the day of judgment for Sodom, than for that city" (Luke 10: 1-12).

Having obeyed their Lord, the twelve and the seventy were overjoyed in the response they received. Yet, among the religious leaders, Jesus was opposed. The disciples, however, continued their work. Toward the end of His ministry, the Lord told the disciples that He would suffer, be tried and condemned, and then crucified, but that He would be raised the third day. The disciples were astonished, and Peter took Him aside, "...and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord; this shall not be done unto thee" (Matthew 16:23).

Even though Peter, others of the twelve, and the seventy were given the authority and the message to secure to the Jews the Kingdom, the religious leaders, however, did exactly as our Lord had said. As Jesus approached Jerusalem for the last time, He looked upon the city, and cried out with the deepest remorse:

"O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Ye who will kill the prophets, and will stone them who are sent unto you; how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate! For I say unto you, that ye shall not see me henceforth, and know that I am he of whom it is written by the prophets, until ye shall say, Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.... Then understood his disciples that he should come again on the earth, after that he was glorified and crowned on the right hand of God" (Matthew 23 :37-41).

That prophecy remains to be fulfilled.

Following His crucifixion, and just before His as-

cension, our Lord appeared to His disciples for the last time, and they asked Him, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

Now that He was risen, they were anxious for the Kingdom to be secured to them. We can be sure that His answer was not what they expected: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7).

This statement, if they really had time to ponder it, was immediately followed by a promise, a commandment, and a remarkable experience: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:8-11).

The Kingdom was not secured to the Jews because the Lord's "own" had rejected Him. Their leaders had called for His crucifixion; hence, our Lord prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:35).

In A.D. 70, Rome conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the city. From that day to the present, Jerusalem has been under the condemnatory judgment handed to them by Jesus. From that time until the establishment of the State of Israel, as the Book of Mormon has prophesied, the Jews have wandered in the flesh, and perished, and have become a hiss and a by-word, and have been hated of all nations (see 1 Nephi 5:252).

With the advent of "Zionism" in the late 1890's, the Lord's sentence upon His "own" has slowly begun to change. But now, a hundred years later, there is still no peace in Jerusalem. Today, we fear that unless peace is secured, there will be another war; one to rival those in 1948 and 1967. Violence continues to erupt in the streets of Jerusalem. Under the urging of their leaders and their stated goals, the Arabs will not recognize any peace until the government of Israel has been cast out and Jerusalem belongs to them. The hate and killing will not end until the Lord moves to fulfill His covenant to Judah and to the remainder of the house of Israel. It will not end until our Lord's "own" shall say, "Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 23:40).

Several years ago, when we were still a Church believing in the promises of God concerning Mount Zion, I

attended a reunion at Camp Doniphan. Apostle Percy Farrow was in charge of the prayer services. One morning he arose and delivered a prophecy concerning the land of Jerusalem. While I cannot remember the exact words, he spoke to several in the congregation, and then he said that the day was soon coming when the Lord's "own" and they of Ishmael would learn of their true Savior, come to accept Him as the true Messiah, and obey His truth—not only for them but for all mankind.

Therefore, the priesthood must understand that the Lord has made a covenant with the entire house of Israel. Long ago, the prophet Isaiah said: "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; my Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever" (Isaiah 59:20-21).

After his conversion Paul came to realize that the covenant spoken of by Isaiah was spoken to "Jacob," the entire house of Israel. He then wrote a letter to the Saints in Rome, who were Gentiles, and he explained the prophecy of Isaiah to them: "Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved; for [God] will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrah" (Romans 9:27-29).

"Hath God [therefore] cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite,...of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew" (Romans 11:1-2). "Have [Israel] stumbled that they should fall? God forbid; but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke [Israel] to jealousy.... Now if the fall of them is the riches.. .of the Gentiles; how much more their [Israel's] fullness?" (Romans 11:11-12).

"Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God; on them [Israeli which fell, severity; but toward thee [you Gentile Saints in Rome], goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also [Israel], if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. For if thou [you Gentiles] wast cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wast grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree [Israel]; how much more shall these [Israel], which be the natural branches, be grafted into their

own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And then all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins (Romans 11:22-27).

Consider the following revelation given to the Church in June of 1831 at Kirtland, Ohio. In the first paragraphs of Section 52, the Lord spoke to the elders at Kirtland: "I, the Lord, will make known unto you what I will that ye shall do from this time until the next Conference, which shall be held in Missouri, upon the land which I will consecrate unto my people, which are a remnant of Jacob, and those who are heirs according to the covenant" (Doctrine and Covenants 52:1b). Which covenant? It was the covenant God made to the house of Israel through Isaiah, the covenant which Paul explained to the Saints in Rome. These elders were to go out from Kirtland, and the Lord commanded, "Let them journey from thence, preaching the word by the way, saying none other things than that which the prophets and apostles have written, and that which is taught them by the Comforter, through the prayer of faith. Let them go two by two, and thus let them preach by the way of every congregation, baptizing by water, and the laying on of the hands by the water's side; for thus saith the Lord, I will cut my work short in righteousness, for the days cometh that I will send forth judgment unto victory" (Doctrine and Covenants 52:3b-d).

What is the victory by which God, through judgment, shall cut His work short? What will be the result? Let us return again to the prophet Isaiah, whose prophecies Paul expounded to the Saints in Rome. Speaking to Israel, the prophet spoke of a time when "the Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel,... will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies.... And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors as at the beginning; afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed. For they [of the holy city] shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye [Israel now] have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen. For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water. And the strong shall be as tow [i.e., a citadel], and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them" (Isaiah 1:24-31).

Brethren of the priesthood and Saints, God chose Israel, but Israel has gone astray. God forbid that His covenant with Israel should be forgotten! They are His people. But because they have strayed, they will have to be judged, as the prophet says. The Restoration is a work in which the Lord has said He will not be frustrated. There will be those who fall or fail. If they fall, it will be because they do not believe in the Lord's latter-day work. If they fail, it will be because they have not magnified their calling to assist God in His work! Which are we? That is a very important question, and one which we will all have to answer. God will judge us of our faith and our diligence—or lack thereof. In fact, He is judging us at this very moment!

Section 12 is a message to David Whitmer, one of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon plates. The Lord said to David: "If you shall ask the Father in my name, in faith believing, you shall receive the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance, that you may stand as a witness of the things of which you shall both hear and see; and also, that you may declare repentance unto this generation. Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, who created the heavens and the earth; a light which can not be hid in darkness; wherefore, I must bring forth the fullness of my gospel from the Gentiles unto the house of Israel. And, behold, thou art David, and thou art called to assist; which thing if thou doest, and art faithful, thou shalt be blessed both spiritually and temporally, and great shall be thy reward" (Doctrine and Covenants 12:4-5).

Brethren and Saints, all of us are called to assist! The question is, "Will we?"

At the very beginning of the Reorganization, the faithful received a revelation through Jason W. Briggs. In the latter part of that revelation, the Lord spoke to the elders, saying, "Let the elders whom I have ordained by the hand of my servant Joseph, or by the hand of those ordained by him, resist not this authority, nor faint in the discharge of duty, which is to preach my gospel as revealed in the record of the Jews, and the Book of Mormon, and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants; and cry repentance and remission of sins through obedience to the gospel, and I will sustain them, and give them my Spirit" (*Church History* 3:201).

That promise is still valid to the faithful and the humble. Brethren and Saints, what more could we ask? This is our calling; this is our message. The Holy Spirit of God is our sustaining power if we do as He has requested. Do any of us doubt the promise? Is there any greater sustaining power than that of the Holy Spirit of God? Let me remind each one of you that the Restoration was brought forth that the Lord shall fulfill His covenant to restore "his people [of the house of Israel], as he has spoken by the mouth of his

prophets, and for the gathering of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem" (Doctrine and Covenants 83: 1b).

That Church has fallen into disarray. It has been prophesied that it would. Many of us are dismayed that this has happened! How dismayed are you? What are you willing to do that the scattered Saints be prepared for the Lord's next move? What has the Lord said He would do? There is no hint in the accepted and harmonious revelations of God in any of the Three Books of the Church that God will set up another church in succession! I challenge you to find, as others have claimed, that He would set up another church! What I do find, is that "the church is subject to Christ.... [For he] gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:24-27).

Brethren and Saints, are we ready to be washed in the cleansing water of the Lord's Word—to be made pure in heart, as our Lord is pure in heart? If we are not ready, and if we do not repent, then we will be cut off when the Lord judges His Church. The Lord fore-knew what would happen to the Reorganization. He has forewarned His Church: "In consequence of the transgression of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion, that they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands" (Doctrine and Covenants 102:3c).

As elders, we are commanded to preach, teach, expound, and exhort the truths found in the Lord's Scriptures—the Three Standard Books. We have no other message, and we certainly have no other authority. The sustaining power of the Holy Spirit of God among us absolutely depends on our willingness to magnify our callings in this way. The Lord requires our faithful hearts: "Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days; and the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land...wherefore, they shall be plucked out...and liars and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are not apostles and prophets shall be made known" (Doctrine and Covenants 64:7a,b,d).

The Lord requires this of His Church; and He requires it for a very important reason: "Behold, I, the Lord, have made my church in these last days, like unto a judge sitting on a hill, or in a high place, to judge the nations; for it shall come to pass, that the inhabitants of Zion shall judge all

things pertaining to Zion..." (Doctrine and Covenants 64:7c). The Lord's hill, His high place, is Mount Zion! And the Lord's Church can not righteously judge the nations until she herself is purified through judgment!

Today we live in a spiritually dark and corrupt world: "Darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face. Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth—a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation—and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord. First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord" (Doctrine and Covenants 105:9-10).

The Lord's judgment upon His own house has not yet begun; but it shall, "as a whirlwind."

In the past it has been prophesied that there would be seven prophets of the last days. We have had six; and the last one, although of the correct lineage, and properly ordained, has really not been the Church's "husband." The Church's true husband, the president of the high priesthood, of the Quorum of the First Presidency, who has the God-given responsibility to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth has not yet arrived on the scene. But just as Joseph Smith III was "required" of the priesthood and members before 1860, so will the next and last President of the high priesthood be required of us. Zionic conditions are still no closer, nor any further away, than the spiritual condition of the Lord's people justifies! God still seeks for a people who will serve Him in righteousness!

The little season which the Lord pronounced on the Church in the Fishing River Revelation of June 22, 1834, still continues. The Lord sees all things; He knows all things. That is why He was able to speak to the Church at that early date. The little season will not be over until the eldership have become sufficiently humble and faithful in their callings to receive the endowment the Lord has promised. Zion cannot be redeemed until the endowment comes to pass. What is our answer? What have we decided? Do we really know Who and what we worship? Will we in faith and humility perform the duties of our calling? This is the only way we can assist. Will we, as priesthood, honor our callings that we may secure to the Saints the Kingdom of God on earth?

"And verily, I say unto you, that they who go forth, bearing these tidings unto the inhabitants of the earth, to them is power given to seal, both on earth and in heaven,

the unbelieving and rebellious; yea, verily, to seal them up unto the day when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the wicked without measure; unto the day when the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man...according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man" (Doctrine and Covenants 1:2c-e).

That revelation was given to the Church November 1, 1831. It is just as valid today as it was then.

Karl Schoepke
Bergartenstrasse 14
04155 Leipzig
Germany

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the fullness of the Holy Gospel:

The articles, reports, and testimonies are interesting and valuable. I refer to issue number 44, *Tidings of Zion*; for instance, page 5,6,7,8,9,10, 13, 14. I think and feel that there is a remarkable awakening and that the March to Zion goes forward.

I am aware of the democratic element in the Restoration Movement. Page 3 of issue number 44 gives the title of the Fall Gathering of the Saints on November 10 and 11 announced some classes for Aaronic Priesthood, unordained men, women, children and youth, etc.

I hope and pray that soon a prophet will be called by the Lord. Surely this needs a preparation by the Lord and the future prophet. This reminds me of Joseph Smith, Jr. He was prepared for this tremendous task about 10 years. His son Joseph called Joseph Smith, III was blessed by his father Joseph Smith, Jr. in 1843 and by the Lord, too since 1843 until 1860.

The year 2000 comes soon to an end. I wish you a good Christmas time and rich blessings, health, success, and joy in 2001.

Herzlich Gruss,
(Heartiest Greetings,)
Karl Schoepke

Fall Gathering Focuses on "The Keys of the Kingdom"

by Steve Kropp, Napoleon, Missouri

The Conference of Restoration Elders sponsored the Fall Gathering November 10 and 11 with classes and worship services for Saints who decided to spend a portion of their weekend together with brothers and sisters from all over the Center Place.

On Friday evening the worship service launched us into the weekend with the ministry of three young priests in the Church. The excitement, enthusiasm and love these young men have for the gospel spread to those in attendance through the testimonies and scriptural examples of how the keys of humility, the fullness of the gospel, and sacrifice have effected their lives,

Priest David Howlett (Warrensburg) spoke on the Key of Humility; Priest Jon Tandy (Waldo) spoke on the Fullness of the Gospel; and Brian O'Neil (New Jerusalem) spoke on the Key of Sacrifice. Those in attendance were blessed as each young man described the importance not only of having the keys but exercising them in the manner which God designed.

Patriarchs Verle Cornish, Mike Ballentine, and Earl Allen presided over the prayer service Saturday morning. The Spirit bore witness to the humility and love the Saints had for one another in the prayers and testimonies of how the keys of the Kingdom have been restored in these last days and how those keys are designed to be shared and used to unlock the greater mysteries.

Elder Ron Turner taught the first general class and continued the theme of the Keys of the Kingdom. The concept of keys being used to secure was introduced; and Brother Turner illustrated how when Christ gave the keys of the Kingdom to Peter, James, and John, He was securing His Kingdom to the earth. We were reminded that in the Lord's Prayer this idea is reinforced in the words, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven." Christ secured His Kingdom to the earth through those willing servants who valued truth more than popularity or pride of place. He also secured His Kingdom to this dispensation as the keys were passed to the prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. It was pointed out that those who receive these keys must be obedient and observe the law and the spirit of the law, while those who are rebellious will be cut off. The underlying message of the class was that the Church is subject to Christ. He desires to present that Church holy, without spot or blemish, and washed pure.

Throughout the day these themes continued to spring up in the classes and breakout sessions offered, as those in attendance expanded their understanding of the keys of the

Kingdom. The children discussed the fruits of the Spirit and how those keys can make our lives on this earth more enjoyable if we fill our days with those fruits found in the fifth chapter of Galatians. The Belton Restoration Branch helped in a very sacrificial way to help make the children's classes a success.

The Aaronic priesthood invited all men to join their class taught by the Temporalities Council. Materials for the class were designed to help the individual and family better understand the importance of being the stewards God has called us to be. One of the keys the Aaronic order has been given is to minister in the outward ordinances—the letter of the gospel (see Doctrine and Covenants 104).

The Women's Council provided ministry for the women in attendance. Class material centered around the home and how certain keys need to be used to create Zion homes. Games, creative ideas, and sharing with each other the experiences that teach us how to create Godly homes gave those in attendance an ample supply of ideas to exercise on the home front.

The closing class and the Saturday evening worship service put a nice finish on the Fall Gathering. The final class summarized the day and challenged the Saints in every congregation not only to talk about the keys but to get them out and use them. We need to have the faith of Samuel, who went before the Lord to name the successor to Saul. All those around thought Jesse's oldest son would be the anointed one—surely this pattern would be followed. The elders in Jesse's hometown of Bethlehem trembled and made sure Samuel was coming in peace. Samuel was reminded not to look on the countenance or on the height of a man's stature. It was confirmed that "the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). The keys of patience and faith in the Lord were thus exercised. We were all challenged in the last general class to use those same keys to make certain our hearkening is to the Lord and not to man.

The Epitome of Faith was the central theme for the closing service Saturday evening, with several Saints participating in testimony and readings associated with each part of the Epitome of Faith. Like a rallying cry to the Saints, this document provides the foundational truths to which the people of the Lord can find understanding and peace in these tumultuous times.

Those attending wished that all their brethren could have enjoyed the ministry provided at the Fall Gathering.

The Keys of Sacrifice

November 10, 2000

by Brian O'Neil

This evening I have been given the privilege to speak with you on "The Key of Sacrifice". And we, as sinners, are in need of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ gave on the cross for all humanity. We all know the scripture John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish; but have everlasting life". And so the question arises, if God has given me such a gift, what have I given to God? What have I sacrificed for Him? And the answer to that question for most of us is - not enough.

The key of sacrifice is very important because Jesus Christ lives by its principles and died by its principles. Jesus Christ our Lord gave to God the answer that He required of His creation. Jesus Christ was God and man, given as a sacrifice for humanity in the meridian of time. We need not worry about the future because God is already there. And that future is to our benefit because of Jesus Christ, because of the sacrifice, because of the life that He lived.

Have you ever thought that when God speaks, a universe is created? When God speaks a mountain is moved. When God speaks the Red Sea is dried up. But did you ever think — and this is one of the greatest mysteries — that He had to suffer the pain and the agony of the cross. Can you imagine a Being with such great power; power to create a universe? - But yet has the humility of a child. Far more humble than any one of us. Think about that everyday, and

what God has given to us in the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Sacrifice, of course, is not simply giving up something. Sacrifice, I believe, is the ordering of our lives by principles, the principles of the gospel. Parents, as they are raising their children, need to teach them by example. On the front of the 1994-95 CPRS phone directory it says these words, "Raising a righteous generation". How can parents raise a righteous generation when they are not righteous themselves? And how can they raise that righteous generation if they do not have the testimony of Jesus to pass on to their children? Therefore, parents need a living testimony of the Savior. Teaching becomes alive through an example.

I would like to end with a scripture from III Nephi, the 4th chapter, verses 49-52. Before reading, I would like to ask you a question. What does God require of us? *And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto Me... a broken heart and a contrite spirit; And whoso cometh unto Me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost... behold, I have come into the world to bring redemption unto the world- to save the world from sin, therefore whoso repenteth and cometh unto Me as a little child, him will I receive, for of such is the kingdom of God Behold, for such I have laid down My life and have taken it up again; therefore, repent and come unto Me, ye ends of the earth, and be saved!*

Restoration Branch Representatives Are Invited to Participate

The Conference of Restoration Elders is inviting each Restoration branch to send a representative to the Conference to voice the perspectives of the branch.

By way of preparation, branch leaders may want to meet with their members to discuss the considerations suggested in the Proposed Conference Focus and Agenda in this issue of the *Tidings of Zion*. We look forward to this opportunity to share with one another.

Saints Are Encouraged To Pray for the Upcoming Conference

Please join in prayer and fasting, that we might be prepared to receive the Lord's blessings as we gather at Conference. We ask branch leaders to promote opportunities for special prayers within each branch. We request that each member set aside the following days for this purpose:

Sunday, February 25, 2001

Sunday, March 25, 2001

Family Steps Towards Zion

by Jack Hagensen

The Conference of Restoration Elders sponsored a series of Tuesday evening classes during the month of October. The classes were held at the Center Place Restoration School, and were taught by Elder Jack Hagensen. The topic was “Family Steps Toward Zion”.

“Family Steps Towards Zion” is a series of lessons designed for use in the home by the Aaronic Priesthood or by families for use on their own. The steps taught in the lessons are faith, repentance, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection, eternal judgement, prayer, keeping the sabbath day holy, stewardship, and family duties.

Each lesson contains reading material, questions to answer, and numerous scripture references pertaining to that particular step. This study program is highly recommended for branch home ministry programs, small study groups, families, or individual use.

The “Family Steps Toward Zion” program came about as a result of my personal experience with the Lord in the early nineteen-seventies. The experience came as a result of prayer when I asked the Lord the following questions:

1. Why aren't the priesthood active and fulfilling their calling?
2. Why aren't the priesthood enthusiastic about their call?
3. Why aren't the priesthood received well into the homes of the Saints?
4. Why aren't the Saints inviting the priesthood into their homes?

The answer to all of these questions was answered as He enlightened my mind with the “Family Steps Toward Zion”.

Then the Lord revealed to me a commitment I was to receive from three groups before the program would be acceptable to Him. Firstly, the pastorate; secondly, the priesthood; and thirdly, the congregation or the families. The pastorate of myself, Ken Briggs and Gary Kuntz passed the first step with total commitment. The second step, with 68 priesthood members present December 8, 1979, passed with enthusiasm. On January 13, 1980, a majority of the families at Enoch Hill committed themselves in a beautiful experience together.

Only the first six steps were brought to my mind. These were to be the first six steps toward Zion that each family and each individual needed to take before they could go on to additional steps. They are faith, repentance, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal

judgment. Additional steps necessary to reach the celestial kingdom would be revealed to the priesthood as they fasted, prayed, and studied the word together. And there would be those moved by the Spirit to write these additional steps and, if faithfully followed, these steps would eventually lead us to Zion.

“And also all they who receive this priesthood receiveth me, saith the Lord, for he that receiveth my servants receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth my Father; and he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father’s kingdom.”(Doctrine and Covenants 83:3e)

For several months the Priests Quorum at Enoch Hill met Saturday mornings, and I met with them. With Phillip Beckman as Quorum Leader, these Priests formulated the “Family Steps Toward Zion” program.

The Lord, by His Spirit, is moving in power among His priesthood and people. As you open your hearts and the doors to your home to the priesthood, God’s power will be made manifest in many ways. Many of your family problems will be replaced with the joy and thrill of knowing that Jesus Christ has been in your home, and that He desires to have permanent residence there. As you establish your family altars, your homes will be set in order, the church then will be unified and Zion will be.

This program will only be as successful as your devotion and commitment to the Lord and His church. Prepare for each visit with fasting and prayer. Each family step is designed for use in family worship, study, or for personal study. You are encouraged to take a few moments each day and go over portions of the text presented by the priesthood and the additional scriptures on the last page of each step.

Three ring binder notebooks are available through your book steward for a nominal cost. When the priesthood make their visit they will leave a copy of the “Family Steps Toward Zion” text presented during that visit. Eventually, you will have a tremendous spiritual reservoir to draw on for strength and to keep moving up the steps toward Zion.

This material is presented by the priesthood at Enoch Hill with the desire to stand in the stead of our leader, Jesus Christ, and with the desire to minister to your every need. May the glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Any mistakes are the mistakes of man and not of God. His work will not be frustrated.

Mission to England

by Elders Bob Mcleod and John Robison

We arrived in England on the 10th of October. We had about a fifty mile drive to Fleetwood, where our good friends John and Jean Lamb live. As we reached our Bed and Breakfast, it was right on the shore of the Irish Sea. The wind and rain seemed more like ice. I thought to myself, "Will we have this for our time here in England?" We visited the Lambs that evening, and John Lamb decided to go with us and help drive part of our mission until we got used to driving in England. Before we left Independence, Brother Bill White had called me and said he heard about our mission to England. He said they had been trying to find priesthood in New Castle on Tyne where their grandson was in the hospital.

They had been praying and he said we might be the answer to their prayers. We found little Kieran Beeby looking well after his bone marrow transplant. Kieran has Wiskott - Aldrich Syndrome (he had no immunity) so he would be what was called a bubble baby. We could not administer to the baby, but we did have special prayers for him and his family, along with the Restoration branches.

As of this writing he is doing fine and has left the bubble (new system uses a curtain of air). He is now in a halfway house, waiting for clearance to go home. This is just one of our testimonies we experienced on our mission to England. We have more we can tell in the future.

History Notes

by James Daugherty, Historian

On February 22, 1756, John Adams, second President of the United States, penned these words in his diary; "Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law-book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged, in conscience, to temperance and frugality and industry; to justice and kindness and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love and reverence towards Almighty God. In this commonwealth, no man would impair his health by gluttony, drunkenness, or lust; no man would sacrifice his most precious time to cards or any other trifling and mean amusement; no man would steal, or lie, or in any way defraud his neighbor, but would live in peace and good will with all men; no man would blaspheme his Maker or profane his worship; but a rational and manly, a sincere and unaffected piety and devotion would reign in all hearts. What a Utopia; what a Paradise would this region be!"

The Prophet Joseph Smith III, in the Saints Herald, volume 18, called on the Saints to be the quality of people John Adams longed for; "We must be true men, true in all walks of life, making better citizens, better sons, better daughters, better wives, better mothers, better men, better women, better saints.

We must build our houses solidly, to stand for more than a day; we must build our fences, to secure good neighbors; we must strive for the best roads, best bridges, best wells and springs, best towns, best everything of public utility and benefit; doing all our work with a view to its stability.

Our spiritual labor must be of like permanent character. We must preach the principles of life and enforce them by our example. We must carry the news to the ends of the earth, and we must be glad in it ourselves. We must be faithful, sober, upright, and intelligent, and so shall we gain the desired end - happiness here, eternal life hereafter."

Women's Council Announces Newsletter

The Women's Council is pleased to announce that we are producing a newsletter for the women of the Restoration. We are seeking to offer ministry so that we can draw closer to Jesus and each other. God has blessed the people of His church with wonderful gifts and talents. We hope to enlist input from our women for this newsletter that we may all benefit from what God has given each of us to share.

The newsletter will be published four times a year. It will include a topic discussion, testimonies, and practical ideas for implementation. It will also include a calendar of upcoming events and many of the highlights of congregations projects. We hope to receive helpful comments or questions from our readers. Because of limited funds, this newsletter will only be sent to the women's leader or contact person for each branch. It is our hope that it will be copied and shared with all of our women. We hope that each branch will send us the name and address of their women's leader or contact person so that we can be faithful with our resources.

The theme for this year is "Our Walk With Christ". The first quarter's topic is Worship. The next three topics will be Study, Fellowship, and Service. We solicit testimonies on these topics and any comments you wish to make. These should be sent to 1614 N. Blue Mills, Independence, Missouri 64056 or e-mail us at womenscouncil@eldersconference.org Most importantly, we request your prayers that this endeavor will be an avenue for praise, an opportunity for learning, and encouragement to serve our Lord through serving His people.

Letter of Thanks

I'm writing this letter to express my gratefulness to the people who brought about the Youth Service for the Summer Series at Waldo Restoration Branch on August 13. I was so very pleased to see the enthusiasm that those young people have for wanting to prepare their lives for Zion. I bought the tape and have plans to share it with some who I know were not able to attend. Those who brought testimonies were on fire. They are young and tender in their faith and need every encouragement they can get. I praise God that we have those among the Restoration Saints who are willing to devote their time and efforts to help bring the youth close to the Savior.

Before attending the Youth Service, I had little idea that so many were involved in camps. It brought back many memories of my youth when I attended camps and was on fire for Zion. Though the work has been held back by many problems, it is indeed encouraging to see that people aren't giving up. Those young people are the hope of the future— some newly converted and baptized, some ordained, and some starting to choose life goals and careers. The experience of expressing their hopes and desires, singing their camp songs, and praising their Lord with their young hearts full was a blessing to see and hear.

I was pleased to hear new camp songs; and though I have a difficult time picking up new tunes without a paper to read from, I found myself humming along and singing the words. I wanted to send the tape to congregations far from the Center Place to let them know what is being shared with the youth of the Restoration.

—Elaine Elefson, Independence, Missouri

Winter and Spring Activities

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 20 | "Women of Faith" Brunch, Buckner Restoration Branch 9:30 am - 12:00 noon |
| February 17 | One day Restoration Women's Retreat, Oak Grove Restoration Branch 9:00 am - 5:00 pm |
| March 31 | Word of Wisdom Workshop, presented by Belton Women's Department at Belton. Call Peggy Feagins for details (816) 761-7419. |
| April 1-6 | 2001 Conference of Restoration Elders. Classes for women will be provided. |

It is with great expectation that we approach this new year. We hope to encourage the women of the Restoration in their faithful walk with Christ.

Willyne Ann Taylor
Restoration Women's Council

News from Nepal

by George Thomas, Sedalia, Missouri

The spring 2000, missionary effort in Nepal, the fifth mission to Nepal sponsored by SEAAM, included Seventy George Thomas, Elder Ray McFarland, and Elder Jim Dunning.

I traveled to Nepal on May 18, 2000, and shared the gospel with several Saints there, as well as taught the gospel to new contacts. Two Nepali men and I traveled to India to share the gospel with sixteen men who wanted to learn about “this man called Jesus.” This meeting took place because of a nonmember who had sat in on one meeting during the fourth mission in Kathmandu, where he heard about Jesus. He returned to India with so much excitement because of his new knowledge of Jesus that he told his friends about Him. He requested that we come to India when we returned to Nepal. We traveled on very crowded buses and overloaded taxis—at one point five people rode in the two bucket seats in the front with eight people in the back seat!

Teaching took place on a flat roof for privacy and fresh air (the temperature was over 100 degrees). A candle was used for light. The Holy Spirit accompanied these sessions in great power. Because of their hungering and enthusiasm for the gospel, we felt impressed to leave Bibles and Books of Mormon in the Hindi language so the people could continue to study and learn after we left. Several men expressed their desires to be baptized. However, this was the monsoon rainy season, and safe streams were not available, so we were unable to have a service. Our plan is to baptize them on the next visit.

Ray McFarland and Jim Dunning arrived in Kathmandu later in May. A group of Saints gathered, and we all shared in a communion service and ordinations of three brethren. We were all blessed by the Holy Spirit. The following days and evenings were spent sharing the gospel in private homes with many opportunities to share the message and testimonies of the living Christ.

We went to the village of Malanchi in the high country to share the gospel with some who had heard previously and other persons wanting to learn. These classes were taught in the barn with the chickens, sheep, goats, and cows. The light was a string of cloth dipped in mustard oil. When the meetings were completed, the people went to their homes after locking us ministers in the barn. This is where we slept, and we were locked in to be kept safe from

the man-eating tigers, leopards, and other dangerous animals in the area.

Several people in that area wish to be baptized. However, because of the severe sacrifice each must pay to become a Christian, we were concerned that more teaching needed to be done. Indra Thapa plans to take other priesthood members with him and return to the village to teach these people more.

We baptized six individuals who had been taught in Kathmandu. Another, who had been introduced to the gospel in December 1999, was baptized in Pokahara.

George, Ray, and Jim all felt the Lord blessed this mission abundantly. The Holy Spirit filled in and used us even with our individual personal weaknesses.

On Saturday, June 17, 2000, we said, “*Nemasti*” until a missionary team returns in the fall.

On September 22, 2000, we arrived in Kathmandu around 2:45 p.m. Those waiting to greet us had waited since 10 a.m. We learned there was a taxi strike taking place against the government, but we were able to take a bus to within two miles of our destination. There were four armed guards on board, which made the ride interesting. At least we didn’t have to carry all of our luggage five miles, like some of us had to do in the past. This trip I had two 70-pound suitcases and a loaded backpack. All in all, it was good to be back in Nepal once again.

We were met by Indra and Ananda. They really look out for us. We are looking forward to sharing Jesus Christ with those who don’t know Him. It looks like there are a number of new people who want to meet us plus a number whom we have visited before. We also look forward to meeting with our people who have already accepted Jesus Christ and are trying to share the gospel.

Everything is going well here at this time. It has been very difficult to make contacts with the members because so many have returned to their villages for the holidays. We have talked to many people, but the “fishing” has been slow.

Tomorrow morning at 6 a.m. we are taking the bus to Pokhara. There we will be meeting with a number of people who have asked for us to come and teach them about

Jesus. On Thursday morning we will be going on up into the Jomson. It is about 9,000 feet. Some more folks want to talk to us. We will be staying until Saturday. Then we will return to Pokhara. On Sunday or Monday we plan to return to Kathmandu.

Ray is doing fine. He slipped and sprained his ankle a little. He had it wrapped with an ace bandage, which seems to be helping. We have a lot of climbing to do in the next couple of weeks. He plans to be extra careful and not let it be more of a problem.

We have several people who want to learn how to share the gospel. We will be spending some of our time teaching the "how-to's."

It was good to learn that some of the people are coming up next week from India to see us and learn more. We are looking forward to their visit.

The other day I mentioned Ray sprained his ankle. After being administered to and with the prayers for him back home, he received a miraculous blessing. The next morning it was completely healed. Immediately we went to the high country, and he has walked over 40 miles of the mountain trails traveling from one village to another without any problem.

During our several days of hiking in the high country, the "fishing" was not as plentiful as we had hoped. We did share and teach a lot, however. We met a couple from New Zealand. Following a good discussion and prayer, Ray handed his card to the woman. She began to cry after reading the verse printed on the back of it - Revelation 3:20. We then were able to have a very personal discussion as to where she is with her Lord and where she would like to be.

Please pray for the work of the Gospel in Nepal.

Charity: The Pure Love of Christ

by Brian O'Neil

Charity is love. Charity is treating someone as if his or her greatest potential was currently being achieved. Or in other words, don't judge them to be worthless and hopeless, even though this may seem to be the case. Remember; judge not, that ye be not judged. Does that mean we cannot judge anything? No. It simply means that a Latter Day Saint should give a sinner the chance to show how good they really are. Why should we dwell on the negative, when in Christ we are free to rejoice. Contention and rivalry are not of God. Period! Believe in someone when your humanness tells you not to. We must judge according to the Word and Spirit in all situations that we find ourselves in. And if you don't know the Word and carry the Spirit, you are completely unfit to judge anything. To short another human being because of their weakness is sin. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is needed just as much by you as it is for your neighbor. Be not easily offended by the careless words of another, you often speak and act unwisely too. May God bless this latter-day work.

Greetings From Nepal

We Saints from Nepal greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

The two missionaries left for the United States, their home, from Kathmandu today at 12 p.m. noon. We pray that God's Spirit will be with them that they will be able to have safe travel back to their homes. We thank all our brothers and sisters and congregations in the United States who supported and prayed for us and sent two missionaries - George Thomas and Ray McFarland - to Nepal. And the saints from Nepal thank you believers who pray for us. We appreciate that the two missionaries helped us and encouraged us towards our Lord Jesus.

Indra Thapa
Kathmandu, Nepal
October 14, 2000

My Testimony of Nigeria

by Mary Anne Gross

In 1992, Hensley stayed in our home for one month, as a delegate to the RLDS World Conference. During this time, Hensley began to see the differences between the RLDS and the Restoration. When he arrived home, back in his country of Nigeria, he began writing letters back here describing his excitement of the Restoration. What a marvelous feeling!

It was then that George Mefferd and Skip Robison felt like they needed to travel to Nigeria at Hensley's request in 1993, to share with the Saints over there, the Restoration story and Gospel.

For many years, since 1992, Hensley kept encouraging me to come to Nigeria to visit with his people. Eventually, the A.R.M. board was formed, because there were others who had an interest in other African nations also. Since its beginning, I have heard the many testimonies and reports given from the returning missionaries and have seen the many pictures they have brought back.

During 1999, I felt the prompting of the Spirit leading me in the direction of Nigeria, and that it was now time for women to start going over. When Steve Ferguson shared those same feelings with me, I very much felt that the Holy Spirit was manifesting the truth to me, through a second witness.

The Lord provided an opportunity for me to travel to Nigeria to visit God's children in another part of His vineyard. It was not only an awesome privilege but an awesome responsibility. The team consisted of Ron Smith, Seventy; Norman Nelson, Elder; Dale Stafford, Elder; Bill Barrett, Elder; Val Gross, Deacon; and Mary Anne Gross, member.

For months before I left, I prayed oft to my Lord as to what would be my purpose for going. Again and again, I had received the same impressions and was strongly convicted that I was to go to Nigeria, not to represent any group, but to just go over and be a member on equal status with my sisters over there. I wasn't to teach any formal classes but to just share my love of Jesus Christ and this Restored Gospel, and to share my testimony of the Book of Mormon.

Our trip was from September 6-28, 2000. We arrived in Nigeria toward the end of their rainy season. It was extremely high humidity but not as hot as I had been trying to prepare for. All of us stayed at Hensley's small home. With four adults and four children, plus the six of us, you

would think it would be very crowded; but it was not. The Lord was so gracious to all of us. There was no running water and the electricity would come on and go off without warning. But when the electricity went off during the evening hours, they would have their lanterns ready, full of kerosene oil, and had them lit immediately. This reminded me of the parable of the ten virgins in the Book of Matthew; those wise ones who kept their lanterns trimmed and were prepared.

During the first full week, while the men were teaching classes, I was to teach the children that had accumulated from around the neighborhood. I must admit, though, that I did not travel to Nigeria prepared to teach any children. I became anxious on the first day when the children began to sit on these hard benches ready to be taught. I remember grabbing Val to help me out. We sat down and he just opened his scriptures to the Book of Mormon and started reading. The children were so eager to listen. This was a beautiful idea. I then began to pray and ask the Lord everyday what I should teach the children. He flooded my mind with subject matter.

On Tuesday, I remember teaching the children about the seven days of creation and also the spiritual creation. Later, I heard Ron teach this to the adults. There was no way that he could hear what I was teaching the children. This same thing happened the following two days. This confirmed to me that I was listening to that still small voice and following His direction. I was very grateful for this and knew the Lord had blessed me in spite of not being prepared. He wanted me to be dependent on Him.

On Thursday, I started teaching, but very soon afterwards, the children became very restless. The lady who was interpreting and I became frustrated, so we told them to take a play break, while we went inside to listen to the men teach. The children wouldn't leave. Several times we would have to go outside and ask them to play a little quieter as they were making quite a commotion. Now, after much frustration and sitting on those hard benches inside, I began to hear the children outside quietly singing the song of the books of Mormon that I had been trying to teach them all week. That was so precious. They had been listening and trying to learn.

As long as the priesthood continued to teach during the day, the adults were willing to stay, no matter how hot it was, or how long they had to sit on those hard benches!

dinner time. On Tuesday, I had gone home early to help Gloria, (Hensley's wife) with the evening meal, while the men went to visit three homes. When they arrived home, Val proceeded to (jokingly) tell me that they all just about got thrown out of each home. The women knew there was a woman as part of the team. It turns out that the women were upset because I had not come along on the visits.

The next day, Val and I went to visit one of the same homes. Rachel gave me this beautiful traditional African outfit. I accepted this gift as an honor and was very humbled. She and her husband did not have work. They have seven children living with them in approximately a 10x15 foot home. To me, she represented the scriptures that talk about the widow who had given her last two mites.

During the second full week, the men had decided to do more home visiting, sharing more time with the individual families and to perform any ordinances, if needed. Hensley, all this time, was very much involved with the building project of the new church. Val spent much of this second week at the new construction sight. When the rest of us would be there and beg to help with the work in some small way, the workers were much surprised as to our desire and ability to work!

As the priesthood are used to being busy all the time while on a missionary trip, this week left some 'down time.' On several occasions, our Lord provided some specific down time for the six of us to come together in prayer. I am very thankful to Ron for listening to that still small voice, to pull us together. On this one particular morning after breakfast, we were just sitting around Hensley's home with nothing definite to do. Ron suggested we pray. Even at that moment, I had felt convicted by the Spirit that He had indeed set that time apart for us. We all felt the presence of the Lord and each was blessed. We finished approximately two hours later. About 10 minutes later, Hensley arrived home and asked if we were all ready to go on some scheduled visits that we had not known about. What beautiful timing of our Lord. It was like He was telling us, "Be still and know that I am God."

It was so easy to love these people, and was strengthening to us to see their smiling faces. It is so easy to tell that they love their Lord. I know that by being there, we also strengthened them. The people sing with great magnitude and with much praise to our God.

Many of these people, who are of the Ebu tribe, understand their heritage to be one of the Hebrew tribes, which made them excited about the Book of Mormon. We gave away many Inspired Versions, Books of Mormons and a few Doctrine and Covenants. We also gave away many children's books.

Once in Lagos, Val and I had the opportunity of visiting in twelve of the Saints' homes. When Ron shared with me the need for me to visit all these homes, he described this area. All were in the ghetto/slum area. This was the first time since we had landed in Nigeria that I felt any fear. Ron reassured me that the church members would take care of me. I prayed to my Lord a lot that evening and told Him that if it was His wisdom that I go, for my way to be easy and clear the next day, and it was so. I felt no fear as we walked to all the homes. I was accompanied by Elizabeth, (the pastor's wife) and two other 21 year old girls, Confidence and Blessing.

During the two evenings we were in Lagos, we had to stay at a hotel. We had as many of the Saints as possible come over in the evenings for class and song. It was a joyous time for us all.

We all had brought over many books that were given away. With the poverty that we saw, all of us ended up leaving just about everything else we had in our suitcases, with the people. Although it wasn't much to us, there is so much joy in the giving. I feel like a part of me will always be in Nigeria.

In route from Lagos to Amsterdam, our plane hit the worst turbulence I had ever experienced. I honestly felt much fear and thought we were going to go down. I was very much comforted by my husband, who kept telling me to remember that God was in control, and that we had accomplished a very fruitful mission. If we died, we died unto the Lord, and that we should be engaged in mighty prayer. I also quickly reminded myself of the time, and that many of you were in prayer meeting praying for us during our travels. I also remembered Prince' prayer of commanding the angels to be around us and the planes which we were to travel in during our return flight home. At that moment, I felt an awesome, incomprehensible power surround me. I know that He allowed me to feel but a fraction of the power that He has and that He was in control. I knew I was in the Lord's presence at that time.

On the way home, I also got to witness my love for Jesus, and the Book of Mormon, to two individuals, whom I could have easily become irritated with due to circumstances even beyond their control, but instead chose to pray for them. Because of that choice, the Lord could bless me and use me by giving me the opportunity to witness for Him.

I am glad to be home, but miss those Saints whom I have met. I thank the Lord for the opportunity that He gave me. I pray that I might be worthy enough to be a part of the building up of Zion, along with my brothers and sisters from far away lands.

Book of Mormon Revisited

by Viola Velt Presler, Independence, Missouri

“Wherefore it came to pass that my father Lehi, as he went forth, prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart in behalf of his people” (1 Nephi 1:4).

These were just words in a book before my recent two-month visit with Sister Susan Lott to Belize, Central America, for L.A.M.B. There in our Corozal Town Restoration Branch, under the diligent nurture of Pastor Arturo Gomez, we met priesthood members whose zeal for the Lord was wholehearted, and whose care for the flock was constant to promote obedience to God’s Word. Scriptures were valued treasures—greatly revered and desired by men and women alike. Some had memorized whole chapters, and children memorized verses each Sunday.

In the preaching of Brother Arturo Gomez, we heard the inspired zeal of Mormon, who said, “I did speak unto my people, and did urge them with great energy” (Mormon 1:51). Brother Guillermo and Brother Anastasio also expounded with the same “energy of soul” that Alma mentions in Alma 3:71.

Sister Kim Augenstein had told me that before Brother Jose Maria Manzanares would be baptized, he asked forgiveness of all he had ever offended, and he knelt in full repentance, pouring out his heart in supplication to the Lord. I thought of Moroni, who did “pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart,” and later also saw this quality in Brother Jose, now a deacon in the Church.

In Brother Nyo (Bernaldo Sanchez), recently ordained to the office of elder, there was an “I can” attitude which I’d seen previously only in Nephi, who said, “If God had commanded me to do all things, I could do them” (1 Nephi 5:157). While sacrificing a day of work to show Sister Susan and me the ruin of Altun Ha, the Blue Hole, and the zoo, he explained how God guided him each day about where to buy melons or mangoes to sell at Corozal Market. He asked God, and often changed his plan afterward, perhaps nudged to go to Orange Walk instead of to Belize City. There he might buy an entire crop of 1,000 pounds of watermelon. He took joy in his work! And when the truck made threatening noises, he did not worry, saying all is in God’s hands. If the truck should stop (in the middle of nowhere), he had faith that the Lord would help him fix it. He was not afraid to try anything new. He had no fear of breakdowns, but his constant “up” attitude was, “I can do

it, with God.”

Of course, there is a flip side to wholeheartedness, because the Book of Mormon also has its Lamans and Korihors. Hearts can also be wholly filled with rage or jealousy or even violence, as in the early frontier days in the western U.S.

The first week we were there, Brother Arturo came to us and said, “We’re going to have a wake.”

A wake? I thought that was for dead people. It almost was. A recent convert, who had disobeyed the Lord and not repented within 90 days, had become disaffected and quite vengeful. That day he had pointed a pistol at Brother Arturo and threatened to kill him. Looking very haggard and worried, Brother Arturo asked us to pray and stay awake with him all night until the Lord should answer our prayers regarding the threat. We prayed. By 1:30 a.m. Arturo had his answer for protection, and he looked as refreshed as any young man free of care.

Then another evening we witnessed in Brother Arturo’s home two very opposite events. Teenage girls rushed in, sobbing, “Our father is trying to kill us.” Drunk and armed with a broken bottle, the father had already harmed their mother. Calmly, Brother Arturo directed them to his phone and helped them call the police, who the next day put the unfortunate man in jail. But only moments after, by contrast, Brother Juan, who was receiving cottage meetings from Brother Arturo, broke into tears and sat sobbing for several minutes. We all became solemn and still. Soon Juan told us that he had heard a voice speak to him, saying, “Do not be a coward. Go ahead and be baptized.”

These are a few of many instances of spiritual warfare in Belize, where our Saints have gathered from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Perhaps the Lord and His way mean so much to them because the change in their lives has brought them freedom from alcohol, adultery, despair, and even violence. They appreciate their new life!

Before partaking of the sacrament, there is open confession to all, as in the early days of the Restoration. If an offended member misses church, the priesthood visit promptly and reconcile. As their forefathers had dreams and visions, old and young alike tell their spiritual dreams

at prayer service each week. The congregation rides the bus together, meets evenings three times a week, celebrates special days, and joins in work days—like the day we removed stones from the “Project,” 20 acres donated by Brother Bill Guthrie for the planting of corn, rice, and all worked together.

Space does not permit telling all of the unselfish sharing—such as Jesusita feeding her own family of seven, plus three workers, Susan and me, and children or whoever came to her door hungry. And nobody ever had to say, “Delmi, do the dishes,” or “Nathan, help your brother.” Help was spontaneous in a family that knew physical labor, but worked together with joy. What could equal the joy of all the wonderful children, who opened their hearts entirely, filled with jokes, laughter, games, play, and singing.

When I returned to the United States, I thought I was “home.” But was I? The words of the poet, Wordsworth,

came to mind:

“Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers.
Little we see in nature that is ours.
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon,”
(from “The World is Too Much with Us”).

“Yes,” I thought, “Our culture has divided our loyalties among the idols of modern technology, physical comforts, the pursuit of possessions, and entertainment through television, computers, movies, and ball games.” I did not know how divided we had become. I yearned to return to the open-hearted children, whose poverty and joy in hard labor had produced in them endurance, courage, a dependence on God, joy, love, and radiance! I had met the living Lehi, Nephi, Alma, Captain Moroni, and Mormon. In their descendants, they live on today.

Latin America Restoration Priesthood Conference

by **Steve Schultz, Independence, Missouri**

A conference of the Latin America Restoration priesthood was held in Corozal, Belize, October 6-9, 2000. It was hosted by the Corozal Belize Restoration Branch. Pastor Arturo Gomez and his assistants spent many hours preparing for this event and transporting people several hours one way from the airports, with the branch women’s society cooking most of the meals.

We were pleased to be there with Dick and Bobbie Smith, who were continuing their Well-Baby Clinic project in Corozal. Dick was able to join the priesthood for the meetings. We had a total of 20 priesthood, who traveled from various parts of Mexico, Honduras, the United States, and Belize. Four new priesthood members attended for the first time.

The conference theme was “Stewardship in the Gospel.” Steve Schultz taught classes on the full meaning and obligations of time, talents, and temporal means as they relate to daily life. Ed Glaser presented special projects and missionary organizational relationships. The brothers were challenged to be led by the Spirit to invest and find ways to implement the gospel toward the Zion ideal where they were. There was much good fellowship and many

serious prayers with the added support of three seventies present.

While we were concerned with the results of Hurricane Keith and the resulting flooding, it was an answer to many prayers that the people, buildings, and crops of Corozal were not damaged—even though in the eye of this terrible storm. Praise the Lord!

While we were there, a two-hour baptismal service for eight new Saints was held at a nearby lake. In spite of pouring rain—without umbrellas or shelter—the service never stopped as each candidate gave a firm testimony of joining Christ’s Church. What commitment! The confirmation service later was equally joyful.

It is also reported from Pastor Arturo Gomez that during the hurricane, the rain tipped over the corn on the B.A.S.E. project. But the wind blew it back up again! It was not a lost crop, although it is not as good a yield as we hoped for. Nonetheless, we praise God for answered prayer.

We all look forward to meeting again in the future as the Lord’s work progresses in Latin America. Thanks for all of your support.

A Most Vital "Key" To The Kingdom Is Repentance

by Paul Gage

As we are now into another new year and take time to reflect on the past and plan for the future, a most vital area to consider is our relationship with God and with other people. We are all familiar with the two great commandments, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:35-39. Variations of these two commandments are found in a number of other scriptures as well.

We know that when we sin against another person we are also sinning against God and thus we restrict our relationship in those instances. The scripture teaches that God cannot tolerate sin in the least degree and that we must repent of our sins and seek forgiveness if we would properly restore our relationship with God and our brothers and sisters.

A person once indicated in a letter that we hear all the talk about repentance, but no one teaches us how to repent. Without repentance we are eternally separated from God. Jesus died to save us from our sins, therefore it is vital to know how to repent; to use repentance as a "key" in opening the Kingdom of God in our lives.

So How Does A Person Repent?

1. Acknowledge that we are a sinner. Luke 18:13. If you don't know or think you are a sinner, ask God.
2. Confess sins in sincerity. Mosiah 11:136-142.
3. What should be our attitude toward repentance?

II Corinthians 7:9 and 10 speak of "Godly sorrow," while III Nephi 5:66 says to ". . . come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit." Our attitude, regarding repentance, must be such that true repentance will take place.

4. Repentance is more likely to be effective in our lives when and as we truly forgive others when they sin against us. Doctrine and Covenants 64:1, 2.

5. Forsake sins and make restitution. Luke 19:1-10 the story of Zaccheus.

6. Go your way and sin no more. John 8:1-11.

7. Once you have truly repented and sought forgiveness of God and others (Matthew 5:22-26) remember them no more. (Hebrews 8:12)

There are numerous other scriptures to support each of these steps that lead toward repentance. Complete repentance involves all of the above steps and maybe more.

Sins do not have to be big, bad, mean, or gross. Hymn 315 in Hymns of the Restoration indicates that "we repent the times we've stood, for the things of lesser good; and for stewardship of time, we have spent unlinked with Thine." Doctrine and Covenants 42 is one of our best scriptural guides for resolving differences in our relationships with others. Of course, the Lord's Prayer makes it very plain, if His Kingdom is to come on earth as it is in heaven, we must forgive others if we expect God to forgive us.

*Repentance: It's good for the soul,
sanctification, and salvation.*

October 12, 2000

Dear Brother Val and team,

We, in the Lagos Congregation, are happy for the visit and the ministry extended to us in Lagos. Please make an effort to reply to this message. We believe that you will assist the Lagos Branch to grow by the support you will give to us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Friday Mbaoma

Blessings in Germany

by Russell M. Reid, Sibley, Missouri

When we first began visiting what was at one time East Germany, we were invited into English classes mainly so the students could hear us speak American English. This proved helpful in being able to share our testimony of Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon. As we introduced ourselves and told a little about our families and our background, invariably a student would ask, “Why are you in Germany?” We would answer that we knew that all their lives they had been told by the Communists that there is no God or Jesus. This led to many schoolyard discussions and many times being invited into homes, where we were able to meet parents and further share the gospel principles.



On my two recent visits, in May and October of 2000, I could finally see a breakthrough of acceptance. I am now invited to classes because I am a minister. Teachers and students want to know what I believe about God and Jesus, and we spend whole class periods discussing this and answering their questions. Invitations to homes allow further opportunity to share with whole families. The study of English in the classroom also includes history and life in the United States, religions, and a study of the Puritans, Amish, and others and why they migrated to America. This gives me the opportunity to teach how Jesus said, “I will build My Church,” what He meant by that, how the Church was changed by man, the Reformation, and how Protestantism began. I am then able to tell the story of the Restoration in all its truth and glory.

In May this led to the request of eleven administrations, and God blessing each one. I always stress to people that there is no power in the oil or myself, but that they must believe in God and His love for His creation. One administration was to a little boy with a high fever and sore throat. He was healed immediately, but his mother decid-

ed to take him to the doctor anyway. After the doctor examined him she wanted to know why he had been brought there as there was nothing wrong with him. The mother then told the doctor about the administration. The outcome of this was that the doctor wanted to meet me—she also believed in the laying on of hands from her study of the Bible. On our visit I learned that she was a Protestant but had become dissatisfied with the church and was searching for the “true Church” (her words).

I looked her in the eye and told her that her search was over because I could lead her to it. On my next trip I took her a Book of Mormon, *The Call at Evening*, and several tracts, including one that pointed out the difference between the King James Version and Inspired Version. Before the evening was over, we were praying together and had become like a brother and sister in Christ.

Doris Adomeit has a niece whose eight-year-old son suffered from dyslexia. He often asked his parents, “Why am I different?” Doris and I wondered if his parents would let me administer to Toni. Then the doorbell rang. Toni’s father said he did not know why he was there, but he felt compelled to come. Doris and I looked at each other and knew God had sent him there. We asked about administration and were immediately invited to go to his house so I could meet Toni. I was told that he did not warm up to strangers. But soon after we arrived, the boy climbed into my lap and started talking to me.

continued on page 28



They were taught the differences between Mormons and Restorationists

Going Forward With Jesus Christ

by Doris Adomeit, Havelberg, Germany

More than one year ago I decided to be baptized, and I became a member of our Church of Jesus Christ.

When I came to the United States, I was interested in learning more about your life, and I was very much impressed. I met a lot of new people who opened their arms for me. I saw you helping each other, and I was allowed to sit at your table at church to share lunch with you. All that seemed to be so obvious.

I often remember nine years ago when I met John Mundy and Russell Reid for the very first time. We soon became good friends. They listened to me, talked to me, and prayed for me and my children. Step by step I realized that this is the mountain I wanted to climb. Years ago I would have said that everything was fate. Today I'm sure it wasn't.

It took a long time until my baptism. But I'll never forget that special morning when I woke up and knew it was time to make a decision. I often look at the photos and remember my warm feelings and deep impressions. It was only my beginning.

When I was home in Germany again I got many letters that showed me your understanding. Today, one year later, I would like to tell you what has happened since the summer of 1999.

First, my children and I moved into a nicer and bigger flat. My son and my daughter had to share a room of eight square meters, but now they've got their own rooms.

The most important thing, then, was to find an apprenticeship for my son. The situation for young people in our region is very bad. Finally, I found a school near here. He has always been interested in computer studies. I was very happy when he got a positive answer, although he doesn't get any financial support from the state.

There was another thing that made me feel fine. I have a sister, but we have not been in contact for years. One day we came together again—as sisters should. I felt really satisfied.

Last summer I had to learn how important our health is. The doctor told me that I had a tumor and would have to be operated on. As you can imagine, I was very afraid. I asked God, "Why did You help me so much all the time, and now I'll have to leave my children alone?" I really couldn't understand.

But some terrible weeks later, everything was done, and I was told that it was nothing malignant.

I believe now that everything has a deeper meaning. It was wrong not to talk to my brothers and sisters and share my fear. But please understand, I have always been a person who had to solve the problems herself. And I still think that God wants us to be active and hard-working.

Finally, some things happened during the last week that caused me to despair again. Just at that time Russell was sent to me to encourage me, and he offered help. Once more I realized that I am not alone. But I often wish there wouldn't be the distance separating us. It helps so much to share everything and to pray together. I have nice friends here, too. But they don't believe in God, so they are not able to understand what's important for me.

I wrote this letter to let you know that I am still learning, still making mistakes—that I try to climb up that mountain and sometimes I roll back and have to start again. Can you understand that? But I am very thankful for your help. Be sure that I will go forward with Jesus Christ as my guide.

continued from page 27 "Blessings in Germany"

It was decided that I would return the next Sunday and ask God's blessing on Toni. The latter part of that week I fasted for three days and nights. When I laid my hands on Toni's head, God poured out His Spirit in abundance. Toni had not been able to ride a bike, which is unheard of since German children learn to ride almost as soon as they can walk. Before the week was out, Toni could ride a bike like a veteran. His mother, who had to tutor him every day with his numbers and letters, testifies that his improvement is more than she hoped for. As a result of this, she is studying the Scriptures and wants to hear more of the gospel message.

During my first visit to Germany, we realized that the young people needed places to engage in some positive activities. We saw so many standing on the street corners in the villages with nowhere to go and nothing but trouble to get into. We have encouraged the opening of school sports centers in the afternoon for intramural sports.

Our testimony is that God and His Son Jesus Christ are alive and well and still sending servants forth to rescue His lost creation in all the world.

Mount Seaview Youth Retreat in Australia

by Helen Archer, Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia



Front L-R: Rebecca DiRico, Aaron Whitcomb, David Archer
Middle L-R: Joanna Mead, Brett Smith, Amanda Mead, Marissa Whitcomb, James Mead, Danny Archer
Back L-R: Robert DiRico, Lauren Smith

frames and was retiring. He was trying to sell everything. He offered to cut all the frames out for me, and he gave me the glass and all the supplies I needed for a good price. We were really blessed that God led me to this good man. Peter also helped me with the frames, and they turned out really nice.

The theme for the camp was “Seek and Ye Shall Find” (Luke 11:10). Doug presented some action-packed classes. One was particularly exciting when he used liquid nitrogen to show the physical changes that some things can undergo. We all grew and learned more about God.

Peter showed the youth how to make billycans. They had fun running down to the creek, filling them up, and seeing who could get his water to boil first.

We have been very blessed to have Doug, Judi, Brett, Lauren, Natalie, and Bryan Smith living here in Tamworth for the last year. For the first time my family has been able to go to church each Sunday and have prayer service on Wednesday nights. Doug’s ministry has been appreciated, and we have all learned more about the Scriptures.

Our sons, Danny and David, have been able to go to youth group on Monday nights with Doug or Judi teaching the class. Brett, Lauren, and two nonmember friends also attend. We have four families meeting for church: Peter, Helen, Danny, and David Archer; Roy and Daphne Schubert; Bob and Bev Wilkinson; and the Smith family.

We recently had an older youth retreat at Mount Seaview, with ten youth in attendance, six boys and four girls. We had some good cooks and great food. Bev Wilkinson, Daphne Schubert, Marguerite Whitcomb, Nina DiRico and Roy Schubert worked hard in the kitchen to feed the hungry mouths. Judi Smith looked after some of the little ones and kept them busy so everything could run smoothly for the retreat.

We had many blessings for the retreat. While I was preparing the craft, I couldn’t find the special wood I needed. I was planning on the youth making photo frames so they could put pictures in them as a reminder of their experience at the retreat. I was having so much trouble, I began to think I had chosen the wrong craft. Then I went to see a man who made

We had a great campfire, with everyone joining the singing. We were also blessed in this because the next week there was a total fire ban.

The weather was beautiful, and the creek was a good place to cool off. We also held our own mini Olympics.

The retreat started Friday night and finished Sunday at lunchtime. It was a very full and busy time. Sunday we held a special dedication service on a bill in this beautiful place and another service in the Kookaburra room. Everybody left for home feeling closer to the Lord.

Plans are now under way for a reunion January 6-13 at Mount Seaview Resort. Please remember our reunion in your prayers.



Helen Archer instructing the kids

Erie Beach Youth Camp

by Elder Russ Reid

This past summer I had the privilege of being asked to pastor a youth camp at Erie Beach in Canada. It was quite a unique camp as it was really two camp in one. This activity is to the credit of Betty Lou Newman of Ontario, Canada. Years ago she saw the need for activities for Restoration young people. She brought together a staff and acquired a camp-ground and held the first camp for eight to twelve year olds. In a few years she realized the need for the youth as they outgrew the junior camp, so Elder Fred Brown was recruited to direct the first camp that included twelve to eighteen year olds. This camp is held during the same week but the grounds are large enough to keep activities separate except at meal time. Since the first double camp, Betty Lou's daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Kurt Fishwild have directed the older camp. Betty Lou directs the younger group.



There were more than sixty campers with most of them in the older camp. There were young people from Canada, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and as far away as Texas who had met some friends at a reunion held at Temple Grove in Pennsylvania the last three years.

This was the last camp for some of the seniors who have

been with the activity since the beginning so there were some sad farewells. My responsibilities include ministry to both groups which kept me quite busy, but brought me many moments of great joy. I taught classes to the older group as well as

leading all worship services and participation at camp fires. For the younger ones, I told stories and shared testimonies each day and shared at their camp fires (held earlier).

Betty Lou and her staff, over the years, get a round of applause from me for providing ministry in a remote area for our Restoration youth.

Report From the Ava, Missouri Saints

by Randy Spurlock

Recently we were visiting in Independence. It seemed that everyone there had the same question: "What is going on with the Saints at Ava, Missouri?" Presently the Restoration Saints are in a court battle with the Remnant Church seeking ownership of the church building. Since mid-February, the Ava Restoration Branch Saints have been meeting in the home of Randy and Renee Spurlock at Squires, Missouri. Through answers to our prayers, "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning".

During the past eight months we have experienced a generous outpouring of the Spirit. We feel we have something special here, and we request the prayers of the Saints that the Spirit will continue to be with us.

Each Sunday, we have Church School commencing at 10:00 a.m. At 11 a.m., we begin a wonderful hour of worship, with a variety of speakers from our local group. Priesthood visitors from Springfield and Cross Timbers, Missouri have also blessed us. In August, Paul and Peggy

Smart from Kearney, Missouri held a weekend study retreat. When all the priesthood calls have been confirmed and accepted, every office from deacon to elder will have one to three men in place and serving.

Yes, the Lord works in mysterious ways. Our services have had near 50 attending, with 30 being our average. We have had two baptisms and two ordinations, one baby blessed and an upcoming wedding! Most important, we have all witnessed the Spirit surge as some have had prophetic experiences of angelic visits, dreams and visions, healings and divine instruction. I think I can answer for our group and say that "the visions and blessings of old are returning" and feeding the Ava Restoration Branch Saints.

We invite any of the Saints who are traveling through southwest Missouri to worship with us! For directions contact Ike and Nancy Rhoades, 417-683-3661; e-mail (idrholdes@goin.missouri.org) or Randy and Renee Spurlock, 417-683-2910; e-mail (randyinmo@aol.com).

MELCHISEDEC CREDENTIALS GUIDELINES (Adopted April, 1997)

These guidelines are issued in an effort to bring integrity to the seating of elders and to insure individual rights, while upholding the Restoration Doctrine as perceived by a majority of the body of elders. Specific inquiries concerning status prior to the Conference should be directed to the Coordinating Council of Elders, P.O. Box 4085, Independence, Missouri 64051.

1. For purposes of these guidelines, the words "Restoration branch" are defined as any organized body which holds as its tenets the original doctrines of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ as founded by Joseph Smith, Jr., through prophetic leadership.
2. For purposes of these guidelines, the word "faction" is defined as any organized body not adhering to the original doctrines of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ as founded by Joseph Smith, Jr., or which practices doctrine not in compliance with the Statement of Faith and Doctrine adopted by the Conference of Restoration Elders—*i.e.*, the ordination of women to priesthood offices, the practice of open communion, the practice of washing of feet, and the ordaining of men to the offices of seventy, high priest, bishop, evangelist-patriarch, apostle, or prophet, where a proper calling cannot be initiated without authorized Apostolic or Presidential action.
3. Participation shall be extended to all Melchisedec priesthood accepted by Restoration branches whose office and ordination have been recognized by the same.
4. Participation shall be extended to all Melchisedec priesthood who, while not joined with a branch, have been authoritatively ordained and who have continued faithful to their calling by supporting the "Restoration Position."
5. Participation shall be extended to all Melchisedec priesthood who were authoritatively ordained and who for reasons of conscience or physical location have continued to minister within the framework of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but who have not subscribed to nor participated in divergent practices or doctrine.
6. Participation shall be extended to all Melchisedec priesthood who were authoritatively ordained in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints—but who may have since affiliated with one or more of the factional movements—who are willing to renounce said affiliation and repent of any participation in divergent practices or doctrines; including, but not limited to rejection of any subsequent ordinations.
7. Circumstances not covered in the above may be reviewed and acted upon by the Credentials Committee on an individual basis. Effective application of the above is contingent upon a close, cooperative working relationship between branches in sharing of information, records, and decisions.
8. Appeals from the decision of the Credentials Committee shall be made in writing. This appeal shall be delivered to the Coordinating Council of Elders for review, consideration, and action. If in the event the appeal is denied by the Coordinating Council of Elders, the appeal may be delivered to a committee of twelve elders elected equally from the quorums of elders of said Conference, whose decision shall be final.

2001 CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

REGISTRATION FORM (Please Copy as Needed)

(Please Complete a Form for Each Person Attending – Print or Type All Information Requested)

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Restoration Branch/Group: _____ Location: _____

Priesthood Office (if any): _____ Date Ordained: _____

Check Most Accurate Status:

- Active in Restoration Branch or Group
 Inactive in Restoration Branch/Group because Isolated Can't support local group
 Supportive of Restoration Cause, but attend RLDS
 Other—please comment: _____

Housing and Meal Preferences: _____ Number of Other Family Members Attending: _____

- Will Make Own Arrangements
 Need Assistance Prefer Motel/Hotel Prefer Private Home
 Please reserve a meal ticket at \$12.50 (five lunches)

Please note that there is no registration fee for attending the 2000 Elders' Conference.

Offerings will be taken, and your donations will be gratefully accepted.

Mail to: The Conference of Restoration Elders, P.O. Box 4085, Independence, MO 64051

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