

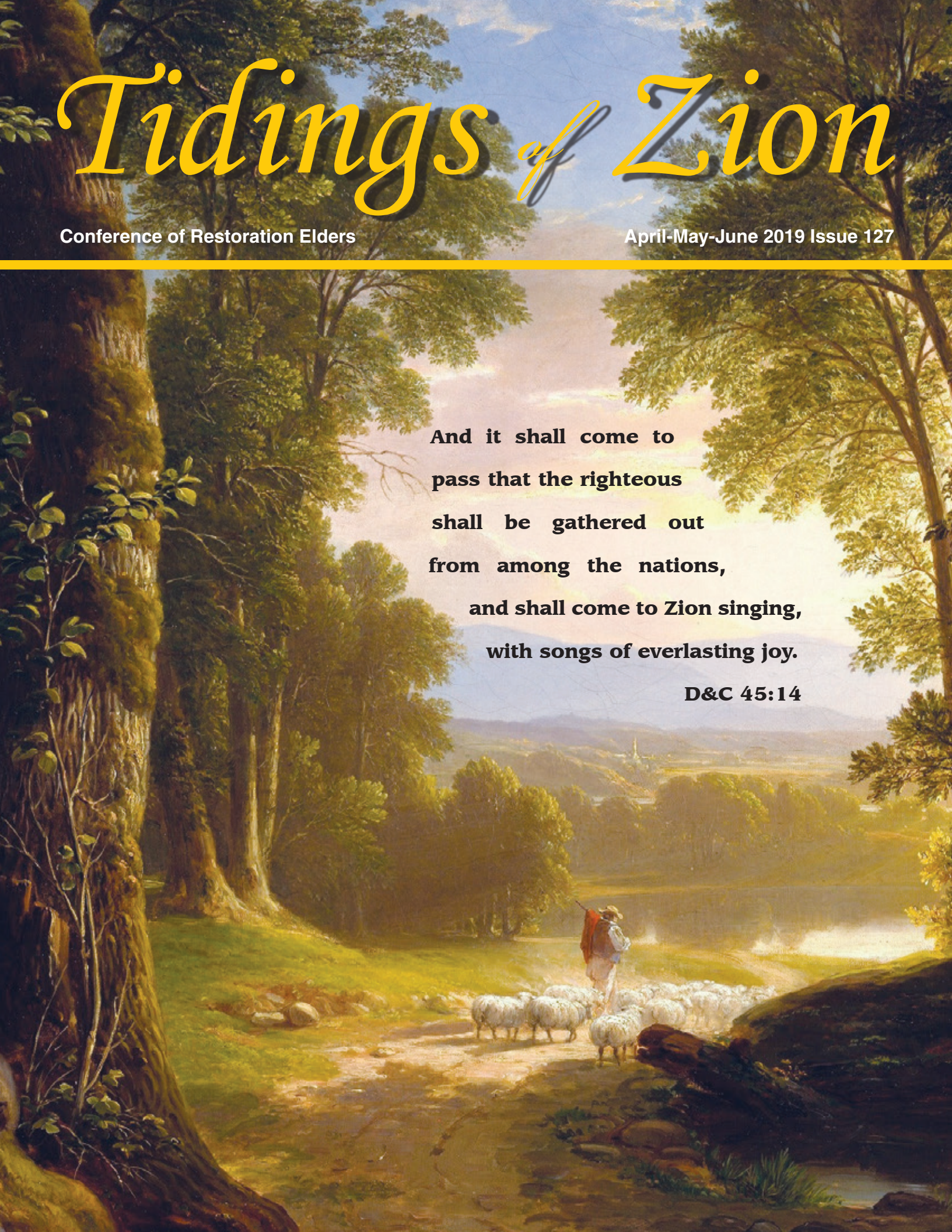
Tidings of Zion

Conference of Restoration Elders

April-May-June 2019 Issue 127

**And it shall come to
pass that the righteous
shall be gathered out
from among the nations,
and shall come to Zion singing,
with songs of everlasting joy.**

D&C 45:14



The Tidings of Zion is published quarterly by the Conference of Restoration Elders. It is under the editorial responsibility of the Coordinating Council, Richard Neill, Chairman. It is sent to all who desire to receive it.

An annual contribution of \$20 is appreciated.

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 in 1996).

The Conference exists to:

1. Organize the coming together of Melchisedec priesthood, as well as the Aaronic priesthood 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 Intention and 1993 Conference Materials).
2. Support Restoration branches in their efforts to work together.
3. Provide needed resources to branches and members as they are requested.
4. Offer ongoing support and resources to Restoration priesthood.
5. Offer support to the elders to take the gospel message to the world.

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.

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2019 Restoration Branch Family Reunion and Elders Conference

“Be Ye Transformed” (Romans 12:1-2 & Philippians 2:1-5)

Summary of Worship Services and Classes

—Saturday, June 22, 2019, 7:00 PM at Waldo/CPRS —

Elder Ram Baral Shares About His Visit With President Trump

Sunday, June 23 — Be Ye Transformed for Our Journey to Zion

AM Prayer Service Presiders	Sunday Morning Presiding (P) Speaking (S)	Sunday Afternoon	Evening Worship Services Presiding (P) Speaking (S)
To Be Determined	To Be Determined (P) To Be Determined (S)	Conference of Restoration Elders (Opening Session)	Elder Jay Havener (P) Seventy Richard Neill (S)

AM Prayer Service Presiders	Morning Adult Classes Teachers	Afternoon Adult Classes Teachers	Evening Worship Services Presiding (P) Speaking (S)
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Monday, June 24 — Be Ye Transformed through Fasting and Prayer

High Priest Paul Gage	Elder Shaun Turner	Priest Steven Henson	Elder Vim Horn (P) Elder Tom Mitchell (S)
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Tuesday, June 25 — Be Ye Transformed through the Renewing of Your Heart and Mind

High Priest Francis Harper	Elder Steve Kropp	Priest Andrew Joyce	Elder Paul Edwards (P) Elder Larry Cottrill (S)
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Wednesday, June 26 — Be Ye Transformed and Be A Good Steward

High Priest Marlin Guinn	Elder Bob Dickson	No Afternoon Classes Family Fun & Fellowship	Elder Lyle Smith (P) Elder Brian Herren (S)
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Thursday, June 27 — Be Ye Transformed and Live Like Jesus

High Priest Cloyce Coffman	Elder Doug Smith	Elder Ram Baral	Elder Sean Telljohann (P) Elder David Joyce (S)
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Friday, June 28 — Be Ye Transformed and Bear Good Fruit

High Priest Steve Bohall	Elder Aaron Smith	To Be Determined	Elder Brian Mundy (P) Elder Eric Odida (S)
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Children & Youth Classes—Teachers & Age Groups for the Week

	Ages 3-5 Dana Smith Grades K-2 Donna Vasquez Grades 3-5 Eva Cartwright	Grades 6-8 Rebecca Griffin Grades 9-12 TBA	
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Please Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019Reunion-CRE>

Gathering of the Saints

There is a great movement taking place in the Church, which is "The Gathering." Individuals, families, and groups are coming to "The Land of Zion." They have felt God's direction to come and be a part of His earthly Kingdom. We offer our warmest greetings to those of you who have come. We stand ready to assist you and help you to find your place. Together, as the body of Christ, we pray for those of you who yearn to come. May barriers flee away and free you to join the greatest movement of all the ages. As we sanctify our lives and keep ALL of God's commandments, Zion shall again come on the earth, that City of Enoch, which God caught up unto Himself nearly five thousand years ago.

<i>Come, ye that love the Lord,</i>	<i>We're marching to Zion,</i>
<i>And let your joys be known;</i>	<i>Beautiful, beautiful Zion;</i>
<i>Join in a song with sweet accord,</i>	<i>We're marching upward</i>
<i>Join in a song with sweet accord,</i>	<i>to Zion</i>
<i>And thus surround the throne,</i>	<i>The beautiful city of God.</i>
<i>And thus surround the throne.</i>	

Should We Gather Home to Zion?

By High Priest Paul J. Gage
Independence, Missouri



To gather or not to gather...*is not the question!*

The question is, "What did the Lord say about gathering?" The answer is found in Doctrine and Covenants 108:2a. Most church members can probably quote part of 2a, ***"...gather ye together, O ye people of my church, upon the land of Zion, all you that have not been commanded to tarry."*** This article is not intended to criticize anyone, but this principle of the gathering seems to be a "hot topic" these days. It is for good reason. Read 108:1-4 and the whole section. Verse one is a warning and verse two starts with the word, "Wherefore," which means "for what reason." It was because of what God said in verse one that the Saints were commanded to gather unless commanded to tarry. So they would be prepared for His Coming.

Section 108 was given November 3, 1831. Read the introductory statement to 108.

Doctrine and Covenants 102, 105, and many others tell us what happened. In a word, it was **"disobedience,"** a result from man's agency even in the Garden of Eden. I will not even try to say what method God would choose to use to command someone, but most people would likely think it would be something from God's mouth, whether Himself or a servant, and not just a "good feeling."

It has been said by some that if the Saints had complied with what God told them and Zion's Camp had been successful, today there would likely be ambassadors from the Church in every nation of the world because we would have Zion to show as an example.

Then there is the principle of gathering versus the principle of moving. This is said with no intention of chastising anyone. Sometimes, we may all ask ourselves if we have gathered or just changed geographic locations. There is a great lack of "unity" even among the Restoration Branches in Jackson and surrounding counties. It would seem that "we" have a long way to go and a short time to get there. Read Doctrine and Covenants 28, especially verses 1 and 2.

The commandment to gather has never been revoked, though counsel has been given by most of the prophets of the Reorganization to follow God's directions from 1831 along with fasting and prayer. As the words of a well-loved hymn, "Admonition," states, "Time is ripe! My work must hasten! Whoso will may bide the hour. Naught can harm whom God protecteth. Elements confess His power. **Up ye, then, to the high places I have bid you occupy. Peril waits upon the heedless, Grace upon the souls who try.**" Interestingly enough, this hymn has always had seven verses, but for many years only four verses were included in the hymnals. I suppose we could say we have ignored some of God's counsel even in that hymn. Take some time to read and sing that hymn and then also read and sing, "Trust and Obey, for there's NO OTHER WAY."

The Gathering: His Elect Hear His Voice

By Deacon Jacob Roberts
Independence, Missouri



Genesis 7:70: “And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem.”

The Cause for the Gathering

Because of his sins, the kingdom of Solomon was divided between the House of Israel—Northern Kingdom, consisting of ten tribes; also known as Ephraim—and the House of Judah—Southern Kingdom. (1 Kings 11-12.) The Northern Kingdom was ruled by Jeroboam. He did not keep the Lord’s commandments and made Israel to sin also (1 Kings 14:7-10). They were led into captivity and exile by Assyria in about 722 BC (2 Kings 17:21-23). The prophets prophesied that they would be scattered over the earth and isles of the sea (Amos 9:9, 2 Nephi 7:11-13, 34-39). The Southern Kingdom was conquered and led into captivity by the Babylonian Empire in 586 BC because of their disobedience (2 Kings 24-25). They returned from their captivity and built up Jerusalem again (Ezra and Nehemiah). This was done to prepare for the time of the Messiah.

Before the official end to the British Mandate in Palestine at midnight on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of a Jewish state, to be called the State of Israel. Even though this was part of God’s plan, this was not the end of the captivity of Israel. Many confuse

the State of Israel, as we know it today, with the House of Israel, the Northern Kingdom/Ten Tribes/Ephraim. There is a distinction. All Jews are Israelites, but not all Israelites are Jews. It is the House of Judah involved in the Land of Israel today. An interesting fact that many may not know is that the State of Israel had another consideration for their name: New Judea. The Jewish people have been in the state of gathering or making “*aliyah*”—ascent, the act of going up—to the Promised Land since that time.

Ephraim and Manasseh on this continent and the Church have sinned against and disobeyed God’s commandments. We can see this throughout the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and Church History. God scatters His people when they sin and disobey His commandments, but He also promises to gather them again. This He does because of the covenants He has made with our fathers—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Lehi, and Joseph Smith Jr. We wait for the fulfillment of the return or gathering of the House of Israel—Northern Kingdom/Ten Tribes/Ephraim—from their captivity. When this day and time occurs, we will have Zion. In Psalms 14:7, the question of when will the Lord establish Zion is asked, and then the answer is given. The Lord will establish Zion when He brings back the captivity of His people. The captivity will end when they repent of their unbelief, disobedience, come to a knowledge of their Redeemer and who they are, seek Him with their whole heart, and call on Him for deliverance.

The Place for the Gathering

God has promised that He will gather His elect, those who are righteous, from the four quarters of the earth—the north, south, east, and west—to the land of promise (Matthew 24:28; Mark 13:31; 1 Nephi 5:255, 7:56; 3 Nephi 2:107, 109; 3 Nephi 7:29; Ether 6:12; DC 32:2b, 45:7b, 14). God has prepared and consecrated the land of Missouri for the gathering of His Saints (DC 52:1b, DC 57:1a, b), for them to be prepared and ready for the coming of the Lord in His Glory (Genesis 7:70;). The elect, who is Israel (Isaiah 45:4),

will be gathered to Zion by the Angels of God (Matthew 24:40, Mark 13:44, Luke 17:38) from their captivity.

To Gather or Tarry?

The Saints in the early Church were to be led by God through the Prophet of the Church, by His Spirit, whether to gather to Zion or to tarry (DC 63:11; 108:2a). What of us today? What are the Saints to do in this time of disorganization and discord? I wonder if this is the reason there haven't been many that have gathered since the Church began to fall into apostacy, which is a gradual turning away from His commandments and ordinances.

Christ is the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, 5:23; Colossians 1:18), and it is to Him we are to seek for this answer. Christ is the only one that can answer whether you are to gather or tarry. Those who have been told to tarry should continue to prepare themselves spiritually and temporally for that day when the Lord calls them to gather. Jesus is also the good shepherd (John 10:11, 13), and Israel is His sheep (Psalms 78:52, 79:13). Jesus calls to His sheep and searches for and seeks them out (Alma 3:105; Ezekiel 34:11). His sheep hear His voice and follow Him and will enter His fold. Will you listen for the voice of the Shepherd of Israel whether you are to gather or tarry? A day will come when our Shepherd will gather all His sheep into the folds of Zion (Jeremiah 23:3).

The following is a testimony about tarrying from Elder Jay Havener from Michigan:

"At the time of my testimony, I was actively trying to gather. I had just completed my degree as a teacher in 1990. I attended several teacher job fairs in the Kansas City area, sent resumes, and whenever I would get close to a job, something would happen at the last minute and I would lose a sure-fire opportunity. This happened several times, and I was getting frustrated with God. The straw that broke the camel's back was when

my wife, Kathi, was contacted out of the blue by another manager where she worked who wanted her to come to Kansas City. This was a Thursday, and he needed her answer the following Monday. We prayed, talked to the patriarch in our area, prayed some more, and many things came together in the matter of hours. She went to work Monday and called the manager to tell him she would take the position. He apologized and said he couldn't take her because her manager here would not approve the transfer. Nothing she could say or do would change his mind. I was totally angry with God. We had literally jumped through incredible hoops to decide in three days to make the move. I was not very kind to my Heavenly Father.

"A day or two later, late at night, I was lying in bed, stewing about all of this. I had dozed off, and something woke me. I heard the audible voice of my Heavenly Father tell me that all these near misses that we had gone through and the quickness we'd had to make about a decision to gather was so He could show me that when the time for us to gather would come, how quickly we would have to move. He told me that I was to tarry until that time when His Spirit would open the way for us to gather. I think perhaps there are two reasons He wanted me to tarry. One, to keep me away from old influences, having grown up in the area, and two, because of the work that needs to be done in this part of the vineyard. I have endeavored to be a stabilizing influence among the branches in the Great Lakes region. Perhaps another reason is the heritage that exists in this region from the days of J.J. Cornish, J.J. Ledsworth, and Joseph Luff. There is some reclamation work to be done, and when it becomes necessary to flee to Zion, someone needs to point the way and prepare those that return to their heritage."

The Purpose of the Church and Each Branch

The Church was established in the last days for the restoration of His people and the gathering of His Saints to Zion, which will be the city New Jerusalem. The city will be built, beginning at

the Temple Lot, by the gathering of the Saints. A temple will be built in this generation of the gathering of His chosen people, Israel (DC 83:1-2). The church was to purchase the land for their inheritance (DC 45:12c), but the Church of our day has sold off our inheritance to feed themselves. God warns us in scriptures about those shepherds who don't feed the flock but feed themselves (Ezekiel 34). God will set up shepherds who will feed the flock. The Lord will have to redeem the Land of Zion. For Zion will be a land of peace, a city of refuge, and a place of safety for the Saints. Those among the wicked that will not take up sword against his neighbor will have to flee unto Zion for safety. It will be the only people that will not be at war with one another (DC 45:13a, b). The elect will be gathered into one place (Zion), to prepare their hearts and be prepared in all things, for the day that tribulation and desolation come upon the wicked. We should have no fear, worry, or anxiety if we are living according to God's commandments. The tribulation and desolation are for the wicked (DC28:1-3). When we see this, we are to look up and rejoice because our redemption draws nigh.

In *Concerning our Whereabouts*, from the song by Joseph Luff that he sang in the Stone Church, November, 1907: "If, loving your God and neighbor, you'll purge yourselves of all selfishness—fear not the scourge! For angels will camp where beholding this sign of Sainthood, and guard you, because ye are mine. The Father saith "Yea!"—the Spirit "Amen!" Repeat to the Nations this warning again: The end is approaching—Redemption is near and Jesus ere long, will in glory appear."

From the *Pastoral Manual*, pg. 20, "It is, therefore, clear the purpose of the branch is none other than the purpose of the church." Each branch should be calling on the Lord to receive counsel on how to fulfill the purpose of the church both spiritually and temporally. On July 22, 2012, we received a message from the Lord, through Seventy Richard Neill, "To my people, Prepare the Center Place for the receiving of the Nations." Are we

preparing the Center Place for the Nations? How can we prepare in the condition we are in? We are a scattered people. Again, we need to call on the Lord for direction on how we are to prepare.

Pattern of Zion

We find a pattern in Genesis 7 of how Zion was established then and how it will be established again. God called Enoch and clothed him with glory—intelligence equals "light and truth" DC 90:6a—and gave him commandment to call the people to repentance. All nations feared Enoch because of the word of God and the language given by God. Those that fought against God were cursed. There were wars and bloodshed among them. The glory of God that was on His people caused all the nations to have the fear of the Lord upon them. The Lord called His people *Zion* because they lived the law of the celestial kingdom (DC 102:1-2). They were of one heart, of one mind, dwelt in righteousness, and had no poor among them. Enoch continued to preach in righteousness to the people of God and in his days built a city called the city of holiness, even Zion. We await the day when God will call someone to lead His people to obey the celestial law and build the city Zion.

For those who have received testimony and confirmation that they are to gather in our day, keep the following statement from the *Times and Seasons* in mind. This was given regarding the Saints gathering to Nauvoo but can be applied to the Center Place and those gathering to the Land of Zion:

"We would wish the Saints to understand that, when they come here they must not expect to find perfection, or that all will be harmony, peace and love; if they indulge these ideas, they will undoubtedly be deceived, for here there are persons, not only from different States, but from different nations who, although they feel a great attachment to the cause of truth, have their predjudices [prejudices] of education, and consequently it requires some time before these

things can be overcome: again, there are many that creep in unawares, and endeavor to sow discord, strife and animosity, in our midst, and by so doing bring evil upon the Saints; these things we have to bear with, and these things will prevail either to a greater or lesser extent until “the floor be thoroughly purged” and “the chaff be burnt up.” Therefore let those who come up to this place, be determined to keep the commandments of God, and not be discouraged by those things we have enumerated, and then they will be prospered, the intelligence of heaven will be communicated to them, and they will eventually see eye to eye, and rejoice in the full fruition of that glory, which is reserved for the righteous.” *Times and Seasons* Vol. 2. No. 6. Pg 276-277

In closing, the difference between gathering and relocating is the condition of the heart. God seeks a pure heart dedicated wholly to Him. All who come to the Center Place are not truly “gathering.” D&C 64: 7-8: “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; for, verily, I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, wherefore they shall be plucked out. 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; and liars, and hypocrites shall be proved by them, and they who are not apostles and prophets shall be known. And even the bishop, who is a judge, and his counselors, if they are not faithful in their stewardships, shall be condemned, and others shall be planted in their stead; for, behold, I say unto you that Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven. And the day shall come, when the nations of the earth shall tremble because of her, and shall fear because of her terrible ones. The Lord hath spoken it. Amen.”

The Gathering

By Judith Hawley
Independence, Missouri



The Song “We’re Marching to Zion” and Its True Meaning

When I was growing up in the Baptist church, we often sang the song “We’re Marching to Zion.” Everyone sang it with such gusto, especially my father.

As I grew older, I began to ask about this City of God which we were singing about called a Zion. No one seemed to know the answer. No one seemed to know where that city was. One answer I did get was that there was a mountain in Israel near the city of Jerusalem called Zion.

Shortly after I joined this church in February of 1971, I was in a church service when this song was sung. Being the curious person I have always been, I began asking about this City Zion and did they know anything about it? To my great surprise, I got an answer to every one of my questions.

Zion was a real place. It was a real city. The city and its people had been taken up into heaven to dwell with God. I was told by the people in this church that Zion will again come on this earth. It is to be in the location now called Independence, Missouri, known as the Center Place, and the lands round about. We can be in Zion if we prepare our hearts and follow the commandment of the Lord to “Gather” here.



*Women's Retreat at the Parkersburg Restoration Branch,
West Virginia, in April of 2019*

Words of Light

The morning of January 15, 2019, found Dorothy Dalton and myself at the Price Publishing Restoration Bookstore in Independence, Missouri. We were there to read and choose articles on "The Gathering" from a three-volume collection of those collected years before by Brother Henry Livingston from the *Saints Herald* going back to the 1800s.

Dorothy had just finished reading a couple of articles to me when we turned to one written by Bishop G.L. DeLapp, published in one of the *Saints Heralds* in 1947, entitled, "Gather My Saints Together Unto Me." She began to read it to me. As she did, I was aware of an angel standing next to me on my left. Dorothy was on my right, and we were both sitting at a desk in a back room at the bookstore. I could see the outline of part of the robe the angel wore. It was like viewing a charcoal drawing or just the outline of a person. Then I felt the angel's nearness in a more powerful way. I "knew" the angel wanted me to pay particular attention to what Dorothy was reading. She was reading to me Isaiah 43:4-9:

⁴Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. ⁵Fear not; for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my

daughters from the ends of the earth; ⁷Even everyone that is called by my name; for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. ⁸Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. ⁹Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled; who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

As she read the printed words to me, I suddenly could see a paper in front of me suspended in the air. There were words there on that paper in the air in front of me, though I could not read them. The printed words changed, and rising up from every letter in each word in the same shape as that letter, came light. It was a yellow light rising upward from each letter, each word. The entire written scripture came to life in that rising, shining, golden light.

Then it was as if the angel impressed upon my thoughts to listen further. Dorothy then read a scripture from Psalms 50:1-6:

"The Gathering of the Saints—Obedience
enjoined. A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. ³ Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. ⁴ He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. ⁵ Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. ⁶ And the heavens shall declare his righteousness; for God is judge himself. Selah."

As she read each of these two scriptures, the Lord's Spirit came down more and more powerfully upon me, moving me to tears. When those scriptures were read to their entirety, the angel was gone. The angelic experience was ended.

It was impressed upon me how important these two scriptures were, and I felt they were to be pivotal when presenting the classes on “The Gathering” at the women’s and youth retreats in April in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

I also KNEW God had sent an angel to demonstrate to all who would listen how very important to the Lord the gathering IS!

It is my belief, if God would send an angel to point out scriptures as we studied “The Gathering,” then He would send angels to help all who would heed His commandments to GATHER. And be with all who would prepare and gather.

An Administration

In February of this year, 2019, with Dorothy Dalton, I attended a Sunday evening service at the Missionary Restoration Branch near Independence, Missouri. After the service, I asked Elder John Friend for administration. He got Elder Dale Carrick to assist, and the three of us went into the nursery cry room.

Brother Dale spoke first, followed by Brother Friend. To my knowledge, Brother Friend did not know of my preparing for classes in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Nor did he know the subject of those classes. In his prayer of confirmation, he said to me that I was sent forth to teach the Gathering. That I was not to be afraid to do this, and though some would oppose it, I was to stand firm on this matter. Further, he said that by my standing firm, it would turn the hearts of some opposed, to gather.

I was overjoyed to receive this firm confirmation of the Lord’s will in the subject for my classes. In my heart, I was asking for just that very thing. I left that room with a lighter heart. A heart filled with joy. A knowledge that I had been given my assignment by the Master Himself, and I set my face steadfastly to fulfill the task.

A Day of Gathering

By Renee Webster
Mentor, Ohio



On Saturday, April 13, 2019, a gathering of Saints took place in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for a combined Women’s and Youth Retreat. It was an opportunity for the men to help out with the youth while the women enjoyed some fellowship and worship among themselves. The theme for the Retreat was “Gathering.”

The women started the morning with Sister Janet Dickson sharing her testimony of recently gathering to the land of Zion from Texas. Sister Dickson and her husband had been looking to gather for five years. The Lord finally put all the pieces in place for them to make the move. When the Lord moved, it all happened very quickly. God provided all needed things.

The ladies divided into small groups and shared with each other their blessings and prayer requests. We wrote these on index cards, exchanging cards so we could pray for each other through out the coming year. We then gathered back together to hear Sister Monica Rush share with us her



testimony of how God has been working in her life since we last saw her at last year's retreat.

In the afternoon, Sister Judith Hawley shared with us the great importance of the Saints gathering to the Center Place. We were reminded that all people are commanded to gather unless specifically told to tarry. It was shared that several families in our area have received the testimony that they are to tarry. The rest of the ladies were encouraged to seek earnestly through fasting and prayer to know if they are to tarry or gather.

The ladies had a worship service in the afternoon in which they shared their testimonies with each other. It is always uplifting to hear how God is moving among His Saints.

During the day, the youth had a class with Sister Hawley in the morning on the importance of gathering to the Center Place. They studied historical gatherings as well as the commandments to gather. The youth went to the mall in the afternoon and participated in making their own ceramic pieces at a local art studio.



Both groups came together for a campfire after dinner. Campfire was lead by Sisters Brenda and Alexandra Telljohann. It was a wonderful way to end our day. It is always amazing how God moves among us when we gather as Saints of one heart and mind to worship Him. We were truly blessed with Godly fellowship through out our time together. A special thank you to the Parkersburg Restoration Branch for hosting our gathering, all of their preparations, and the wonderful meals they provided.

Our Gathering Testimony

By Michelle Turner
Independence, Missouri

This story starts years ago when Shaun and I tried to gather into the Center Place, but things didn't line up. It was a very difficult time for us, but looking back, it strengthened us individually and as a couple. Shaun was very discouraged coming back to Michigan, and neither he nor I wanted to think about gathering. In the meantime, the Lord gave us responsibilities and a mission to share the message of Zion. He put people in our lives who renewed Christ's love within our hearts.

After some time, I eventually started to feel a desire to gather, but Shaun was very cautious and skeptical about the Lord's will for us to do so. He would say, "The Lord will have to hit me with a 2X4 before I gather again." He was not willing to subject our family to the pain and trials



The Turner Family

we endured in 2010-2012 without an undeniable experience.

Time went on, and in December 2016, Shaun agreed to pray, fast, and study about the Lord's will regarding our gathering to the Center Place. His desire was that the Lord would tell both of us individually. After a few weeks, while I was in our bedroom putting laundry away, I heard the Lord tell me to prepare to gather. He also instructed me to keep teaching the youth about Zion and that Shaun needed to minister in Canada more.

I was so excited, but I remember asking the Lord to please tell my husband. I immediately felt the urge to tell Shaun, so I did. He was reading, and I went to him with a smile. He was smiling too, and I let him know that the Lord spoke to me about gathering in. Shaun smiled and said the Lord spoke to him as well, but he wanted me to share first. So, I told him that the Lord said to prepare to gather in eighteen months, as well as the other details. He said he received the same instructions and that we would work toward that goal.

As the year went on, we did as we were directed by the Lord. We tied up loose ends with our home and lives, and Shaun began looking for a job in the Kansas City area in January, one year after our experience. He was having a difficult time due to cascading layoffs in management and job freezes due to those layoffs. All vacancies were first being filled by individuals that were laid off, which made job prospects very limited.

Time was getting short. It was near the end of May, and the house would be up for sale within three weeks. Shaun finally came to the point where he went to God and told Him that we had been obedient in preparing our lives for the move, but he needed a job. The Lord immediately told him to ask Jim, his supervisor, if he could transfer his current job to Kansas City, Missouri. Shaun was not sure if this was just a fleeting thought or the Lord. He knew these kinds of transfers were very rare, and with all of the layoffs, movement would be impossible. The Lord persisted and repeated the instruction, "Ask Jim to transfer your Job to

Kansas City." Shaun said, "It is not possible," within his mind, and the Spirit said, "ASK JIM." At that point, Shaun did as he was instructed.

On June 21st, we put our house up for sale. It was scary but exciting. Within seven days, we had an offer that we had accepted. It was the same day Shaun was informed that his transfer to Kansas City was approved. He was told he could start in Kansas City when he was ready.

We came to Independence in July and found our Zion home after looking at twenty-one houses in one day. We even have a testimony of the house we ended up purchasing. The garage had a Detroit Tigers decal on the back wall. Shaun and I grew up in the Detroit Metro area, watching and cheering on the Tigers most of our lives. We serve a Great God!

Our Gathering

By Mary Postlethwait
Sibley, Missouri



Ray & Mary Postlethwait

Reprint from *Restoration Voice* July / August 1996

If someone had told me in 1979 when Ray and I were first married that we would one day live in Independence, I would have had difficulty believing it. We were active in our home congregation in Plymouth, Michigan, and quite happy. God has a way of sowing seeds, though, and "sow" He did!

The seed had already been sown before I met Ray. My first year as a member of Zioners was in 1971. That year we traveled to Kirtland, Ohio, to visit the Temple. Our group was spoken to there

under the influence of God's Spirit. Many things were said to the group, but I most remembered being told that my generation would see Zion. It was this first spiritual experience with the Holy Spirit that turned my life toward Zion and the Kingdom-building process.

In our third year of marriage, I felt a renewed urgency about Zion—even to the point of asking my husband what he would think of moving to Independence one day. He had a job then with Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, and he was also involved with a friend in a small construction business. He was not interested. "Besides," he said, "who would want to move to Independence to get lost in the crowd?"

A few months after that, Ray was laid off from Ford. He wanted to find a job working in his computer field, but he was not willing to move halfway across the United States to do it. After exhausting most of the Detroit-area companies who wanted "someone with more experience," Ray decided to try Chicago. Just after he had made that decision, a small company in Livonia, Michigan, offered him a job as a programmer. Since Livonia is right next to Plymouth, we did not have to move, and Ray began a computer job.

That company gave him some important experience, but after two years, the long hours and slow progress that are typical with a small company began to wear on him. Ray decided he needed to look elsewhere. Looking back now, we see the blessing the small company was. If Ray had found a job in Chicago with a more established company, it would have made gathering much more of a sacrifice for someone not desiring it in the first place.

Once again I suggested that we look toward Independence. That was in the summer of 1984. With the recent changes within the Church, Ray and I decided we should pray and fast for three days for direction and leave it in the Lord's hands. The third day of our fast, we received a series of tapes in the mail on "The Gathering and Zion." Everywhere we turned, we found answers to

questions we had concerning gathering. Doubts like "Everyone can't move to Independence" gave way to "Zion won't be built unless we obey." More seeds were being sown; more blessings were being given.

Desiring not to go in haste, we knew we needed to have all things right before we moved. We began buying the Kansas City newspaper and sending our resumes. We also began telling others of our hopes. The response from most people was negative. The next three months of waiting were trying. It was a blessing, though, because of the preparation needed before our move.

During that time, we realized the importance of not leaving our congregation with the task of having to find persons to take our responsibilities. So we began to talk about our plans with those in charge of the congregation. We also discussed who would be taking our places. I taught Sunday school, and we were also Zioneer leaders. We found a teacher to replace me quite easily. But people were not jumping at the chance to be Zioneer leaders! We became really concerned about this, and again God answered our prayers. Just a short time before we moved, a couple we hadn't thought of asking volunteered to take the job! They had hesitated because they did not want to appear anxious for us to leave.

We continued to pray as we received rejections from companies that did not need a programmer with Ray's specific qualifications. We began sorting and packing things that we did not use very often. It was around then that we discovered we were going to have our second child. Moving meant we would lose our health insurance. We put this concern in the Lord's hands also, with faith that He would provide a way.

In November, our women's department had a turkey dinner and craft sale. I was helping with organizing the craft tables, so Ray and I were there for the dinner. We were surprised when a second cousin, who lived in Independence, walked in. He was visiting family members in Michigan and had heard about the dinner. As we talked, we shared

our plans for gathering. Our cousin was involved with a computer company in Independence, specializing in software for the manufacturing industry. He suggested that Ray send a resume to his company.

The company made arrangements to fly Ray to Independence for an interview because of Ray's background from Ford and his two years of computer experience. The day after the interview, we received a call that he was hired. Since my husband was offered a substantial pay increase with his new job in Missouri, that solved the immediate health insurance problem. The raise more than covered my twenty-four-hour stay in the hospital when our youngest son was born later.

We had just three weeks to pack up the rest of our belongings, find a new home in Independence, get a moving company, celebrate Christmas with our families, and say our goodbyes. God blessed us with loving families who helped us in so many ways during those weeks. Everything fell into place with little difficulty. Right away, we flew to Independence to find an apartment. We decided on one with a six-month lease so we would have a chance to get acquainted with the area before we bought a home.

On moving day, it rained off and on as the movers loaded the truck. Somehow, though, the rain did not dampen our spirits, for we were moving "home"—even though an ice storm greeted us. Independence truly is a beautiful land when you think of all the history that has taken place here. What makes it even more beautiful is the promise of that which is to come.

Finding a congregation to attend was interesting. Out of the many we visited, we kept coming back to Atherton. The most exciting thing for me here was the spirit of the people. For example, we had never witnessed an outdoor baptism in such cold weather before—where ice had to be broken so the baptism could take place. We were spiritually fed at Atherton more than we had ever been. There were some adjustments we had to make, however, like getting used to not having an

organized nursery during the 11 o'clock service. Now I think this is the way it should be—children need to learn about God while they are young.

Also, we were not used to such a large congregation. Suddenly, we weren't called upon as often as we had been, but that did not last long. We found it can be easy to get lost in the crowd; but as we made an effort to serve, there was always plenty to do.

The gathering process often requires sacrifice, but that has not slowed down the growing number of people desiring to follow God's commandments. Our greatest sacrifice was leaving our families. But many of them have since gathered, and each of those experiences is a testimony in itself.

Ray and I pray that others who gather will be blessed in their experiences. We found that as we looked to God, He gave the strength for the way ahead. Of course, not everything is perfect. The heat and humidity here can be extreme. Yes, there are a lot of bugs here in the Center Place. And hay fever sufferers are really miserable at certain times of the year.

But two things stand above all the problems and stumbling blocks: *Independence is God's chosen place for Zion! Independence is where we have been commanded to gather!*

Some gathering scriptures to consider:

The testimony is to go forth from Zion (D&C 58:4a, 15d).

When you gather, all things must be done in order—not in haste or by flight (D&C 58:12a-b; 63:8a-c; 98:9d-g; 100:3d-f, 5a-b; 127:7a-d; and 3 Nephi 10:1-8).

Are you commanded to tarry? See D&C 98:7 and 108:2a.

Also read D&C 59:1a-b; 66:5f; 45:2,12; and 108:8b-c.

Please continue to send in your gathering testimonies to the Tidings of Zion.

Ram Meets With President Trump

By Elder Ram C. Baral
Columbia, South Carolina



Dear Saints, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I was able to meet President Donald J. Trump on May 1, 2019, to give him a copy of the 1908 (RLDS) Book of Mormon. Thank you for your fervent prayers.

My purpose in requesting an appointment to meet with President Trump was not political, economic, or diplomatic. Our main focus and purpose for meeting him was to discuss spiritual matters. I learned that he had never been introduced to The Book of Mormon. I explained that America has been blessed above all other nations in the world by the greater light of the Restoration and The Book of Mormon. These spiritual blessings have helped make America great and will make America great again if our fellow Americans know the truth and embrace the truth. I told him that as our President, he needs to know the truth, as Jesus said, "... and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

The main points which I stressed to our President were as follows:

1) The U.S. President needs to know he is the President of the Land of Joseph, the USA. "Let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph ... that was separated from his brethren" (Deuteronomy 33). America is Joseph's land, a land separated from his brethren.

2) The slogan "Make America Great Again" will be achieved when the majority of Americans

embrace the truth of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ as it is taught in the Bible and The Book of Mormon.

3) As citizens of the USA, we should be especially interested in the blessings promised to Joseph and his descendants. "Joseph is a fruitful bough [of the family tree] whose branches run over the wall [a barrier, like oceans] ..." (Genesis 49:22).

4) The Lord's immigration policy for America is found in The Book of Mormon: "... according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there should none come into the land, save [unless] they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord ... this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; ... And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; For, behold many nations would overrun the land ... And they shall be kept from all other nations ... (2 Nephi 1:10-19).

5) The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel, saying, "Thou son of man, take one stick [scroll] and write upon it, for Judah [The Bible: the record of Judah] ... then take another stick and write upon it for Joseph ..." [The Book of Mormon: the record of Joseph] (Ezekiel 37:16).

6) The Book of Mormon was written in the Americas, and it has an urgent message for all Americans. The Prophet Ether wrote of America as "the land of promise, choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people" (Ether 1:29). This part was very pleasing to the President as he realized The Book of Mormon is a very patriotic book of America standing as a Lighthouse for the whole world.

7) The urgent message to all who live in the USA is this: "... behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And

it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:32-35).

On the whole, President Trump was pleased to know that America is "the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people;" (Ether 1:29). This part was very humbling and touched his heart.

Then, at the end, prayers were offered as we kneeled together. He prayed silently as I prayed vocally.

We still ask you all to pray that President Trump will be blessed with the wisdom of Solomon who prayed: "Give me now wisdom and knowledge to rule over the nations ... for who can judge this thy people that is so great?" (2 Chronicles 1:10). High Priest Brother Francis Harper's book *Great Treasures of Knowledge* was given to the President along with The Book of Mormon. In addition, a special letter by Sister Linda Foegen of Atlantic, Iowa, was handed to him. He was delighted by her letter and promised that he will consider her letter very seriously.

Thanks again for your prayerful support.

Sincerely,
In His Restored Eternal Bonds,
Elder Ram C. Baral
Tel. 803-719-1428
Email: Dr.Ram.Baral@gmail.com

The following article is one of the items Elder Ram Baral presented to President Trump.

An Urgent Message to all Americans

By High Priest Francis Harper Jr.
Woodbine, Iowa



“**M**ake America great again” has been the rallying cry of this administration of President Donald J. Trump. The key to the greatness of the United States of America has always rested upon the faith and righteousness of her people. Inasmuch as we keep the commandments of God, we shall prosper in our land. “Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

Jacob had twelve sons. Before his sons left Egypt, Jacob blessed them one by one. His blessings were prophetic. The promises given to Judah—present day Israel—and Joseph—the USA—exceed all the others. See Genesis 49. Before his death, Moses also pronounced blessings upon the sons of Jacob and their descendants. See Deuteronomy 33.

As citizens of the USA, we should be especially interested in the blessings promised to Joseph and his descendants. “Joseph is a fruitful bough [of the family tree] whose branches run over the wall [a barrier, like oceans] ... the arms of his hands were made strong by the mighty God of Jacob ... even by the God of thy Father, who shall help thee and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven ... they shall be on the head of Joseph ... that was separated from his brethren” (Genesis 49). “Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven ... and for the precious things of the earth ... and for

the good will of him that dwelt in the [burning] bush; Let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph ... that was separated from his brethren" (Deuteronomy 33). America is Joseph's land, a land separated from his brethren.

The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel, saying, "Thou son of man, take one stick [scroll] and write upon it, for Judah ..." [The Bible; the record of Judah]; ... then take another stick and write upon it for Joseph ..." [The Book of Mormon; the record of Joseph] (Ezekiel 37:16).

The first descendants of Joseph came to America just before the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. See 1 Nephi 1:12; 1:165. The records kept by these early immigrants to Joseph's land have been preserved in The Book of Mormon.

The Book of Mormon has an urgent message for all Americans. The Prophet Ether wrote of America as "the land of promise, choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people" (Ether 1:29).

The Lord's immigration policy for America is found in The Book of Mormon: "... according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me there should none come into the land save [unless] they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord ... this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments, which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; ... And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; For, behold many nations would overrun the land ... And they shall be kept from all other nations ... (2 Nephi 1:10-17).

The oceans served as natural walls until 1492. Nephi prophesied: "And I looked and beheld a man [Christopher Columbus] among the Gentiles ... and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters ... and it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; [the early

colonists] and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise" (1 Nephi 3:147-149).

The urgent message to all who live in the USA is this: "... Behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:32-35).

This is quite likely one of the most critical times in our nation's history. We appear to be near the time when the majority of the citizens of our country may choose evil rather than good! We need to be reminded of the words of King Mosiah: "Now it is not common that the voice of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right; Therefore this shall ye observe, and make it your law to do your business by the voice of the people. And if the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you;" (Mosiah 13:35-37).

Our nation will be spared as long as we have a faithful, prayerful remnant in our country. Sodom would have been spared if ten righteous souls could have been found in the city. We need many men, women, and children who will pray for our country like the prophet Daniel prayed for his nation: "O Lord, the great and

dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments; Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, ... O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; ... Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, ... O my God incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, ... we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord forgive; ..." (Daniel 9:4-7, 17-19).

Abraham Lincoln stated: "The only assurance of our nation's safety is to lay our foundation on morality and religion. I have always taken counsel of Him. I cannot recall one instance in which I followed my own judgment, founded upon such a decision, where the results were unsatisfactory; whereas, in almost every instance where I yielded to the views of others, I have had occasion to regret it."

"In God We Trust" must remain as our motto! Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), a famous French statesman, historian and social philosopher wrote:

"I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors ... in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution.

"Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power.

"America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Saints Hospitality

By Elder John Sherer
Missouri Valley, Iowa



John & Evonne Sherer

For the past several years, my wife, Evonne, and I have been "Iowa snowbirds" to the Fort Myers, Florida, area. We've not missed those harsh Midwest winters, but the drawback has been inability to worship with fellow Saints. One winter we traveled to Apopka, Florida, an almost five-hour journey one way, and met with the Saints there in their church. A lovely experience, but quite a drive.

This year we followed up with an elder to contact in the Tampa, Florida, area, a two-and-a-half-hour trek away. Brother Keith Koch and his wife, Marcia, open up their home for class and services twice a month. What an oasis in a spiritually desert world. You've heard of Southern hospitality, but when you worship with those of kindred spirits, you get Saints' hospitality as well. Truly as the hymn stanza states, "Blessed be the tie that binds."

Brother Greg Gard taught the adult class, and since it was the first Sunday in February, we were privileged to share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with approximately six or seven locals and six fellow "snowbirds." A beautiful spirit was there, confirming the scripture that says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20.) Elder Dean Alberti from the Raytown South Congregation gave a sermon on the ordinances found in Christ's Church. It was a beautiful and timely reminder of how the Lord blesses His people. A second Saints hymn came to mind: "In this old, old path are my friends most dear." What a blessing to call each other brother or sister in Christ. How thankful I am for the publications such as Tidings of Zion and men of the Conference of Restoration Elders who serve as a reference point to keep scattered Saints in touch with one another.

We indeed live in challenging times. However, to paraphrase a saying: "By the mile life is a trial, by the yard life is hard, but by the inch (with fellow Saints) life is a cinch."

A Call To Prayer

Elder Mike Estle
Independence, Missouri



“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
Psalm 133:1

My wife and I recently made a surprise visit to my ninety-two-year-old father. Upon our arrival, he exclaimed, “I’m so glad you are here. I have been needing to talk to you.” As we found places to sit, I informed him that if he needed to talk to me, I was glad I was there too. So, he says, “It’s time.” Of course, my mind instantly raced to the thought that he must have given up and was ready to meet his maker. So I said, “Oookaaay.”

How wrong I was! He informed me that he was certain that it was time for the Lord to take the necessary steps to rescue, recover, and reunite His Church. He was sure the first step would be to unite all of the unaffiliated Restoration Branches. I asked him how he thought that might happen, and he said that it was already happening when several branches get together to worship. He felt that if other branches would do the same, that would be a start.

He then informed me that he felt we needed to stop trying so hard not to do what we know we shouldn’t do and start concentrating on trying to do the things we know we should be doing. At this point, I was convinced that he had been inspired by the Lord. Why else would he have waited until he was ninety-two, in the dusk of his life, to decide it’s time? If this were a selfish endeavor, surely he would have wanted the Church reunited ten or fifteen years ago so he could have been a part of it.

So, I mentioned to him that any such effort would be met with multiple objections, i.e. don’t run before the Lord, we cannot start a new church, we don’t have a prophet, etc. He was quick to respond that our amazing, powerful God is very capable of overcoming any and all of these objections.

We talked a bit about why the Lord has not done this mighty work yet, and we determined that we, the Saints, and especially the priesthood simply had not made ourselves available for Him to use effectively. I mentioned that the Apostle Oakman had commented in *The Call of Christ in an Age of Dilemma* that “If twenty thousand people in our church would spend fifteen minutes every day in studying the word of God when they were at their best, untold power would flow to the church.” And if that same principle were applied to prayer, untold spiritual gifts and blessings would be poured forth. We spoke of the many revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants which were the result of the elders’ petitioning of the Lord.

So, we agreed that the best first step to take at this time would be for the Saints to come together in mighty prayer to make themselves available to be used by the Lord in the rescue, recovery, and reunification of His Church.

Therefore, in response to my father’s request, I now issue this Call to Prayer. Join me, brothers and sisters, as I cry unto the Lord for Him to use us in whatever way He will to call His Church back into organization. I will do this twice every day, upon arising in the morning and upon retiring in the evening. If you prefer to make your prayers at other times of the day, please feel free so to do.

My father ended our visit with this comment, “I just hope that He will leave me here long enough just to see the beginning of the establishment of Zion.” And that, too, is my prayer for him. IT’S TIME.

Daily Ministry

By Elder Frank Dippel
Morgantown, West Virginia



On February 13, 2014, I texted eight brothers to request prayer. I believe it was about the sale of our coal business. Brian Mundy responded affirmatively and added a scripture from Isaiah. The particular verse was 41:10, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

After a short time, Brother Brian suggested that maybe we should text a daily scripture. We established an order of sharing, starting with Brian Mundy, Independence, Missouri; Frank Dippel, Morgantown, West Virginia; Larry Cottrill, Morgantown (now Richmond, Virginia); Jerry Shiflett, Morgantown; Henry Trickett, Morgantown; Wally Sebulsky, Morgantown; Bruce Levengood, Dover, Ohio; and Dave Joyce, Morgantown. We decided there were a few other brothers we would love to have in our text group. We added Andrew Joyce, Morgantown; Darrell Webster, Youngstown, (Painesville,) Ohio; and Jacob Cottrill, Parkersburg, West Virginia. We established a text group that began with eight brothers from different branches in Ohio, West Virginia, and Independence; and each day, based upon the selected order, that brother would share a scripture for the day.

Darrell Webster was involved in a life-threatening auto accident, and his phone was destroyed. We lost him from the text group for a period of time. Every day, the group offered prayers for Darrell, but also for others that were

in need. Many of our texts grew into a prayer line. We had many names offered up for prayers, and we were able to update one another on conditions of those being prayed for.

During Darrell's absence, there were two other brothers added to our group: Brother Rob Willoughby in England and Brother Rex Monarch in Michigan. The text group now includes thirteen brothers covering a vast area: Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, England, Virginia, and West Virginia.

One of the really wonderful benefits of this group are the many scriptural additions that are added to the daily discussion. It has been enlightening and educational. A brother would share his daily scripture, another brother would ask a question about this particular scripture, and several others would offer additional scriptures to clarify the answer. There are days when the discussion may go on for a long period of time.

The text group has become such a wonderful ministry. This daily worship has several key elements, some already mentioned: daily we share scriptures and discuss other related ones, we offer those that have a need for prayer, we are able to receive daily updates on individuals being prayed for, and we are made aware of ministry offered and events that are planned. This daily ministry has continued for five years and has shared 2,345 different verses from all three books of scripture. There have been duplications, but all scriptures are worthy to be repeated and learned.

There have arisen several other text groups as a result of this ministry. For example, there is a group of ladies in Morgantown and Independence who share daily their thoughts, requests, and scriptures. God has truly blessed us through this form of ministry, and we are most grateful to be able to be involved in this daily worship. Consider beginning a text group of your own!

2019 Restoration Women's New Year's Brunch

By Monica Twombly
Independence, Missouri

On February 23, 2019, a group of ladies enjoyed fellowship and worship at the annual New Year's Brunch at Atherton Restoration Branch. The theme for the morning was "God is the Giver of Joy." The morning started off with a prayer of invocation from our pastor for the morning, Howard Parker. Next, Christy Schrunk led the congregation of women in a hymn sing of praise and love songs to our God. She also shared a testimony of how God has many times placed a song of praise on her heart in her morning devotional time. When this happens, she will take the time to sing it, which has changed her outlook for the day. She also encouraged us to listen to God's promptings of songs placed on our heart and to take the time to sing them once prompted. Following our time of singing, Shantelle Cruickshank led a devotion on joy. Then our special music was done by our dear sisters Angela and Heidi Coffman.



We had two classes at the brunch led by Natalie Martens and Pat Chadwick. In Natalie's class, she talked about the gift of joy given by God and how we have the choice to choose to accept this gift or not. She defined joy as being the source of delight and the feeling of great pleasure and happiness. She mentioned that often we put our joy in our expectations of our husbands and our children, and when they fail us, our joy meter decreases. She also mentioned that we also put our joy in our belongings and things we desire to have, like

a bigger house, and while those things might give us joy for a period of time, ultimately the joy leaves us if that is the only place that our joy resides in. She reminded us that the joy that lasts forever only comes from God. She pointed out that God wants His children to live in joy and gave us a practical way to foster this joy by being thankful to God in all circumstances.



In Pat Chadwick's class, she talked about how God designed us to experience joy. A tool she gave us for when our joy is running low or is gone was Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." She said when our joy was gone that we need to readjust our thinking and train ourselves to praise God. She gave us the challenge to grab a glass jar and write down all your blessings at the end of each day on sheets of paper and throw them in the glass jar. This visual will help remind us that God is blessing us every day. Pat also reminded us that even in our Christian walks, we will experience suffering and pain, but that doesn't mean the absence of joy, as mentioned in this quote, "Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God." We will have to endure different trials in our lives, but we must remember to find joy in all circumstances that are given to us.

Our morning was wrapped up in meditation of music and scripture reading by Angela Goff and Barb Capps and a benediction by Howard Parker. We then moved to the fellowship hall to enjoy brunch and fellowship with one another. It was an uplifting and worshipful morning!



Spring Restoration Women's Council Retreat

By Linda Friend
Buckner, Missouri

I was privileged to attend the Restoration Women's Council retreat at Colbern Road Restoration Branch on Saturday, April 13th. The theme, "Choose Joy," was very relevant as we rejoice in God's creation in this spring season with all the beauty around us.

The morning began with thoughts from Elder Eldon Anderson about hearing the true voice of God even when it is a whisper. We joined in singing together many of our favorite hymns and further worshiped through devotional readings. We enjoyed the ministry of special music brought by Elena Yroz, who shared with us "In Christ Alone" and "Come Thou Fount," accompanied by Lisa Yroz. We were additionally blessed by an original song shared with us by Glenda Buttgen entitled, "I Will Choose Joy," accompanied by Sara Weston. We were certainly filled with joy as we listened to these musical offerings.

Sue Manning, using visual aids in her always-joyful manner, presented a class entitled, "Things to do to Have Joy." Her list included prayer and fasting, humility, repentance, and memorizing scripture. She encouraged us to practice righteousness, inviting the Holy Ghost into our lives and being thankful for God's mercy and grace. Certainly, by implementing these actions daily, we would experience that joy that comes from His holy presence.

Sylvia Powell shared many personal testimonies in her presentation, "Ways to Achieve Joy." She explained how we can have a positive attitude by remembering that God wants us to be joyful and that He is always there for us. Even in adversity, if we place our lives in His loving arms, He will always provide strength, peace, and comfort. Her concluding thoughts emphasized that we show love by our service to others, that we need to let our light shine so that those we come in contact with will "know of God's mighty love."

It was a blessed morning sharing in fellowship and instruction with our sisters in Christ. Hopefully, we can apply these lessons and choose joy daily in our walk with our Lord and Savior.



Men's Retreat in Michigan

By Virgil Telljohann II
Lima, Ohio

My name is Virgil Telljohann II. On February 9, 2019, the Oakwood Michigan Branch held a men's retreat. My son Sean, his son Ivan, my grandson Jeremy Lindeman, and I, from the Lima Ohio Branch, attended. There were several branches attending, including about thirty to forty men and three school-age young men. The guest speakers were High Priest Francis Harper and Seventy Royl Roden from the Woodbine Iowa Branch. They gave us many questions to answer and gave us scriptures and resources, such as church history, so we could have a better understanding of the questions.

Some of the questions were: Do you love Jesus? Why did Jesus come to earth? What are the three categories of Christians? Are you converted? Do we need to gather to Independence?

Brother Harper told us not to be afraid to share the Book of Mormon with people. There were several testimonies. One gentleman stood and told us how he was raised in the Catholic faith and by reading the Book of Mormon was converted to the Restoration.

Brother Harper had been to Israel and told us some of his testimonies and travels there. It was wonderful to hear about where our Lord walked and died and rose. Francis has written several books and was passing them out. My grandson Jeremy, age eleven, started reading one on the way home. He was so excited that he said he was going to read two pages a day until he finished it. I would like to thank the ladies from the Oakwood Michigan Branch. They provided breakfast and lunch for us, and both were quite tasty. I would also like to thank the Oakwood Michigan Branch, High Priest Francis Harper, and Seventy Royl Roden for such a wonderful retreat.

"Bind Yourself with a Covenant"

Priesthood and Men's Retreat,
February 28, 2019, Oak Grove
Restoration Branch



By Elder Paul Frinsthal
Lee's Summit, Missouri

When I was a young boy, the word **retreat** meant to run away from the enemy and re-group or to keep running. On February 28th and March 2nd, the attitude at this gathering was to **move forward** and **challenge the adversary**, to make him run away and keep on running!

In our classes, we discussed how to make a meaningful covenant relationship with God and how, as priesthood, we can be tightly bound together in many common endeavors. We agreed that our goal was: One Gospel, One Body, and a Spiritual Oneness that will be the advent of Zion. In each class, we got a better understanding of how to create and maintain a covenant that will bind us together and help us reach a spiritual condition that the Lord can use in these latter days.

Brothers and sisters, in these times we find it difficult and often impossible to come together in a charitable atmosphere where wonderful things can happen. For a few moments during this gathering of priesthood, there was a preview of things to come: sincere men with a genuine desire in their hearts to be one with God and His creation. These sincere hearts, along with many





others, will soon create a spiritual condition that will accomplish God's marvelous work in bringing forth Zion.

Our closing class on Saturday afternoon was a final challenge that brought many positive responses from the brethren. When the final amen was spoken and we were headed home, I know my feelings concerning the Church and our ability to **Be One** were stronger because of this experience.

God loves us so much, and He has plans for our future. He simply wants us to bind with Him in covenants of love and service for eternity. May God bless us in our endeavors.

The Restoration Choir's Easter Cantata

By Jackie Frinsthal
Lee's Summit, Missouri

My husband and I were so privileged this year to attend the Restoration Choir's Easter Cantata on the evening of April 14th at Waldo Ave. Restoration Branch. It's a choir made up of approximately fifty members from the various restoration



branches surrounding the Independence area, led by Larry Ward and accompanied by Carrie Hamilton.

Along with the many beautiful songs and readings telling the Easter story, there was a children's choir that sang and a group of instrumentalists who also accompanied many of the anthems. I know there were others besides me who wanted to clap and praise the Lord for the talent and all of the hard work and practice that went into bringing this special program to the people. As crowded as it was that evening, I hope next year, wherever the Cantata will be held, that it will be bursting at the seams with people desiring to not only be entertained but blessed as well.

Thank you, Choir, for a beautiful evening and a beautiful way to celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Heritage Week 2019

By Rebecca Griffin
Independence, Missouri



The Pastors of Zion held activities at Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch for Heritage Week 2019. The events of the week were in response to the organization of the Church on April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith Jr.

The week began with a Restoration Choir Festival. Choirs from Living Hope Restoration Branch, Oak Grove Restoration Branch, and Grain Valley Restoration Branch performed wonderful anthems. The Oak Grove handbell choir also performed. Music has been an important aspect since the founding of the Church. Emma Smith was responsible for choosing hymns for the first hymnal of the Church. Many people of the early Church, such as W.W. Phelps, Parley P. Pratt, and Eliza Snow, penned words to many beloved hymns that we sing today. There were many more hymns added in the Reorganization written by Roy Cheville, Charles Derry, Mark Forscutt, Evan Fry, Joseph Smith III, Joseph Luff, and David H. Smith, to name a few that contributed to our heritage with their spirit-filled hymns.

On Tuesday, Elder Danny Hight of the Oak Grove Restoration Branch gave a historical presentation centering on the lives of Joseph Smith III—the “The Quiet Prophet”—and Israel A. Smith—“The Gentle Monarch.” As a board member of the Joseph Smith Historical Society, Danny shared of the restoration of the Smith home at 1214 W. Short Street. When completed, it will tell of the lives of the two prophets who made their home there and how it was the center of the official Church business before the Auditorium was built while Joseph and Ada Smith and their family lived there.

Danny shared facts about each prophet. Did you know that Joseph Smith III wrote children’s stories? He wrote the stories based on his life. For his children, Joseph made bows, arrows, kites, and sleds from hickory. Four sections of the Doctrine and Covenants, Sections 128-131, were received by Joseph in the Smith Home. Joseph passed away in the house on December 10, 1914, and his wife, Ada, passed on October 20, 1915, leaving behind three teenage sons: Reginald, Wallace, and Richard. With her passing, Israel and Nina Smith moved into the home and cared for his three brothers, along with their own family.

Israel A. Smith was the son of Joseph and Bertha Smith, born in Lamoni, Iowa, on February 2, 1876. He was named after Israel Rodgers, who had performed the marriage of Joseph and Bertha Smith in Plano, Illinois. Israel became the prophet of the Church upon the death of his brother Frederick M. Smith. He was a quiet person but attentive to the work of the Church. Danny shared a humorous story about Israel. It seems that during council meetings, he would appear to lose interest. On one occasion, in a meeting led by Patriarch Elbert A. Smith, Israel leaned his chair back against the wall and closed his eyes. Suddenly, the chair gave out from under him, and he crashed to the floor. All conversation in the room stopped, and all eyes were on Israel. Before Israel could gather himself off the floor, the silence was broken by the speaker, Brother Elbert, when he announced, “I believe Brother Israel has the floor.”

Israel and Nina had two sons, Joseph Perrine and Don Carlos. Joseph passed away while a student at the University of Missouri. Did you know Israel was an inventor? He designed a mechanism that would open the gas cover of the car and the trunk. If only he knew that one day those items would be on all our cars. He never liked soggy corn flakes, so he designed a bowl where the center section would hold the corn flakes and the outer section would be for the milk. The milk would slowly seep into the center section. This invention never was successful.

It was from this house on Short Street that Israel left on the morning of June 14, 1958, to attend a Church conference in Lamoni, Iowa. Before his arrival, he was injured in a car accident near Pattonsburg, Missouri, and passed away at the Bethany Hospital.

Danny shared how the history of the Church is important for our heritage today. It is why we are here, today, at this point in time. Despite the struggles of the early Church and the persecution of the Saints, the Church persevered. Today the struggles still exist in a modern world, but the goal is still the same...that of the Kingdom of Zion and building the Holy City.

On Thursday, Elder Tom Mitchell of the Outreach Restoration Branch spoke about Christ making all things new. Using the facts of Church history, he focused on Jesus Christ and how the Saints looked to Him through their experiences in the growth of the Church. He pointed out how Joseph and Emma are responsible for what we have today. Joseph translated the Book of Mormon, and it was Emma that protected the manuscript of the Inspired Version all through their travels to Ohio, through the persecutions in Missouri, and lastly to Illinois. It is because of Joseph that we have the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenant, and through Emma, we have the hymnal with the beloved hymns she chose. They made a choice. The theme of Tom's spoken word was that Christ offers a new beginning for all who come to Him.

The following evening, Elder Brian Mundy of the Missionary Restoration Branch spoke about living a sanctified life and giving our best to the Master. He spoke of the "trees of righteousness" found in Isaiah 61:3 and that all things are new, from Revelations 21:6. He emphasized Section 85:24, which states, "Abide ye in the liberty wherewith ye are made free; entangle not yourselves in sin, but let your hands be clean, until the Lord come, for not many days hence and the earth shall tremble, and reel to and fro as a drunken man, and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light, and the moon shall be bathed in blood, and

the stars shall become exceeding angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree." We are to stand steadfast (Galatians 4) in our work for Christ and His Church.

The last evening service was given by Seventy Richard Neill of Living Hope Restoration Branch. He shared aspects of Church history and events in the Book of Mormon. His focus was on Section 2:1, "The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths; neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; therefore his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round." This section was the first identification in July 1828 of the Lord speaking to Joseph Smith, Jr. Richard spoke of Arthur Oakman who served from 1938 to 1964 in the Quorum of Twelve and that Joseph Smith III was the only prophet to be ordained on April 6. He also spoke of Lehi's trip into the desert and Nephi's two return trips to Jerusalem. The first was to retrieve the brass plates that contained the history of their people from Laban, and the second journey was to get Ishmael and his family, which resulted in a blended family as they traveled. Richard closed with a message to us all. We are the "Keepers of the Gate," even though we are few in number. We must be steadfast and diligent in the work as history lights the path for our future.

The Heritage Week culminated with an early morning prayer service, followed by a combined-branches sacrament service. The message was given by Elder Eric English of the Oak Grove Restoration Branch. Exhibits about The Joseph Smith Historical Society, The Joseph Smith III home, and Joseph and Israel Smith were on display in the Waldo foyer, along with photos and artifacts donated by the Israel A. Smith family. The week was a high point in celebrating our Church heritage and remembering those of the early Church who brought about the history we so enjoy and love.

Honduras

By Elder Andrew King
Independence, Missouri

I am eternally thankful to the Lord for blessing me with an opportunity to visit the saints in Honduras. So much so that it is difficult to know which testimonies and experiences to share. Incidentally, the testimony that perhaps has had the greatest impact upon my life did not come to fruition until after I returned home in October. For while it was hard not to feel a sense of oneness with the Church members in Honduras, despite the language barrier, I did not fully grasp the depth of the oneness that the Lord was desiring for me to understand until after He brought a memory to my mind that I had long since forgotten.

A number of years ago as I was presiding over the youth activities at my branch, there was a certain individual who began to attend some of the youth functions. Although the parents of this individual were members of the Church, this person was, shall I say, a little rough around the edges. I felt I should reach out to this person, but I found myself hesitating to do so. In fact, while formulating the text announcements for the youth group, I would often pause when I came across this person's number and ask, "Do I really want to send this invitation to them?" A few months later, this individual decided to take their own life.

I am not presuming that I could have made a difference in their life, but at the same time, I will never know because I was not willing to invest myself in them. "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the



sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manner of thy friends or of thine own were. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." [John Donne's "No Man Is an Island"]

It was this thought that unlocked the testimony of Honduras. We are all one. No matter where we call home—whether it be Honduras, Australia, India, Nepal, Germany, or the United States—the death of anyone diminishes the whole, for we ought to be involved in God's creation. If one's light does not shine, we are all the less. The purpose of Zion and the Kingdom of God is to be a light which gathers all in one in Christ.

While flying over Houston on the return trip home, I was amazed by the countless number of houses and vehicles I saw. I thought to myself, "How many souls are there out there, and do they know the joy of Jesus Christ?" Then I wondered, "How can we share about Christ and His Kingdom to so many when we are so few?" The answer is by being one. What could be a greater testimony to the entire world, which is so divided and segregated, than a people who are united in Jesus Christ? However, if we desire to be united, we must first be willing to invest ourselves in one another. When the



world crumbles and falls all around us, will we be willing to stand with one another? When someone loses a loved one or becomes ill or experiences a pain so deep within their heart that they struggle to even breathe, will we be there to comfort them? When someone suffers temptations of every kind, whether it be lust, addiction, or depression, will we continue to love them? Are we willing to endeavor for others what the Lord Jesus has endeavored for us?

The Saints in Honduras are working hard to raise up a people who will serve God in righteousness, and it is important that we do the same. Missionary work does not start in some foreign land. It starts in your own soul. It starts with your witness of Christ. It starts in oneness as Jesus prayed unto the Father, saying, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me,

and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." [John 17:17-23]

Will you give your life to the Master so that the glory of God might emanate to the world? So that one day, the world might know, and most assuredly believe, that God is love and that He loves you!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CENTRAL MISSOURI RESTORATION BRANCHES (CMRB)

2019 ALL-BRANCH GATHERINGS: (All start at 6:00 p.m.)

September 8: Worship service (Oak Grove RB)

SAVE THE DATE

September 14-15: CRE Kirtland Priesthood Trip

September 21-22: Women's Fall Retreat at Odessa Hills

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isa 40:11

Though some camps and reunions are already over, there is still time to attend one this summer!

2019 Restoration Camps

IOWA

July 7-11

Junior Camp Emmanuel

Little Sioux, Iowa

Director: Gina Birdsall 712-456-2048

And let every man call upon the name of the Lord; yea, verily I say unto you again, The time has come when the voice of the Lord is unto you, Go ye out of Babylon; gather ye out from among the nations, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

D&C 108:2c

MISSOURI

CENTRAL MISSOURI RESTORATION BRANCHES CAMPS

ODESSA HILLS, MISSOURI "I am the Vine, ye are the branches" John 15:5

June 16-22 SR High Camp (Grades 10-12) Directors: Jeff & Shelly Morrison

June 23-29 JR High Camp (Grades 7-9) Directors: Jeff & Christy Schrunck

Grades are for the upcoming school year.

RCI CAMPING registration opened February 15th. Go to www.rcicamps.org to find out more.

Register early for a discount.

<u>Jun 22-28</u>	Mountain (Grades 10-13)	Director: Mike Moores	Colorado
<u>Jul 6-12</u>	Leadership (Grades 10-14)	Director: Aaron Bailey	Odessa Hills
<u>Jul 7-13</u>	Bountiful (Grades 7-9)	Directors: Albert & Charity Esquivel	Odessa Hills
<u>Jul 14-20</u>	Mammoth (Grades 9-13)	Directors: Chip & Jill Gowan	Lake of the Ozarks
<u>Jul 21-24</u>	Tiona (Girls Grades 4-7)	Director: Tiffany Brennan	Odessa Hills
<u>Jul 24-27</u>	Liahona (Boys Grades 4-7)	Directors: Brett & Nannette Smith	Odessa Hills
<u>Jul 29-Aug 2</u>	Walk the Talk (Grades 10-13)	Director: Cara Smith	Living Hope RB

TEXAS

July 3-7 2000 Strong Adventure Camp

Contact: Jerry Skotak 214-574-3051

Camp begins at 5 PM on July 3 and concludes on Sunday July 7. There are two camps held concurrently. A youth camp for ages 8-18 and a young adult camp for ages 18-25. The camps are at the Collin County Adventure 1180 W. Houston St. Anna, TX. www.2000strong.us

MICHIGAN-GREAT LAKES REGION

July 7-13

JR High/SR High Camp

July 14-20

Children's Camp (Grades 3-7)

Eric Beach, ON CANADA SIDE

Contact: Betty Lou Newman 519-734-1097

O, ye nations of the earth,
how often would I have
gathered you together as a
hen gathereth her chickens
under her wings, but ye
would not?

D&C 43:6b

WASHINGTON

Aug 4-9

Northwest Regional Youth Camp (Grades 6-12)

Yacolt, Washington

Contact: Kevin Herren 503-562-9384

2019 Restoration Branch Reunions

June 23-28

Restoration Branch Family Reunion and Conference of Restoration Elders

Sponsored by the CRE and Pastors of Zion (POZ)

Waldo Avenue RB/Center Place Restoration School in Independence, Missouri

Contact: CRE Office 816-836-3421

June 29-July 6

Buckner Restoration Branch

Odessa Hills Campgrounds

in Odessa, Missouri

Contact: Eric Baker 816-765-8802

July 21-27

Woodbine Reunion

Little Sioux, Iowa

Contact: Alan Ronk 712-592-1977

July 22-28

Great Lakes Regional Reunion

Vassar, Michigan

Contact: Helene Danicki 248-651-3208

July 27- Aug 2

Kirtland Area Family Reunion

Temple Grove, Transfer, Pennsylvania

Contact: Renee Webster 440-622-5837

July 27-Aug 3

Maine Reunion

Brooksville, Maine

Contact: Frank Shepard 207-460-0976

July 29-Aug 4

Northwest Regional Reunion

Vancouver, Washington

Contact: Brian Herren 503-949-2484

But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob;

And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem;

And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people.

3 Nephi 10:1-4

*If any corrections need to be made, contact:
CRE Office 816-836-3421 or centerplacetidingsofzion@gmail.com*

Announcements:

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please notify the CRE of **any changes** in your mailing address, phone number, email address, church or marital status, etc. All contact information is on the inside front cover of each *Tidings of Zion*.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

There is a great need for additional help in funding the *Tidings of Zion*. *Tidings of Zion* currently goes into 4400 homes around the world, including 48 states of the USA as well as Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

Usually we print between 4800 and 5000 copies so we can send, by flat rate boxes, a larger number to Kenya and the northern island of Luzon and southern island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The copies of *Tidings of Zion* are then distributed by the ministers to the Saints in scattered areas.

As far as circulation, the *Tidings of Zion* probably reaches more homes than any other Restoration magazine. **If every family that receives the**

Tidings of Zion would donate \$20.00 each year, it would easily cover the cost for *Tidings of Zion*. Some individuals are already doing this, and it is VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. Checks can be made out to the CRE and in the memo line, write, "Tidings of Zion." Mailing information is inside the front cover.

Stewardship is the response of my people to the ministry of my Son, and is required alike of all those who seek to build the Kingdom. D&C 147:5 a.

SHARE WITH US!

Please send your articles, testimonies, branch news, youth activities, regional events, etc. Send to the CRE c/o Publication Council. Contact information is on the inside front cover of each *Tidings of Zion*.

The domestic outreach program continues to offer ministry throughout the United States and Canada. We have provided ministry for preaching, retreats, and youth ministry.

Please contact Brian Mundy 816-668-4521 or bmundy@bradlech.com if you would like to have ministry brought to you or if you are willing to travel and bring ministry.

LIVE STREAMING of SERVICES:

Belton, MO RB	http://sermon.net/beltonrestorationbranch
Buckner, MO RB	www.bucknerrb.org
Central Florida RB	centralfloridarestoration.com
Garden City, MI RB	gardencityrestorationbranch.org
Oak Grove, MO RB	http://www.ogrb.org/video.html
Oakwood, MI RB	www.oakwoodrestorationbranch.org/mobile.html
Waldo Avenue RB	http://www.waldoavenuerestorationbranch.org

***** NOTICE: THE CRE OFFICE HAS BEEN MOVED *****

TO 1551 N. COURTNEY ROAD, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64050.

This is 3-4 miles north of CPRS/Waldo via Liberty St. and Kentucky Road.

The mailing address is still the same, however: PO Box 4085, Independence, MO 64051.

CONTACT VIM HORN OR RICHARD NEILL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Tidings of Zion

Conference of Restoration Elders
PO Box 4085
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Youth Missionary Corp

By Elder Tom Mitchell
Independence, Missouri

The Youth Missionary Corp was an organization started in the 1990s to facilitate the opportunity for youth to witness and share their testimony of Jesus. The young missionaries received training and traveled to different places throughout this country, sometimes overseas, working with local groups of Saints. Activities were varied. There were opportunities for home visiting, preaching if applicable, teaching classes, working with youth groups, serving at retreats and camps, and many other things. Two youth were chosen to serve as a team. This was also an opportunity to come apart from the world for a season, usually a year, and spend time in fasting, prayer, and scripture study. There were a number of youth who took advantage of this program and received much benefit, and testimonies have been shared that those experiences changed the course of their lives.

The Coordinating Council, by a unanimous vote, has proposed to resurrect the program contingent upon

approval by the Conference of Restoration Elders in June. The Council is working to appropriate funds to launch this program, and some donations are already promised. A committee of past youth missionaries, now leaders in their own branches, are meeting together as part of the Youth Missionary Corp to revise guidelines for the YMC, to search for strong mentors for the teams and prospective sites where there is a nucleus of Saints and, and to prepare applicants to go out in the fall of 2019. A link to the online preliminary application is below. There a few youth who already have expressed interest, and we are inviting them to share in the development of this process.

We invite all in the Restoration Branches to join us in prayer and preparation and invite youth within the Restoration Branch movement who are out of high school, ages 18-28, to consider this opportunity to strengthen your faith and make an impact on the lives of others. Please watch the Tidings of Zion for further information for this nine to twelve month experience. This link will connect interested youth to apply for this opportunity.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YMC-ApplicationForm>

If you have further questions you may contact Tom Mitchell (mitchell@ucmo.edu) or Mike Barrett (mmmbarrett@gmail.com).