

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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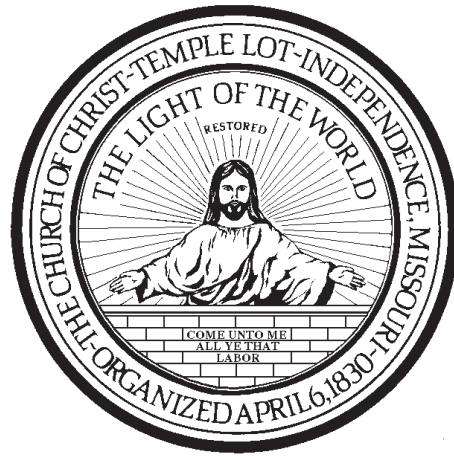
*"You shall know that some day the gospel
shall be brought to the house of
Nemensio Xiu."*

Photo Courtesy of Apostle Clarence Wheaton

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To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

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Where is the Place of My Rest?



By Elder Gordon McCann

*“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my **rest**?” (Isaiah 66:1).*

These words spoken by the prophet Isaiah were most likely written during the reign of Hezekiah of Judah the southern kingdom. Isaiah witnessed the fall of Israel which was the northern kingdom under the reign of Hosea in 722 B.C. Isaiah became chief advisor to Hezekiah, and with that a renewed em-

Those qualities that God desired of men as expressed through his servant Isaiah long ago are the same qualities that He is looking for in us today.

phasis was placed within the kingdom to rebuild and cleanse the temple in an effort to return to the Mosaic Law as a national ethic. To get a prospective of the passage of time, 480 years had passed from the time that the children of Israel left Egypt, during the great Exodus from Egypt, to the days of Solomon when the work on the temple in Jerusalem began in about 967 B.C. Another 227 years would pass to when Isaiah would begin his ministry around 740 B.C., and finally 18 years to the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel. It had now been almost 725 years from the time that God called his servant Moses to the days of Isaiah's ministry.

I would imagine the words of Isaiah were confusing to those living during the 30 year reign of Hezekiah

when the temple was being rebuilt; the money, time, and effort being put forth to restore the temple with the expectation that God would dwell in it as He did in the days of Solomon their king. Considering the words of the prophet Isaiah they most likely were reminded of the words of David their king when he said, “...I had in mine heart to build an house of rest...” (1 Chronicles 28:2). Then with Solomon's declaration “...I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever...” after the temple was completed and consecrated to their God. More importantly was the testimony of what the people saw “...for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord...” (1 Kings 8:10-13).

What was the Lord God trying to teach His people? The Lord had asked a specific question of His children "...where is the place of my rest?..." The definition of the Hebrew word for rest would be "an abode," but more specifically as it pertains to matrimony, as a woman given in marriage to a man living together in the same place. God had made a covenant with the children of Israel that He would be their God and they would be His people and that He would dwell with them. Now we can more fully understand the analogy of a marriage relationship between God and men found within the words of Isaiah:

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61:10).

The Lord God was calling to His children to be fully committed to the covenant that He had made with their fathers, and in doing so he would demonstrate His complete love and devotion towards them as a bridegroom would for his bride.

To understand what the Lord was trying to say to

Israel we must consider the second verse in chapter 66 of Isaiah.

"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2).

Here we find that the Lord completes His thought and provides an answer to His rhetorical question in verse 1. The Lord God makes it clear to His children that when He said "...The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool..." in verse 1, He declares in verse 2 "...all those things hath mine hand made...." This declaration from God was to serve as a reminder as to who they were to worship. The children of Israel had an earlier reminder from Nehemiah when he said:

"Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" (Nehemiah 9:6).

As we continue to consider those first two verses in chapter 66 of Isaiah the question was asked in verse 1 "...where is the house that ye

build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?...", and the answer was "...all those things have been..." found in verse 2. This is in reference to what was accomplished by David who conquered and secured the land of promise and his son Solomon who built the temple in Jerusalem where God made His presence known (rested).

As with many things that are considered in the Word of God there was more that the Lord was looking for from His children. We can look to the last statement made in verse 2: "...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word...."

Israel struggled with the teachings of the Mosaic Law that was given to them specifically because of their nature. The children of Israel were quick to do iniquity, and slow to remember their God. The law was to keep them in remembrance of their God daily and to their duty towards him. Since the law was to try their faith, which if they had looked with an eye of faith they would have seen a type of those things to come pointing to Jesus Christ. I am reminded of Stephen when in his own defense before the high priest of the synagogue of the Libertines, Cyrenians, and Alexandrians after he quoted Isaiah 66:1-2 he went

on to say to them:

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye” (Acts 7:51).

The Lord was looking for those who exhibited certain qualities for His spirit, the Holy Ghost, to find a place of rest or an abode.

Let’s look at those qualities as outlined in verse 2 of chapter 66 of Isaiah to further understand what was acceptable to God then, as well as determine what qualities that God desires of men today.

The first quality listed was “*poor*” which is interpreted as one who is humble, absent of pride, willing to be easily entreated by God’s word and His spirit.

The next quality or attribute acceptable to God is one who is “*of a contrite spirit.*” This would be one who has been smitten or maimed spiritually. This is an individual who has humbled themselves sufficiently by exercising their faith where they consider the Word of God as being true. Thus by viewing themselves in contrast to the Word of God they become consciously condemned (spiritually smitten or maimed) by the Holy Ghost because of their sins. The realization of a broken law motivates the individual

with a true desire to approach their God in a penitent manner to be forgiven. The submission of one’s will by obedience to God’s commandments is the sacrifice or offering acceptable to God.

“For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth; which earth was created by the power of his word.

“Wherefore, if God, being able to speak, and the world was; and to speak, and man was created, O then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure. (Jacob 3:12-13).

Then the last quality to “*trembleth at my word*” is one who understands the power and certainty of the Word of God; eternal life on the one hand and endless death and misery on the other, who has a great respect and fear to the point that to contemplate its depth and power would cause an individual to quake. I am reminded of the words of Nephi:

“For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish.” (2 Nephi 12:23).

So, what is the expectation of God today? Have

things changed since the days of Isaiah?

I must first make it clear that God does not change. Remembering the words of Malachi when he said “*...For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed....*” God’s expectations are the same towards all men as concerning who is acceptable before him. God made a covenant with the children of Israel and gave them the law and commandments to follow. The children of Israel, through the weakness of the flesh, broke the covenant by worshipping other gods. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses which He did on the cross when He said “*...It is finished...*” and it was through His death and resurrection that He:

- redeemed all men from the fall of Adam, which was a temporal death,
- answered the ends of the broken law of God by making an intercession or atonement for men with His blood which was prepared from the foundation of the world
- brought about the resurrection of all men to be judged of Him according to the truth and holiness which is in Him.

Since God does not change, what must we do that God might find that place of rest spoken of in Isaiah 66:1 & 2?

Jesus said "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him...." Here we see the relationship between the Father and Son and the importance of keeping the words of his Son. When we keep the words of Christ we prove to our God our desire to have that relationship with both the Father and Son.

Following the commandments of His Father while in the flesh, Jesus comes forth to be baptized of John in the waters of Jordan. John does not feel worthy to baptize Jesus because he knew that the man standing before him was the Son of God, but Christ says to John "...Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness...." Herein is a key to the understanding of what God requires of us which was no less than what He required from His Son. Jesus made it clear to the world that if we wanted to be righteous before God we would need to follow His example "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life...."

After Jesus entered into the waters of baptism the visual display of the heavenly gift of the Holy Ghost was witnessed by John in the

form of a dove that came down from heaven. Then John heard a voice from heaven "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased...." The consummation of the covenant between God and men, Jesus fulfilled the will of His Father in all things "...I and my Father are one...."

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works (John 14:10).

John became a witness to the world of Jesus Christ when Jesus said "...There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true..." and John testified that "...I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God...." John also testified that it would be through Jesus that men could be baptized with the Holy Ghost which would bear witness of the Father and the Son within the individual.

Again turning to the words of Christ we find the expressed will of the Father; the condition "...If ye love me, keep my commandments..." and the promise "...And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;...." When men

choose to keep the words of Christ, God will make His abode with them and Jesus has promised that "...If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love..." and that "...My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...."

Those qualities that God desired of men as expressed through his servant Isaiah long ago are the same qualities that He is looking for in us today.

I want to leave you with the words of Jesus Christ the resurrected Son of God:

"I am the light and the life of the world. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

"And ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood; yea, your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away, for I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings; and ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

"And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost..." (3 Nephi 4:48-50).

Contend for the Faith



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

Does it make a difference to what church you belong? Certainly it does. In the eyes of God, this earth only has two churches: those who keep His doctrines and trust in His mighty power, and the other are those who have denied His power and put their trust in the arm of flesh and the wisdom of man, which has taken them into strange paths of false doctrines.

1 Ne 3:220-223: *“And he said unto me, Behold, there are save two churches*

only: The one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; Wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; And she is the whore of all the earth.”

We are told that Christ's Church is small or few in numbers compared to the Abominable Church. If we continue to read we can see it is because of the wickedness of the Abominable Church.

1 Ne 3:226: *“And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters;”*

1 Ne 3:229: *“And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God.”*

In Ephesians 4 we are told God called ministry into this work for a purpose: for the perfecting of the saints, until the time that the church comes to a unity of the faith. With the thousands of different denominations teaching different doctrines we can safely say Christian churches have become less unified. That is why Paul has warned:

“...Be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;” vs. 14.

We are told in 2 Nephi 12 the qualities that characterize churches that have become corrupted: vs. 5 - their priests shall teach with their learning; they deny the Holy Ghost: vs. 6 - They deny the power of God, they say unto the people, hear ye our precept: vs.7 - They proclaim there is no God today; the Lord hath done His work; He hath given His power unto men: vs. 8 - this day He is not

a God of miracles; He hath done His work. Verse 14 summarizes the cause of their corruption:

“Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted; and their churches are lifted up; because of pride, they are puffed up.”

Back in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul described this as the vanity of their own minds and the blindness of their hearts. Paul told Timothy that modern churches will not endure sound doctrine; they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (2 Timothy 4:3-4), and that some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1).

Recently on a missionary trip to India I had the opportunity to share the fullness of the gospel to a large group gathered for a wedding. Later that afternoon ten men calling themselves Evangelists showed up unannounced at our hotel room. They gave me thirty uninterrupted minutes to give a brief account of the Restoration and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Then they spent the next 1½ hours challenging our authority and the facts of

the Restoration. They were angry and wanted to argue. They asked questions, but refused to allow us to answer.

I could not reach most of these men because they did not believe the teachings of the Bible. They stated they did not believe any prophecy in the Bible was fulfilled after the days of the Bible. They said all prophecy of the Old Testament was fulfilled in the New Testament with Jesus’ birth, and all the New Testament was only for the House of Israel. They denied God’s power and told me today there are no gifts of the Spirit, no healings or miracles, and angels cannot work among men today. They deny the calling of ministry or the existence of apostles in the last days. They told me that the resurrection of mankind has already taken place and there will be no “Millennium” or 1000 year reign of Christ, and Satan has already been released from the bottomless pit so he can reign 1000 years. Basically they have changed the truths into a lie and fulfill the description of the corrupted modern day church.

As we sat there listening, I remembered a prophecy, a promise, and warning sent from God concerning these days and such attitudes of rejection of truth.

2 Nephi 12:31-33: “Wo be

unto him that crieth, All is well; yea, wo be unto him that hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Yea, wo be unto him that saith, We have received, and we need no more. And in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of God.”

These men and others like them are confident and persuasive in their speaking. Each one of us must be ready to face such a confrontation from the whore of the earth and be able to see through the false teaching, seducing spirits and precepts of men. For our own survival we must have a working knowledge of the scripture, especially those that point to the truths of the Restoration. We need to follow the instruction from Jude 3:

“...Exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

This word, “Contend” does not mean for us to be confrontational. According to *Strong’s Dictionary*, “earnestly contend” means: to struggle – work hard – make an effort, labor, exert yourself to keep the truth of that which gives you hope. Have you struggled to make alive

God's word in yourself? Are you steadfast in the truth, or can you be shaken? Satan is a formidable adversary and should not be underestimated. It is important to know exactly why you believe what you do so you cannot be swayed by lies or false and cunning doctrines. With that said, I would like to rehearse a few of the basic truths of the Restoration each of us should have committed to our understanding and, if possible, our memories.

THERE WILL BE A MAN OF SIN RAISE UP AND DECEIVE THE CHURCH

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: "... for that day shall not come, except there **come a falling away first**, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; Who **opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God**, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Daniel 7:25: **And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**

Revelation 13:11: "And I

*beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he **spake as a dragon.**"*

Revelation 13:5-6: "And there was given **unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.**"

THIS WILL CAUSE A FALLING AWAY OF TRUTH – AN APOSTASY

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12: "And for this cause God shall send **them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Revelation 12:6: "And the **woman fled into the wilderness**, where she hath a place prepared of God," (prophetically – wilderness is place of rejection, punishment out of the presence of God; see examples in Isaiah 14:14; Hosea 2:3; Numbers 14:33, 32:13).

Amos 8:11-12: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will **send a famine in the land**, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of

*the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.**"*

THE APOSTASY WILL LAST ONLY A LIMITED TIME ACCORDING TO PROPHECY

Revelation 12:6: – "1260 days," (Prophetically a day is as a year with God: see: Numbers 14:33-34).

Revelation 13:5: – "42 months," (There are 30 days of the Jewish calendar, 42 X 30 equals 1260 days).

Daniel 7:24-25: – "time, times and the dividing of time," (a "time" equates to a year, therefore "times" is 2 years being 24 months; "time" is 1 year being 12 months, and "dividing of time" is a ½ year being 6 months. Added together we get 42 months or 1260 days).

GOD WILL DO A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER

Isaiah 29:11-14: "And the vision of all is **become unto you as the words of a book...**"

Isaiah 29:18-20: "And in that day shall the **deaf hear the words of the**

book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off."

GOD WILL RESTORE CHRIST'S CHURCH HERE UPON THE EARTH

In the days of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of an image, a statue, of a man comprised of different metals; each metal representing a kingdom to come into power in the future. Daniel tells the king the meaning of the spiritual dream:

Daniel 2:44: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Revelation 14:5-7: "And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of

heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

THIS MARVELOUS WORK WILL BE A TEST OF FAITH FOR MANKIND...IT SHALL BRING THAT WOE PRONOUNCED UPON MAN THAT DENIES THE POWER OF GOD

1 Nephi 3:214-216: "For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other; Either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken."

Satan and his church are fighting against truth, and he

is a formidable adversary. If we each contend to have these truths we cannot be shaken. Hold fast to that which you have been taught and feast on Christ's words; then you can see through the lies, false doctrines and untruths being taught throughout the world.

The Church of the Lamb of God will be preserved; it is a Kingdom that shall stand forever because God's power is with it.

1 Ne 3:230-231: "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; And they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory."

Let us take up our arms, our weapons of this spiritual warfare. Paul said in Ephesians that part of our spiritual armor is "the sword of the spirit which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

A Modern Prophecy and its Fulfillment

Excerpts taken from *The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem*, by Apostle Don McIndoo

Our narrative begins in the scrub forest of the Yucatan Peninsula about 1914 (Cabrera). It is recounted by Susano Cabrera, one of a group of Mayans traveling by horseback to a village where they might obtain work. Susano was 13 at the time. Early in the morning they were startled by the appearance in their camp of a most unusual person. The man was tall and fair, his long blond hair and beard certain to attract attention among the Maya. He wore a long robe and walked barefoot. A penetrating gaze was accentuated by his eyes of green. He spoke to them about God and told them he was going to the town of Yaxche (Yash-chay').

When he left them he quickly disappeared over a little hill. It occurred to the startled travelers that they, too, were going through this town and should allow their unusual visitor to ride the spare horse. They hurriedly broke camp and raced to the top of the hill. Below them in the valley they caught sight of the stranger on the trail but, in spite of racing their horses, were never able to overtake him.

At noon they arrived at Yaxche and inquired after "the prophet." A lady told them he had arrived at seven in the morning but had left the village and continued on to the town of Bolonchen. The tired Indians remounted their sweating horses and proceeded on toward Bolonchen, arriving there at 8:00 P.M. To their amazement, they were told by a resident of the town that the bearded stranger had arrived at 8:00 A.M. and would speak to the people on the morrow. Tired, and wishing to hear the preacher again, they spent the night in town with a relative.

Upon arising in the morning they saw the plaza filling with people. There were people perched in the trees and upon the rooftops around the central square. All had come to hear "the prophet." Susano Cabrera was interested to know if he was truly a prophet or just another itinerant preacher: his skepticism vanished as he watched the prophet leave the house where he was staying and enter the street, for as he raised his foot to step over the door frame his feet continued above the ground and he entered the plaza above the dusty street.

He began to preach and spoke with such a voice that all could hear. Everyone was attentive to what he said. "God has sent me," he began. "I come to tell you the truth, and all they who believe shall have salvation." He repeated the warning of Jesus that there would be false Christs and false prophets. He prophesied of many things which were to happen, telling them that Chetumal (the Caribbean port of Quintana Roo) would be destroyed by a great hurricane. There would come a time when grasshoppers would eat all their corn, and they would see such a scarcity of corn there would be no seed to plant. He spoke of a time when highways would connect the great cities and capitals (at this time Yucatan was isolated from all the world). He told them that many Americans would come to this remote land. He prophesied that there would be a third world war. "After the year 1937," he said, "you will see all these things I have come to tell you."

The highlight of his prophecy was not lost on Susano nor his brothers who accompanied him on this journey, for it spoke of Ticul, their

neighboring town in Yucatan. "You shall know that one day the gospel shall be brought to the house of Nemensio Xiu (remember, this was the man who was *cacique* of the Maya and a direct descendant of the kings of Mani, ancient capital of the Maya, and near present-day Ticul)."

An interesting side light is an experience Leon Yates and I had in Merida many years after these events unfolded. We were sitting in the main plaza getting a shoe shine from an old man who was recounting some of his experiences. He mentioned he was from Bolonchen, and Leon asked him if he remembered the day, many years before, when the prophet came to his town. The elderly man answered in the affirmative and recounted some of his memories of the event which supported this testimony of Susano Cabrera.

Imagine the feelings of those who heard the prophet long ago when Chetumal was destroyed in the late 1930's by a terrible hurricane. They remembered the words of the prophet when plague and famine came to Yucatan in the late 1930's and within a few years the world was to be engulfed in a second world war, paving the way for the third one recounted in the prophecy. Soon the city of Merida was to become a leading city of the area and be connected with paved roads to many other cities and capitals. "All that the prophet said in truth is being fulfilled," realized Susano. He now awaited the coming of the gospel to the home of Nemensio Xiu.

In the spring of 1950 the set-

ting moves to Salt Lake City where Clarence and Angela Wheaton had stopped to purchase some literature. They heard of three Navajo Indians who had purportedly returned from a trip to Chiapas, Mexico, where they visited a walled city populated with white Indians. Upon contacting one of these men, Toni Nez Bah, an invitation was extended to come to Independence and speak of their recent experience. Nez Bah came and aroused a lot of interest with his account. He publicly invited the Wheatons to accompany him on a subsequent expedition (Wheaton, C.L.).

When they had made their preparations their prospective guide declined to make the journey. Armed only with a few letters of introduction, the Wheatons set out alone. One of these letters was written by Chief Shupe-she - a friend of the Wheatons - to the Maya *cacique*, Nemensio Xiu. In the early winter of 1951, Clarence and Angela embarked upon their first visit to Mexico.

Late on a Saturday night, February 24th, the Wheatons arrived in Ticul and, after a brief meeting with the Xius, were put up in a small hotel. In her diary Angela made this simple notation: "Xiu said he was calling a meeting at his house for Sunday afternoon...." To Clarence and Angela, at the time, this meeting was only to help them in their quest to find a walled city, but it was destined to have a much greater significance.



► Ticul 1951 - Lorenzo Ek, N Xiu, CLW

At this meeting Clarence was given opportunity to tell those assembled his reasons for wanting to find such a city. He spoke to them of the Book of Mormon and its promises to the Indian people. Passages of the book were read and, when translated, great interest and excitement were evident among those gathered. One gentleman, Francisco Zapote, laid his hand upon the book. He then said, "This book is a treasure to be cherished. You must not treat it with indifference" (Wheaton, Angela). A second meeting was announced to take place at the Xiu home the following Sunday and the leading Mayan elders from the surrounding villages were invited to attend.

On Tuesday Clarence and Angela met Xiu's son, Dionicio, (Dionicio later was killed and the direct male lineage came to an end-dem) who was not present for Sunday's meeting as he had been working at his *milpa*, or corn field, in the jungle. They were amazed to hear that this young man had a dream three months before in which he saw two people come to Yucatan to teach his people about the "Fair

God” of the ancient Maya. Three weeks ago, he told them, he had another dream which showed him these two people were on their way, and on February 24th he had a third dream in which he was told to take his family and go to Ticul. Now upon meeting the Wheatons, wrote Angela in her diary, “...he recognized us as the people he had seen in his dreams” (Wheaton, Angela).

When Susano Cabrera and his brother, Sabino, of nearby Dzan, heard of a stranger who was to speak in the home of Nemensio Xiu it brought back into focus the words of the prophet many years before – “You shall know that some day the gospel shall be brought to the house of Nemensio Xiu.” When the day arrived for the announced meeting at the Xiu home, Susano and Sabino Cabrera were present along with the leaders from many towns in the area.



► Group of Maya at Xiu home 1951

After the preliminary activities had been completed, Nemensio Xiu asked Clarence to speak to those assembled. Clarence asked his interpreter, Ramiro Lara, to read to the group from the 5th chapter of the third book of Nephi about the coming of Jesus Christ to their forefathers

after His resurrection. After the reading many of those present favorably compared this story from the Book of Mormon to the tradition of the Fair God of their ancestors. Nemensio Xiu said it was the same account written in the ancient records of their people which had been destroyed by “the black robed priests” at ancient Mani. Then Xiu held the book in his hand, extended it to those gathered at his home, and said in Maya: “This is our Book. It is ours” (Wheaton, C. L.)!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ had come to the Maya people of Yucatan! “Clarence,” related Susano, “asked us if we would like to form a group in the bonds of the gospel and we responded that we would. So he organized us into the Church of Christ. This took place in the town of Dzan” (Cabrera). In the early fall of 1953 thirty people from the town of Dzan were baptized into the Church of Christ and from among them the Lord called an Indian ministry; a new and royal priesthood had been established in the same generation which saw the 900 year reign of the Xiu *caciques* come to an end with the death of Nemensio.



► 1st members - ladies - Dzan 1953

Sabino Cabrera donated land for the building of a church. Work on this first church building began later that same year. Today four generations of these same families are actively engaged in the gospel work. Direct descendants of the very people among whom the Lord established His church in America almost 2000 years ago, again carry the banner of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



► Dzan congregation 12-25-55

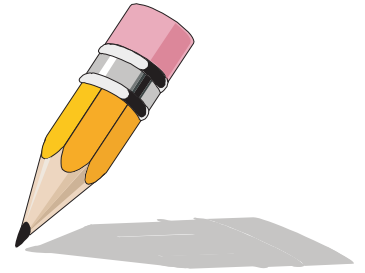
“For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

“And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

“And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers” (2 Nephi 12:80-82).

REPORT

2012 Solemn Assembly and General Church Conference



On Friday morning, March 30th, the saints gathered into the House of the Lord for Solemn Assembly. Apostle Roland Sarratt and Priest Bruce Haines were in charge. Br. Roland welcomed us, read the Apostles' statement of our purpose in gathering and gave the opening prayer. Br. Bruce asked us to petition the Lord's Spirit to remain with us as we lift our voices in prayer unto Him in this place of refuge. As the world closes in we must seek His help. There is pressure on us from the world to change, but the Lord doesn't change. Do we? We are commanded to be different, with our obedience and good works our example. He read Moroni 7:2-18 and Titus 2:11-15 to show us that we need to pray unto the Father fervently and with real intent, and are not to be of this world.

After a season of prayer many voices were lifted unto our Heavenly Father.

Testimonies of God's blessings followed; here are just a few:

- A brother testified that God has good things for us, but it depends

on us. He told us our services should feed us; that our men need to stand and admonish the body. He desires us to be prepared and forewarned for what is to come. He admonished us, the chosen of God, the saints of God, to be a blessing. We should desire a mighty outpouring of His Spirit.

- Another brother reminded us that not long after Jesus left the Nephites they went into a state of confusion over the name of the church. After they fasted and prayed, He came to them once again. Be followers of Christ, invite Him in... it's His church.
- Another brother shared a thought given to him this day... Fear of the Lord. This kind of fear

has value; it can be a warning to us. Fearing things which are coming upon the earth should warn us to go to the Lord. We are a target for the devil, but God protects. We need to be watchful; there is power in prayer. Fear warns us but shouldn't guide us. It draws us to the Lord and away from those things that do us harm.

There was another season of prayer for a sister and her family before closing.

Friday evening we reassembled for another prayer service. Apostle Frank Fann and Elder Larry Beem were in charge. Br. Frank told us we are here to communicate with God, and gave the opening prayer. Br. Larry used

Romans 12:1-3 in telling us we need to be pliable and moldable in God's hands. We need to treat this house with reverence and depend on God to speak to our hearts; His spirit will manifest.

After a season of prayer and songs, a testimony was offered.

- A brother told us of an experience he had years ago while in Colorado. He and his



► Conference Choir

3-year-old daughter wanted to climb a mountain. There were large boulders they had to climb one at a time. They were just beyond the tree line when the wind came up. His daughter was afraid. They hid themselves in a large crack between the boulders. When the wind died down they continued their climb. This happening was so much like life—life is hard, we need help. The higher we go the harder it is. This is a place of refuge, but we need to keep on climbing.

Saturday morning we again entered the House of the Lord. Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse and Elder Adam Porter were in charge. Br. Buzz gave the opening prayer. Br. Adam greeted us and told us we are living in the time the prophets looked forward to. The Lord has invested in His people; have you invested in your family and your time in the Lord's church? The night before we were told to listen for the voice of the Lord. Br. Adam testified that we have heard, read, or studied in the foundation of the Lord. We're a peculiar people, seeking the direction of our Heavenly Father. Br. Adam read Deuteronomy 11:1-23.

After a season of prayer in which many prayers were lifted, an administration took place, followed by many testimonies. These are just a few:

- A sister testified that God's plan is the perfect plan. She told of a time years ago when she and her future husband decided to sell both of their homes before they married and buy one together. Their plan seemed overwhelming, but they took it to the Lord. Before they had acted upon their decision, someone came by and asked if they could buy her house. Then an opportunity arose and her fiancé was able to sell his house. The first home they were led to and looked at together was meant for them. The Lord had a plan...they didn't need to know what it was, just to follow it. The Lord is doing the same thing here with us. We need to have the patience of an unanswered prayer.



► **Hubert & Louise Yates**

- A brother read 2 Corinthians 4: 5-7; and told us the restored gospel is the treasure we have to share with the world. Recently on a missionary trip he was told by a group of men from another church that they don't believe most of the prophecies. There were two men in that group who were interested and wanted to know more. That treasure was given to them and they went to their congregations and taught. Our brother admonished us to teach the restored gospel. We each have to know it, and if we can't do it, then it's our fault. We should know how the scriptures tie together to show proof...that's what we are to teach the world.

Saturday afternoon we assembled for another prayer service. Apostle Mike McGhee and Elder Andy Brantner welcomed us. After the opening prayer Br. Mike read Ecclesiastes 12:13; 1 Nephi 2:15; Alma 26:9, 56; Alma 21:131-132; Psalm 27:1-4, 8. He admonished us that we are under attack in ways we never dreamed of.

After a season of prayer in which many prayers were lifted up to our Heavenly Father, many testimonies followed. These are just a few:

- A brother told us he feels we live far below what

we could have. We need to come down into the depths of lacking and humility before we can gain more blessings. We can do much for the Lord, but we need a greater faith.

- Another brother read from Luke 2:42-49. He told us the Honduran people have not found the truth until coming to the Church of Christ. He gave several testimonies from others: One brother was having trouble physically with his farming chores. He asked the Lord where He wants him to be. In a dream he was shown a little house where there were people. The next day he visited there and then came to a meeting. He knew God was directing him and he was baptized. The next year he was able to do all his farming chores with no pain. He said God took away all his pain because he came to church. Another brother left another church because they were telling his wife she had to travel overnight with the pastor. He allowed the Church of Christ to visit and they attended meetings and eventually asked for baptism. He believed in the Rapture, as many in other churches do. When taught it was not true he became angry and left. He decided to prove it was true and began to study it out. A few days later he asked for forgiveness. He knows today



► **Leslie & Irene Case**

that this is the only true church. Our brother read Daniel 2:44-45, and explained that sometimes here we forget we should be about the Father's business.

- Another brother told us he's always wondered, "Why did things in the church happen the way they did?" He finds another reason every time that tells him this is the true church. God preserved this church with His own hand, even through human mistakes. The Lord wanted this people to have His gospel and this property. God's purpose is to reaffirm to us the reality of the restoration. This is just our beginning. . . go on to perfection. This people here and now are God's miracle, and He'll take us from here.
- Another brother testified of something that happened years ago. He was in charge of the meetings, and in his humanness he kept people from speaking. He was confronted afterward; he told the sister she was right and he apologized. He has remembered it all these years. The experience changed his life; it was hard to take, but good for his soul. God does things in ways we don't like or understand.
- Another brother told us of someone's dream

where he saw a church with a gringo preaching. In his dream he asked, "What denomination?" A voice told him, "No denomination, the Church of Christ." Our brother told us we are the kingdom spoken of in the book of Daniel. He urged us to seek the Lord and receive a clearer message of what we ought to do and say.

Sunday morning we entered into the House of the Lord for a Sacrament Service.

Apostles Joel Yates and Don McIndoo were in charge. Br. Joel greeted us and used Jeremiah 29:11-14 and Luke 5:16 to tell us that our preparation is important.

Br. Don read Alma 5:13-14. Br. Don told us of a time when he was eight years old, his family moved from Colorado to Idaho in covered wagons. Then years later, he heard men were walking on the moon. He knew great changes had taken place; it was a new era of time. Br. Don read Romans 11:16-21 and Jeremiah 29:13-14. He urged us to be built upon the Rock and admonished us that we need the Spirit to guide us. It's a day of sacrifice and tithing for His people. Br. Don read III Nephi 8:30 where we are told if those that are baptized shall do these things we shall have His spirit to

be with us.

The sacrament was blessed and served. After a season of prayer many voices were lifted in testimony. Here are just a few:

- A sister told us of her husband's great blessing being healed from spinal meningitis. Our brother went into a coma and was administered to several times. Suddenly he awoke and was greatly blessed with a remarkably rapid healing.
- Another sister testified of the goodness of the Lord after the sudden loss of her son. She put her hand in the Lord's hand as He held her up through the time of hardship. She was thankful for the outpouring of love from all her loved ones, and the Holy Spirit gets her through each day.
- Another sister also testified of God's goodness to her during the passing of her husband. She told us love is so precious, as she saw her husband, our brother, hold on to life to be able to say good-bye to their son. God was so good and granted him this last blessing.

After lunch, we gathered to enjoy a beautiful music service. There were many musical gifts given in praise to our Lord, and a beautiful cantata by the conference choir.

The afternoon sermon was given by Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse. Br. Buzz read the statement from the Apostles in last year's Conference Report. He read 2 Timothy 3:1-7; Alma 16:138-142; Moroni 7:34-44; and Ephesians 6:10-18. He admonished us to study that we may be witnesses of the truth. We have to put our faith to practice, and be strong in the Lord. Br. Buzz read Psalm 46 and Isaiah 11:11-16, and told us God will gather His people and will provide the way. . . through Jesus Christ. We need to come before His throne and humble ourselves. He spoke of the two books that blend together and bear witness of the truth. Br. Buzz read 1 Nephi 7:34-70. Christ will provide us with a refuge. Know what are in these two books, know how to teach and explain what we believe. He read Isaiah 4:3-6. We believe a temple will be built here in Independence (read from the Articles of Faith and Practice). We

believe the New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land, beginning right here at the Temple Lot. The scriptures teach us that God has two places for refuge, here in this land and in the Jerusalem of old. Br. Buzz read Daniel 2:31-37. This is the restoration of the Church of Christ... God's kingdom on earth. He read 1 Peter 2:9-15. We must not contend with other churches but are called to teach the truth. We have been called to shout an alarm and to be that royal priesthood.

The Monday morning prayer service was opened by Elders Ronnie Gill and Bill Gould. Br. Ronnie gave the opening prayer and Br. Bill read from Luke 21:25-27. He told us we live in a momentous time in history, with prophesy being fulfilled. In darkness the light of Christ shines even brighter. Br. Ronnie spoke of how blessed we yet are—we can still go into a store and buy a Bible; someday we will not be able to. There was a season of prayer and an administration as our time was filled.

The evening sermon was given by Apostle Alvin "Jay" Moser. Br. Jay told us God doesn't give us everything, He withholds, making us pay something ourselves. Br. Jay began reading at Job 38:1-3. God chastised Job. There is a day coming when a trumpet shall sound and the dead shall rise. All that which has taken place before will be as nothing. There are many things only God can do and know. Job's sin was that he justified himself. Br. Jay read Job 40:1-2. God wants to teach us NOT to claim any honor unto ourselves. We should not look for or accept praise, but serve God. Br. Jay next referenced Matthew 26:40-41; do this and it shall change your life: watch and pray. In Mosiah 2:48-50, we are told to watch ourselves, our thoughts, words and deeds. We are not to live a selfish life. Police each other a little bit, but we must look at ourselves. Where is the temptation within you? Like looking in a mirror, look at your heart... your sins and your carnal nature. He read James 1:22-25. God wants us to feel guilty to find our weaknesses. We always have an experience with God when



► Frank & Carol Fann

we look into ourselves. God often does things we don't want or can't understand. In the end we can see we are NOTHING without Jesus. God brings us closer to Him. When we fall we are not destroyed; God's people stay and learn to trust Him more. He lifts us. You will make the world a better place if you will reflect upon your nature.

III Nephi 6:15. God will open up our understanding and help us to help ourselves and others if we will do this. Matt 15:17-20. He read Gen 6:5. It was that way before the flood, and it will be that way again at the coming of the Lord. He read Alma 16:238-239 and Acts 2:12. Hearken unto him—watch always. When people see things happening in the world... you may have the opportunity to tell them what is going on. There is a power in everyone's conscience.

People sometimes do not want to hear truth, their conscience is pricked. Get stuff out of your life first... then teach others.

The Tuesday morning prayer service was opened with Elders Gordon McCann and Bob Hedrick in charge.

Br. Gordon read Isaiah 1:24-27, where we are told the Lord is going to purge his people to

"redeem Zion with judgment and her converts with righteousness." He also read Ether 6:6-8, where we are told of the promise from the Lord to the "remnant of the house of Joseph" that this land will be "their inheritance" and that they will "build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old." He also read 3 Nephi 10:1-7 where we are told the Lord has established His church among the Gentiles where they have "come in unto the covenant," and they will "assist my people, the remnant of Jacob," along with "as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem." Br. Gordon read from the Book of Commandments 44:7-9, which tells us when this city will be built; "It shall be revealed unto you, from on high." He also read from the Book of Commandments 48:59-67, which tells us what is the purpose of the city; "Every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety," and that "... the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion singing." Br. Gordon also read from Isaiah 2:1-4, where we are told of the issuing in of the millennial reign of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Following a song service the evening ser-



► **Tiny Tots**

mon was given by Elder Robert Oldham. Br. Bob reminded us that God doesn't force anything on us. He read Luke 22:31-34, Ephesians 6:16, and explained that with God's help we can stand the trials of tribulation. We can be perfect if we let Jesus Christ lead us. Br. Bob referred to Rev. 20:12, and told us it will be devastating if we do not have Jesus Christ standing beside us when the BOOKS are opened and we are judged. He read Luke 12:47-48, and Isaiah 55:8-13. We must be thankful the Lord worked through Joseph Smith, Jr., or any servant of God; ALL were imperfect. The priesthood authority is here. We can be a strong instrument, if we choose to be. These are the times in which the prophets yearned to see. Rev. 20 tells of the judgment. We know God changes NOT. We need to study for ourselves. God's plan is complete and perfect; there needed to be a restored gospel; His wisdom will prevail. Br. Bob read Jacob 3:27-28, Jacob 3:30-31, II Nephi 12:12-17, and Luke 12:47-48. God has the responsibility to judge. He read Jacob 3:27-28, Jacob 3, and III Nephi 10:113. We are given a promise... He will establish His church among the Gentiles. They shall assist my people that they shall build a city called the New Jerusalem, that they may be gathered in, they that are scattered all around the world. This is the final

story...the prophecy of Zenos. We won't be called to do things that we are not capable of. His ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. His word will not return to Him void. He read 1 Corinthians 10:13. God's people will be gathered home to the land of their inheritance, Zion. Thy God reigneth.

Conference business was completed late Tuesday morning.

The Wednesday evening song service was followed with a sermon given by Elder Jim Case. Br. Jim told us we've heard words of warning, concern and admonishment. He desires to give us words that will strengthen us. Br. Jim read Ephesians 5:22 and Genesis 2:24-25. We are told to love our wife as ourselves, giving joy, peace and comfort, as we look to Christ for. We receive when we are in submission to His commandments. We've been admonished to study scripture so we can understand. Br. Jim read Mosiah 1:115-130, 2:2-4. He asked, "How do you know when you are keeping His commandments?" The answer is in 1 Tim. 1:5-6. We need a clear conscience and a clear understanding of where we are. Look in the mirror and see who you are. If we are keeping the com-

mandments we will have a charity we cannot fake. He read Moroni 7:3-16 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. We must speak out of love, wanting the best for each other. Show humility and concern for each other's soul. Otherwise it's just noise. Without charity we are nothing. Not all mountains are made of earth...they can be problems with no solutions. We should not desire to be recognized for doing good. Rejoice in the truth, it will help us to bear and endure all things. Look for God's example in reverence for all He has done for us. He gives us choices; He wants us to desire Him over everything else. Our lives are filled with distractions. God can work miracles in our lives if we let Him.

The 2012 General Conference for the Church of Christ had come to a close. We thank our Heavenly Father for His Spirit which was with us, and for the message He had for His people; to prepare ourselves in righteousness. We give all thanks and praise to God for His gifts and blessings. Our prayers are for each of you and for the work of the Gospel in these last, momentous days.

*May God bless you,
Your reporter,
Sr. Deb Haines*



► **Frank Fann & Granddaughter**

NOTICES

2012 REUNIONS & RETREATS

■ **COLORADO REUNION**

June 8-10 at the Grand Junction Local.

Pastor David Larsen: (970) 210-1783
Assistant Pastor: (970) 778-5767

Reserved Rooms available for \$65 a night at the Quality Inn in Grand Junction: (800) 790-2661 or (970) 245-7200.

RV Ranch in Clifton: (970) 434-6644
KOA Kampground in Grand Junction: (970) 242-2527

■ **MICHIGAN REUNION**

June 15-17 at the Bradley Local.

Elder Adam Porter: (616) 240-3902
Elder Dennis Trudgen: (813) 520-6649

■ **IDAHO REUNION**

June 22-24 at the SISCRA Campground in Donnelly, Idaho.

■ **CHURCH OF CHRIST VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**

July 9-13 at the Temple Lot Local.

Ages 3-12

Becky Sheldon: (816) 616-4525

■ **NEW YORK REUNION**

July 13-15 in Hogansburg.

Canada: Wayne & Susan Miller: (613) 933-5469, wmiller12@cogeco.ca

United States: Eli and Gretchen Tarbell: (518) 358-2911, egtarbell@hotmail.com

Brandon and Tara Tarbell: (518) 358-9153, btarbell@thetmg.com

■ **SCRIPTURE ADVENTURE 2012**

July 26 at the East Independence Local, Independence, Missouri, for ages 5-11; \$5.00 per family requested. Lunch provided.

Dana Taylor (816) 478-7973 or (816) 853-1200

■ **MINNESOTA REUNION**

August 31-September 2 at the Bemidji Local.

Elder Samuel Gould: (218) 368-1427
Sister Elaine Gould: (218) 586-2774
Elder Merlin Eddy: (651) 438-9738

■ **10TH ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S RETREAT**

October 5-6 at the Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

<http://home.comcast.net/~ccwr/index.htm>

■ **ONTARIO REUNION**

October 6-7 at the Brant/Norfolk Church of Christ in Teeterville, Ontario, Canada.

Bill and Marn Vieveen (519) 7 5 9 - 8 0 8 7 ,
marnie.vieveen@sympatico.ca

Mike and Debbie Bevaart (519) 805-9790, mbevaart@bell.net

■ **PHOENIX REUNION**

November 23-25 at the Phoenix Local.

Pastor Jim Yates, Jr.: (602) 374-3688, jimyatesjr@yahoo.com

Assistant Pastor Adam Yates: (602) 300-9013, a.m.yates@cox.net

Assistant Pastor Gary Jacobsen: (602) 421-4606, gljacobsen@live.com

THE HOPE of ZION

The Board of Publications has made available a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The*

Hope of Zion. Contact Elder Robert W. Oldham at rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net, or any member of the Board.

AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon, studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is www.cocsermons.net.

Correspondence COMMITTEE

The General Church Correspondence Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

PAT MCCANN (Chairman)
18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050

MARLENE COBB
630 S. Pickwick
Springfield, MO 65802

JUNE HAINES
11589 Genuine Rd
Clare, MI 48617

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.



Church of Christ

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Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
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Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic)	6.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (hardbound)	12.00
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THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830	Commandments Commentary)
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Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	First Presidency or First Apostles?
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	God's Promises to Israel
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	God's Purpose in America
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