

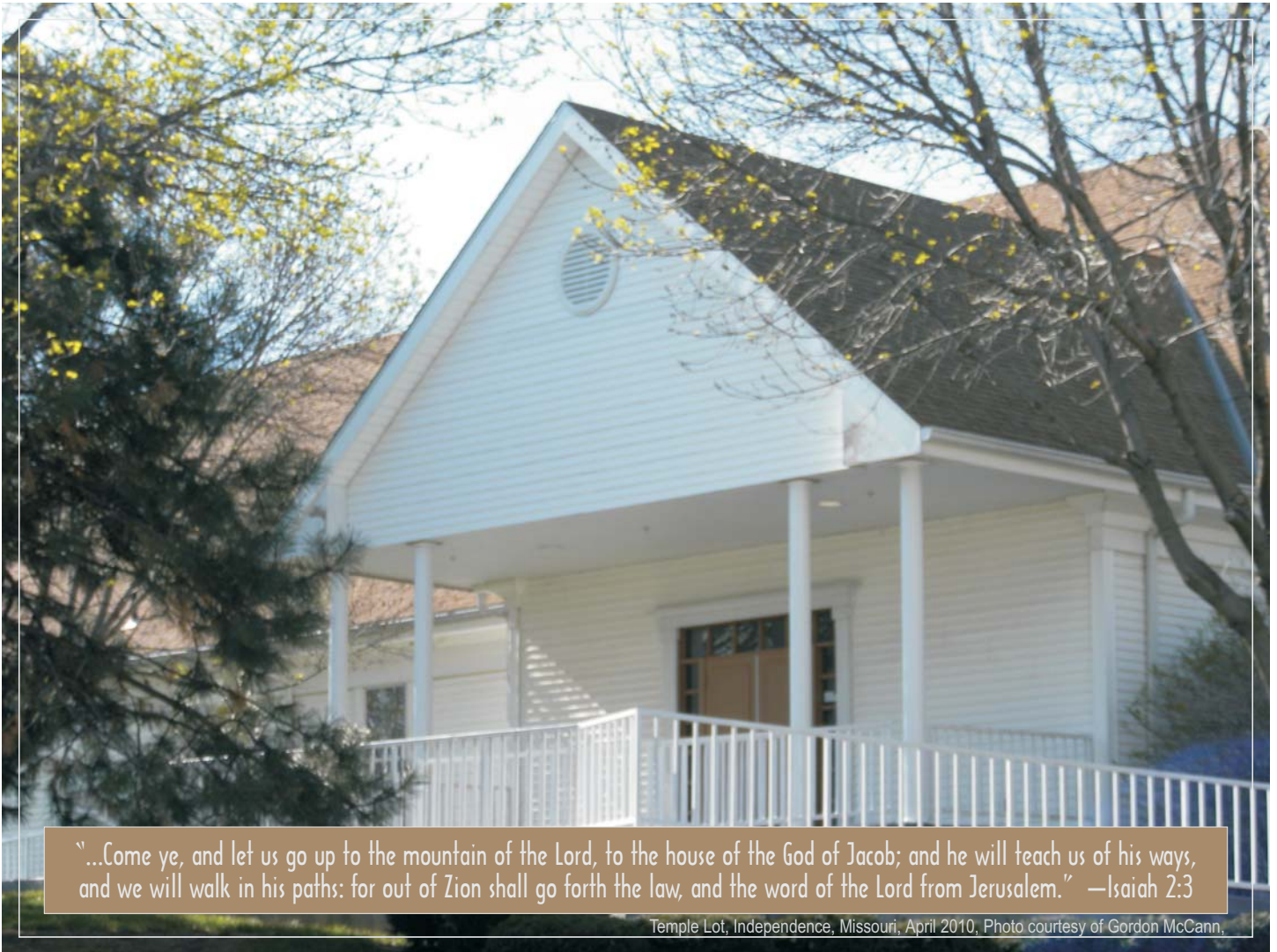
# Zion's Advocate

*"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*

VOLUME 87

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—May-June 2010

NUMBER 3

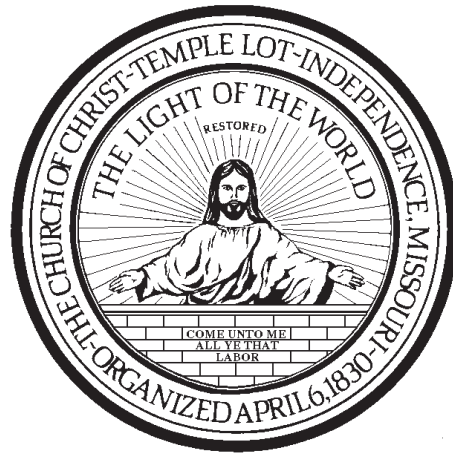


*"...Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." —Isaiah 2:3*

Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri, April 2010, Photo courtesy of Gordon McCann.

## *~ In This Issue ~*

REPORT—Special Conference Report . . . . .	35	Conference - Deb Haines . . . . .	42
MANIFESTATION—Dreams from Honduras - <i>Elder Ronnie Gill</i> . . . . .	36	OBITUARY—Jeanne Louise Brantner . . . . .	50
TESTIMONY—Every Mother's Nightmare - <i>Deb Haines</i> . . . . .	38	OBITUARY—Tobias Obuli Simbo . . . . .	50
REPORT—2010 Solemn Assembly and General Church		OBITUARY—Lawrence (Larry) Edward Kelley . . . . .	51
		NOTICES . . . . .	51



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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
 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.

# SPECIAL CONFERENCE REPORT

**The following was the recommendation from the Special Conference of the Apostles and Elders to the 2010 General Conference of the Church of Christ:**

*April 6, 2010*

*To: The 2010 General Conference of the Church of Christ*

*Greeting,*

The Apostles and Elders of the Church of Christ met in Special Conference on April 6, 2010 at the East Independence Local of the Church of Christ. The purpose of the Conference was to consider the calling of Camilo Samson to the office of an Evangelist.

It is the recommendation of this Special Conference to the 2010 General Conference that this calling be accepted as being of the Lord.

The witnesses of those in attendance where the callings occurred are included.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert J. Hedrick*

*Secretary*

*Special Conference of Apostles and Elders*

## TESTIMONIES:

### **LOLITA ALAMEDA**

The last day of September, we had a prayer held in Ascend Restaurant in an exclusive room there. God did a marvelous thing that we did not expect to happen. We knelt in prayer for Sis Jean Brantner, Sis Jewel Beam, Sis Carol and Sis Pat. Then we prayed for additional ordained ministers to help for the great work here in the Philippines. We felt the presence of the Holy Ghost that revealed to Bro. Demetrio that God called Bro. Wilson as an elder, which was confirmed by Bro. Arturo and again witnessed by Elder Jonathan. Everybody can't hold to our emotion that we cried out to the Lord in thanksgiving. Then another man was called, which was revealed to Bro. Roger that Bro. Jonathan and Arturo. God again revealed to Bro. Jonathan that Camilo Samson, leader in Conception and Maniki, was called to be an evangelist, witnessed by Bro. Roger and Demetrio. We could not control ourselves...we hugged and cried with each

other, sharing the joy within our hearts for God's marvelous things that He did that day.

### **ELDER JONATHAN ALAMEDA**

I, Jonathan Alameda, Elder of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), assigned in Region 1.

It is my pleasure to give my personal testimony, when we were having our meeting in a place called (ASCEND) on September 30, 2009, morning.

Before we started our session, I felt the desirous spirit of each one of us, and that was to have additional ministry to be called, and ordained as the Spirit leads.

And in my part, while the Spirit was continuously moving in our midst, very strong...my mouth was opened and my tongue pronounced the name of Camilo Samson as an Evangelist, for I know not really his background.

But that moment Elder Indangan and Elder Roger Manali witnessed that he was truly called to be an Evangelist. And when we were about to finish, we had a conversation with regards to the additional ministry that were called, especially Camilo Sam-

son.

And he told us that whatever responsibility that he may serve as a servant of God, he is willing to do whatever things that are going to be put upon his shoulder.

### **ELDER ROGER MANALI**

On Sept. 30, 2009, during our meeting in a place called (ASCEND) there was an unexpected happening, as we gathered together all in one place, singing and worshipping His name.

And in that period of time, there were hard prayers that were rendered. And all of a sudden my mouth opened, and my tongue also, and even I could not hold on.

Later on I mentioned the name of Bro. George

Cabriadas to be an Elder. And after that, I witnessed Bro. Camilo Samson as I heard Elder Jonathan mentioning his name to the office of an Evangelist, whom I had not known before.

### **TEACHER BEN RETANAL**

Last September, we, the ministers, appointed a day of prayer for the purpose of asking God for additional ministers to the work here in the Philippines.

Unfortunately, when the time arrived for prayer I was attacked by my ailment, so I was not able to come to Panabo for prayer. I just prayed in my bed and had a deep meditation for God's answer. I just committed to God for His rightful decision for whosoever He

willed. In my bed three persons appeared in my spirit: they were Wilson Manali, George Cabriadas and Camilo Samson; time passed by and I learned that these persons were chosen in joyful way in the ASCEND Restaurant.

There was joy and peace in my heart to know that what had appeared in my Spirit of consecrated prayer had come to pass. They were the ones whom God had chosen. Only God knows the specific office for which they were called.



# DREAMS FROM HONDURAS

**By Elder Ronnie Gill**

*The following is an excerpt from Elder Ronnie Gill's 2010 General Conference report:*

During this year there were three remarkable dreams that I feel are important to share. These three dreams were had by three different age groups (Youth, Middle Age, and Elderly). These three dreams were all had within a week's time, after we had been praying



► Maybis-Zepeda

much for the work.

The first dream was had by Maybis; she is a youth and member in the Zamorano Local.

“Sasha and I were swimming in a lake; on the beach was Thomas watching over us. Along the beach came a man. When he arrived at Thomas he asked him where the youth were that were His. Thomas pointed to us swimming in the water. When we heard this we got out of the water and approached

Thomas and the man. We understood that the Man was Jesus Christ. He told us that He had come to get us. But we were afraid as we were not ready. He told us that He would give us a little more time, but that we should get ready as He was returning in six months.”

My understanding of this dream is that the youth were in the water, or the world, and that the ministry, or Thomas, was watching them, but not diligently enough in helping them out of the water or world, and because the youth are still somewhat in the world they are not ready, but should hasten to get ready as Christ’s return is imminent.



► Fransisco

The second dream was had by Fransisco, and elderly member in the Zamorano Local.

“I was standing on the church grounds (in Zamorano) looking towards my house, but I didn’t see my

house. What I saw was a person descending in a cloud. His hands were extended out with the palms facing up, as though he was showing his palms. He came to me and asked me how I was; I understood he was asking about my spiritual life. I also understood that He was Jesus Christ. I told Him that I thought I was okay. He shook His head no, and told me that I needed to work on my spiritual life still. Then He pointed to the church building and told me that this was His Church, but that the members needed to know that they were not yet ready and that they must get ready as He was returning soon.”

This dream was self-explanatory for me.

The third dream was had by Luis Torres, who is an Elder in the Oculi Local.

“I was on a coffee plantation with many others and we were harvesting coffee. At the time I was in the kitchen relaxing while others were outside playing all sorts of games. After some minutes someone outside stood up and said, “A man comes in the clouds.” I left the kitchen and went outside where the others were playing games and looked up to where the man was pointing. I saw the man and knew it was Jesus Christ coming. I looked around at the people playing and told them that they needed to get their lives right with God and be serious, as the man coming

in the clouds was Jesus Christ.”

My understanding of this dream was that the people outside were members going about life and not taking the gospel as seriously as they should, and that even the ministry were relaxing and not doing as they should.



TESTIMONY

# Every Mother's Nightmare

Every Mother's Nightmare has turned into a wonderful blessing from God!

I've been very blessed to have witnessed several miracles in my lifetime. Even though this one took place twenty-two years ago, I am still thanking God for all His blessings in it.

years of age. They had taken this ride before, but this time the boys were on their way back home when Jason decided to go ahead at an intersection. As he crossed the highway he was hit by a large-sized truck, which was going approximately 65 miles per hour. Jason was struck on his left side, leaving

The Lord had placed everyone needed nearby and help came immediately. Out of a medical office nearby came several doctors and nurses running to help; an ambulance was on site within a minute; and an off-duty sheriff's deputy, held up in traffic because of the accident, came over to assist and was a third person in the ambulance. God planned so that the officer could provide the much-needed assistance with his extra pair of trained hands.

A friend of John's, who had been with the boys at the time of the accident, rode his bicycle home and frantically told his mother what had happened. She picked up the telephone and dialed the number her son gave her. I answered the phone. She told me my son had been hit at the intersection. I heard the boy crying in the background and thanked his mother and hung up; then, I realized I wasn't told which of my sons was injured. I told my husband of the call and we rushed to the site of the accident. Traffic seemed to part before us as I prayed fervently for our son.



On May 18th, 1988, my sons John and Jason were given permission to ride their bicycles into our little town of Rockford, Michigan, which was a mile or so away from our home. John had just turned fourteen and Jason was six weeks away from being twelve

his body's indentation in the hood of the truck. He was thrown, bouncing head over heels, for a total of 87 feet. His bicycle was a crumpled and twisted mass lying in the grass.

At the accident scene, Jason laid unconscious, but he was only alone for a minute.

As we pulled up to the ambulance, it started to leave...instinctively I jumped out of the car and rushed up, opened the ambulance passenger door while it was still in motion, and jumped in while telling the driver that it was my son he had in the back. The ambulance sped away with its siren clearing the way. Once underway, I glanced over into the back to see the three people working hurriedly on my son. I couldn't see my Jason's face, but I recognized the skinny legs and the clothing. There was no mistake; my son was in the back. I knew in my heart it was Jason. After a sob, I knew there was no time to cry—my prayers were more important. I prayed all the way to the hospital, silently crying out to God for His protection and watch-care over my younger son, while the EMTs worked feverishly in the back of the ambulance.

As the ambulance left, my husband and our young daughter, Jenni, located our other son, John. He was sitting on the bank near the intersection with a police officer. After

talking to the officer, they quickly made their way to the hospital.

When the ambulance arrived at the emergency en-



trance of the hospital there was a flurry of activity getting Jason out of the ambulance. I felt the urgency of the situation from the staff, yet I felt calmness and knew that the Lord was with us. At the hospital the staff approached me cautiously, with great concern. I asked for a telephone and they helped me look up the

number to contact my pastor. I reached him quickly and told him what had happened; he said he would be right there. I felt the urgency for administration for Jason. I learned later that as my pastor...my uncle...tried to telephone the assistant pastor, his line was busy. Just then another phone next to his rang...he picked it up and it was the assistant pastor. They were both on their way within minutes. The Lord was at work.

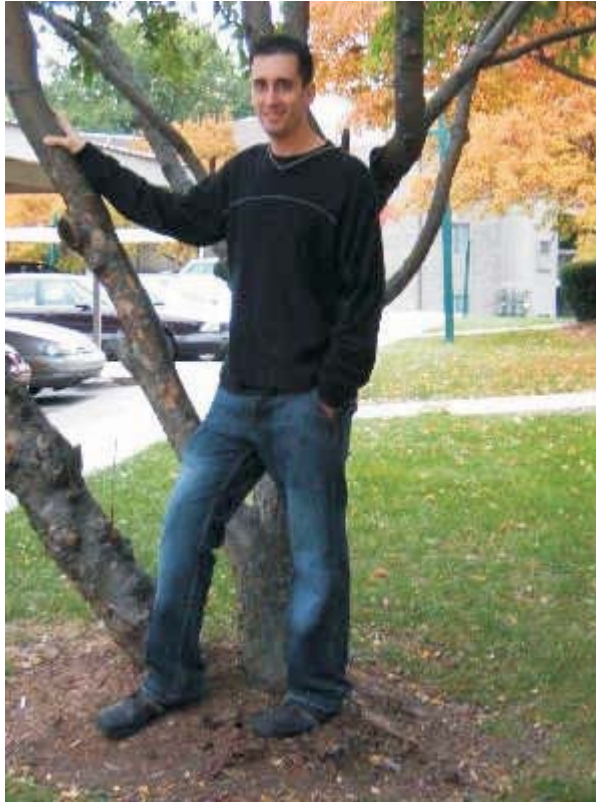
While our family gathered together in the waiting room and other phone calls were made to extended family, Jason was being examined and tended to in an attempt to assess and stabilize his condition. As my pastor and the assistant pastor came in, they asked the attending physician whether it would be all right if they went in to pray for Jason. They said, "Yes, and pray for us too!" As the administration and prayer was taking place, all the medical staff stopped and bowed their heads also. Then Jason was wheeled in to surgery for his ruptured, hemorrhaging spleen.

The prayers offered up to our Heavenly Father were heard and the surgery was successful; Jason survived the surgery. He was not out of danger, however, as the swelling and pressure in his head from the impact was steadily growing; he was being monitored and assessed continuously. Jason was placed into a drug-induced coma and would remain there for some time. Prayers were lifted up for Jason from people all over, within and outside of the church. The blessings were already being seen and felt.

The next day Jason's grandparents arrived from Missouri. This time the trip was a very long and prayerful 12 hour drive. My mother, Jason's grandmother, told me as they threw together some clothes preparing to leave that morning that my dad told her to put in some things suitable for a funeral. She tried to, but couldn't...and a voice came to her and said she wouldn't need them. So she didn't pack any. She stepped out in faith that her grandson would not die.

Each time Jason was administered to, the healing progressed more rapidly. The

pressure inside his head never got to the point where they needed to relieve it with a shunt. There would be no way



to know whether there was lasting damage to Jason's brain until he was further along in his recovery.

A few days later my dad, Jason's grandfather, asked one of the ICU nurses who had been on the case from the beginning, what they had thought of his recovery prognosis when he first came into emergency. She told him that they hadn't held out much of any hope for him.

We waited for Jason to come out of the coma. During that time, our family and

church family surrounded us with love. God was with us, lifting us each day as we waited for our son to return to us.

Once he started to come out of it he was unable to speak because of the ventilator which assisted in his breathing. Gradually he was able to be weaned from it. He seemed to recognize his family and when he was able...he read what was written on one of his balloons... "We Luv You!" We rejoiced! God had heard and answered our prayers.

After about ten days in ICU, Jason was moved to the Intermediate Pediatrics Unit, and there he began several different types of therapy. It was the beginning of a long and arduous road for him. The first trial was just to sit up, as he was so weak and had terrible whiplash, and he had lost so much weight he was skin and bones. His eyes didn't work together very well for a while, and there was a bruising on his heart from the impact. Even with all the struggles there were so many things that brought joy to our hearts as we watched him heal. He didn't remember having a little five-year-old sister, so when he learned this and actually saw her, he was in awe!



He touched her cheek in disbelief. There was also a day when we smuggled his kitten in for a visit...he was so thrilled. He didn't want to let go of the poor cat!

A few weeks later he was moved to a rehabilitation hospital for intensive therapy. Our family met many other families who had gone through similar trauma, and learned of their stories. All were thankful to God in their own way for His blessings, guidance and strength. Many who were going through their own trial were both thankful for their child's life, yet—grieving for the loss of that child which they remembered before their injury...and adjusting to their child being so different, sometimes greatly handicapped.

Jason's recovery had progressed so well that he was discharged from Mary Free Bed Hospital after three months. He then had out-patient therapy most every day for quite some time. In the fall he was able to return to school, in a special classroom so he could learn at his own pace and with special help. He began to see a counselor each week, in addition to his physical therapy and occupational therapy. He continued to be healed and slowly regained his strength. As time

went on the physical therapies became less frequent. The social and cognitive therapy was the next challenge. The Lord chose just the right counselor to help him, and that counselor has continued with him to this day. Jason began to attend a social skills group of young people to help him learn how to be socially appropriate. When the need came, Jason also learned how to better drive a car through a class at the rehabilitation hospital. He was blessed to be able to graduate with his class in 1996. He tried many jobs, went through some different training classes, and had to learn many social skills in order to finally be successful in a job placement.

It has been a difficult but also a rewarding time, spanning over many years, and seeing all the blessings unfold. Jason is now 34 years old. He lives on his own in an apartment. He holds down a part-time job. Jason is a great help when it comes to any computer problem I have. He manages his own household and finances, he drives his own car and even maintains the automotive work on it himself. He is an intelligent, cheerful, loving person who is enjoyable to be around. He recently began taking college courses, fur-

thering his interest in automotive technology. He is doing wonderfully well and is greatly blessed!

Watching Jason heal and recover has been a wonderful blessing; watching him mature has been another great blessing. Some of you have met him at church, in Michigan, or Missouri, when he visited Independence. God has blessed him tremendously and, in turn, our whole family has been blessed with watching his miraculous recovery. I don't know why God allowed the accident to happen, but I trust Him that it fit in His plan for us somehow, for I know... "All things work together for good to them that love God." We are so thankful, and know we are very blessed. I give all the thanks and praise to God!

*Forever grateful for His blessings,*

*Sr. Deb Haines*

REPORT

# 2010 Solemn Assembly and General Church Conference

On Friday morning we gathered into the House of the Lord for Solemn Assembly. Apostle Buzz Brickhouse and Elder Glenn Gill welcomed us. Br. Buzz told us it is good that we've separated ourselves and entered unto the Lord. He read the resolution from last year's conference: Moroni 6:6, 9, where we are told the church did meet together oft in fasting and prayer. Br. Buzz also read Matthew 5:3-11, 22, 24, 43-45; Matthew 6:5-34. Br. Buzz then told us of a passing of a newborn this morning and asked us to pray for the family.

Many voices were raised as we knelt in a season of prayer unto our Father. Following were testimonies of God's blessings; here are just a few:

- A brother told of difficulties he had at work about a year ago. He was working too many hours and it was affecting his family and his service to God. He lost the job last July and is self-employed now. He has been greatly blessed with more time for God, for his family and to be able to be at conference.
- Another brother told of how long ago a brother in the church used an example of breaking pencils. If they were banded together they could not be broken. He told a story of a camping trip years ago where the neighboring campers were loud and rowdy. Their group sang hymns and blocked the others out. He told us that conference time is for "the state-of-the-church," and not the state-of-the-union, for as the church goes so the nation goes; with the power of heaven it can be so, if we unite our

prayers.

- Another brother told us he compares the past to the present and sees the Lord's hand in it. Evidence of this is the Teen Camp and the Visiting Ministry program. Recently he experienced preaching via telephone conference calls, which tripled the number who were able to listen to the sermon. God uses what is available. Circumstances try us, but the strength of the Lord is with us.
- There was a plea for a young man in Honduras, who is not a member, who had taken poison. We knelt in a season of prayer, not only for his physical health, but most importantly for his spiritual welfare.
- Another brother gave testimony from years ago. He was called to administer to a young man in Honduras who had taken poison. They accompanied him to the hospital there. Doctors who were there told them it is always fatal; the attending doctor told them there was no hope. Our brother was impressed of the spirit to talk to the young man. Even though he appeared to be unconscious, when he did the young man nodded. They took him to another hospital. The next morning they went to see the young man, and he was sitting up eating his dinner. The following day he went home. It was the miraculous power of God.
- A sister gave a testimony of when her daughter was just five months old and was very ill. She took the baby to the hospital after she cried all night. She was told her daughter had pneumonia

and wouldn't live. She begged God to save her baby. She promised to serve Him if He'd help her baby; He did, and years later they came to know the church. Her daughter is now thirteen and is here now serving God and has lots of faith. We all need to seek God in our problems and in all ways.

- A young sister testified that at the age of fifteen she was sad. Now she is so happy and blessed, with family, a job and all of the church family. She is very thankful.
- A brother expressed his gratitude and his sense of joy—at the sisters who just gave their testimonies. He believes the mission of the church is to go out and preach the gospel. We have so many brothers and sisters that speak other languages. One day we will all be together as one. He longs to see that; it's a joy he's experienced in other countries, individuals and groups. Our efforts are bearing fruit. No matter what darkness overtakes the world, we will have this joy between us.
- Another brother gave testimony of a healing that took place years ago in Honduras. There was a young man who had been in an automobile accident and given up for dead. He was asked to administer to him. There was no immediate response from the young man afterward. Months later when he asked about the young man, he was told that he did survive; in fact, he awoke right after our brother had left the room.

Friday evening we reassembled for another prayer service. Apostle Mike McGhee and Elder Gerald Cox were in charge. Br. Mike read Psalms 145,

which speaks of God's magnificence. We are safer in His keeping than in our own. He told us we come together to honor Christ, praise God and prepare ourselves.

After a season of prayer followed many testimonies; here are just two:

- A brother reported that the young man who took the poison in Honduras will live; he is doing well and is home from the hospital. When we draw closer to God, He'll draw closer to us.
- Another brother told us of shots being fired in Honduras; it was the call of the evil one to the wicked to come out. The world doesn't hear God. While in Honduras he heard of four dreams concerning the coming of Christ. He asked us to serve the Lord with our talents.

**S**aturday morning we once again entered the House of the Lord. Apostle Duane Ely and Elder Marvin Carroll were in charge. Brother Duane spoke to us. He reminded us that today there is a separation; we come here today to draw near to the heart of God. There is much trouble in the world today, but we can find peace and joy with Him. If we don't feel near, it's because we've moved away. He used Alma 4:6, James 5:16, Alma 16:219, and Mosiah 1:118-120. He reminded us that we came to petition the Lord, to draw near to Him. The world is becoming darker and darker. We will always be able to see the light of Christ; we need to have it in our hearts.

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 stood with an urgent plea for his two-year-old granddaughter who had gotten into a bottle of pain reliever. She was immediately taken to the hospital, where they were told that within

four hours her liver could be destroyed. There was an urgent plea unto our Heavenly Father in which many heartfelt prayers were lifted up on her behalf.

- A brother testified of his daughter's healing when she was a tiny baby. The doctors told him and his wife that she would not live. She was healed; God had blessed her. She is eighteen now and a member. He also told of a brother he knows who told him that when his son was a baby, the doctor said the baby would die within a few hours. He sat thinking to argue with God, but had a vision of his son running, and he heard a voice which said, "Your son will not die; he will be a blessing." Today the boy is thirteen years old.
- A sister gave testimony of years past. Her son was eighteen months old and was diagnosed with cancer. She prayed and went to phone her uncle (who is a minister in the church) desiring administration for her son. Just around the corner, in the hallway, she ran into another minister from the church. An administration took place immediately. It was the first time she had prayed out loud. There was a surgery that took place, and her son recovered. The doctors couldn't believe he was well. He was preserved due to prayer. God knows before you even ask.

Saturday afternoon we reassembled for another prayer service as our Solemn Assembly continued. Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Ken Oar welcomed us. Br. Jay spoke about God's grace; there is no happiness without it. He told us that Mormon witnessed the sad condition of his people, as the grace of God had ceased to strive with them. He prays that God's grace will be upon us; all else will fail. He used 2 Nephi 7:40. He told us that grace expresses the true nature of God, peace in times of stress.

Once again, we knelt in a season of prayer, following which many testimonies were heard. Here are just a few:

- A brother gave thanks unto the Lord for His hand of protection and healing over his two-year-old granddaughter. The toxin level has gone down, and they don't think there will be any problems. God did what doctor's couldn't. His family is very thankful for our prayers. (We followed up this wonderful report with a season of prayer in Thanksgiving unto our Heavenly Father.)
- A brother testified of a sickness he had when he was young. He doesn't remember being three years old. In his memory he went from two to four. He had to learn how to walk all over again. Even when he was a little baby, he turned blue and went into spasms. Their family was quite poor, but called for the doctor. He gave them a little bottle of medicine and it cured him as a tiny baby. He admonished us that the day is coming when we won't have medical assistance. We don't want to depend on it. It will be our prayers that will make the difference. He didn't want to think about what had happened to him for many years, but he knows now he is here only by the hand of God.
- A sister gave testimony about the hand of God in the healing of her son years ago. He was just a baby, and began to run a very high temperature. He was administered to and then taken to the hospital. The doctor thought the baby had meningitis. Calls went out and a prayer chain was begun. A spinal tap was done. In the vial, the fluid was milky when it should have been clear. She saw the doctor running down the hall to the lab with the vial. Just that quickly her son cooled down and wanted to get down and crawl around. He appeared to be back to normal. The doctor told them that by the time he had

gotten to the lab, the vial was clear. He was healed. Whenever something like this happens we are all reminded of the power of God.

At closing we were told we could take this with us. It is most important, our caring for the souls of others. Grace, if we experience it, we know it. It's God's grace that will convince. We have great reason to be humble. You have a great love for loved ones.

**S**unday morning we gathered in again unto the House of the Lord for a sacrament service. Apostles Frank Fann and Duane Ely were in charge. Br. Duane told us we had come here today to meet with our Lord. Remember the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We come in expectation. We hope He will speak to us. We desire to feel His presence. We come to pray and to petition the Lord. Br. Duane used Mosiah 1:116, Alma 5:18-28, and Moroni 4:4.

The sacrament was blessed, served and we entered a season of prayer in which there were many voices lifted up in concern for others, as well as in praise and thanksgiving unto our Lord.

Our brother Frank admonished us, asking if we can forgive and warn each other of sins. He reminded us that when partaking or testifying, we are in the service of God. He asked us to think, are we saying this for the glory and praise and thanksgiving of God? If not, maybe we should hold our tongue. Our prayers lift each other. A season of prayer followed and then many testimonies were given; here are just a few:

- A brother stood after a song was sung. He told us that many years ago, he and Apostle Leon Yates were driving straight through from Arizona to get to church

in time for the service. As they entered into the church, the author of this song (#417) stood and sang. Family ties in the gospel of Christ; this is what he felt yesterday at the outpouring of prayers for his great-granddaughter. He is so thankful for the blessing to his family and the sincere prayers he heard offered up. He told us of an experience he had years ago in Mexico. A sister there had a 3-4-year-old boy who was ill, extremely ill. He was taken to a hospital. They were told there was no hope. They sent them to a hospital in another town. The doctor there said the boy needed emergency surgery. The mother sat praying. Two nurses walked out, and walked by the mother. One said, "poor little boy, he won't have a chance to survive the operation." The mother cried and prayed. Suddenly, she heard, "Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, I will strengthen thee. I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Those words came to him and comforted him yesterday.

- A sister told of the blessing she had after being administered to the day before. When the first pair of hands was laid on her she felt warmth in the pained area. When the second pair of hands was laid on her she felt it again. Her seat even felt hot. Afterward she felt great. Our sister also told us of a dream she had years ago. She dreamed of a green field and lots of faces looking into the sky. These people were singing to Christ. She didn't recognize the song. Some time later, she read in Revelation 14 (verse 3-djh) that when He comes there will be a new song.
- A brother testified that just an hour before, his grandson was born! He also testified that the day before, prayers were going up and answered one after the other.
- Another brother stood and testified of

the many changes and blessings his family has had in the last year. He admonished us that when we step out in faith, the Lord blesses us. He was shown that he was not to go out in his strength, but God's. His observation of the day before was that we witnessed a miracle. When the announcement was made about the two-year-old taking the pain-reliever he was focused, he changed, for a united purpose. Our prayers were united. We were begging God. It's preparing us for the time we live in. The Lord hears and answers.

- Another brother bore witness to the hand of God being with him in a recent health crisis. He was greatly uplifted to hear that the little children in Phoenix were praying for him. He is overwhelmed at the joy of being a part of this body of saints.
- A brother stood and told us that he has been thinking about what he's heard today. He is realizing that, "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." When that's the case, it will be easy to take it to others.
- A brother stood to give us an example of how much his two-year-old granddaughter and her twin brother love each other. They spent a day apart recently, and his granddaughter missed her brother terribly. Upon seeing him later in the evening, she gave him a big bear hug. That is the same little girl that united this congregation yesterday. We have the opportunity to unite with each other any time, and have great joy in that. It is by the power of God that she is well.

After lunch we gathered in again for a special music presentation. We were blessed with many beautiful specials, and a resurrection cantata was sung by members from the Temple Lot and East Locals.

Immediately following this we were blessed with a baby blessing. Apostle Joel Yates read from Mark 10:13-16. Newborn baby girl Zoey Gabriella Lesh, born on March 22, was blessed by Apostle Joel Yates, assisted by Elder Darin Crull. Little Zoey is the first child of Kelly and Ryan Lesh.

The afternoon sermon was given by Apostle Joel Yates, and assisted by Elder Trevor Wratt. Br. Joel used Jeremiah 31:31-34 and 1 Peter 1:24-25. He recounted the history given to us in the Crow Creek Record, where we began again after Joseph Smith died. It was 1852 where five men gathered, determined to stand on God's word. He used Philippians 2:1-7 and Mark 6:30-56. He mentioned there are ten questions he asks before baptism, the first being, "What are you going to do to serve God?"

Br. Joel read from Mosiah 1:48-54 and told us there is no way we can make up for all God does for us. He used Philippians 2:8-13 to tell us that we need to be obedient unto death. Br. Joel used Matthew 16:24-25 to explain that we can't do it our way. He used John 21:18-19 and Romans 12:1-11 to show us that we need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and that we need to give up the things of the world and be transformed.

Br. Joel used 3 Nephi 5:12 to illustrate that we are called to suffer the will of God. He asked if we are seeking God's will. He used Ephesians 5:14-17 to show us that the choices we make have consequences, and Philippians 2:14-16 to show us we must do all things without murmuring and disputing.

In Ephesians 6:5-8, Br. Joel tells us Paul was talking to slaves. Using Alma 12:7-9 as an example, Br. Joel used the story of Ammon who went before King



*Ordination of Elder Dan Lawrence*

Lamoni. Here we see that Ammon's plan was God's plan; Ammon had the heart of a servant. In Jacob 3:136-140 we are told to labor with our might. Br. Joel used Mosiah 2:24-27 and asked us, "How do you teach service?" We teach by our example.

Br. Joel read Romans 16:1-6 to show us that we are all called into service.

Br. Joel also read us a portion of an autobiography written by Apostle B. C. Flint, and shared with us a dream given to a five-year-old a few years ago. In his dream this young boy saw Christ return, and saw things in his dream that had not been told to him: God blew up all the broken churches and made a new good church; He saw Christ come with all the dead people.

Br. Joel used Mosiah 3:14-21 to confirm that this is for us. Then in clos-

ing he read Psalm 1.

**T**he Monday morning prayer service was opened by Elders Marvin Carroll and Ken Oar. Br. Marvin reminded us why we are here: to do the business of the church. He used Alma 3:27-32.

A season of prayer followed, with time for only one testimony. Our first business session began after that and continued for the rest of the day.

After a song service, the evening sermon was given by Apostle Buzz Brickhouse, who was assisted by Elder Dennis Trudgen. Br. Buzz told us he feels greatly blessed to be able to be out in the missionary field once again, and having spent the last six weeks in Kenya with his wife, Sue, and Bill and Karin Malone. He showed us a few photos of their trip.

Br. Buzz told us if he were to title his

sermon it would be called "The Banner of Christ." He went on to tell us of prophecies of God related to the last days, those concerning Israel, and this day in which we live. He read Hebrews 13:8, Amos 3:7, and Isaiah 8:20. He explained that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets. To the law and the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Br. Buzz told of prophecies of the last days—Genesis 49:1, 25; 2 Nephi 11:80-94; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:3; 2 Nephi 5:10-20, 36-40, 45, 50, 52-54; Malachi 3:9-10 and 4:1-4.


In Jeremiah 23:5-8, and 16:14-18 we are told we are His by inheritance; we are the fishers and hunters. We must present the gospel in the right way: the truth, our examples, our love, allowing God to direct our lives. Where do you stand on your quest to serve God? Are we seeking first the Kingdom of God?

In Isaiah 62:1-5 we are to be called by a new name, a Holy Priesthood, the banner of Christ.

The same view as Lehi saw in his vision pertains to us today. Are you seeking first the Kingdom of God? We can see it is the end times; are we prepared? Are we steadfast and bringing in fruit? Are the things we enjoy keeping us from the body of Christ? Be those fishers and hunters. Serve Him according to His will.

Br. Buzz read Alma 17:71-82 for an example of a miracle wrought by the power of God. When they didn't follow the compass they got off track. This was a type and shadow of the word of Christ.

Br. Buzz read 2 Nephi 13:28-30 and admonished us to press forward, feasting on the words of Christ, that we should have eternal life. Pray for one another, pray for your enemies.

 On Tuesday morning, a prayer service took place during the same time the Apostles and Elders met at the East Local to consider a calling. The prayer service was opened by Priest Bill Malone and Teacher Dan Lawrence. Br. Bill read Alma 8:31-33 and then told us a story he read years ago. The story was about a young man who died after an accident; he saw himself lying on a table and knew he was going to a place much better. He was told the time wasn't right yet for him to come. Some time later, he told his mother about the incident and that he was told it was because of the prayers of his family that he was allowed to remain here. We don't have a corner on God—He belongs to everybody. Our responsibility is to show the world our Jesus, the truth and the plan of salvation. We need to proclaim it whenever we can. How we live our lives is how we best show, by our example, keeping the commandments. We gather today to pray for those who do not know the gospel and those who are in need.

Names were taken and a season of prayer followed in which many prayers were offered up unto our Heavenly Father. Following were many testimonies given; these are only a few of them:

- A sister told us that the Lord had opened up the 23rd Psalm to her after many years of feeling unhappy when she read it. It is really all about life, fearing no evil, comfort, strength and protection. It gives joy now, not sadness. In the end we will live with Him forever.

- Another sister admonished us that an unanswered prayer really means that you didn't get the answer you wanted. She doesn't understand why sometimes He says "no." Her father was very crippled up; he crawled into his car to go do the work of the ministry. He had the attitude that if he moved out, the Lord would take care of him, and He did. She has had many falls, but has only broken one bone, in her wrist. God is watching out for her. He cushions her landing.

- A brother testified of God's healing with his two bouts of cancer. He is thankful for His longsuffering with him and leading him out of a spiritual wilderness. As a young man he wandered away for several decades: until the Lord got his attention with cancer. He began to come back and appreciate the gospel. Every day he has a reason to repent; he prays to be forgiven every day. This is the only one true gospel, and he prays the Lord will lead us out of whatever errors we may have, and guide us to be the people He wants us to be: to be His obedient servants.

- A brother told us we have a mission to go to the lost tribes of Israel. He told us that Paul said in 1 Corinthians we testify of God that He raised Christ; if not, your faith is in vain. If in this life only we have hope, we are most miserable. He told us we have that hope, our calling is to share it. We shall not sleep, but will be changed in the twinkling of an eye at the sound of the last trump. All the pieces of the puzzle fit—when He created the heavens and the earth. How blessed we are that we have Isaiah's words; we'll take them to a people who will accept them.

- A sister testified of learning about Jesus at eight years old. She wonders what caused her and her sister to go to church alone. It must have been a seed

that God planted. Years later they went to youth group, but it was learning about the Church of Christ that changed everything.

- A brother spoke of an example he was given to look up to: a minister who came to his family even though he was crippled up. Our brother now has health problems himself and remembers the example of dedication which was set for him. He spoke of Lamentations 3:21-26, which gives us reason to hope. If we don't, we're done for. God gives us hope, and in hope there is fruit. At one time he didn't think he'd live to be 50, or have a daughter, or a son, or a son-in-law, let alone two grandbabies! We need to look up at God the way his grandson looks up at him. That's what sustains us in His love.

After a song service, the Tuesday evening sermon was given by Elder Bob Hedrick, who was assisted by Elder Gordon McCann. Br. Bob told us he hopes he can give us something to apply to our lives. He used Matthew 5:40-48. He explained, to be perfect is Christ-like, complete. He used Hebrews 5:14 and Jacob 3 to show that we are to have the fruits of righteousness. We are to be as a sweet fruit, and spiritually mature. As we go down this path of life we are to be growing spiritually. Life sometimes gets in the way on this path; we encounter obstacles which need to be dealt with. Br. Bob used Helaman 2:1 to show us how quickly pride and persecution can creep in, but the people in the Nephite church dealt with it. Pride is manifested in so many ways. Pride causes us to think we are self-sufficient. God desires a relationship with us, not just when we need something. Pride inhibits us from growing spiritually. Pride changes the reason we go to church; pride says I go for what I can



*DA, Micah and Aubrey Vogel*

get out of it, not for what we can add or to help others. Pride keeps us in our seats; we go to be served, not to serve others.

Br. Bob used John 13:1-5, Proverbs 13:10, James 4:6 and explained to us that pride destroys unity. He used James 4:6 to explain that God resists the proud; He withholds His presence. We need to recognize it, humble ourselves and deal with it. Pride separates us from our brothers and sisters. He used 1 Timothy 5:21 to show us that disorder causes pain. He told us that we make progress at Conference yet afterward we go back to our old mindsets. We tend to forget important experiences like what happened to our brother's granddaughter; had it happened weeks ago, it wouldn't have had

the effect that it did.

Br. Bob did a wonderful job of illustrating this with a skit, where his right hand didn't communicate with his left hand; and his right foot didn't communicate with his left foot. When danger came his way, he even learned that his mouth, his right eye, his left eye, and his brain were not communicating with each other either. We are all part of the body of Christ and we need to work together.

Br. Bob used 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. He explained that with just one comment, we can drive a negative wedge from one generation to the next. The attitude of tearing each other down is like poison. Pride is keeping us from talking to someone who has a problem with us. We are



*Jesse Lawrence, Jacob Seibel, DA Vogel and Elder Bob Hedrick*

afraid of being rejected. We need to overcome pride and offenses. Matthew tells us to go and talk to that person, that's the thing to do; talking about it to others is the worst thing to do. Recognize pride and overcome it. Be humble enough to do something about it. Our job is to grow up to become spiritually mature. Pride will not let us do this. Divisions within the church are dysfunctional. We need to deal with it and overcome this to have unity.

Wednesday evening, in place of a song service, there was an ordination. Teacher Dan Lawrence had been called to the office of an Elder during a Minister's Conference meeting that morning. The ordination took place with the laying on of hands by Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu and Apostle Don McIndoo. A Hand of Fellowship was given to our new elder, along with our love and expressions of our joy and thankfulness.

The evening sermon followed, given by Apostle Roland Sarratt, with Elder Mike Bevaart assisting.

Br. Mike took the opportunity to bear witness that he sees a closer unity now than when he was here two years

ago. He told us he sees a huge difference in how this church gets things done.

Br. Roland greeted us and read Isaiah 1:21-27 to tell us that God will restore the city of righteousness; the Lord will refine us and purge away the dross. He wants pure metal. He will put away the adversaries, which will be the consequence of their wickedness. Are you ready to undergo the judgment when Zion will be redeemed? We need to prepare ourselves to be ready.

Br. Roland spoke about Zion, which will be made the righteous city for His chosen people. God is working and striving with this people. Do you hope to be a part of it? The will of man had nothing to do with the setting up of the true church of Christ. He set up His own church. The church had to be restored by the hand and will of God. How do we know this is the true church of Christ? Follow it back, ask the Lord, and hear testimonies of the people. Those testimonies are accompanied by the Holy Spirit. History tells who we are and how we got here. There are many precious truths, including the structure of the church. True history

tells of the good and the bad; man has made mistakes. We are the survivors of those things that went wrong; God rescued us from our own foolish doings. Our heritage goes back to Adam and Eve, not just to 1830. We don't have to understand, just accept and let the Lord work it out.

Br. Roland told us that for a time this church was under a cloud, from 1832 to 1925. That cloud was the president of a high priesthood and office of high priest, until the time the church abolished the Presiding Elder. Why did the Lord favor this little group? He believes it was because they were the humble followers of Christ as spoken of in 2 Nephi 12:16, even though there were still many errors. In 1920 it was discovered there were many changes made to certain revelations given through Joseph Smith. Some still have a problem with latter day revelations, but the Lord will set things right to prepare His church, His bride. The Lord is not a respecter of persons, or opinions. He'll brush us off if we're not with Him. It takes revelations to verify revelations. He says, "Just accept and follow me."

Br. Roland told us there are two revelations having to do with us being here now. In July of 1831 the sacred spot was designated for Zion at Independence, the place for the Temple. Sixty-three acres were purchased. In 1833 the Saints were driven out. The people of the church in Illinois and Indiana couldn't accept what was happening in Utah, but they had a president in Granville Hedrick. In 1864, Granville Hedrick was given a revelation to return here and purchase this property. They did so at great sacrifice; they sold all they had in order to do it. They bought eight lots. Deeds were given to Granville Hedrick and



then to Richard Hill. Another church moved in and claimed it belonged to them. They filed suit and won. Again, at great sacrifice, the case was appealed in St. Louis, and this very small group was awarded the property once again. God was behind all of that; His will was to preserve this church. They came back with strength they hadn't had before.

Br. Roland told us this property isn't just a piece of land, but that it has some importance. It was a reason the Lord kept this people going. Many people have borne testimony that this is the spot. In the 1860s a faithful member, George Cole, had a vision. He saw a tree cut down on the Temple Lot. The stump grew a sprout. On that stump was a blemish, a defect, and it had to be cut down. The Lord stopped whoever came and wanted to chop the stump. Br. Roland believes the tree represents the church that went into apostasy; the sprout is the Church of Christ; and the blemish is the innovation of man; the presidency.

Br. Roland said there have been efforts to chop up the Book of Commandments. The Lord hasn't allowed that. He read Matthew 7:13-14. He likened this to a story from his childhood about a path by a creek. Vines and thorns were the innovations of man; the church had to put those things away. We want to reject those things of man, but not the things of God.

We do have a heritage; we can see the hand of God...and it was only by the grace of God that He held a group of people together while they were under a cloud. He brought them out of it and, as well, you and I. God has had a hand in all of this. He uses us in any purpose that He has. An example of this is: In the 1950s Clarence and Angela Wheaton went to Mexico looking for a people. They met a family that had been given a vision of the Wheatons before they got there. The Wheatons brought the Book of Mormon with them. The Mayans recognized it as their book that had been

taken from them generations before. The Lord has a purpose for this people to accomplish His will. Br. Roland closed by reading Isaiah 62:10-12.

**T**he 2010 General Church Conference for the Church of Christ had come to a close. Our hearts were overflowing. We give all thanks and praise to God for His gifts and blessings. We especially thank Him for His Spirit which was with us throughout.

Our prayers are for each of you and for the work of the Gospel.

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



*Special done in Spanish.*

## OBITUARIES

# Jeanne Louise Brantner

March 15, 1929—May 15, 2010

Our dear sister, wife and mother, Jeanne Brantner, completed her journey upon this earth May 15th, 2010. She passed away with great peace and dignity with her immediate family at her bedside. The presence of the Holy Spirit was there in a sweetness that cannot be described.

Sister Jeanne's passing was within a few days of the four-year anniversary of her diagnosis of stage-four lung cancer. God answered our prayers, blessing her and us in giving her quality time and a beautiful passing. There was just enough time to gather family in from Michigan; to tell her again just how much we loved her, to pray together, to sing several special hymns to her, and then to rejoice in the life we had with her...giving God all the praise and glory for His choice for us. It was a beautiful time which we will never forget. She was lifted gently from our arms into the arms of our Savior. In Him we trust and let her go. She went and never looked back. So much joy awaited her; we know it and we felt it.

Our sister Jeanne was born March 15th, 1929, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to parents Edith and Charles Platt. She was the third of seven children, and the older of two daughters. At an early age she helped her mother cook, clean and care for the other children. She graduated from Rockford High School in 1947, got a job and purchased her own car. She married Charles W. Brantner on February 23rd, 1951, in her parents living room, with the



Sister Jeanne Brantner, 1992

marriage being performed by the groom's father, Elder George Brantner. She was baptized into the Church of Christ on August 7th, 1960, by her father-in-law, Elder George Brantner. While living in Michigan she attended the Cedar Springs Local Church of Christ. After moving to Missouri in 1974, she attended the Warrensburg Local, the Lone Jack Local and the East Independence Local churches.

Our sister Jeanne was a devoted wife and mother, always putting others before herself. She was a supportive helpmeet for her husband and enjoyed traveling in the missionary field with him, meeting with many scattered members of the church. She was very touched by the needs of the Philippine children who are in need of surgery for cleft palates. She chose to request funds for this effort through the East Local Church of Christ project, "Smiles Across the Miles," in lieu of flowers at the time of her death, so that those funds would go to where they were needed. She hadn't traveled personally to the Philippines, but her heart was with the family of Christ wherever they are found.

Sr. Jeanne preceded in death by infant daughters Brenda Beth and Karen Jo Brantner. She is survived by her husband of fifty-nine years, Elder Charles Brantner; daughters Debra Haines and husband Bruce of Independence, Missouri; Cheryl Pease and husband Carl of Cedar Springs, Michigan; son Elder Andrew Brantner and wife Carol of Lee's Summit, Missouri; nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Sister Jeanne's funeral took place May 20th, 2010, with Apostles Frank Fann and Roland Sarratt officiating; with interment at Oak Ridge Memory Garden in Independence, Missouri.

# Tobias Obuli Simbo

Tobias Obuli Simbo passed away at 9:00 AM on May 14, 2010. He had three children from his first wife who had passed away five years ago. He remarried four years ago and had two children with this wife. He is survived by his wife Jessica and five children.

We visited Tobias in his home on November 5, 2009. He was suffering from some type of bone disease and was too sick to leave his home. It was obvious that he was very weak. We administered to him and had hoped that he would recover. We heard that he was getting better, but about one week before he passed away he started failing. He was laid to rest near his home in Kitembe, Tanzania.

Tobias was a humble, faithful man who had a desire to serve the Lord. On the small table in his home were dozens of religious reference books. He had been diligently studying the Word of God. Tobias was a good example of a man who truly hun-



gered and thirsted after righteousness. He was a dedicated Leader at the Kitembe Mission in Tanzania and we had hoped that he would someday be called into the ministry. But the Lord in his infinite wisdom chose to call him home.

At his funeral service, which was attended by several hundred people, his wife stood and said that he was a good man and a good husband who took care of her. Many other people stood and spoke well of him. He will be missed by his family, his brothers and sisters and all those who knew him. He was a man who followed the scriptures and used his time of probation to prepare to meet God. Because he used his time on earth wisely, I am confident that he is now resting in Paradise from the cares of this life.

OBITUARY

# Lawrence (Larry) Edward Kelley

March 27, 1927—May 6, 2010

Larry was born on a farm in Arizona, on March 27, 1927.

He was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Anna Belle Kelley; brothers Archie and Clarence; sisters Jessie Mae, Kay and Helen; and grandson Dane Landon Kelley.

Larry was married to the love of his life, Sharon Kelley, for 58 years. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; children Greg, Gary and Patty; siblings

Hester, Esther, Ernie and Clyde; grandchildren Clint, Meleah, Seth, Sean, Tanner, Kade, Trevor, Dustin, Chance, Moriah, Josh and Amy; and ten great grandchildren.

Larry joined the Navy at a young age and served in Korea and in World War II. His most significant duty assignment was on the U.S.S. Incredible. He later became a Fireman for the City of Phoenix, where he retired after 20 years of service back to the farm in Preston, Missouri. He owned and operated

a small café in Preston for a short while, and hobby-farmed with his sons. He was a hard worker, loved the outdoors and loved being with family. He was always looking for ways to help those in need, quietly, without recognition. He was a loving husband and devoted father.

He went home on the wings of an angel, May 6, 2010.

NOTICES

## 2010 CAMPS & REUNIONS

- **Minnesota Reunion:** September 3 - 5. Contact: Elder Merlin Eddy at 651-438-9738, or Elder Peter Gould at 218-586-2774.
- **Women's Retreat:** October 1-2, at the Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, for women 18 years and older. Cost: \$35 if registration is received by August 31, and \$40 afterwards. Registrations are available on the retreat website: <http://home.comcast.net/~ccwr/index.htm>, or by contacting Coordinator Jane Ann Carmichael, 14930 Tomasha Drive, Independence, MO 64055, (816) 478-7166. This year's theme is: "...When ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God" Mosiah 1:49.
- **Brant-Norfolk Reunion:** October 9-10 in Teeterville, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Marn Vieveen at [marnie.vieveen@sympatico.ca](mailto:marnie.vieveen@sympatico.ca) or Elder Michael Bevaart at [eighteen30@sympatico.ca](mailto:eighteen30@sympatico.ca).

- **Collins Rally:** October 17, at the Collins Local, Missouri. Contact Elder James Martin at 417-275-4424.
- **Arizona Reunion:** November 26-28, at the Phoenix Local. Contact Elder Gordon McCann at 6020569-2341 or [gjmccann@cox.net](mailto:gjmccann@cox.net), Elder Jim Yates, Jr. at 602-692-4205 or [jimyatesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jimyatesjr@yahoo.com), or Priest Glenn Orsted at 623-780-8764 or [gorsted@gmail.com](mailto:gorsted@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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** (Committee Chairman)  
18808 N. 30th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85050
- Marlene Cobb**  
630 S Pickwick  
Springfield, MO 65802
- June Haines**  
11589 Genuine Rd  
Clare, MI 48617

## 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](mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net), or any member of the Board.

## 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.



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