Inside This Issue

Editorial Comment .................................................................3

Mine Elect Hear My Voice.........................................................5
President Robert E. Ostrander

Women of the Church-Your Time Is Now! ..............................9
Lou Church, Lee’s Summit, MO

Isolated Ministries Order Form .............................................11

Activity Reports – 2009............................................................13

Strive for the Mountaintop .......................................................16
Stephanie Turner, Independence, MO

God Has a Plan for Fathers......................................................17
High Priest V. Lee Killpack, Buckner, MO

Six Steps to Knowing God Better ..........................................21
Elder Harvey D. Moats, Lake Tapawingo, MO

Preparation................................................................................22
High Priest Ammon L. VerDught, Lee’s Summit, MO

From the Quorum of Twelve...................................................26

Illness and Loss Suffered by Many in the Church .....................28
Apostle Ralph W. Damon, Blue Springs, MO

Upcoming Events .....................................................................29

News from the Branches ........................................................30

VISIT OUR WEB-SITE
www.theremnantchurch.com

FRONT COVER — Summer shadows fall across the walking path graded by High Priest Joe Ben Stone through the woods at the Gathering Place.
Photo taken by Kevin Romer
Editorial Comment . . .

A recent national news story depicts a tragic situation that gives impetus to the urgency of pushing forward our envisioned plans for a divinely-commanded, tightly-knit community of righteous, self-supportive Remnant Saints. In late June, a group of seven determined intruders entered the large rural Florida home of Byrd and Melanee Billings and, with a presumed motive of robbery, shot the two parents. These intruders then removed the family safe, and left the home without harming any of the couple’s sixteen children. Approximately nine of the younger children, most of them adopted and developmentally-disabled, were in the home at the time. Some were later able to confide to police that they saw some of the murderers, but assumed they were repair personnel.

Identifying how many intruders entered was aided because the security cameras were never turned off. At least seven men approached the house, four using two automobiles, and three coming out of the surrounding woods. The group had been planning this complex robbery for two months, and even planned to bury the safe in the backyard of an eighth accomplice. The alleged ring-leader had earlier received financial help to start his business from Mr. Billings, and was acquainted with the family’s affluence. A second safe was later located; it contained about $100,000 in cash, but the intruders failed to find it.

This couple was well known in their community, particularly for their unselfishly providing for their adopted dependent children as well as their four biological children. The removed safe contained only prescriptions, medicines, and documents vital to this special family. The oldest daughter, 26 years old, has now agreed to move back into the house and assume responsibility for the dependent step-children. This incident has become a life-changing experience for everyone involved!

This senseless tragedy, along with the almost daily random shootings emanating from passing cars, is reminding Saints that American society is now rapidly disintegrating. Repeatedly we have been divinely warned of the forthcoming collapse of Babylon the Great, the Lord’s code name for the pleasure-loving but crime-infected world society. This urgent message has been given to us by a Heavenly Father through our Prophet in ongoing latter-day instructions. Such news causes us to ask whether our future community can be safely built, even in the relatively remote countryside. We certainly need to surround ourselves with trustworthy Saints. We must assume the Lord has already taken such relevant factors into account when He recently re-instructed us to buy land for the dual use of our first community of residences and our beginning attempt to meet our food-raising needs “…in eastern Jackson County.” Life now seems to be unsafe in any major American city. Criminal elements in every neighborhood cause drive-by shootings, house break-ins, parking-lot abductions, etc., so regularly that as a society we are gradually being desensitized to the severe consequences on our future lives. A vital asset is achieved by surrounding ourselves with loving and caring neighbors!

Our founding fathers were known to have believed that free and democratic government must maintain an electorate of law-abiding citizens, who must continually evidence a respect for others’ rights based on sincere respect for the commandments of the One True God. They felt that such a government could not long survive loss of these essential Christian attributes. Perhaps our present national frustration in recovering such benevolent governance is actually a signal that we are now falling below the minimum requirement for such a righteous government. We see evidence of corruption of public trust, influence-peddling for the privilege of serving in high office, and outright infidelity to spouses and families by those serving in, or aspiring to, our highest offices. Surely, Saints can recognize these symptoms as indicative of
what Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. was told to bear predictive witness of, when in 1831 he said: “…for they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the Great, which shall fall. Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments, and also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world.” (D&C 1:3d-4a)

What is rapidly being re-emphasized to us is the urgent need to decide what the Remnant Saints must do, then agree to quickly initiate actually doing it in an achievable and economically-workable plan. We have already outfitted an Emergency Preparedness Center, along with provisions for our own families’ emergency survival, and completion of a supplementary Dormitory Facility. We now need to address the Community in eastern Jackson County. Do those who are able to move into such a Community need to live in homes we have come to view as reflective of “the American dream”? Perhaps a frank assessment of the future society we are realistically apt to encounter will suggest that we aim for more affordable homes, designed for maximum efficiency and preservation of our financial resources. It has been a prolonged disregard—always postponing budget-balancing until the next administration—that has taken our nation to the present brink of fiscal bankruptcy. Many Americans fail to realize the severity and probable permanence of our present national debt burden. Amid this mind-set, we need to remind ourselves that if we keep deferring in the hope of finding that ideal community plan “which pleases everybody,” we may, because of rapidly unfolding circumstances, find ourselves still discussing but unprepared to build even when the crisis suddenly occurs. On such a day we may find ourselves still surrounded by, and too dependent on, a “Babylon” which cannot continue to meet our essential needs. At that time (possibly very soon) we will sorely need the skills and resources of our gathered Zionic members. Adequate preparation is essential, and toward that end we of the Church leadership are working as rapidly as possible on the basic parameters of our project.

While remembering in prayer the plight of the many Saints currently afflicted with serious disease, let us similarly pray regularly for the removal of the remaining roadblocks, both real and attitudinal, to creating this righteous Community. It is time for us to demonstrate our growing maturity into a Zionic people, before the society around us collapses completely into looting, destruction and economic chaos.

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
It has been said, “When you’re up to your neck in alligators, it’s hard to remember your objective is to drain the swamp!” There’s no denying that the recent events indicate that we’re up to our necks in alligators. Some of our people have been victimized by economic crises through no fault of their own, and others are just barely hanging on. Some of our people continue to battle life-threatening illnesses with severe treatments and many days yet to go before those treatments are over, and we know the result. They continue to need our heartfelt prayers and our support. There is the growing lethargy for some in the Church and it’s becoming quite easy for such persons to go to Church, go home and do nothing, even though there are needy people in and outside of the Church who are crying out for ministry. Some of our members are succumbing to some of the grosser sins of the world and see nothing wrong with that, because after all, “Society says that’s OK and encourages that.” But no matter how well dressed-up sin is, it’s still sin. The only result that can come from sin is death, unless they repent, and repent quickly. When the wrath of God is poured out upon the unrepentant and the rebellious of this world, (and that will soon come), there will be no opportunity to repent. Membership in the Church will not save you; only repentance is the answer. Only the protective arms of the Lord Jesus Christ can save you.

Each of these things by themselves would be cause for great concern, but when taken and looked at together, they give the impression that the Remnant Church is about to fade away into obscurity, and that we will never establish Zion. Nothing is further from the truth than that statement! The Remnant Church is a long way from being “up to its neck in alligators,” and the swamp is almost drained! The Church is moving very quickly; Zion is at our doorstep, and very soon the long-awaited blessings to those elect of the Lord will come to pass. As those blessings are poured out and His promises are being fulfilled, His people will rejoice. This feeling of discouragement is nothing more than a feeble attempt of Satan to dissuade us from the path we have set our feet upon, to try to lead us away from the Lord and try to get us discouraged enough that we just give up and quit.

It doesn’t take very long for that to happen when all we do is listen to the negative; it doesn’t take very long to start in a downward spiral where we begin to question everything, and we begin to wonder what in the world is going on. When we become most vulnerable, that is when Satan attacks. But when we listen to the Lord we hear the truth; when we hear the truth we can draw strength from the Lord Jesus Christ permitting us to overcome those things that face us and drag us down, along with those things that would make it seem like we’re not making any progress. He will give us the strength to overcome the enemy and to stand triumphant with Him in His Kingdom of Zion when it comes upon this earth.

I want you to listen to the voice of the Lord this morning. We’ll begin with D&C 34:5b, “And the scriptures shall be given even as they are in mine own bosom, to the salvation of mine own elect; for they will hear my voice, and shall see me, and shall not be asleep, and shall abide the day of my coming, for they shall be purified even as I am pure.” From this, we can understand that
the scriptures are given to us as a whole because they are the Lord’s voice! They provide for us that strength and those answers that we need, and the insight to build this Kingdom. As long as we listen to those Scriptures and to His voice, we have no reason to be discouraged or doubt.

That brings us to the question, “Who are His elect?” D&C 28:2c answers that for us: “And as it is written, Whatsoever ye shall ask in faith, being united in prayer according to my command, ye shall receive; and ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and Harden not their hearts.” So when we hear his voice and read the Scriptures and do not harden our hearts against them—that means we don’t ignore them or pretend that they don’t apply to us—then we can become the elect of God, and heirs to all the promises of those things that we are to receive. Obviously there’s more to it than that; what more do the Scriptures tell you to do? You’ve got to follow through. You can’t just read it and say, “OK Lord, I’ve read it and now I’m done.” We must do those things He tells us to do in those Scriptures! Listen to his voice as it came to His elect on April 1, 2005: “These are portentous times and the Adversary is at hand to thwart your efforts in building up my Kingdom in these last days. But if you continue in faith believing and unity of purpose, Satan will be bound up and my work will continue with you, my faithful remnant.” (D&C R-149:7)

Isn’t that a marvelous promise? Think about that—if we continue to be united and faithful, Satan will be bound. It’s about time we took the Lord at His word, don’t you think? We know that the Lord cannot lie. If He said Satan will be bound, Satan will be bound when we do what the Lord has asked us to do. The Lord does not want us to fail. He has set us up to establish His Kingdom upon earth, and when we become more obedient and start exercising our faith to a greater degree, and when we become one with each other and one with the Lord, Satan will be bound. The work of the Lord will go forth with such power and such speed that the world will stand in awe. He will have accomplished with a handful of people the initial building of His Kingdom. It will have been built by those that were willing to listen and follow Him, and to do His will. The Lord is waiting for us to comply with His word!

Are you ready for that to happen? Do you really believe that Zion is at our doorstep? Can you see Zion unfolding as a blossoming flower before you, even now? Listen again to the voice of the Lord to His elect: “Even though wars and rumors of wars, political unrest and moral decay are all around you, be not discouraged, for lo I am with you to the end. My work will not be frustrated and be assured you are among those chosen to bring to pass my Kingdom in these last days.” (D&C R-151:5b)

Never in my years in the Church have I heard more encouraging words, and they came to us through our Prophet. Jesus has promised to be with us to the end. In spite of all the things that assail us on a daily basis, in spite of all the “stuff” we are being inundated with every day—all the gloom and doom which we hear—Jesus is with us. He has promised to be with us, and He will be with us. He is the one who has the answers to all of our problems—not some politician with delusions of grandeur. We’ve seen firsthand what the wisdom of men does and how successful they have been. As Zion’s redemption draws closer, these problems will only increase in intensity, frequency and severity. Jesus is in control of all things. We need to learn that lesson. Control will not be by some pundit or power-broker who can’t agree on anything, yet wants to control the world—not by someone who thinks he has all the answers because he went to Harvard or wherever. Jesus is the One who has the answers, and He is the One giving us the information. We need to listen to His words. Jesus is leading us into His Kingdom according to His divine plan, and His plan is the only plan that will succeed. It doesn’t make any difference what lies ahead or what comes against us—His work will not be frustrated. Jesus is the One who is going to be successful, and the promise is that you and I will be a part of it if we do what He has asked us to do.

I was recently given a testimony of that, and I’d like to share it with you. Granted, I’m not real
proud of it, but it’s important that you hear it. About mid-June I was feeling that there really was not a whole lot of hope for the Church. Every day it seemed there was another crisis or resurgence of the problem that had been taken care of before. Every week brought news of another one of our people being stricken with a severe illness, and I wondered just how much more we could take? How much longer were we going to be able to continue? I was getting more discouraged and was unable to do anything about it. Even my prayers didn’t seem to be answered as far as I knew; actually they were, but oftentimes I was unaware of it. I didn’t understand what was going on. Even a weekend away didn’t help! Then, after being absent from your presence for a while, I picked up a priesthood schedule for this month, and found I was scheduled to speak on the very day I was planning to leave for Michigan to take care of a family problem that couldn’t be put off any longer.

Fortunately, Bro. Joe Bryant agreed to change assignments with me on very short notice, and I thank him for doing that. My feeling of discouragement didn’t go away; it continued to get worse, and I began to wonder if I could stand here this morning and be effective. So you can see from those things I was feeling just how easy it is to be pulled down into that “spiral of discouragement” to where you have no hope, no idea—there doesn’t seem to be a positive change or possibility of it coming, and every trivial problem takes on monumental proportions. You can’t find a way out. On Thursday morning, June 9, as is my habit, I went into my office and closed the door to spend some time in prayer before beginning the day. As I finished my prayer, there was a Spirit of Peace that flooded over me that I hadn’t felt for a number of years.

The Lord spoke to my mind and He reassured me that He was in control, and that He knew what was happening in His Church, and He would take care of His Church and His people. I knew that joy that can only come from being in the presence of the Master, even if you’re there for just a moment. And that sweet Spirit of Peace continued to be with me. I felt as if a great weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Not only did that day go better than many days before it had gone, that same Spirit of Peace, and that same Spirit of Joy is still with me. The Lord is still in control, and the Lord is directing this work and I can tell you of a certainty that He’s doing so, and I stand here this morning and testify to you of that fact. No matter what lies ahead, and no matter what has happened to you in the past, and no matter what is happening to all of us right now, the Lord Jesus Christ is in control of your life and is waiting to become a greater part of your life, if you will open your heart and let Him come in!

He wants us to be with Him. He’s calling us to come up higher. We need to learn that we worship an awesome God, and His promises are always true and faithful. We can trust Him with our lives and He will do what He said He would to help us come into the Kingdom. We also must understand that He has asked us to do some things in return; if we’re not willing to do those things, we cannot expect Him to bless us according to the promises. It’s a two-way street. He’s willing to give us a whole lot more than we deserve, but we’ve got to be willing to do the few simple things He has asked of us. Listen once again to His voice given in these latter days: “You are further called to build up the waste places of Zion and establish my Kingdom, which shall be a beacon to all people and a place of refuge for my faithful Saints in these last days. You have been called in renewal to prepare for the coming of the bridegroom. Let it be so.” (D&C R-153:4b) Once again the Lord is calling us to be earnestly engaged in the work of establishing His Kingdom of Zion. Once again He is calling us to come to Him and come up higher. He has not given up on us, so we should not give up on ourselves. He is still beckoning to us and urging us onward, so we can have a place of refuge ready when His judgments come on the world, and we can be a part of that and be safe from those things that come. He has given us the honor and privilege of working with other people and with Him in the establishment of His Kingdom upon this earth. It’s not our task alone; others are going to help and we can join in and work with them.

Every indication is that the time is getting shorter and shorter, and we see the increasing futility of the wisdom of men who are desperately trying to salvage the world’s governments and economies. We see the wickedness being touted and encouraged amongst us and even given the protection of law. We are flooded daily with the ideas that sexual perversion, promiscuity, revenge for a perceived wrong in any form, and sacrilegious acts are not only acceptable; they
should be our way of life. That’s just the tip of the iceberg. Brothers and sisters, that’s too much! It’s time for us to stand up and be the people that the Lord has called us to be. It’s time for us to establish Zion and become the chosen people of the Lord. We can be free of the evil forces that surround us. It’s time for us to be His people and to let the world know that we are! It’s time for us to be more humble, more obedient, more loving and more open so the Lord can use us in His great work. We need to be more humble so the Lord can mold us into the Celestial people that we must be if we want to be a part of Zion. That change is not going to be easy; it will require a commitment to the Lord—a total commitment—but if we are willing to give Him our all, He will transform us into a people who can spend eternity in the presence of His Father. Last week Bro. Jim Rogers talked about giving your all to Christ—that’s what it’s going to take—everything that you have, everything that you are, and everything that you claim is yours. The Gospel’s not cheap, but the end result is well worth any price that we will pay, and the Lord will repay us many times over for that which we do.

We must be more obedient to the Lord, so that He can teach us how to live by the Celestial Law that is required of all who will live in Zion. Without the Celestial Kingdom we cannot abide in Zion. We need to be more loving so we can see others as the Lord sees them, not as sinful creatures for whom there is no hope, but as our equal, our brothers and sisters who are just as deserving of God’s love and mercy and forgiveness as we are. We need to reach out and help them. Sometimes it’s hard to look behind a person’s actions and find the true person lying underneath, especially when those actions are directed at us. We need to remember that the Lord loves them as much as He loves us. It is only when we have that true, pure love of Christ in our hearts that we can see others as the Lord sees them—as our brothers and sisters, important to our Master. They are worthy of His love so they too can be a part of this great work. We need to convey that to them so they can find Him while there is still time. We must be more open, so we will hear His voice, and not let our traditions (especially in worship) hinder others who may worship differently. We must remember that other cultures and other people also worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. We don’t have a “lock” on those attributes. Just because they may be more vocal in their worship, or their music is more upbeat than ours, does not mean their worship is offensive to God. What if you had people shouting “Hallelujah” or “praise the Lord”? What if there were drums and other instruments we were not used to? Would you reject these as not being worshipful?

Karen and I recently had an opportunity to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in concert. It was beautiful, but one of the things they did was a Nigerian Christmas carol. I appreciated that, having been there and having seen firsthand how those people worship. By the time it was over, everyone on the rostrum and the entire choir was shouting, clapping, and chanting. These things were almost completely out of character for them. But when the song ended, you could hear a pin drop in the auditorium; I heard a man behind me say, “Oh Wow!” When the Spirit is present and people worship, who are we to judge whether it is appropriate or not? Think about that.

The Lord is calling us to listen to His voice and to respond to Him while there is still time. Listen one last time to His voice to you this morning: “Remember, it is still day when preparation can be made for the coming of the Bridegroom. Prepare the Bride. Put oil in your vessels and trim your lamps. But take comfort in the knowledge that a secure foundation is being laid upon which my Gospel shall go forth, even as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands, and that my Zion will unfold before you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Thus saith the Spirit. Amen.” (D&C R-146:6b,c)
I wonder if we as women are fully aware of the power the Lord has granted unto us if we will only be in tune with His Spirit. We have an offering to give to God, and that is a life of sacrifice, discipline and allegiance to Him. This requires giving our agency to do His will, and not our own. This also means a life of study, fasting and prayer. We must pray daily for our Prophet and Priesthood. As Bishop Gregory Turner once said, “We must be obedient as Christ was obedient to His Father. Each of us has special talents, and if we do not develop and use them, we will lose them. In the years to come, I feel we are going to be called upon to do many things; some we will feel we cannot possibly do, but we can if we are spiritually prepared.”

Right now the Lord has called us as members of the Remnant Church—how much He must trust us! Titus 2:12-14 says, “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

We are to be wise, careful in conduct (which is the opposite of foolish, improper and impulsive). We are to cultivate Godly conduct and behavior. The Lord promises us peace and desires to give us peace. In this world of turmoil and hatred, we are to be instruments of peace and be peacemakers. Who sets the mood in your home? Is it not usually the wife and mother? If it isn’t, perhaps it should be! I know many ladies live alone, but when someone enters your home, do they find peace? I believe women were created to be peacemakers. We do not like contention, but strive for love and harmony.

Do we radiate happiness? What does our countenance say about us? Do we smile much of the time, or have a mournful look on our faces? I know some people who I think have forgotten how to smile; maybe they don’t have much to smile about. But maybe this could be their sacrifice to the Lord, to smile when they really don’t feel like it. We have an elderly gentleman who comes to Lunch Partners every day, and we all try to give him a big smile. He will usually say, “You just made my day!” A smile is such a small thing, but with such big dividends!

We should be the happiest people on the face of this earth because we have what the world is searching for—the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the hope of Zion. There is a scripture in I Corinthians 11:7 that says, “The woman is the glory of the man.” Isn’t that a humbling thought? In Titus 2:4 it says, “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.” It is speaking to us older women when it says, They are to teach the younger women. Do we take the young wives and mothers of our Church under our wing and help to nurture them? Surely we remember when we were young mothers and worried about bringing our children up to be “God-fearing people.” Did we have someone to whom we could turn? I was fortunate to have Ruby Stone (now deceased) who attended our congregation, and I knew I could go to her if I had a problem or question. Ruby took the time to listen and give advice. She was a beautiful lady who loved her Lord, and it surely showed. When a young mother or wife has confided in us, are we discreet enough to keep it to ourselves? If we don’t, we are not worthy of the confidence, and we will lose the opportunity to be a mentor. Because we cannot see
into people’s lives as the Lord can, we do not have the luxury of judging others. When we are saying our prayers as we lay our heads on the pillow each night, we should ask ourselves whom (outside of our immediate families) we have helped that day. Ask the Lord if it was pleasing to him, and what more you can do for that person. How often when you read the prayer list do you not only pray for each person, but also call and let them know you miss them and are praying for them? When we ourselves are ill, think how much it lifts our spirits to get a phone call. There is a saying that I love that goes, “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but what I can do, I should do, and with the help of God, I will do.”

Most of you have heard of the book, “The Purpose-Driven Life” by Rick Warren. When asked what is the purpose of life, he replied: “Life is a preparation for eternity.” How true! Remember God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of love and power and of a sound mind. He had women in mind!

Malachi 3:3 says, “He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.” This verse puzzled some women in a Bible Study class, and they wondered what this statement meant about the nature of God. One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver. She called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn’t mention the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about refining silver. The silversmith held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that one needed to hold the metal in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, to burn away all the impurities. The women thought about God holding us in such a hot spot. She asked the silversmith if it were true that he had to sit in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. He answered that not only had he to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on it the entire time. It would be destroyed if left a moment too long in the flames. Then she asked, “How do you know when the silver is fully refined?” He smiled and answered, “Oh, that’s easy—when I see my image in it.” If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and keeps watching until He sees His image in you!

Ephesians 1:4 tells us, “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” Think about each one of these:

- In Happy Moments............Praise God
- In Difficult Moments........Seek God
- In Quiet Moments...............Worship God
- In Painful Moments...........Trust God
- In Every Moment..............Thank God

May God bless you as you strive to be ambassadors for your Lord. These thoughts were given to me over a period of six months, and I knew the Lord had a plan for them to be given to the women of the Church.
Remnant Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints

To Our Saints in the Outlying Areas:
The church is continuing a new program through which you may order various media of sermons and classes having taken place within the past 3 months. It is hoped this program will help fill a need for additional ministry and worship opportunities for those saints who are without a congregation or meet in small groups. The list of what can be ordered will be updated with each Hastening Times edition.

Use the order form on the next page to find what media is available.

Please do not phone in your order, but rather mail your order to:

Isolated Ministries
Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
700 W. Lexington
Independence, MO 64050

After mailing your order please allow 2-3 weeks for recording and processing. Thank You. Payment with your order is requested, to include postage (see charts for U.S. costs). Checks are preferred. If you do not wish to figure postage we will be happy to include a billing for the postage when mailing out your order.

Note: Checks are processed once a month and may not clear your bank in the same month as it was written or received. Use additional copies of the order form if you desire more items than will fit in one order form. Also note the postage chart below is for U.S. mailings only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDIA</th>
<th>COSTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUDIO TAPE</td>
<td>$2 Each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>$2 Each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVD</td>
<td>$3 Each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Items</th>
<th>CD or DVD</th>
<th>Audio Tape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P O S T A G E C O S T</td>
<td>POSTAGE</td>
<td>COST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$ .76</td>
<td>$ .76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1.51</td>
<td>$1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
<td>$1.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2.19</td>
<td>$1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$2.53</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$2.87</td>
<td>$2.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members living in the Center Place area will continue to order from their local congregations as has been the practice in the past.

ITEM CODE KEY (For Chart to Follow):
B = Recorded at Blue Springs Congregation
C = Recorded at Center Congregation
F = Recorded at First Congregation
G = Recorded at the Gathering Place
### SUMMER SERIES IN THE GATHERING PLACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>CD</th>
<th>Audio</th>
<th>DVD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59G</td>
<td>6/7/09</td>
<td>Ralph Damon</td>
<td>Go Ye Into All The World</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60G</td>
<td>6/14/09</td>
<td>David Van Fleet</td>
<td>Let Your Light Shine</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61G</td>
<td>7/5/09</td>
<td>Lane Harold</td>
<td>The Whole Need Not a Physician, but They That Are Sick</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62G</td>
<td>7/12/09</td>
<td>Don Carter</td>
<td>Strait is the Gate and Narrow the Way</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63G</td>
<td>7/19/09</td>
<td>James Rogers</td>
<td>Harvest is Plenteous, but Laborers are Few</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64G</td>
<td>7/26/09</td>
<td>Leland Collins</td>
<td>Lay Not Up Treasures on Earth</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65G</td>
<td>8/2/09</td>
<td>Gary Argotsinger</td>
<td>If ye Keep the Law, Ye Receive Me</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66G</td>
<td>8/9/09</td>
<td>Kevin Romer</td>
<td>Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbor</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67G</td>
<td>8/16/09</td>
<td>Fred Larsen</td>
<td>TBD (Replacing Lee Kilpack)</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68G</td>
<td>8/23/09</td>
<td>Don Burnett</td>
<td>Behold, the Mote in Thy Brother’s Eye</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69G</td>
<td>8/30/09</td>
<td>Robert Piedimonte</td>
<td>Ye are the Salt of the Earth</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CENTER (In-Town) REUNION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>CD</th>
<th>Audio</th>
<th>DVD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70G</td>
<td>6/28/09</td>
<td>Fred Larsen</td>
<td>The Heavenly Kingdom</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71G</td>
<td>6/30/09</td>
<td>Richard Smith</td>
<td>Forgive Us As We Forgive Others</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72G</td>
<td>7/1/09</td>
<td>Don Owens</td>
<td>Deliver us from Evil (Babylon)</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73G</td>
<td>7/2/09</td>
<td>Steve Church</td>
<td>Thine is the Power and the Glory</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74G</td>
<td>29,1,2</td>
<td>Women’s Class</td>
<td>Three CD’s only</td>
<td>a.m.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75G</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td>General Class</td>
<td>Two CD’s only</td>
<td>a.m.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76G</td>
<td>30,1,2</td>
<td>Men’s Class</td>
<td>3 days Audio Tapes only</td>
<td>a.m.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77G</td>
<td>29,30,1,2</td>
<td>Women’s Class</td>
<td>All 4 days in Audio Tapes only</td>
<td>a.m.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78G</td>
<td>29,30,1,2</td>
<td>General Class</td>
<td>All 4 days in Audio Tapes only</td>
<td>a.m.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ORDER BLANK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>a.m.</th>
<th>p.m.</th>
<th>CD</th>
<th>DVD</th>
<th>AUDIO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**TOTALING LINE:** After placing number in each box, total down.  
To figure cost take total number of each kind of item times the costs for that kind of item. Then add in the cost for postage for that number of specific items. For example: 6 CDs is 6x2=$12. The cost for 6 CDs to be mailed is $2.87 on the chart. $12.00 + $2.87 = $14.87 Due With Order! If figuring postage is too difficult, we will bill you for the exact amount due when sending your request. Large requests require us to mail from the Post Office.

If you had only one kind of item that would be your final cost, but if you had multiple kinds of items, figure as above and then add up the totals of the different kinds of items for a grand total due at ordering. PLEASE SEND CHECKS. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, AND ZIP, OR DIFFERENT MAILING ADDRESS, for us to send your order! If an item is unavailable we will substitute for that item.

Your Name:  
Your Street:  
Your City:  State:  Zip  
International Address: (Postage must be First Class International from the Post Office)
Iowa Reunion

The old adage, “Cold hands–warm hearts,” was descriptive of the Iowa Reunion held June 6-11. The weather was cold and damp, but the hearts of the attendees were warm and glowing with the excellent fellowship that prevailed during the days spent in worship, study, and ministry of the Word.

Guthrie Grove Campgrounds near Guthrie Center, Iowa sits atop an overlook of the beautiful wooded hills and valley of the Middle Raccoon River and its secluded atmosphere is conducive to claiming the promise, “Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you.” About seventy-five Saints and friends from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Indiana sought to claim that promise and were not disappointed!

One of the special features of the Iowa Reunion is that the facilities are excellent for grandparents to bring their grandchildren to the camp. This year, 24 very special grandchildren were present. Their energy and youthful spirits helped to warm the hearts of all as they played, prayed and sang during the week. They demonstrated their excitement, energy and musical potential one evening with several practiced numbers by their Bell Choir. There was not a grandparent whose heart was not warmed by their offering, one that enhanced the evening’s worship. One of the children said, “Grandma, I don’t care if there are one hundred people out there, I’m going to ring my bell!” Would to God that all adults could have that same determination to “ring our bells,” declaring the love of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

Another special memory of the Reunion centers on a particular morning’s Prayer Service, as the body responded in testimony to a question posed by Apostle Gary Argotsinger: “Why are you here?” The Saints responded with heartfelt- and spirit-filled expressions that could be summed up with the words of the Apostle Peter: “To whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)

Reunions are designed to be a time of refreshment, renewal and revival. In all these ways, the Iowa Reunion surely succeeded!

Reported by V. Lee Killpack

Idaho Reunion

About 50 campers attended the Reunion held at Camp Cascade the third week in June. The weather this year was much nicer than last year, to the satisfaction of those who attend regularly!

Ministry was provided by Apostles Ralph Damon and Gary Argotsinger, Bishops Kevin Romer and Jerry Shearer, Seventies Don Dunn and Jim Watkins, and Patriarch/Evangelist Carl VunCannon, Jr. The Bishops reported that they had many outstanding spiritual experiences with those Saints in the thirteen Consecration Services they performed.

The Reunion started out on a high spiritual level with a Prayer Service for those who were sick, and a preaching service by Seventy Don Dunn. The Lord’s Prayer provided the various themes for the services at the Reunion. Thursday afternoon we went to Cascade Lake for two baptisms: Gauge James and Dakota Laughlin became new members in the traditionally cold water. During the week the children had fun running around camp, helping each other collect bugs in their decorated “bug jars.” The traditional Women’s Tea was held on Tuesday afternoon,
with Bro. Ralph Damon presenting the thoughts for this occasion.

The adult class in the mornings was taught by Ralph Damon, and the afternoon Question and Answer sessions by Gary Argotsinger. The Spirit was with us in the Prayer Services, Preaching Services, Campfires, and while we visited around the dining room table at mealtimes. There were many good opportunities to share with each other our testimonies of the goodness of the Lord. The Reunion ended with a memorable Dedication Service on Friday.

Reported by Keith Cruickshank

Oklahoma Reunion

Over one hundred campers attended this Reunion, held at the college of Northeast Oklahoma in Miami, OK. in late June. Bro. Mike Hogan did an exceptional job of organizing the Reunion as a whole; every service and class was planned so each person there could be spiritually fed. A great staff of teachers taught both the adults and youth; spiritual growth seemed evident in all. All the teachers taught with excitement and zeal, and furthered our knowledge in the Lord. Lane Harold, Presidential Counselor, who because of health issues was unable to be present personally, videotaped his four class lectures in advance, so that his voice before the treatments was capable of adequately presenting his material.

Reunion started off with a BANG, as Seventy Donnie Carter gave the first evening sermon with the Lord’s Spirit resting upon him. With each passing day, that same sweet Spirit grew ever stronger. After each evening meal we enjoyed the ministry of the spoken word from our Brethren: Patriarch Fred Church, Apostle Leland Collins, Bishop Don Owens, Apostle Jim Rogers and Seventy Richard Wilson. We concluded each night with a campfire, with Sister Pam Foreman as Campfire Director. She did an awesome job with the Youth! One 9-year-old asked why there were no TV’s in the rooms. She was told this helps to separate ourselves from the world that distracts us from worshiping the Lord in the way He desires. When we try to isolate those distractions and focus on our Lord, we can be better drawn back to Him, and this helps us to properly discipline our lives!

Bro. Ernie Shank was seen here, there and everywhere upon the grounds. He led each morning’s Prayer and Testimony Service with authority, and kept encouraging the youth to contribute in abundance. He also functioned as “Speedy Gonzales” in his golf cart, providing transportation to and from the Dorms for those who needed that service.

Thanks to all who served and shared in this rich experience which benefitted all of us. Truly we feel we are One Day Closer to ZION!

Reported by Bruce Terry

Center Place In-Town Reunion

The Central Area Reunion was held June 28-July 3 at the Gathering Place in Independence. A total of 177 people registered, with 88.7% from the three Center Place congregations and the remainder from several states. Each day started with a family Prayer Service conducted by the Order of Patriarch/Evangelists, and the good Spirit which resulted set the tone for the day. The morning programs continued with classes for all ages. In these, we had excellent teachers who brought truly spiritual ministry to each person.

Both lunch and dinner were available and provided opportunity for additional good fellowship. Afternoon activities included swimming and recreation for the young people, and fellowship and rest for others.
We were greatly blessed in our evening worship with singing, special music and an unfolding spiritual ministry of the spoken Word using the Reunion theme of the Lord’s Prayer. After-service activities included Campfires and the ever-exiting and unpredictable Talent Night! A beautiful spirit of worship and unity was present and all who attended were blessed. A hearty thanks to those who helped to get all the necessary things done, and to everyone who attended for ministering to each other in so many important ways.

Reported by William Derr, Director

Junior High Camp at Blackgum, Oklahoma

Thirty-plus young people gathered to enjoy the week under the direction of Kevin Faulk, with six counselors to help guide the campers in various activities. Good food, swimming and recreational activities helped to bond the attendees for this special week in their summer.

Spiritual emphasis helped lead to an outstanding concluding campfire on Friday evening. First, the counselors took each camper one-on-one into the woods for individual prayer and preparation. They wrote down on paper things they wanted to present to the Lord. When all were assembled at the Campfire, Sam Dyer III told the story of Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-nego. Prayer and testimony followed, with campers throwing their papers into the fire with their resolves. This camp bound us together to help in the building of the Kingdom here on earth.

Reported by Benjamin Tims

Vacation Church School

The month of June is always an exciting and busy time, both for the Remnant Church youth and adults. We have a combined Vacation Church School at the Gathering Place for the four central congregations. At about this same time, the Reunions for the Church were either being held or were in the final planning stage. Hence, some families with children may have been unable to participate. Nevertheless, we had a fine turnout.

This year’s theme was “Thy Kingdom Come,” with study of The Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:10-15.) It was another wonderful year with approximately 68 children from age four years to 6th grade. There were 23 Zion’s Youth that were wonderful VCS helpers. We also had eight class teachers, two assistant teachers, and five youth helpers. Our Priesthood consisted of our VCS Pastor, Elder Ron Thompson, Elder Roger Marsh, one Seventy, Chad Buttery, and three Deacons: Michael Scott, Frank J. Lero, and Gary Hutchison.

The loving outreach to all was evident. Again, we are greatly blessed by caring and tireless teachers, who are dedicated to teaching children about Jesus Christ. God blessed their efforts as they planted seeds of faith in the hearts of 91 attendees. It was a week of learning, meeting new friends, worshiping the Lord, taking time out for healthy snacks, wonderful Zionic recreation, and fantastic music and songs from their hearts. They shared their music with friends and family at the Open House, held Thursday evening. An outstanding spirit was felt as the various class groups sang the songs they had learned in Music Class that week. Their happiness was witnessed by all!

We give thanks to God for His gentle mercies to His children of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ. We eagerly look forward to next year, and meeting new friends, but keeping the old friends we made this year.

B. J. Thompson, V.C.S. Director
The theme for Senior High Camp was “Come Walk With Me.” The 34 campers enjoyed good classes, food and fun as they learned and grew closer together during the week. Throughout the whole week of camp, we were challenged to a “love dare”—which involved doing good deeds without being asked, to let Christ’s love shine through us towards others, with no expectation of a reward.

On Saturday the campers arrived, enjoyed an evening meal and got to know one another better with a Mixer and Campfire. On Sunday some of us got up early to go to an optional Prayer and Testimony Service, during which we prayed specifically for those who are sick in the Church. Then the whole camp headed up to the Church building. The day started off with a challenging Scripture search with Austin Purvis, followed by a class with Director Ted Webb, and finally a sermon by Trevor Purvis. Monday’s theme was “Jesus’ Love for Each One.” We enjoyed a good class with Bro. Carl VunCannon Jr. as well as fun swimming together that afternoon.

Tuesday the girls decided they wanted to step up and show the boys how to act! Each girl dressed up in her Sunday church clothes, and after flag raising, escorted a boy to breakfast. After seating them, the girls proceeded to serve their boy breakfast. That afternoon after swimming, “No girls in the dining room!” was yelled down the hallway. Our counselors knew what was going on, and encouraged us to dress up again. Finally the time came, and one by one the girls were called into the dining room. Those still remaining could hear the exclamations and giggles of the girls being escorted to their seats by the boys. These fellows had set up a Candelight Dinner with red table cloths, white roses, sparkling grape juice, and—Sloppy Joes! It was a special dinner that really helped in bringing the girls and boys together.

That night at Campfire, Austin issued an ultimatum, challenging us either to step up together so we could get to that “mountain top” or just not do anything and miss out on a blessing. The youth really worked at becoming unified, working towards Saturday’s Dedication Service, where we all hoped to receive a blessing. The next few days there was a definite change in everyone’s attitude. Friday evening before Campfire, our Director Ted gave us a special activity: we were to write two letters—one to ourselves and the other to Jesus. In the letter to ourselves, he encouraged us to write about camp, our experiences, what we learned, and what we wanted to improve or change. In our letter to Jesus, we were to write anything we felt inclined to write. Perhaps we wanted to ask forgiveness, say we loved Him, etc. At a later time these letters will be mailed to us as a reminder of the camp experiences.

Saturday morning was our Dedication Service. Many prayed or dedicated their lives to God. The service was moving for all, as we learned more about each other and the struggles we had all gone through this year. Many campers commented that they “didn’t want to go home. This has become my home.” At the end of the service, Bro. Carl stood and gave an inspired message that had been given to him early that morning. Advice was given to those who were heading to colleges, as well as to the rest of us still in high school. The most important thing we were told is that we don’t have time to make wrong choices or decisions. His Kingdom will be here soon. Everyone left with a strong desire to stay in touch with each other so that next year’s Senior High Camp can be even better!

Reported by Stephanie Turner
Father’s Day is an early 20th century holiday inaugurated to complement Mother’s Day. (Fathers, that tells you where we are!) It is celebrated worldwide in a variety of different ways on various days. In Germany, fathers traditionally take a hike which ends in feasting on various kinds of sausages, with plenty of wine and beer to wash it down! (Laughter) Over 52 nations recognize Father’s Day on the third Sunday of June. In America we celebrate the male parenting role and commemorate our fathers and forefathers. It was first observed on July 5, 1908 in Fairmont, W. VA by Dr. Robert Webb of the Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South—that almost rivals another [church] name that I know about! (Laughter) A proclamation in 1966 by then-President Lyndon Baines Johnson recognized it, so it is a rather recent holiday.

Fathers have sacred responsibilities in their families as well as to their wives. Sometimes we take all too lightly the prints that we place upon our children by our life and lifestyle. I read recently that daughters who had a good father tend to pick husbands who look like and remind them of their own fathers. If your son-in-law doesn’t quite look like you, Fathers, I don’t know that that says to you, but the research has been done and reported! Adam was the biological father of us all and was placed in the Garden of Eden to dress and keep it; that implies the responsible labor that is to be performed. To dress it is a charge to make it spring forth in all its potential beauty and form. Adam was not to be idle; he was given hands to work with. To keep the garden suggested that the trees and the animals needed to be tended—plants need to be pruned and animals need to have a husbandman. It was an opportunity to admire and assist the Creator in His work. Adam was not only to be engaged in the naming of the animals but he was to replenish the earth, to subdue it, and to have dominion. It was not in the Creator’s mind that Adam should be idle.

Matthew Henry said, “The God who made us is alone able to make us happy. It’s a lesson not many have learned.” Hopefully all who are here have learned that—it is God alone who makes mankind and his family happy! Recently at the Iowa Reunion, [Apostle] Gary Argotsinger asked, “Why are you here?” There was the most beautiful period of testimony as Saints expressed why they were there. In large measure it was because the love of God had touched their lives, and that love of the Father had made them happy. In my own mind the words of Peter came, “To whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68) Those of us who have known the gospel and the truths of His teaching, and the joy that comes from being in His service, we too say, “Thou art our life.” Fathers are to be examples of how to find happiness and joy. There are too many men in this world who search in all the wrong places and ways for happiness. While our hands toil, our heart should be with God!
We’ve talked recently about making the secular sacred. If our hearts are with God, the secular becomes an extension of the desire of our heart. The work of our hands glorifies the Father, even as our worship should exalt His name. When the sun was up, my Dad was up and making preparations to be in the field. As his oldest son I was expected to be there too, and I knew better than to have him call me more than once! Yet he found joy and pleasure in that work and he tried to teach the same to me. It is a responsibility of fathers to teach their children to be productive. In Eden, Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful; I enjoy gardening even now because it is a chance to bring forth from the earth that which it is designed to bring forth. It gives me pleasure and it nourishes my body and that of my family.

We were created with powers of reason and freedom of the will; these are precious and cherished gifts. Without them life would be drudgery. The exercise of those two gifts brings either misery or happiness, depending upon how we choose to use them. These gifts are to be magnified and increased. It is only in the proper exercise that their magnification is possible—you might say it’s like muscle, like mind. If we exercise a muscle it grows and magnifies; if we allow it to be dormant, it soon begins to atrophy, shrink and shrivel. So it is with our mind; if we exercise it, it grows and expands, it is magnified. If we fail to use it, unpleasant things happen. I admire my mother-in-law who at 90 years of age is still very active with her mind. She does Sudoku puzzles; it boggles my mind!

From Adam until now, men have been commanded to receive law. Adam and Eve were commanded, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it.” (Genesis 2:19-20) Do you remember that when Moses led the children of Israel to the holy mount at Sinai the word of the Lord came to them then, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people, for all the earth is mine, And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5-6) Fathers are to be teachers of honoring the law in their families. It’s more that just honor or obedience to the law that is required—it is a love of the law. Have we come to the place where we see the law and commandments as something to be cherished and loved, something that preserves and perfects and sanctifies us, or do we see it as a drudgery—something that has to be abided? We have a sacred responsibility as fathers to teach honor and respect, to teach love for the law. It was required of Adam and Eve that they be observant and obedient, otherwise they would be as miserable as they were then happy. We are designed to be happy through obedience and love of the law of God. When we foolishly choose to live in the other range of that scheme, there is nothing but misery that is ultimately to be found.

I have learned, and I know you have too, that it feels good to do good! I heard a radio preacher say that “Sin begins in fascination, but ends in assassination.” He’s right! He said sin offers thrills, but kills. We must learn to teach our families not only obedience and honor and respect of the law, but to love the law. Section 85:8 counsels us, “...that which is governed by law, is also preserved by law, and perfected and sanctified by the same. That which breaketh a law and abideth not by law, but seeketh to become a law unto itself, and willeth to abide in sin, and altogether abideth in sin, can not be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, or judgment; therefore they must remain filthy still.” We see plenty of evidence of the latter part of that scripture. We see those who choose not to abide by law. Isn’t it time that we see the fruit of those who choose to love the law, who allow themselves to be preserved, perfected and sanctified? Fathers, you are called out of this world for such a demonstration, and it will require sacrifice. Sanctification always requires sacrifice.

In the heritage of my own family, my great-great-grandfather and his two brothers were converted in England in the late 1840s-early 1850s. When he was 23 years of age, he and his two brothers left everything to travel “to the land of Zion” as they were told. My great-aunt said of them, “Did these early pioneers realize that they were leaving their homeland, their parents and siblings, never to see them again in this life, as they set out for America in search of religious freedom?” It took ten weeks for the sailing vessel from Liverpool to reach New Orleans. They rode on barges up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa. They crossed Iowa to what
is now known as Council Bluffs. There they took a wagon train for 11 weeks to cross the plains to Utah around 1854, and discovered there that things were not as they had been told. My grandfather was completely turned off by what he saw in Utah. The following spring they came back to western Iowa where they homesteaded; the Killpack name still exists. How many of us are willing to leave family and homeland and travel to the promised Kingdom? Are we willing to make that kind of sacrifice?

On the other side of my father’s family, my great-great-grandmother, whose name was Jane Priest, sat under the ministry of the first missionaries which were sent to England: Parley P. and Orson Pratt. Jane recounted the experience of listening to that ministry. The Restoration Church in that day was called The Dippers, because they practiced dipping people under the water in their baptism! Jane was enticed because of the novelty of this new religion to go and hear one of those services. Orson Pratt stood to preach and first told of the angel’s visit to Joseph Smith and the golden plates, proceeding with the Bible and proof of the Plan of Salvation. Jane said the power of God bore witness in such a manner that people began to cry, and soon there was not a dry eye in the place. At the end of the service, people went forward to turn in their names for baptism. There were many expressions of the gifts of prophecy, tongues and interpretations thereof. That kind of experience convicted her; she then encouraged the missionaries to come to her hometown and speak to some of her friends. One who was also there was named Isaac Carlisle; he too was convicted and they later became lovers, were married, and she and her husband were my great-great-grandparents on my father’s maternal side!

They also sacrificed—from New Orleans they took a steamboat up the Mississippi river. At St. Louis, they first heard of the death of Joseph and Hiram Smith and the exodus from Nauvoo. They refused to believe until they arrived at that destination and found the deserted city, and scattered Saints still crossing the river, heading for Kanesville, where Council Bluffs now stands. As soon as they could obtain a covered wagon they made the trip across Iowa, through mud, snow and freezing winds. They finally arrived at Kanesville in April, 1850. Isaac went out to buy flour, but returned with “some of this stuff they call cornmeal.” When Jane saw this, she sat down and cried—in England they fed corn to the hogs! Finally a neighbor told them how to fix “johnny cake,” and after three days without food they finally persuaded the children to eat!

Do we know anything at all about sacrifice? When they finally got to the point they could eat cornmeal, Isaac left Jane with five cents—that’s all the money they had. There was no work locally, so he left Jane and two children to go to Missouri for work. Jane remembered that there was a neighbor who owed them seventy-five cents. She asked for repayment of the debt, and he refused. As she walked away despondent, wondering how on earth she could care for her family alone, a neighbor came to her and said, “The Lord told me I should give you some flour and meat,” and Jane’s heart was strengthened. She provided for her family by making butter and sewing for three months until her husband returned, with three cows on a rope! That was his pay! They saved their money, and when they sold the possessions that they had, (they had homesteaded on 120 acres around Council Bluffs) they sold 120 acres for $40 and a wagon—that’s 30 cents an acre!

They got in the wagon, made the trip to Utah only to discover, as did my great-great-grandfather of the Killpacks, that things were not right there. Jane kept her bags packed for three weeks under their bed in Utah, awaiting the time they could sneak away by night and escape what was there. They came back to western Iowa, hoping they could buy their farm back again, but now one year later, the farm was worth $50 an acre, because of the promise of a railroad! We don’t know what sacrifice is! On the way back from Utah there were the perils of Indians. One night the chief said, “I’d like to buy one of your two young sons.” He offered seven ponies for Caleb and three ponies for Joshua.
Grandfather asked the Chief if he had a son. He said yes, and grandfather offered to buy his son, but that wouldn’t go—so they avoided the problem! The family joked for years that “the one son was worth four more ponies than the other!”

Fathers must teach their children that sacrifice brings about sanctification. Remember Lehi, who left Jerusalem, left behind his gold, silver and precious things. He then lived in a tent! We must also teach sacrifice to our children. All of us in our nature have an aversion to things which are evil. It is placed there by God. We don’t like to admit it, but it’s a part of us, and it’s real. We may try to ignore it or suppress it, or pretend it doesn’t exist—but it is constantly there, warning us, chastising us. Fathers must teach their children to listen to that still, small voice. As Solomon said, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” We are tried and tempted by things which are evil because they are forbidden: “Thou shalt not eat of it, remember that I forbid it,” was the commandment to Adam and Eve in the Garden. Tell a child something is forbidden, and watch the temptation begin! Too many adults are still children. Fathers must resist temptation. If fathers yield, how shall the children be strong? When we are corrupted, the desires of the flesh and mind for things that are forbidden become two great fountains of sin. When Adam yielded to temptation he became subject to the will of the Devil. Nephi warned of being led by the neck with a flaxen cord until Satan bound him in his strong cords forever! Fathers have responsibility to teach the scriptures, which contain lessons easily implanted in the hearts of children and not soon forgotten. Matthew Henry said, “Fathers are charged to rule their bodies with their souls, and their souls with the Word of God.”

Bro. O.C. (Chet) Henson was once a Stake President in this area. I remember something he said: “The greatest thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother!” Children need to see and hear that, and if it is not evident in the home, it’s doubly important that they see it in their grandparents. The greatest thing a man can do for his wife is to love his God. The Scriptures teach us that, “He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love.” I remember a children’s song, “Praise Him, praise him, all ye little children, God is love...” I remember that Houston Hobart always spoke of Emma Jean as “his bride.” Is your spouse still your bride, fathers? God made her a helpmeet for you—not a helpmate. In spite of our macho images, we males have a great need of you [ladies]. We need you to help us direct our courses; we need you to help us be a father. You were designed to be a complement to us. It is time for fathers to give credit where credit is due! Our successes and the work we do have been in large measure because of you ladies. After we leave this service, I want to challenge you to take the hand of your bride, even as on that day you made your marriage vows, and tell your spouse again that you love her, and show it with your eyes as well as with your words. Woman was made from a rib from the side of Adam, not from his head to rule over him, not from his feet to be trampled on, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, near to his heart to be loved. Tell your bride you love her today!

As I was preparing my thoughts there was a line from a hymn that went through my mind—“God Is Marshaling his Army” - # 346 in the Remnant Hymnal. Read that hymn! Our Lord extends sacred promises to fathers who fear the Lord, for fathers who talk often one with another; it is they that the Lord hearkens and hears, then writes their names in the Book of Remembrance.

He promised “They shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels...” (D&C 98:1b) Malachi promised that in the last days he would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. I believe the Lord is doing that, and when that day comes, there will be a day of righteousness, a day which precedes the day of the coming of our Father on this earth, when the Son of Righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings. I want you to know that Son of Righteousness needs to shine now as fathers accept their God-given sacred responsibility. I charge you this day, fathers, that you be what God created you to be. Let it be so! ■
1. **Know the Scriptures.** You may think reading old books is a strange way to learn God’s will. If you wanted to become an artist, you would probably study the paintings of old masters like Rembrandt, Monet, Van Gogh and Renoir. The same is true through reading our scriptures; they give us a clearer sense of who God is. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and will never do anything that is not in line with His scriptures. God always wants purity, fidelity and honesty. Scriptures tell us God is holy, sovereign, righteous, and just; He is loving, merciful, kind, gracious, patient and faithful. If we really understand how holy, loving and wonderful His purposes are for us, we will have no trouble trusting Him. These scriptures offer pardon for our sins, reveal His purpose for our lives, show us how to live peacefully in a world of turmoil, and command us to be fruitful witnesses for Jesus Christ.

2. **Forget About Yourself.** One of the biggest obstacles when we are seeking God’s will is forgetting about our own self-interests; it’s hard to see things “outside the box” in which we live. God sees things for all eternity; our perspective is for our lifetime on earth. Replacing what we want for ourselves with God’s will for us takes time, but if we are diligent, our self-interests are lessened.

3. **Listen.** We must prepare to hear God. You cannot hear the other person in normal conversation if you are talking or your mind is distracted. We need to find a quiet place and time to meet with God every day and be focused on what He is saying. (See Lamentations 3:22,23 and Psalms 143:8) Maybe you are afraid to give up your own will for God’s—He will honor the heart that is fully surrendered to Him. Listen to the small voice through the Holy Spirit and you will discover a life that is full and rich with purpose.

4. **Affirm God’s Control.** Life inside our “box” permits us only to see the path in front of us and behind. Our limited perspective only enables us to guess where we need to go. But God sees the whole picture from beginning to end. He sees the right path for us to take, but because He gives us our own agency, He does not interfere with our decisions. If we put God in control, He will give us the guidance we need to find our way through life’s maze.

5. **Pray According to God’s Will.** In the gospel of Matthew, the Lord’s Prayer is one of the best examples of Jesus instructing his followers to pray, “**Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**” You surrender your own concerns and seek what God wants. There are three good reasons to pray for God’s will to be done:

   A. You are telling God that you’re glad He’s in control because then you not only bring Him glory, you bring relief to yourself.
   
   B. Praying in accordance with God’s will is also a plea for God to intervene in this world, rather than sitting back and doing nothing.
   
   C. In doing so, you submit your will to His. Surrendering is difficult because it goes against our human nature—it means giving up what you want most for the sake of God.

   God’s will sometimes leads to agonizing circumstances and hardships, like it did for Jesus. But God gives you the choice. We need to pray for wisdom to know His will as well as the strength to do it.

6. **Surrender Yourself to God.** As James said, “**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**” It is up to each one of us to see that “His Will” for us is done.

---

By Harvey D. Moats

---

SIX STEPS to Knowing God Better
By Ammon L. VerDught

I was touched by the spirit that was here previous to this service. I hope my comments can enrich on that because I feel you were truly in the presence of God’s Spirit this morning. I also thank those who provided the ministry of music; it always gets us started by stimulating our auditory senses and we’re ready to listen! Communion Sunday is a very special day for me; it’s a day of renewal. We rarely get the chance to start over again “brand new.”

Our theme for this month is, “The Kingdom will come only through sacrifice and discipline.” For today, “I finish my preparations.” The scripture today is from Jesus’ prayer just prior to Judas’ betrayal. “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee; As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do… Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth… Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me... And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:1-26)

That may not sound like it supports the whole concept of preparation, but I think it really does. Christ had finished his work and is now ready to return to his Father. Preparation is complete and he can return to his Heavenly Father who had sent him. The part of this scripture I’d like to highlight is that we need to know Christ, and by knowing him, we then know God. When we know God, we become as One—one heart, one mind, one spirit. What a unique concept! Can we accomplish that? I think it is very possible, otherwise Christ would not have prayed for it. Will we do it? That’s a much more difficult question to answer and is a determinant upon each of us and our desire and effort to know Christ—to complete our preparations.

It is through Communion, where we come to ask forgiveness and re-commit our lives to Christ, and thus God, that we to get closer to God by getting to know Christ better. Then again, we complete our
preparation to be able to meet God, which also enables us to become a part of God’s Kingdom. Webster defines preparedness as a noun form of “finishing preparations,” or “the state of being prepared.” “Prepared” is defined as “to make ready, usually for a specific purpose.” In other words, to make ready to be a part of God’s Kingdom.

I was able to watch some of the U.S. National championships of Track and Field on TV. Something that stood out was during the interview of the participants who won—they all said the same thing on what they thought helped them to win their particular event: hard work, practice, and focus on their objectives. They were prepared! When I was in medical school, we were not necessarily graded—we were evaluated, but not with grades, which made it a little more difficult. We were required to take an all-inclusive exam every three months. This was given to every student, and also to the interns who were there. The goal was to show improvement over time, with training; the test changed every three months. If improvement wasn’t occurring, then something needed to happen in that student’s education and preparation. A first-year student will not do very well; it really hits their ego hard. But by the time that student graduates, their test scores are pretty good. You must understand that most medical students are Type A personalities. This created a high level of anxiety for first-year students. In a conversation with the Dean of the school about this, his response was, “If you study hard, go to every class, read from the experience of your teachers, you will be prepared and the test will not be a problem.” More importantly, I would be prepared to be a Doctor, which was the objective.

The monthly theme states, “Through sacrifice and discipline”—discipline is an absolute. Without it we lose our focus and cannot give our total attention to whatever we are trying to learn or accomplish. I understand that sacrifice means we do not participate in things that are only self-serving; but it also implies “doing without.” If I get to know Christ, there is no deprivation, but only fullness and glory. We need to learn of Christ and find Him in the right places. A little proverb that exemplifies this: “A neighbor found Rasputin on hands and knees. ‘What are you searching for?’ ‘My key.’ Both men got on their knees to search. After a while the neighbor said, ‘Where did you lose it?’ His response was, ‘At home.’ ‘Well, why then are you searching here?’ ‘Because it’s brighter here!’” Remember, we need to search for God where we lost Him, or where we can find Him! That might be church, school, good books, family, nature, and always our reference is the Scriptures.

How do we get to know Christ? If we know Him, we will become one with Him, and then with God. If we are not privileged to talk or communicate with someone in person about them, we then can learn of someone by knowing about them from accounts written or said about them, such as a biography. We have that—the New Testament and the Book of Mormon, a biography of Jesus’ life, His teachings, His parables, and importantly in my mind His Sermon on the Mount—the Celestial Law. We also have through His gift of the Holy Spirit modern-day revelation, and if we ask in humility and faith, the gift of the Holy Spirit will visit us individually. If we are receptive to that spirit, confessing God to us, we might also learn of the power and glory that is His. We need to know Christ personally, not from someone else telling us about it, but we need to experience Him.

I saw a movie, The Last Templar, a fictional account about a document written in ancient times, supposedly documenting that Jesus was just a mere mortal man. One of the archaeologists looking for this had deserted her religious beliefs. There was an accident where she was rescued by a Catholic priest on a small island near Greece. Through their conversations the priest tried to get her to come back to believing in God. He asked if she prayed; her answer was somewhat ambivalent. The priest then made a comment to her that I believe is very significant: “God wants to hear your voice; He
wants to hear from you personally.” We each need
to go to God regularly in prayer and we will get to
know Him better, and we need to do it personally.
This book I’m reading from is an account of
personal experiences of others who have written
about things. Here’s an example of finding God
personally: “The explorer returned to his people
who were eager to know about the Amazon. But
how could he ever put into words the feelings that
flooded his heart when he saw exotic flowers and
heard the night sounds of the forest, when he sensed
the danger of wild beasts or paddled his canoe over
treacherous rapids? He said, ‘Go and find out for
yourselves.’ To guide them, he drew a map of the
river. They pounced upon the map; they framed it
in their town hall; they made copies of it for
themselves, and all who had a copy considered
themselves experts on the river! For did they not
know its every turn and bend? How broad it was,
where the rapids were, and where the falls?’” It is
said that Buddha refused to be drawn into talking
about God; he was probably familiar with the
dangers of drawing maps for armchair explorers.
We need not be an armchair explorer when we’re
talking about God.

I believe Christ, in His Sermon on the Mount,
described the attributes and qualities of the “rules”
for us to become like Him. If you did nothing else
in your reading except read that sermon, you will
get to know Christ! Many people have tried to deny
Christ, and when they have studied Him they find it
very difficult. There is another story of someone
who openly denied Christ and what happened
afterwards. This is a true account of a man named
Lew Wallace, who was both a famous General and
a literary genius. He served as the governor of New
Mexico. He was also an avowed atheist. One day
his friend, Robert Ingersoll, suggested an idea to the
General—why not write a book proving that no
such man as Jesus Christ ever existed? Why not
show that Christianity, the world’s dominant faith,
was completely based on a myth? It would be a
masterpiece, said Ingersoll, and a way of putting an
end to the so-called Christ. It sounded like a good
idea to Gen. Wallace, and he went to the library and
began his research.

For two years Wallace undertook this ambitious
project. He researched and studied in the leading
libraries of Europe and America. His goal: to find
information that would once and for all destroy
Christianity and show it to be the sham that he
knew it was. But something went wrong with his
plan. He had written no further than his second
chapter when something distressing came to pass—
his research did the opposite of what he’d hoped. It
actually gave him solid, irrefutable evidence that
Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Intellectual
integrity forced Wallace to admit that Jesus Christ
was just as historical as Julius Caesar or Socrates.
Jesus was real; the evidence was clear, and the
implications were even more staggering. If this man
was indeed genuine, then so was His lordship. He
could only be myth or Master, one or the other.
There could be no middle ground. It was clear to
Wallace that Jesus Christ was no myth. He fell
immediately to his knees and cried out to Jesus,
“My Lord and my God.” Towards morning, the
light broke into my soul, he later wrote. I went into
my bedroom, woke my wife, and told her that I had
received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. She
smiled and told him that this was no less than an
answer to her prayer. She had asked God for her
husband to be like Saul of Tarsus, who began by
casting stones and ended by casting his life before
the Savior. Not only did General Wallace become a
Christian, but later in his life he did indeed write a
great book—a masterpiece—just as Ingersoll had
predicted. It was called “Ben Hur, a Tale of the
Christ.” It is a work of beauty and devotion, one of
the greatest novels ever written concerning the life
and time of Christ, testifying to the genuine Jesus
whose acquaintance Wallace had made.

As we seek truth and light, we become enlightened.
We then can no longer deny Christ There’s another
small proverb that exemplifies this quite well,
titled “I Chop Wood.” “When the Zen master
attained enlightenment, he wrote the following lines
to celebrate it: ‘O wondrous marvel: I chop wood! I
draw water from the well!’ After enlightenment
nothing really changes. The tree is still a tree;
people are just what they were before and so are
you. You may continue to be as moody or even-
tempered, as wise or foolish. The one difference is
that you see things with a different eye. You are
more detached from it all now. And your heart is
full of wonder.
“That is the essence of contemplation: the sense of wonder.

“Contemplation is different from ecstasy in that ecstasy leads to withdrawal. The enlightened contemplative continues to chop wood and draw water from the well. Contemplation is different from the perception of beauty in that the perception of beauty produces aesthetic delight, whereas contemplation produces wonder—no matter what it observes, a sunset or stone.

“This is the prerogative of children. They are so often in a state of wonder. So they easily slip into the Kingdom.”

The more we study of Christ, the more contemplative we become and wonder of His glory as a child does—as “such is the Kingdom of God.” If we know Christ, we then become the beacon to our neighbors of the light and truth of God. It is how we live our life that is the beacon.

I’ve always wondered why Christ used parables so much. When I was young I thought it was because God had a sense of humor. He wanted to see me get perplexed over trying to figure them out! As I got older and began practicing medicine, I realized God definitely had a sense of humor! The human body is extremely complex, and there are many things I did not understand. But with more experience and understanding, I became somewhat more enlightened. I became awestruck with God’s greatness and His complexity and the wonder of His creation. I also started to understand Christ’s parable—life is not constant or the same. The situations we encounter are different, and only through a parable could Christ have taught Peter in ancient times and teach me today. They are wonderful tools to help us through life’s issues. There is a statement I believe originated with the Baptist Youth Groups of “What would Jesus do....” A good example to follow, but only if you know Christ.

A dialogue between a recent convert and an unbelieving friend: “So you have been converted to Christ!” “Yes.” “Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me, what country was he born in?” “I don’t know.” “What was his age when he died?” “I don’t know.” “How many sermons did he preach?” “I don’t know.” “You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ.” “You are right. I’m ashamed of how little I know about him. But this much I do know: three years ago I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling to pieces. My wife and children would dread my return home each evening. But now I have given up drink, we are out of debt; ours is now a happy home. All this Christ has done for me. This much I know of him: to really know that is to be transformed by what one knows.” As we know Christ we become one with Him. In the gospel according to Luke: But Peter said, man I do not know what you are talking about. At that moment while he was still speaking, a cock crew and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter and Peter went outside and wept bitterly. I had a fairly good relationship with the Lord, I would ask him for things, converse with Him, praise Him, thank Him, but always I had this uncomfortable feeling that He wanted me to look at Him, and I would not. I would talk but look away when I sensed He was looking at me. I was afraid I should find an accusation there of some unrepentant sin. I thought I should find a demand there; there would be something He would want from me. One day I finally summoned up courage and looked—there was no accusation, there was no demand. The eyes just said, ‘I love you.’ I walked out, and like Peter I wept.

Today, through this most important and beautiful Sacrament that shows God’s grace for us, we can recommit our covenant to Christ, and ask forgiveness for our sins and shortcomings. We can start anew, knowing that God loves us and is reaching out to us to come unto Him and His Kingdom, if we will just prepare ourselves through Christ. As we partake of the emblems today let us look into the eyes of Christ and commit to Him, and establish God’s Kingdom. Complete your preparations so we can come unto our Savior and join him in God’s Kingdom. Amen. ■
In our quarterly reports from the members of the Twelve and Seventy, we have been focusing on the growth of the Church in various areas throughout the world. We have provided updates of the work being done in India and Africa, and are looking forward to sharing with the Saints more information from our other foreign areas of ministry, namely Belize and the Philippines. However, this report will attempt to answer a question that was presented to us recently by one of our brothers. As it was a question relating to our understanding of how ministry grows in our foreign lands, we felt it appropriate to share his question with the Church as a whole and attempt to adequately answer it. “To what effort or reason could we attribute the success and growth we are experiencing in our overseas ministries?” This question came during our missionary field report to the Joint Council, of the quickly-expanding membership being seen in Africa and the Philippines specifically, as well as in other areas.

To give some comparisons of how the Remnant Church is developing overseas, let us take a brief look at the membership growth since the inception of the Church. The Remnant Church came into being in 2000 and, by the close of that year, there were 760 members on the roles of the Church. The following year that number increased to 836. Subsequent years found the membership growing to: 1059 in 2002, 1,190 in 2003, 1,228 in 2004, 1,327 in 2005, 1,442 in 2006, 1,692 in 2007, and we ended 2008 with 1,882. This reflects an overall growth of 248% from the original number of 760. Currently we stand at just over 2,000 members Church-wide.

Using these numbers, it is easy to see that we’ve had almost a three-fold increase in our total membership since the year 2000. Taking each year individually, our increase has been steady but not spectacular. Since our movement started out with a fairly substantial base of members, the additional membership growth over the past eight years has, at most, been a few hundred souls annually. Overseas, however, has been a different story. The vast majority of our growth has been new and uninitiated members joining the Remnant Church. Our membership additions overseas can be approximated at 600 in Nigeria and Uganda, 300 in the Philippines, and slightly more than 200 in India. Further, we are regularly receiving new baptismal and confirmation forms, as these areas continue to add memberships. While we have members in Belize and Brazil, these previous four nations are currently our fastest growing foreign lands.

During the brief deliberation on the question asked by our brother, it was suggested that our response should be shared with the general membership of the Church, as there may be many who would like to know how the Restoration Story can best be told, supported, and received by our brothers and sisters of other lands. In this brief essay, we will do our best to adequately answer this question.

THE UNIQUE RESTORATION STORY

There appears to be three main factors that frame the relationship of the Remnant Church and our overseas Saints. First is the unique and unparalleled Restoration Story itself. The promises of a richer and deeper life within a communal brother- and sisterhood here upon this earth, as well as the promise of an eternal life with a Savior and a God who loves each more than life itself, is an attraction that is impossible for many of them to deny or walk away from. When our overseas friends first hear the gospel and are able to discern its truth and majesty, the abundance of the spiritual life that it promises urges them to
come forward and commit to a different order of life than what is normally found around them in their cultures. To many, that commitment demands that they leave family and friends behind. To others, it means they may be cast away from some of those same families and friends, due to soon-developing religious and cultural differences. Some lose jobs and occupations because of this choice, while others may be required to move and leave long-lived-in homes and villages. Oftentimes, making a religious choice in another culture is not a decision that is easily lived with or tolerated.

**LEADERSHIP CONCEPT**

Next comes the concept of leadership and the tradition of our overseas Saints following strong and capable leaders, those who care for them and provide them with Godly direction, counsel and support. As our Church moves into more and more foreign fields, and especially into more third-world nations, we must understand that culture and class play an important role in these areas. As men ascend in leadership, they often are the main focus of the dedication of many who chose to be led by them. The role of the Remnant Church is to carefully teach those leaders, and their people, the gospel as Christ taught it and to assist them in blending that gospel into their lives. Further, we teach the concept of personal agency and choice, a thought that is often a new understanding to many of these Saints. Because of the nature of their cultures, and sometimes their national laws, this is a facet of the gospel that can be most difficult for them to understand and follow. Until they learn to rely more fully for their guidance upon the Holy Spirit and less upon the dictates of particular men or leaders, there is always the possibility of losing citizens of the Kingdom to the changing whims of mankind. Thus, the careful nurture and development of Christlike leaders is imperative.

**ACCEPTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP**

The next factor is the lack of the effect, in their lives, of a type of Babylon that we are acquainted with in our own particular society. The absence of these ungodly “lures” allows them the freedom to more completely accept the steps of discipleship that Christ requires from all who wish to be called his children, without feeling that they are giving up too much. While many of our overseas Saints live and exist in what we could only view as dire poverty, the challenge that Christ extended to the rich young ruler to go and sell all he had and give to the poor does not have the same impact to them. That young man went away sorrowfully because he was desirous of living in both worlds: the one Christ promised as well as his own secular world. Currently, our friends in faraway places have little to give up in terms of the riches of the world–riches that would prevent them from becoming servants to Christ’s call of discipleship.

But let us not be deceived lest we should consider them lacking in riches, for they have an abundance of wealth that we in our “civilized” world might only hope to emulate. They are rich in their compassion for each other, in their willingness to care for and bring support to those who have needs, to feed and nurture their children in Christlike love and affection, and to be open to the gentle leadings of the Holy Spirit. As our new brothers and sisters adjust to this faith, we have much to learn from them regarding other forms and types of worship, music, and the simple joys of celebrating the worship of the Most High God.

The years ahead will bring the Remnant Church many challenges of growth and adoption. But the Kingdom knows no boundaries of face and color–it simply issues the invitation for all to come and sit at the foot of the King and of His Father.
ILLNESS AND LOSS SUFFERED BY MANY IN THE CHURCH

Reported by Ralph W. Damon

Over the past several months, there have been numerous members of the Remnant Church who have suffered illness and disease that have severely impacted the Church. We take this opportunity to inform you regarding these families, and urge you to remember each of them in your daily prayers.

We regret that we have recently experienced great tragedies in the lives of two of our devoted families. Elder Jack Schmidt passed away Saturday, August 8, 2009 in Birmingham, Alabama. Bro. Jack had recently been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. We share his loss with his wife Laura, and their children Chuck, Emily and Betsy, as well as members of their extended family. Bro. Jack was a tireless worker who donated countless hours serving as the Church’s architect, and was one of the major plan developers for the Bountiful Community now being finalized. His dedication to these plans and his skill as an architect will be sorely missed in the days ahead, but he will be fondly remembered as his vision of this community comes into reality. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family, and we offer prayers on their behalf, as well as the kind memories we have of Bro. Jack.

In the Philippines we have learned of the tragic loss of Brother Rommel Desoloc’s wife May, and their three-year-old daughter Rivkah Faith on August 5, 2009 in Cebu City. Elder Rommel, along with four other Elders recently ordained there, is responsible for the growth and development of the Remnant Church in the island of Mindanao. The news we have received indicates that Sister May and daughter were passengers in a van that collided with a bus. They apparently were killed instantly, along with other passengers of the van.

Brother Rommel was brought into the Remnant Church through the ministry of Apostles Lee Killpack and Leland Collins when these two men traveled to the Philippines in 2006. Through that original contact, over 200 members are now a part of the Church, and four missions have been established. Your prayers for Bro. Rommel and Sr. May’s family would be appreciated at this time.

Sister Mary Lou Larsen is recovering at home from her recent kidney surgery and is beginning to establish a routine for her thrice-weekly dialysis treatments. Bro. Fred reports that she is holding up well and looking forward to resuming her role and participation as the “First Lady” of the Church.

Brother Greg Turner has received his bone marrow transplant from his sister and is now waiting for the benefit from that procedure to take hold and combat the leukemia that was found at the onset of summer. His spirits are good, and he talks on the phone to friends, as well as maintaining contact with the Church office. Sister Marci, Josh and Stephanie would appreciate the Saints’ continued prayers on his behalf for a strong and complete recovery.

Sister Bonnie Damon is struggling with pancreatic cancer this summer, and is undergoing chemotherapy. She is into her second round of treatments and will be re-evaluated at the end of August to determine the value of the treatments. Brother Ralph and Maggie also are appreciative of the love and concern that the Saints worldwide are expressing for her.

Brother David Bowerman and others who are chronically afflicted continue to need prayers as each faces the illness that besets him/her. Let us not forget others who also have illnesses as we pray for one another. One of the benefits of our prayers and expressions of love is the “oneness” we have felt for each other. We are pleased that Bro. Lane Harold has completed his radiation treatments following his neck surgery for cancer. His prognosis is favorable at this time, and he continues to function in his various roles in the First Presidency.

Perhaps the day will soon be when the testimonies of the healed can be heard by many, reminding them once again of the power and majesty of God.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Make Plans Now to Attend

Priesthood Assembly / Women’s Retreat
October 2 - 4, 2009

General Conference
March 31 - April 4, 2010
Contact the Church Office for Reservations
Phone: (816) 461-7215 or Toll Free (816) 766-6268

Registration Fees

Priesthood Assembly $15  Women’s Retreat $17 (includes Lunch)
(includes Saturday Lunch)  Children $3.00 each (includes Saturday Lunch)

These fees do not include housing costs.

A new option for those who wish to stay on premises is:

NEWLY COMPLETED RETREAT CENTER AT THE GATHERING PLACE
13 Dorm Rooms (118 Beds)  8 Handicap Beds and Showers on First Floor

Costs:

Bring your own bedding:  $8.00 per night per adult
$6.00 per night per child (17 and under)
Children 5 and under – No Charge

Bedding provided:  $10.00 per night per adult
$8.00 per night per child (17 and under)
Children 5 and under – No Charge

Phone in your reservations promptly to secure space for your needs

REMNANT ARMED FORCES UPDATES

Please remember active and reserve personnel/families in your daily prayers. Let them know how proud and thankful you are for their service! If you know of a military member, contact Patti Jobe at rpwm82@fullnet.net or 918-273-3939. These are the new addresses:

First Congregation
SrA James Piedimonte (member)
Buckner, MO
James, Son of Robert and Sandra Piedimonte, grandson of Daniel and Hilda Piedimonte, is a jet engine mechanic in the Air Force. In September he will be stationed in South Korea for 15 months. Address pending.

Sperry OK Branch
PO1 John Burris (non-member)
Owasso, OK
John, grandson of Ann Lamberson, is a mechanic on special warfare, returned safely from Afghanistan in August. He is currently attending classes on the West Coast for 2 months, will be home for a visit at Thanksgiving and then likely re-deploy to Afghanistan. Address pending.

Isolated
PFC Todd Riner (non-member)
Council Bluffs National Guard, Bravo Company
110 #B11 Marshall Ave
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Todd, grandson of Richard and Patsy Dollen of Rogers AR Branch, married Elizabeth in September.

We will update other previous addresses in the next issue.
Several members of our congregation attended the General Conference in April. All returned with a renewed spirit and commitment to build the Kingdom. A 90th birthday celebration for Alice Batten was enjoyed by the congregation on February 22. Shortly after, Alice and Wes were in a serious automobile accident traveling in Nevada. We understand that recently they were able to return home after Alice suffered several broken bones. We are also excited to report that Gloria Browning has been well enough to attend Church, as well as the Center Place In-town Reunion in Independence.

Patriarch/Evangelist Pete Petentler was a guest and gave Rose Vrendenburg her Patriarchal Blessing. Brother Richard Dollen was ordained to the office of Elder. We ask for prayers for him as he serves in this new capacity. Though small, our Branch continues to feel the Spirit each week as we worship together. We pray for our Church leaders, priesthood, youth and all our members.

Members were saddened by the death of Brother Oscar McIntosh on April 17, and his wife, LaRuth, preceded him in death on April 13. A memorial service was held for both on April 23, conducted by Elder Billy Walker, Pastor of Marlin Restoration Branch, and High Priest Arthur Allen, Branch President. We also pay tribute to J.L. “Buddy” Bryant who passed April 7. He was a member of the great generation that helped to establish the Restoration Gospel in Falls County. We now plan for the 112-year celebration of the Church in the county for October 17-18, when Apostles Ralph Damon and Lelend Collins will be among our guests.

On February 2, 2005 a request for Church material via the Branch Web Site was forwarded. Nothing more was heard from the requested until April 2009 after he had seen the “Gathering Place Sign” in Independence, and recalled he had seen that elsewhere. Looking through a stored box in a closet, he discovered the Marlin materials and followed up with Apostle Damon. He and his wife will be united with the Remnant Church. What a joy it was to discover the value of our web site and materials, furnished free of charge, as an instrument in bringing joy to another couple!

The congregation continues to pray for those in leadership positions with serious health issues as well as our local people and our military personnel. Recent ministerial visitors included Raymond Clough and Roger Gault from the Center Place area, and assigned Apostle Gary Argotsinger from Iowa. The Branch members were able to visit further with each of them at potluck luncheons following the services.

A recent bulletin insert by B. Mildred Smith emphasized the importance of new U.S. Food Guidelines as they relate to D&C 86 and the Word.
of Wisdom. Paramount in the recommendations is the increased use of fruits, vegetables and whole grains and the “Phytonutrients” now known to be of inestimable value in health. These are plant chemicals that have not been classified as vitamins or minerals, and the value of which we are just learning. The insert also addressed “reducing calories and increasing activity” for the obesity problem manifesting itself for every age group.

Another interesting insert enumerated “What Noah Taught Us” about life and the ark…

1) Don’t ignore the signs around you and procrastinate. You may miss the boat! 2) Remember we need each other—we’re all in the same boat. 3) Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark. 4) Stay fit. When you’re very old, someone may ask you to do something really big. 5) Don’t listen to people who scoff at you for following the Lord’s commands. 6) Build your future on high ground. 7) For safety’s sake, travel in pairs. 8) Speed isn’t always an advantage. The turtles were on board with the cheetahs. 9) When you’re stressed, turn things over to God. Be willing to float on the seas of life which only He can calm. 10) Remember, the ark was built by amateurs—the Titanic by professionals! 11) No matter how difficult the storm, when you’re with God, there’s always a rainbow waiting.

Bishop Don Owens and wife Donna returned “home” to us for a one-Sunday visit in July. He taught our Sunday School class, and during the preaching hour gave us a condensed version of his 4-hour In-town Reunion class, which was extremely interesting. It was good to have them back!

Sr. Phyllis Pent taught the adult class, studying the Four Gospels of the Bible during Bro. Murie’s absence. We have finished Mark and now start Luke; we have interesting discussions on the times of Jesus and the customs of that day, and how they relate to us today.

Sr. Polly Osborne has had a return of her cancer and needs our continuing prayers. Also, we will be losing Sr. Joellyn Karpelis (widow of Arlyn Karpelis) who is moving to the Lansing area to be close to her son Stephan and his wife Nikki. We understand the reason but will miss her greatly. We have many of our flock traveling to places around the world this summer, and thank the Lord for their safe travel, and pray the Lord’s blessing on those yet traveling in the near future.

The men of our Branch recently met for a “social breakfast” at a restaurant. It provided an opportunity for the men to enjoy each other leisurely, a rare opportunity in their busy lives. Everyone had a great time!

**Our Pastor, Elder Bob Murie, endured a painful 10 weeks, having broken his leg in four places after missing a bottom basement step. After wearing a therapeutic “boot” and undergoing therapy, he was back with regular shoes on last Sunday! Elder Dick Nolff had stepped into the big “Pastoral Shoes” and filled them adequately. Dick may be the youngest Elder in ordination-time but his ministry has exploded in spiritual maturity. His devotion to the Lord and deep willingness to serve are an inspiration. Other priesthood also helped to fill the void during Bro. Murie’s absence.**

**Center Congregation Choir provides ministry at In-Town Reunion**
Zion
New Jerusalem Communities

Build Community Center
Bountiful

Complete Headquarters
Emergency Center

Complete Retreat Center
Gathering Place

Cash, Water, Food, Medication 90 Day Supply
Families

A Bridge Over Troubled Waters
These are attainable Zionic goals, some already accomplished.