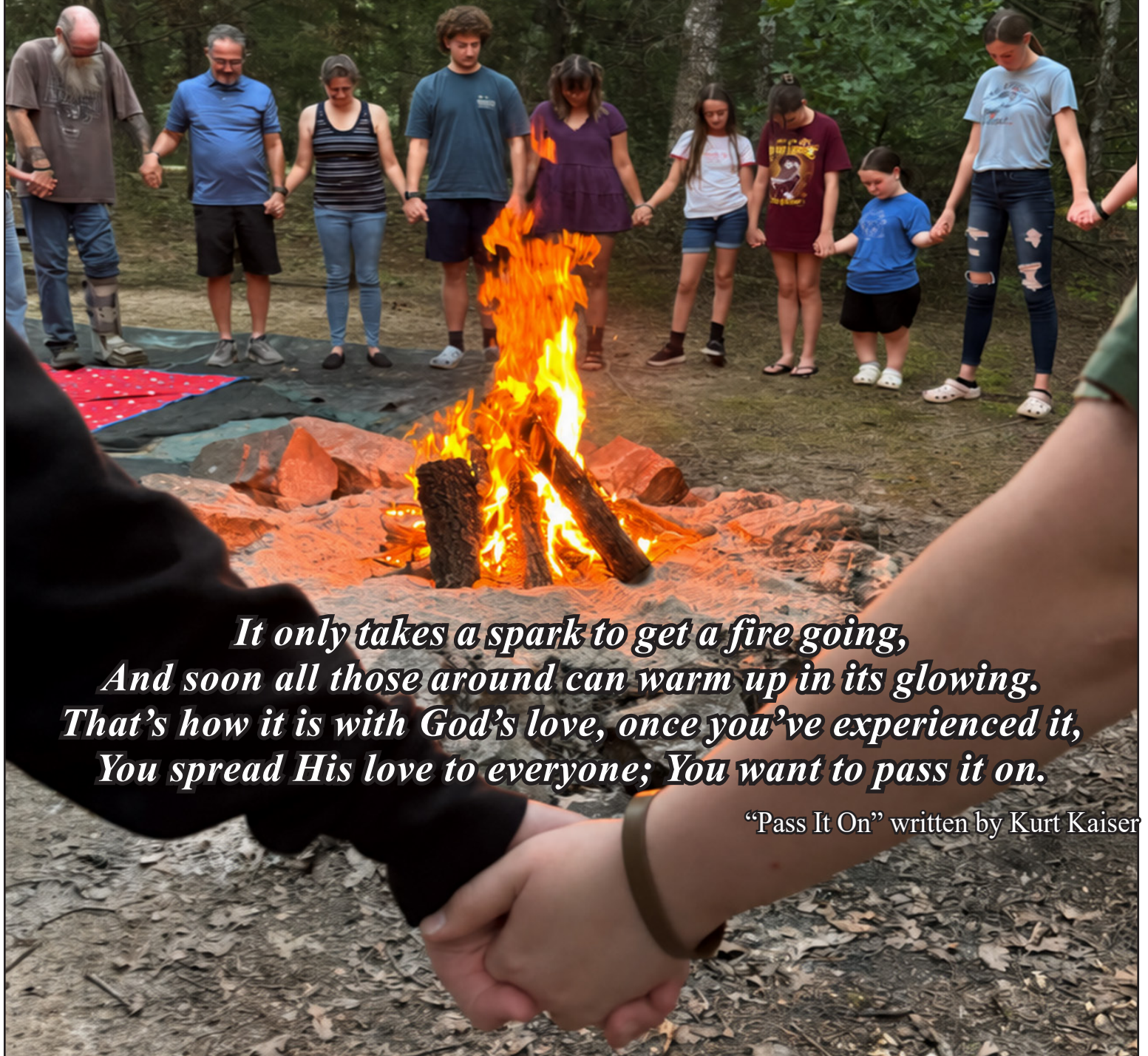


THE HASTENING TIMES

Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Vol. 27, Number 2 Summer 2026 Issue No. 99



*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it,
You spread His love to everyone; You want to pass it on.*

"Pass It On" written by Kurt Kaiser

Epitome of Faith

We believe...

In God the Eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

Men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgressions.

That through atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

A man must be called of God by "prophecy, and by laying on of hands" by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances thereof.

These ordinances are, first, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In the same organization that existed in the primitive church; viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.

In the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

The Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

All that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

In the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes, that Zion will be built upon this continent, that Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaic glory.

We claim privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

In being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul, "we believe all things, we hope all things," we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

These thoughts were originally presented by Joseph Smith Jr. in Volume III, NO. 9 of Times and Seasons, page 709–710, March 1, 1842.



The Hastening Times

Volume 27 - Number 2

Issue 99

Summer 2026

Editors In Chief

The First Presidency

Terry W. Patience
Michael B. Hogan
David R. Van Fleet

Managing Editor

Rebecca L. Paris

Proofreaders

Ralph W. Damon
Ruth Holloway
David R. Van Fleet

Production and Mailing

Tessa Woods

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Remnant

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816-461-7215

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Unless otherwise noted, the scriptures referenced herein are from the Inspired Version of The Holy Scriptures, the 1908 edition of the Book of Mormon, or the Book of Doctrine and Covenants (sections 1–144, RLDS, 1978; sections from 145 on, Remnant Church).

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and also: *“The Remnant Youth”*

Email us at: churchoffice@theremnantchurch.com

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Samantha Wilson “Pass It On” written by Kurt Kaiser

PHOTOS: Chad and Cristin Buttery, Brandy Lascoe, Melody Moore, David Van Fleet, Samantha Van Meter, Eric and Samantha Wilson, and Danelle Woodruff.

PAGE 28: “Revelations,” The Evening and the Morning Star, August 1832, [p. 1]. Edited by William W. Phelps. Public domain; digital image courtesy of the Joseph Smith Papers and the Church History Library.

PAGE 29: Destruction of the Printing Press in Jackson County, Missouri, 1833, by C. C. A. Christensen, 1882. Public domain; courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Our Mission Statement: The Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has been called into renewal to preach the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all who will listen, and to prepare and gather a righteous people for the building of the Kingdom of God on earth, Zion.

From the First Presidency...

Summer is not usually the time of year when we have a fire in our fireplaces. It is just too hot, and we do not need the fire to compete with our air conditioning. But most of us can remember those days when we were sitting at camp, staring at a campfire, watching the embers dance, the sparks fly, and the flames reach toward the sky. It is possible that at the time we had many thoughts going through our minds, and perhaps we were not listening to what the campfire director was saying. We were there, just enjoying the moment.

The history of the song “It Only Takes a Spark,” goes back to 1969, when it was written by Kurt Kaiser. I thought the song went back much further in history, because I thought I sang it at campfires long before that. The inspiration came to the composer while watching a small spark ignite a fire, which grew until it was able to warm all around it. This image caused him to contemplate that God’s love works the same way. He then wrote the song in about twenty minutes. The third verse came later when his wife suggested adding the idea of “shouting it from the mountaintops.” The song was also known as “Pass It On.” No matter which title you remember, the song became a global anthem for youth ministry and Christian outreach.

So, which are you? Are you the ember that has been separated from the fire and is beginning to lose its flame? Or are you the fire that warms the embers around it? There may be many reasons why we separate ourselves from the fire. Some of them are of our own choosing, and others are due to situations outside of us. If we are part of the larger fire, we can—because we are people and not literal flames—reach out to the embers that are losing their spiritual fire and give them the support that we all need. I believe that none of us can endure to the end without the help—the warmth—of others. God organized the church so that His people might remain close to the spiritual fire, strengthening and supporting one another as we endure to the end.

A good example of the need to stay close to the “fire” can be found in the recounting of how the followers of Jesus felt. In the book, *Foundations of Zion*, by Frederick Madison Smith, we find these words:

After the experience in the upper chamber where the Lord’s supper was instituted, there followed—betrayal and apprehension, the trial, his condemnation, the cruel road to Calvary, and the agony of the cross...The gloom which settled over them as he was laid in the rock-sealed tomb must have been dense. How long those three days must have seemed to them, as they, in seclusion and with abated voices, relived their experiences with the Master and recalled again his splendid teachings. How rich in meaning they became! Then came the glorious news, “He is risen!” They saw him, talked with him again, listened to his instructions once more.

May we never become a cool ember. And if we do, may we rejoice with boundless joy when we are near the flame again!

Terry Patience

Terry W. Patience,
For the First Presidency



News & Updates

SAVE THE DATES:

August 28–30: Young Adult Retreat

August 31: Handmaidens / Warriors Ice Cream Social

October 16–19: Women's Branson Trip

November 8: Pipe Organ Concert Celebrating 20 Years!
at 4:30 p.m.

November 13–15: Men and Young Men's Retreat at
Blackgum Campground (Everyone welcome!)

November 19: Presiding Elders Meeting at 7 p.m.

December 5: Women's Holy Sanctuary Service at 5 p.m.

December 6: Children's Christmas Musical at 4:30 p.m.

December 20: Center Place Christmas Service 10:30
a.m.

December 27–29: Winter Youth Retreat

Monthly Meetings:

Women's Council — fourth Wednesday of the month

Quorum of Elders — fourth Tuesday of the month

Quorum of Seventy — second Tuesday of the month

Quorum of Twelve — second Tuesday of the month

Order of Bishops — third Tuesday of the month

Please contact the church office at 816-461-7215 or
churchoffice@theremnantchurch.com with questions.

CALL IN CLASSES:

A phone call class, led by Seventy Bruce Terry, is currently
studying the Book of Isaiah. We invite you to join us at
9:00 a.m. Central Time on Sunday mornings. To join,
please call (646) 749-3129 and enter code 415354341#.
There is also a Wednesday night prayer service at 7:00
p.m. available on the same phone number and code.

Tuesdays–Women's Conference Call:

Join us for our Tuesday women's classes, prayer, and
worship from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Central Time.
Dial in to join us: 1-848-777-1212.

Conference ID: 7542576

We look forward to growing together in faith and worship!

REMNANT CALL IN PRAYER SERVICE:

There is an online prayer service each Wednesday at 7:00
p.m. Central time. Please join us!

Call: 646-749-3129

Enter code: 415354341#

BABY BLESSINGS:

May God bless these precious little ones and their
families.

Blackgum, OK

Daniel Allen Elkins

Elliott Holloway

Regions Round About

Gloria Elizabeth Bryant

Layne Wesley Sneed

BAPTISMS:

We joyously welcome the following new members by
baptism:

Southern Indiana

Antonio Beauchamp

Charles Autry



AFFILIATIONS:

We joyously welcome the following new members by
affiliation:

Carthage Branch

Elizabeth Peterson

Southern Indiana

Rebecca Beauchamp

Zion's Hill

Kerri Yager

WITH SYMPATHY:

We remember with fond memories the following
dedicated saints. Our prayers are with their families.

Rogers, Arkansas Branch

Patsy Dollen

Sperry Branch

James (Jim) Crank

Regions Round About

Joyce C. Wilson





12 Reasons for The Remnant Church

Some may question whether the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is worthy of notice, given its small size, its place among many Restoration branches, and its bold decision to establish a complete church organization. Other groups may have larger memberships, more trained staff, and greater resources. Yet the Remnant Church deserves careful consideration because it offers divine authority, spiritual blessings, and a commission to establish the kingdom of God on earth and evangelize the world. This article presents twelve reasons why it merits attention within the Restoration Movement and beyond.

Members of the Remnant Church believe this church continues the doctrine and authority of the church founded by Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1830; therefore, statements about the original church still apply today. The Remnant Church was organized by saints from branches, congregations, and isolated areas who came together to renew the church after the heritage church liberalized and abandoned the distinctives of the Restoration. Accordingly:

1. In 1999, a council of 24 high priests met to set the church in order under Doctrine and Covenants 122:10a: “Should the church fall into disorder, or any portion of it, it is the duty of the several quorums of the church, or any one of them to take measures to correct such disorder; through the advice and direction of the Presidency, the Twelve, and the Seventy, or a council of high priests in case of emergency” (*italics added*). Their action led to the organization of the church in April 2000.
2. The Remnant Church was organized according to the pattern of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS), with reliance on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It was organized sixteen years after the doctrinal split within the RLDS Church, just as the RLDS Church was organized sixteen years after the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. (The RLDS Church voted to change its name to Community of Christ two days before the Remnant Church was organized.)
3. Since 2002, the Remnant Church has been led by a prophet/president and has received 33 revelations through 2026. These revelations have provided direction, inspired leadership, and a vision¹ for the future. The church’s two prophets have met three requirements: they were called by revelation, approved by conference vote, and ordained by men in authority. Lineage is appropriate, when possible, though not always possible. Frederick N. Larsen was the grandson of Frederick M. Smith, and Terry W. Patience is more distantly related. More importantly, Brother Larsen designated Brother Patience as his successor under Section 43:2: “None else shall be appointed unto this gift except it be through him [the current prophet].” Video of Brother Larsen’s dictation from his hospital bed showed sufficient clarity of mind to make that pronouncement.
4. There are Quorums of Twelve and Seventy for the missionary work. The Twelve are also a second presidency and can set the church in order when necessary. (This occurred in the year 2000, for example.)
5. Church organization has been effected, including all the offices of the church. Quorums have been organized as well, which is important for training, organizing, and other purposes. This is how Christ intended a church should be organized as revealed through Joseph Smith, Jr. It was never intended that an individual branch should be the final goal. Even in the early days after the ascension of Christ, there was



by President David R. Van Fleet

church organization, such as when James the Lord's brother was consulted to determine an issue.

6. Stewardship has been emphasized and implemented,² including:
 - a. Paying tithes to a bishop of one tenth of their increase³ rather than their income is once again possible.
 - b. A program of consecration of surplus has been implemented.
 - c. Care of the poor is taking place through the Oblation Fund, Lunch Partners, Clothes Closet, and Food Pantry.
7. Gathering has been emphasized.
 - a. The saints have been told: "it is urgent that you gather closer together geographically and spiritually."⁴ The wisdom of that counsel is becoming increasingly evident as membership in some branches dwindles due to age.
 - b. A community has been established in eastern Jackson County, Missouri, called Bountiful.
8. New members are confirmed as members of a church with a complete organizational structure.
9. Preparation for the return of Christ is being emphasized through reading, studying, and obeying the counsels of God. The church has been told that the Lord desires to come but is waiting on the response of the saints. This knowledge is through prophetic ministry.
10. The church was told to build a holy sanctuary, and instruction was given not to be concerned at this time about a temple on the Temple Lot.⁵ The holy sanctuary has been constructed and is being used reverently with the presence of the Spirit of God blessing the worship of the saints in extra measure.
11. Patriarchs are available to provide their special ministry, including patriarchal blessings.
12. There is a Standing High Council for counseling and trying cases, something missing in smaller organizations.

The prophetic counsel given to the church reaches far beyond the points listed here. It calls the saints to change their lives, rise to the high calling found in Christ Jesus, and reflect His character more fully. As the church grows spiritually, the blessings of worshiping together increase, and the purpose of the Remnant Church becomes clearer: to prepare a people for the kingdom of God and the return of Christ.

1 Proverbs 29:18

2 Doctrine and Covenants (D&C) 149:1-2.

3 Genesis 14:39 (Inspired Version), D&C 106:1b

4 D&C 167:1

5 Ibid 170:1-2

"Therefore let your light
so shine before this world, that
they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father
who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:18



The Dream of America

This year, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, the United States of America. Across this nation, there have been months, perhaps even years, of planning for this nationwide event. Celebrations from coast to coast, border to border, and then some, have taken place, leaving memories in our minds that may live with us into eternity, because of how this nation was conceived, and the eternal Deity who guided those thoughts.

Try as I might, I can barely remember the 200th-anniversary celebration back in 1976. I cannot remember what we did as a family, what celebrations might have happened around us, or much at all about the impact, or lack of impact, that event had on me. It just seems to have slipped away from me. For some reason, that was not the case this year. I was captivated by the entirety of the celebration from the beginning. In fact, we started making plans in February to be where the heart of the Revolution began over 250 years ago: in Williamsburg, Virginia. Thankfully, my daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter were able to join us on that vacation.



What a privilege it was to be in the midst of an estimated 50,000 people over a five-day period and to listen as a reenactor portraying Thomas Jefferson stood in the second-floor doorway of the courthouse and read the Declaration of Independence to 10,000 people, who responded at crucial points within that document. We heard stories about the lives of Martha Washington, President George Washington, and George Mason. There were other reenactors playing the roles of many of the men and women who challenged the early settlers to bind together in a new cause for freedom: the formation of the republic we now enjoy.

We were also constantly reminded that the work of these Founding Fathers came with great risks. Not only were they placing their fortunes, properties, and livelihoods in jeopardy, but they were also well aware that they were committing treason against the Crown, the king of England. If convicted, they could be put to death. And there were some who paid that ultimate price. Benjamin Franklin is said to have remarked at the signing of the Declaration, “Yes, we must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

Before all the Fourth of July celebrations and all the pageantry and fireworks fade into memories too difficult to recall, it would seem well to reflect on what we are now doing for this great experiment in history, and whether, in this age, we are ready to commit our fortunes or lives to it.

Our forefathers did well in thinking through what they wanted to commit to. They knew that it was not just a pious statement—all fluff with no meaning—but a definitive statement of purpose and meaning. In their debates, they recognized that their dream could be maintained only by the values of a Christian people fully committed to their God.

And so they began: “We hold these truths to be self-evident ...”

By Patriarch Ralph W. Damon

First of all, there are truths. There are no conflicting truths. Truths are self-evident. They can be discovered by any reasonable group of people looking at natural law and asking themselves, “What rights would I want for myself?”

Truth is a property of statements, beliefs, or propositions that agree or align with reality or fact. Anything that attempts to pull these unifying qualities apart then becomes an untruth and ceases to be of value to honorable people. That is why the ongoing search for “all truth” is so essential for the growth and development of good and godly people, in politics as well as in our religious life.

“... that all men are created equal ...”

Across theological lines, the Golden Rule has become a statement that many people have applied to their lives: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” For this concept to be active in our lives, it must, of necessity, apply to every conceivable human being, whatever their race, ethnic background, age, or sex. We all have biases within us, and it sometimes takes time and effort to overcome them, such as long-standing attitudes toward Black people, Native Americans, members of other religious bodies, and even the unborn.

Where inequality becomes paramount is in man’s inability to see others and their rights and opportunities as equal to his own. No one is equal in all things. But the equality of rights and privileges to become successful and productive should not, and cannot, be denied an individual. As we see ourselves in the eyes of God, we should see that other person as having the same opportunity to be seen and blessed. I believe this was the spark of insight our Founding Fathers wished to express in this statement of the Declaration. Oh, how we have struggled to come to terms with this.

“... that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ...”

Our Founding Fathers had the wisdom to step out in faith and recognize that these rights are unalienable, meaning they cannot be taken away, denied, or transferred to someone else. These rights come from the Creator of all men—not just the select few—and are not dependent on the whims of individuals or groups of people. They do not come from the government and therefore cannot be taken away by the government; they are truly and fully unalienable.

As a people of God, with faith in Him as a righteous Father and Judge, we hold fast to the thought that each person will be seen by God not only for what is within them, but also for what they have made of themselves. God has given us one gift that matters equally to every person, whether we recognize it or not: the gift of agency, of choice.

In the same sense, we have been extended the rights of citizenship in this nation. With those rights comes the agency to act and respond to the needs of the nation as we see them. Do we respond intelligently and make wise



The Dream of America Continued

choices, or do we, as we often do in our spiritual choices, allow another entity to lead us toward choices that are not productive or wise? Sometimes the line between our temporal lives—our national lives—and our spiritual lives—our heavenly lives—is a fine one.

“... that among these are Life ...”

All life comes from God, and so every human life must be recognized from the moment of conception. The fetus of any creature cannot be anything but what that creature is, what it is designed to be, and must then be given the opportunity to fulfill its designed purpose as given to it by its Creator.

When man begins to act as a god and make judgments and decisions that determine whether a life can or cannot live, he places himself on the wrong side of God and His purpose for all of His creations. God created. He breathed the breath of life into man. He made all things good for His purpose. He designed the purpose for all living things. Man was assigned to be the caretaker, husbandman, and guardian of all that God made. The choosing of who may live was never assigned to the domain of man.

Can temporal needs and spiritual desires live together peacefully? Yes, when we learn to understand God’s full intent for His weak, stubborn, headstrong human beings. He desires a transformation of thought and understanding so that life—all life—can fulfill the purpose of its creation.

“... Liberty ...”

Liberty is not the right to live a life doing anything and everything that pleases us; rather, it is the true freedom to see the wrong in anything and have the right and responsibility to address that wrong. Liberty is the real freedom to do what is right! A true artist of any kind is free to create only when they have been thoroughly disciplined in the nuances and correctness of the guidelines that fulfill that art. Life is an art to be lived and enjoyed; thus, that enjoyment of life must have discipline and structure in order to benefit all mankind.



We are only truly free, at liberty, when we release the hold of Satan upon us and allow the goodness of God to be the light of our steps. We remain in bondage until something holy and righteous takes place within us.

An interesting parallel is found in Moses’ declarations to Pharaoh. Time and again, Moses demanded that the children of Israel be freed. But a careful reading of his words finds this: “***Let my people go, that they may serve me***” (Exodus 8:1). All too often, we stop at the statement “***Let my people go.***” But the comma after “go” adds greater meaning to Moses’ demand. The words “***that they may serve me***” indicate that there is a reason for that freedom. Find something to serve, or bondage remains.



Liberty! Freedom! The reasons for our nation. The reasons for our God.

“... and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Our Founding Fathers viewed real happiness as the ability to live in such a way that they could attain eternal happiness. To clarify that, they penned these powerful words:

“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”



“Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes.”

With these words, a new government was begun. We must be careful that we do not make the same mistakes as past civilizations. We must constantly remember that these rights can be maintained only by vigilance and a real willingness to participate as full members of this great experiment.

Let us praise God that our Founding Fathers had the wisdom to establish a democratic republic, knowing that citizens in all areas of the growing nation must be protected from the desires and wishes of the few. Perhaps President Abraham Lincoln provided the better description of government in his Gettysburg Address when he stated that our government should be a government “of the people, by the people, for the people.”

As members of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, we hold fast to a God who directs the lives of people, not by force, but by just laws. Our nation was founded on the premise that we would “form a more perfect Union,” a place where freedom, liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness are available to all people. Is that not the same ideal for which we strive in our religious life—to become more perfect and to find a place of safety, peace, richness, and oneness with each other and our Lord?

America. Zion. The mountain of the Lord’s house. The fitting together of the hand in the glove. The fitting together of the ideals of man and the desires of God. So let it be!





The Stewardship

Historical and Editorial Note:

President Elbert A. Smith delivered the concluding portion of a sermon later known as “*The Stewardship of Priesthood*” at the Regional Priesthood Conference in Independence, Missouri, on January 5, 1927. At the time, he was serving as a counselor in the First Presidency of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Smith acknowledged that missionary service often separated ministers from their families for years, requiring wives and mothers to carry the responsibilities of the home while supporting the work from afar. He understood such sacrifice personally: his father spent much of Elbert’s childhood in a state hospital, leaving his mother to shoulder the family’s daily needs and provide for his spiritual upbringing.

This concluding portion of the sermon, dedicated to the wives and mothers of the ministry, honors the faithful women whose prayers, teaching, strength, and sacrifice helped prepare and sustain generations of priesthood members in their service to God—a sacred work that faithful women continue today as they support their husbands and sons in their priesthood responsibilities, care for their families, and serve their local congregations.

Biblical quotations and allusions have been preserved as spoken in the original 1927 sermon; wording may differ from that of the Inspired Version.

It is presumed under the laws of homiletics that the climax of the sermon, the closing thoughts, should sum it up or grow out of it, and it may be that what I have to say in conclusion will appear to wander away from the subject; but if I violate the law of homiletics and offend any of the brethren, at least the sisters will stand by me; and if they be for me, who shall be against me?

It is not given to woman to have the stewardship of priesthood. No; she is not asked to bear the stewardship of priesthood. All that she is asked to do is to go down into the valley of travail from whence come new souls and come up out of that valley bearing in her arms the

male child that shall be a priest; to take him to her bosom and feed him and warm him and clothe him; and as he grows older, to teach the priest, who later shall teach the people. When he grows to manhood and becomes the very apple of her eye, as beautiful to her as Apollo, as wise as Solomon, as brave as Daniel, and as good as John the Beloved, when she has invested in him all that she has and all that she is and all she ever expects to have and to be, then to give him to the church and to God; to pray for him all the days of his ministry; and when she has grown old in body and fatal disease is set its hand upon her and she stands in the valley of the shadow of death between the pillars of eternal mystery, to bear, as my good mother did, her last testimony to the divinity of this work that will ring like a golden bell in the heart of her son forever; perchance later to come back unseen and invisible to observe her son and see whether he has kept the trust.

No, it is not given to woman to have the stewardship of priesthood; but every priest sometime is the stewardship of some woman.



I was down in Oklahoma City some months ago, and someone said to me, “Sister Sorden wants to see you. You know Sister Sorden, the mother of Dan, who is over in Jerusalem on a mission. She wants to know if you have time to talk with her?” Why, certainly, if anybody had claim upon my time it was she. So, she came and said, “Brother Smith, what about my son, Dan?”

Well, Dan had been gone a long time—two years, three years, four years, five years, six years, in a foreign field, when every day of those six years if she could have had him with her, it would have been worth more to that mother than all the oil wells of Oklahoma. So, I said to

of Priesthood

Reprinted from a sermon by Elbert A. Smith

her, “It must have been a great cross to you to have him gone so long.”

“Oh, Brother Smith,” she said, “I don’t care where my son is, or how long he stays, just so he is engaged in the work of the Lord.”

I was in Plano, Illinois, and stayed in the humble home of Brother and Sister W. A. McDowell. I thought many times while there of how that sister had sent her husband, Brother W. A. McDowell, forth a missionary all these years, and now her son Oliver as a pastor in Michigan, and Floyd as a member of the Presidency - three ministers to whom she had said, “Go preach.” When I bade her good-bye I felt honored to put my arm around her shoulder and said good-bye. And as I said good-bye, she said, “Good-bye” And then she seemed to rise up in stature as she said, “Take my love to my son – my son Floyd.”

No; it is not given to woman to have the stewardship of priesthood, but every high priest has been some woman’s stewardship.

Perchance a woman shall marry a missionary. She does not have to preach. I heard a missionary’s wife say, “I thank God I don’t have to preach.” All she has to do is to let him go, and cheerfully tell him good-bye so his going may not be hard to him; to stay behind, manage the household, stoke the furnace, manage the business affairs; to be husband and wife, to be mother and father, to love gently like a mother and discipline firmly like a father; when she writes him, to write cheerful letters and leave out the matters that might make him homesick; and when he becomes old and is superannuated to speak to him as did Sister E. L. Kelley when she said, “Edmund, you have been in a very responsible position as Presiding Bishop, and now you are released and retired and put on the shelf, and furthermore a generation of young people will come to work who will do things differently from what you did; but let us resolve that whatever comes, we will always keep sweet.”

No; woman does not have the stewardship of priesthood, but every priest is her stewardship.

Emma Smith was not ordained as a priest. She could not baptize. She could not lay hands on the sick. All she could do was to stand in the doorway of the Mansion House and watch Joseph as he rode away that June morning, go out to the gate to catch the last glimpse of him as he rode over the hill to Carthage; and when the dead body was brought back to her, make a clean bed to lay him on, and after he was buried to set up the altar in her home, close her ears to appeals to go here or there, and say, I have no home but this and no friend but God; to establish her “school of religious education” and teach Joseph and Alexander and David, and later give to the church two men for the Presidency and one for the Quorum of Twelve. She did not have the stewardship of priesthood; but three high priests were her stewardship.

When Mary was crowded out so there was no place for her in human habitation and she must needs lay herself down on the straw in the manger, and the Son of God, from the courts of glory, crept into her arms, he became her stewardship. She taught him—the one who should teach all men. When she took him to the temple to be blessed, Simeon took him from her arms and said, “Mary, because of him a sword shall pierce through thy very soul.” Think you that during those forty days and forty nights when he wrestled with Satan in the wilderness Mary slept? And when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane and the twelve apostles could not keep awake, not one hour to watch with him, when they who had the stewardship of priesthood all slept, do you think Mary slept? And when she saw him hanging on the cross—No, she did not have the stewardship of priesthood; but the great high priest of our profession, who entered once into the holy of holies, was a woman’s stewardship.

So it may finally be when his work is all done and the minister comes into the presence of God, and God says, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant,” he will also turn to the man’s wife and mother and say, “Exceedingly well done, good and faithful servants; enter in also with him into my joy. Without you, he could never have served; without you he could never have joy.”





Summer Youth Camps

Junior Camp (Grades 3–6)

Theme: “You Are My Rock and Salvation”

Director: John Atkins

July 8–11, 2026 | 10 campers

*J*unior Camp was filled with excitement, laughter, and opportunities for our youngest campers to grow in faith and friendship. Centered on the theme, “You Are My Rock and Salvation,” campers spent the week learning that Jesus is a firm foundation they can depend on in every season of life. Through classes, worship, and daily devotions, they were encouraged to trust in God while building lasting friendships with one another.

Each day offered a good balance of spiritual growth and recreation. Campers enjoyed singing, crafts, games, outdoor activities, and plenty of time to laugh together. Whether participating in classes, sharing meals, or simply spending time with friends, the week provided many opportunities to experience the love of Christ through fellowship and service.

One of the greatest blessings of Junior Camp was watching campers become more comfortable as the week progressed. New friendships were formed, confidence grew, and many campers participated in worship, prayer, and camp activities. The dynamic staff worked hard to create a welcoming environment where every child felt loved, encouraged, and included.

As camp came to a close, campers returned home with happy memories, new friendships, and a deeper understanding that Jesus truly is their Rock and Salvation. We are grateful for the dedicated staff, supportive families, and everyone whose prayers made this special week possible. We look forward to seeing these young campers continue to grow in faith throughout the coming year.





Junior High Camp (Grades 6–9)

Theme: “Jesus My Rock and My Salvation”

Director: Chad Buttery

July 11–18, 2026 | 11 campers

Junior High Camp was a week filled with spiritual growth, meaningful fellowship, and unforgettable memories as eleven campers gathered around the theme, “Jesus My Rock and My Salvation.” Throughout the week, daily classes explored how Christ is our firm foundation, our salvation, our refuge through life’s storms, and the One in whom we can place our complete trust. Campers were encouraged to pour out their hearts before the Lord and deepen their personal relationship with Him through prayer, testimony, and worship.

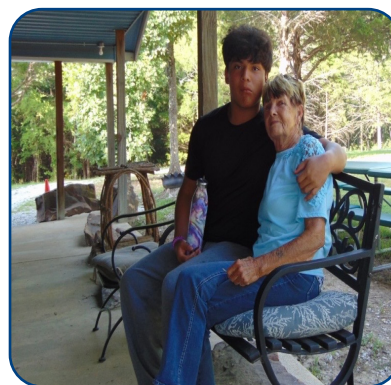


One of the greatest blessings of the week was watching the campers grow in confidence. As the days passed, many became more willing to stand, pray, and share their testimonies as the Holy Spirit worked among them. We were especially thankful to welcome William Baker to his very first youth camp. Although it was his first experience at camp, he faithfully led the morning prayer services each day, while Katrina Baker blessed everyone through morning devotions and evening campfires. Their family quickly became an important part of camp life through their willingness to serve.

The week also included plenty of recreation and fellowship. Campers enjoyed interactive classes, crafts, swimming, music, games, and a memorable field trip to Marvel Resort, where they explored the riverbanks,

swam, played miniature golf, bounced on the giant jumping pillow, and shared lunch together under the park pavilion.

In keeping with tradition, Sunday morning brought a special opportunity to lead a worship service for the Blackgum congregation. The music ministry included campers, local members, and camp staff. A special blessing came as Charlotte Buttery sang publicly for the first time in over a year following health challenges. The week concluded with a fun-filled talent show and an uplifting dedication service at the final campfire, sending everyone home encouraged and strengthened in their faith.



REMNANT • YOUTH • DEPARTMENT

Senior High Camp (Grades 9–12)

Theme: “He Only Is My Rock and Salvation!”

Director: Corwyn Mercer

July 18–25, 2026 | 17 campers

Senior High Camp brought together seventeen campers for a week of worship, thoughtful study, lasting friendships, and plenty of fun. Centered on the theme, “He Only Is My Rock and Salvation!” Campers spent the week studying Psalm 62 alongside Doctrine and Covenants 153 and 177, discovering how complete trust in Christ provides strength, hope, and security. Corwyn Mercer led daily prayer services and guided discussions from Matthew West’s book, *Don’t Stop Praying*, encouraging campers to develop a deeper and more consistent prayer life.

Campers were blessed with a variety of engaging classes throughout the week. William and Katrina Baker taught “The Work of Faith,” while Darrin and Melody Moore taught a class on “Life After Death.” Evenings were filled with a song class led by Keilah, a relationship class taught by Christy Mercer, campfires, cabin devotions, snacks, and meaningful conversations that strengthened friendships and faith alike. The staff’s dedication helped create an atmosphere where campers could grow spiritually while enjoying every part of camp life.

Of course, there was no shortage of recreation. Campers enjoyed archery, swimming, kayaking, games, relaxing in the river at Marvel Resort, and plenty of free time together, making memories that will last for years to come. Frank and Frances Potter faithfully kept everyone well-fed throughout the week, providing delicious meals that were appreciated by campers and staff alike.

The week ended with a talent show featuring both heartfelt and hilarious performances that had everyone laughing together. The *Swing* cast released another film that was enjoyed by all and reminded us of the bonds formed between campers year after year. As campers headed home, they carried with them new friendships, cherished memories, and a renewed commitment to build their lives upon Jesus Christ, their Rock and Salvation.

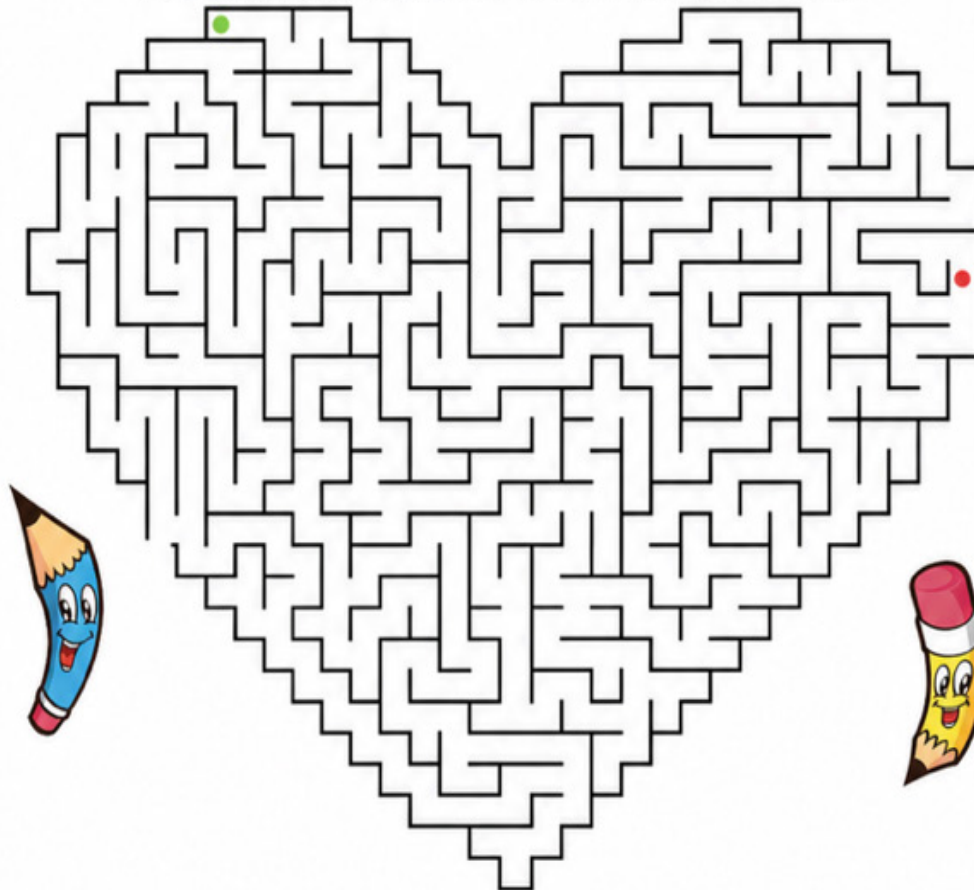


AMBASSADORS OF ZION

Kid's Korner

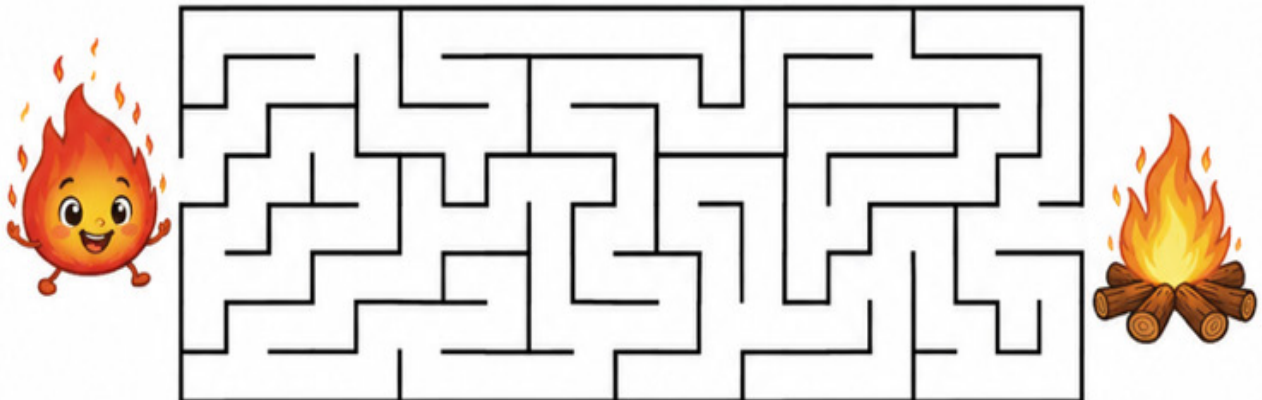
Pass It On

Try to find your way to others to share the Love of Jesus with them!



Help the Little Ember!

Help the lonely ember find its way back to the warm fire.





From The Desk Of...

The Quorum Of Twelve

Apostle Rodney A. Walsh

Greetings from the Quorum of Twelve.

We have recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States. We celebrate that God prepared the American continent as a land of liberty.

For a recent morning devotional, my wife and I shared scriptures and quotations recognizing God's hand in the creation and preservation of this nation. Following are excerpts from that devotional.

Nephi's vision in 1 Nephi 3 teaches that God prepared the American continent as a land of liberty long before the Restoration came forth. Nephi saw Gentiles led by the Spirit across the waters to the promised land, where the Lord would guide events according to His purposes.

Through the colonizing of America, the Revolutionary War, and the establishment of the United States and its Constitution, God raised up a nation where freedom could be protected. The scriptures testify that the power of God was with those who sought deliverance and that they were preserved by His hand.

This freedom was not an accident; it was part of God's preparation for the restoration of the gospel. In a land where religious liberty could take root, Joseph Smith could seek God in prayer, receive heavenly direction, and help bring forth the Restoration according to the Lord's promise.

The famous Declaration signatory, John Hancock, provided us with sound advice: "Let us humbly commit our righteous cause to the great Lord of the Universe ... Let us joyfully leave our concerns in the hands of Him who raises up and puts down the empires and kingdoms of the earth as He pleases."

In this challenging time, it is well to remember the admonition in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "***If my people which***

are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

The Quorum of Elders

Elder Robert K. Beeman, President

Greetings from the Elders' Quorum.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11–13).

The Quorum of Elders has had a good year so far. Rick Terry, Terry Holloway, and I have worked very hard to hold productive quorum meetings.

One of our goals is to be a united, working quorum. In order for the work of the last days to be accomplished, the people—and especially the priesthood—must be ready for the work at hand.

The Quorum of Elders held its second family picnic. We had a very good turnout, with twenty-two people attending the cookout and enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs. The First Presidency was also invited. The cookout gave the families time to visit with one another in a relaxed setting and provided a special opportunity to visit with the First Presidency.

Even with the late-June heat, everyone enjoyed visiting. Some sat on the deck, while others were more comfortable inside as they ate. The men enjoyed sitting outside. Last year's cookout was excellent, but I think this year's was even better. I am looking forward to next year's cookout.

Rick, Terry, and I are looking forward to our meetings starting again this fall.

“But verily I say unto you, Teach one another according to the office wherewith I have appointed you, and let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me” (Doctrine and Covenants 38:5c).

The Quorum of Priests

Keith Cruickshank President

The Priests’ Quorum meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We have been going over the School of the Prophets material.

South Central District

High Priest John W. Atkins, District President

Within the South Central District (SCD) lies a piece of church property we consider to be a “gem” and a sacred place: the Blackgum Campground. This summer, the youth and staff of all three camps had the opportunity and privilege of meeting on those grounds to share and spend time basking in the Holy Spirit, united in songs and prayers, as well as study, worship, and laughter. Sure, we had our share of insect bites and the occasional bumps and bruises, but all in all, we were all blessed in the Lord’s special and unique way, with prayers being answered for safe travels to and from the campground.

I want to personally thank all the staff of the three camps for their time and talents, as well as the children and young adults for attending this year. We are already looking forward to next year’s summer camp. Let us not forget about the amazing job the Blake Buttery family is doing as caretakers of the campground.

I want to thank the priesthood of the church for the guest ministry that has been provided to the SCD over the last several months. It is very much appreciated by all the branches. The Carthage–Joplin group is looking

forward to a more permanent meeting place. Brother Tevebaugh has had a few health problems but seems to be getting much better, thanks to the prayers of the saints. The ministry provided by the Quorum of Twelve and the Seventy has been greatly appreciated as well.

The next scheduled meeting at the Blackgum Campground will be November 14 and 15, 2026, for the Men and Young Men’s Retreat. The retreat is for members and nonmembers alike. Everyone is welcome.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve alongside the saints in the church.

“Continue my saints to gather in fellowship, study, and worship, and in your unity you will find strength to do all things” (D&C R-164:4b).



Campfire at Sr. High Camp



Children outside the Remnant Church headquarters during the food drive.

Women's Council

Brandy Lascoe

The Women's Council members are:

Melody Moore, Joleen Webb, Erin Gates, Toni Zahner, Leith Setter, Angela Collins, and Brandy Lascoe.

We are currently working on plans for the annual Branson Women's Trip. The dates are October 16 to 19, 2026. The vacation home overlooks Table Rock Lake and has plenty of room for everyone—invite your friends! We will have devotions, campfires, crafts, games, good food, and fellowship, with some time set aside for shopping.

The cost this year is \$200 per person, which includes food, activities, and lodging. We are hoping for a relaxed weekend with our church sisters, cool weather, and beautiful fall colors. For crafts, we will be embellishing sweatshirts with fabric crosses, creating fall door signs, and designing terrariums.

Registration and more information are available on the church website's "Events" page. Please contact any council member if you have questions. The Council continues to meet monthly to discuss future plans for the women in the church. We hope you are checking the monthly newsletters on the church website under Ministry, and then Women. The link is here if you are reading online: <https://theremnantchurch.com/women/>.

The General Church Music Director

Linda VerDugt

The Saints of the Remnant Church have always been active in music. It is a part of our heritage and a large part of our weekly worship services. It is now time to consider some of the special music planned for fall.

On November 8, there will be a service to celebrate the history of the pipe organ in the Conference Center. Several organists will play the pipe organ, and the congregation will learn a little of the awesome history of this special instrument. The congregation will participate in singing some of the hymns important to the history of the church, and special groups will also present a few special numbers.

Also, on Sunday, December 6, at 4:30 p.m, we will have the children's Christmas musical. More information will follow on these services.

The summer is filled with camps, reunion, and campfires. In 1966, Father Peter Scholtes wrote a song that soon became popular in youth services and particularly in campfire settings. Writing during an era when unity and civil rights were very much present as themes, he used John 13:35 as a reference, "***By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.***" The song was sometimes titled "The Servant Song."

"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;

And we pray that our unity may one day be restored;

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

And they'll know we're your children by our love, by our love;

Yes, they'll know we're your children by our love."

It seems that both versions of these words speak of our daily mission even today.

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

THANK YOU

TO ALL THE OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

For your faithful service, leadership, and devotion.

CHRIST AT THE CENTER

The Root of Unity



By Monique Millet

*D*ear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write with a heart shaped by many pews, many prayers, and many sincere faces seeking God. Throughout my life, I have worshiped among different fellowships connected to the Restoration Movement. In each place, I have met people who pray with real faith, who love Jesus Christ, and who are trying—imperfectly, honestly, and often beautifully—to follow Him.

I have also seen sincere believers reach different conclusions about truth, doctrine, authority, and direction through prayer, study, and a genuine desire to follow God.

Truth matters. But so does the spirit in which we seek it.

When I turn to the gospel, I see something beautifully simple. I see Jesus Christ—His life, His teachings, His mercy, His death, and His resurrection. I hear His invitation: “Come unto me” (Matthew 11:29).

Christ is the center. He is not one part of our faith; He is its foundation, source, and purpose.

Throughout Scripture, Christ warns against allowing traditions, certainty, or religious pride to overshadow God’s heart. The image of the Rameumptom in Alma 16:97 has often caused me to reflect. **The Rameumptom tower was more than a tower. It represented a heart that measured itself against others. That causes me to ask not, “Who has built a Rameumptom?” but rather, “Where might I have built one?”**

Have I placed anything between myself and Christ? Have I allowed my certainty to become pride? Have I confused confidence in what I believe with being above those who believe differently?

The closer we come to Christ, the more we recognize our own need for mercy. The closer we come to Him, the less we need to stand above one another, because we realize we are all standing in need of the same grace.

Across the various congregations and fellowships where I have worshiped, I have witnessed—and heard sacred stories of—healing, miracles, answered prayers, and quiet evidences that God is at work. Perhaps miracles are not given to establish spiritual competition but to reveal the character of God—that He loves, He hears, and He is merciful toward those who seek Him.

As Christ taught, “For he that is not against us is on our part” (Mark 9:37). This does not mean every belief is equally true. It reminds me that God’s work and God’s love often reach further than our own boundaries.

Unity does not require uniformity. But it does require humility. It invites us to loosen our grip on proving ourselves right and tighten our hold on Christ Himself, allowing us to say, “I see that you love Him too. I see that you are seeking Him, just as I am.”

Because Zion is the fruit, not the root.

The root is Christ.

When Christ is truly at the center, humility grows. Charity grows. Truth is pursued with reverence. And a people begin to emerge who reflect His character.

Perhaps the deepest question before us is not “Who is above whom?” but “Am I becoming more like Christ?”

May we become people known less for what separates us and more for the One who holds us together, seeking truth without pride, loving without compromise, and allowing Christ—not ourselves—to remain at the center.

With sincerity and hope in Jesus Christ,

Your sister in Christ,

Monique Marie Millet

NEWS

From the Congregations
and Branches



Center Place of Zion

Bountiful Congregation - by Christy Mercer

Hello, Summer, from Bountiful!

Bountiful has been busy with many activities this year!



On February 7, we held our annual Chili Cook-Off. Due to winter weather, we had to postpone the event from January, as Old Man Winter was certainly making his presence known. Several delicious entries were submitted.

Fred and Betty Williams celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 19. What a wonderful milestone! Their enduring marriage is a beautiful testament to love, commitment, and faithfulness and an inspiring example to us all. Congratulations, Fred and Betty, on 60 remarkable years together!!

In March, we enjoyed an evening of food and fellowship featuring a taco bar and a game of FAITH (bingo). Linda Gussman generously provided prizes, including CDs from the Restoration Chorale for the adults and small statues of Jesus for the youth. Fun was had by all, and everyone ended up a winner.

April brought a wonderful opportunity to gather with the saints at General Conference to discuss church business and enjoy fellowship with one another. It was also time for cleanup at the Community Barn, which took two days to complete. It was a blessing to work side by side with a common goal in mind. We are truly grateful for the earnest workers in our community.

On May 30, we gathered to watch *Monumental*, a documentary featuring Kirk Cameron and enjoyed

concession-style snacks. Afterward, we spent time visiting and discussing the themes presented in the film.

We have taken the summer off from congregational activities, as our members have been busy with Vacation Church School in June and church camps in July.

May the Lord continue to bless our congregation as we worship, serve, and fellowship together throughout the year.

Zion's Hill Congregation - by Ann Rideout

Greetings from Zion's Hill!

It has been a busy spring and summer with graduations, Vacation Church School, camps, and reunion. Our high school graduating seniors are Cody Grippy and Ethan Bucko, along with Parker Tibbits and Stacy Manning graduating from college. We wish them all of God's blessings as they move out to bless others and continue to share their talents. Congratulations and best wishes are also extended to Joshua Patterson, Jr, and Stacy Manning on their June wedding.



The annual mail carrier's food drive, benefiting Lunch Partners, and other charities, was held May 9, with a great turnout to unload and organize the food at headquarters building—lots of fun, fellowship, and pizza.

Two special summer events shared with Bountiful congregation were Vacation Church School and the Sunday evening summer series. Vacation Church School was filled with learning, laughter, and fun. Twenty-two children ages 3 years old to fifth grade attended, along with our wonderful youth helpers. Marci Damon directed us with the theme, "Heart of a Disciple." The children learned about King Benjamin, Alma, Helaman's 2000,

and Moroni. The summer series, Sunday evenings through June and July, brought us together for more ministry and fellowship.

We thank our Heavenly Father for His unfailing blessings and goodness. We pray that we will serve Him to our best abilities every single day.

South Central District

Carthage Branch - by Robin Bayless

Greetings from Carthage! But we mostly meet in Joplin currently.

We have been blessed with a new member, Elizabeth (Buffy) Peterson. She has shared her heart and her special music with us. Keilah Zahner, Savannah Buttery, and Stella Buttery have shared their musical talents with our congregation as well. Most of our women met with Patti Jobe and Pat Whiteman for brunch and lovely conversations.

Robert Peterson preached his first sermon, and Roger Tracy, Robert Jobe, and Patti Jobe joined us from Sperry. Roger shared his message with us in June. Frances Potter's daughter and Lois Reynolds were able to be with us.

We are still meeting at a hotel in Joplin when it is available. We pray for guidance from the Lord as we try to reach out to more of His children!

Rogers Arkansas - by Jared Dollen

We suffered the loss of Patsy Dollen in February. She has gone on to meet the Lord. Patsy was a devoted member and also our organist. She is greatly missed. We are especially thankful that we have had several visiting priesthood members, including Apostle Roger Tracey and Seventy Frank Potter, to come and share with our group.

We had a special Witnessing Weekend with Apostle Chad Buttery, Apostle William Baker, Seventy Frank Potter, Seventy Derek Ashwill, Seventy Darrin Moore, and Priest Robert Peterson and their wives on May 16–17. We were encouraged by the response overall. We are laboring along faithfully in our little area of the vineyard. The work of spreading the gospel moves forward and is still available to those that are seeking.

We invite and look forward to some of you coming to visit us in our little branch, and maybe you will bring an organist with you? We would love that.



Sperry Branch - by Samantha Van Meter

The Sperry congregation has had a fairly uneventful spring and summer so far. This was a blessing in terms of weather, as we had far fewer severe weather issues to deal with than normal. We did enjoy basket dinners for Mother's Day and Father's Day, with tasty food and good fellowship. We also had a service celebrating the 250 years of freedom God has given us in the United States.

Although we have no active members of camp-going age, Teacher Alex Tibbitts and Apostle Roger Tracy appreciated the chance to help with the camps and connect with younger members from other states.

Sadly, in May, Deacon Jimmy Crank passed away after a long battle with cancer. Jimmy was a great man. He was an extremely hard worker and always helped keep the church in good condition. He was our bishop's agent and helped keep the church's finances in order. He was also very active in the Sperry community and seemed to know everyone. He helped with yearly reunions for his graduating class that were hosted at the church. He was well known for his delicious cooking and made meat that was a staple at basket dinners. Although he could be a man of few words, he was a friend to everyone and a steady, comforting presence. Any time someone needed help, they could count on Jimmy to be there. Even though a few months have passed, it still doesn't feel right to walk up to the church and not see him waiting there, ready to open the door and greet everyone. He is so missed by our congregation, and we look forward to seeing him again.



Deacon Jimmy Crank

Sperry



Southern Indiana Branch - by Rebecca Paris

The Southern Indiana Branch has had so many joyous occasions to share!

Congratulations to Shane and Rachel (Paris) Miller! Their son, Sawyer Wesley Miller, was born on June 1.



Southern Indiana

The heaven's truly rejoiced with the baptisms of Antonio Beauchamp and Charles Autry on June 13. It was a beautiful day and a glorious spirit was felt. Our congregation all felt blessed to witness the Spirit again during their confirmation service on Sunday, June 14.



Nathan and Natalie (Rouster) Paris were joined in marriage on June 20! It was a beautiful ceremony, and those two newlyweds could not be happier.



May God bless you all is our prayer until we meet again!





By an unknown author, adapted for The Hastening Times

A concerned pastor visited a church member who had stopped attending services and had isolated himself from the community. The man expected a stern lecture or a sharp rebuke, but when the pastor arrived, he simply joined the man by the fireplace. For a long time, the two men sat together in total silence, watching the flames crackle and glow warmly in the dim room.

Without speaking a word, the pastor reached for the fireplace tongs. He picked up a single, bright, red-hot, and glowing coal from the center of the blazing fire and carefully set it completely aside on the cold stone hearth, all by itself.

The two men watched it in silence as its quiet lesson unfolded before them. Deprived of the collective heat of the other embers, the lone coal's brilliant red glow quickly began to fade. Within minutes, it died down, grew cold, and turned into a lifeless, gray piece of ash.

The pastor then picked the cold ash back up with the tongs and placed it back into the heart of the fire. Immediately, the surrounding coals warmed it, and it began to burn brightly once again, as though brought back to life.

The pastor stood up to leave, still not having spoken a word. The man looked up with tears in his eyes and said with quiet understanding, "Thank you for the sermon Pastor. I'll be back in church next Sunday."

***"Behold, how good
and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together
in unity!"***

Psalm 133:1



A Journey with the Church: Palmyra to Independence

By Georgia Metcalf Stewart. First published by Herald House in 1944 for The Gospel Quarterly, a course for junior high students. Revised in 1947 and reprinted in 1949 and 1951. This version was edited by Corwyn Mercer in 2026.

This is Lesson Ten in a series published by the church for use in the Sunday school curriculum. The series teaches young people about the restoration of the church and the struggles earlier church members experienced as they sought to build the kingdom of God.

Lesson Ten—Trouble in Missouri

Because the Latter Day Saints frowned upon drinking, racing, and gambling, the big, rough pioneers of Missouri looked upon the church members as weaklings. They had a “Word of Wisdom” that forbade the use of tobacco and also suggested specific foods. Their neat and attractive clothing contrasted strangely with the buckskin and homespun of the Missourians. Even money was counted differently; the Saints talked of shillings; they, of Spanish dollars. The Easterners’ language was different from the Missourians’ dialect and no doubt seemed stilted to these western men. The church people rushed to build schools as a first requirement for community life. The Missourians let other matters delay preparations for education.

The church people were careless, too, in their talk of being a “chosen” people. This attitude just did not sit well with the Missourians. They wanted a people who would join them in their drinking, rough riding, and shootings. They heartily disliked the talk that these new settlers thought they would “inherit the land” because the Lord had given it to them. The Missourians set out to prove that the church people were not a chosen people, and they were about ready to take the land by force.

Such differences might have been adjusted gradually had not two major problems been forced to the foreground—slavery and the threat of being outnumbered by the Saints.

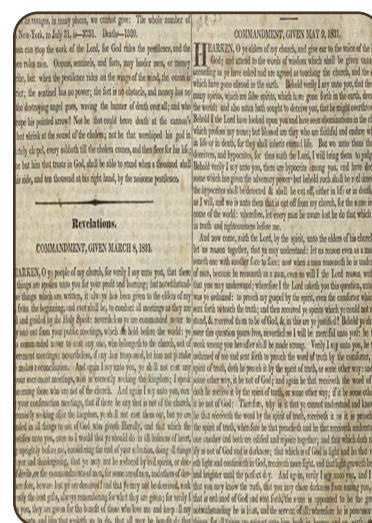
Major Issues of the Times

Perhaps the chief objection to the Saints in Missouri was their opinion on the issue of slavery. Missouri was a southern slave state. Practically all the Saints were from “Yankee” states where slavery was outlawed and the abolition movement was strong. True, a few people back east probably had a colored servant or two, but the keeping of slaves, as it was done in Missouri, was completely new to the Saints. Instead of treating the Negroes as slaves, the church people felt they were persons and treated them as such, although not as intimates. This caused the slaveholders of Missouri to be afraid that the Saints would vote against them on the slavery question at the polls. Missouri had been admitted as a state only after a compromise had been reached in the U.S. Congress. This slavery issue has been blamed as the basic cause for much of the trouble which the Saints had in Missouri. (*The Story of the Church*, page 138.)

One other factor affected the relationships between the Saints and the citizens of Missouri. This was the seemingly uncontrolled inflow of people into the state. A steady growth would have been healthy. They could have adjusted to a few coming in at a time, but when hundreds came pouring into the inadequately equipped community, it gave the citizens an uneasy feeling that these people were moving in upon their rights. They had the feeling of being outnumbered.

Even more serious than this, they feared their political status in the state would drop.

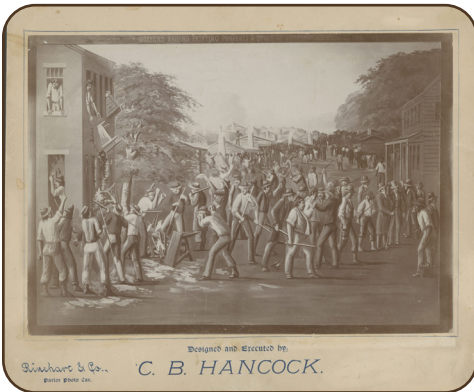
Because the new settlers had their own ideas on so many issues, like the slavery question, the Missourians feared that, when it came Election Day, there would be enough church members in the county to swing the election any way the church members wanted it to go. For



“Revelations,” *The Evening and the Morning Star*, August 1832, [p. 1]. Edited by William W. Phelps.

By Georgia Metcalf Stewart - Lesson Ten

Excerpt Selected and Edited By Church Historian Corwyn L. Mercer



Destruction of the Printing Press in Jackson County, Missouri, 1833, by C.C.A. Christensen, 1882.

these reasons, they resented the newcomers and began to take steps to get them out before they took over control, which the Missourians felt the church people were planning to do.

True, the Saints probably had no desire to do

such a thing, but the Missourians had no way of knowing that. All they could see was a group of “snobbish” people who claimed to be the church of God and, because of it, thought they were entitled to various privileges and rights.

The Clouds Thicken

As we see the year 1833 progress, the tensions grow stronger and stronger. Even in January of that year, the Prophet Joseph Smith foresaw the growing trouble in Missouri and wrote to W. W. Phelps in Zion, warning that “If Zion would not purify herself...the Lord would seek another people” (*Church History*, volume 1, pages 267–68) to do His work. Joseph was worried about conditions in Zion. In response, a letter was written to the inhabitants of Zion: “We feel more like weeping for Zion than we do like rejoicing over her” (*ibid.*, page 274).

Through our retrosopes today, we see the situation as it was in Missouri early in 1833. A period of persecution and suffering is about to fall upon the people of the church. As we look back upon the differences which caused all the trouble, we might be inclined to wonder why church leaders could not avoid such trouble; but we must remember that it is hard for one who is faced with trouble to analyze his own problem. Criticizing the church leaders for their seeming lack of wisdom, or denouncing the Missourians for their ways, will not change things. It

is better that we take them as facts and try to understand why things were so.

As travelers two centuries later, we have the advantage of seeing Missouri in 1833 from several viewpoints. This will help us to understand more clearly the part of church history we are covering. Today, members of the church living in Independence are regarded by their neighbors as good, friendly, and peaceful people. On many occasions, the nonmember citizens have expressed their appreciation for and pride in having Saints as their friends. This does not mean that the church people today are more righteous than our members of two centuries ago. The church’s status in Missouri today is due to different times, conditions, and attitudes. We must understand those differences if we are to realize the truth of the history of 1833.

Rechecking

Because of the importance of our understanding why the great trouble in Missouri came about, it will be worth our time to review again the main issues involved. Our retroscope has shown us both sides of the issues. We must strive to be fair in our judgments. We have decided that it was not altogether the fault of the citizens of Missouri, but that the Saints were not entirely responsible either for all the trouble. The chief causes of the storm clouds in Missouri have been these:

1. Missouri was a slave state, but new settlers were from free states and were therefore strongly against slavery.
2. The kind of life that each side lived made them so different that they found it hard to get along together.
3. The Saints were over assertive about being “a chosen people.” Though many of the settlers were converted, those who were not had little in common with the saints and no fellowship with them.
4. The church did not control the rate or the number of people coming to Missouri; as a result, the citizens were afraid that the new settlers would get political control of the county.

(We will continue with lesson 11 in the next issue of The Hastening Times)

THE HASTENING TIMES

Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates for 2026

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Young Adult Fall Retreat	August 28–30	Remnant Church HQ
Handmaidens / Warriors Ice Cream Social	August 31	Remnant Church HQ
Women's Branson Trip	October 16–19, 2026	The Women's Council
Pipe Organ Concert Celebrating 20 Years! Conference Center	November 8, 4:30 p.m.	Remnant Church HQ
Men and Young Men's Retreat Members/Nonmembers Welcome Blackgum Campgrounds	November 13–15, 2026	Remnant Church HQ
Presiding Elders Meeting	November 19	Remnant Church HQ
Women's Holy Sanctuary Service	December 5, 5:00 p.m.	Remnant Church HQ
Children's Christmas Musical Gathering Place	December 6, 4:30 p.m.	Remnant Church HQ
Center Place Christmas Service Gathering Place	December 20, 10:30 a.m.	Remnant Church HQ
Winter Youth Retreat Gathering Place	December 27-29	Remnant Church HQ

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Women's Council: fourth Wednesday of the month
Quorum of Elders: fourth Tuesday of the month
Quorum of Seventy: second Tuesday of the month
Quorum of Twelve: second Tuesday of the month
Order of Bishops: third Tuesday of the month

"The hastening time is here and greater unity than ever before is necessary if the forces of opposition are to be met; and such unity will prevail if those holding the priesthood will remember their commission to preach the gospel, and each officer will strive to discharge his own duty and magnify his calling."

Doctrine and Covenants 135:2b–c