

# Zion's Outpost Branch Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 8

The Church of Jesus Christ, Zion's Outpost Branch

August 2009

## Vacation Liberty School

Liberty is a common theme shared by the United States of America and the gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the main goals of the 2009 Vacation Liberty School was to reinforce this connection. Revisionist historians and post-modernists are actively arguing against the idea that Christian thought and ideals had any influence on the foundation of American liberty. The intellectual and political environment in the United States makes what we experienced during the week of June 15-19 very important.

The 2009 version of Vacation Bible School at Zion's Outpost was far more than a response to bad history, it was a very enjoyable time of learning and fellowship. It was another, in a long line of, excellent summertime branch get-togethers.

Like all of our recent VBS's, this one began in the prayers and heart of Sister Pam Burford. She was

inspired to craft this event around the idea of liberty. The program used the lives of famous American revolutionaries and Chief Captain Moroni from the Book of Mormon as teaching examples for the week.

Flag Day was celebrated on Sunday June 14. This was a wonderful day to begin a week focusing on liberty. Several of the saints assisted in setting up the props and decorations around the church on Sunday afternoon. Scripture banners and posters were placed on the walls. Red, white, and blue bunting was added to represent our land of liberty.

Vacation Liberty School convened at 6:00 pm each evening. Each night the session was opened by the voice of a town crier. Quigley and Abbott alternated the duty of calling the attendees to attention.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Youth Group to Visit August 6

We are anticipating a visit from the number of youth from the Lexington Restoration Branch on Thursday, August 6, 2009. The youth, and their leaders, will be on their way home from a trip to Mexico. They needed a place to stay on their way home.

The group hopes to arrive in Wichita early enough to share a pot luck dinner with any of the congregation who are able to attend. There will be a time for sharing and testimony follow-

ing the dinner.

When the activities come to an end the group will be sleeping at the church and leaving on Friday morning to return to their homes.

We hope that many of you will make time to welcome these travelers, fellowship with them over a meal, and share in the excitement of their recent travels. This should be an excellent time to meet some new people and to be en-

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**Sunday Services**

9:00 am Prayer Service on First and Third Sundays

9:30 am Family Worship on all other Sunday mornings

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Study Class

Sacrament Service at 11:00 am on First Sunday and 5:00 pm on Third Sunday of each month

7:15 pm Wednesday Night Prayer and Testimony Service

In this Issue	
<i>Review of Vacation Liberty School</i>	1
<i>Lexington Youth Visit</i>	1
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	3
<i>In Remembrance</i>	3
<i>Remember the Sperry Family</i>	3
<i>Thou Art Near, O Lord</i>	4
<i>Month Calendar</i>	8, 9

Zion's Outpost Publications	
<b>Good News Concordance</b>	
Book of Mormon/Doctrine and Covenants (1 volume)	\$30.00
Old and New Testaments (2 volume set)	\$50.00
Full set (3 volumes)	\$75.00
<b>Books and Pamphlets</b>	
The Book of Mormon is Christian	\$5.00
The Parable of the Olive Tree	\$5.00
Conversion Table: RLDS to LDS Doctrine and Covenants	\$5.00
A Word of Consolation	\$5.00
The Voice of the Captives	\$5.00
That Ye May Be Forgven	\$5.00

## Fiddler on the Roof

Center Place Restoration School is putting on a production of Fiddler On the Roof. The play will be performed at the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ theater (previously the old William Chrisman high school building) on the evenings of August 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30 PM.

This production is a classic musical, a story of family and tradition. The students of CPRS will be using their God-given talents to serve and bring joy to others. Those of you who might be in the area for one of these performances, the theater is air-conditioned this year.

Claire and Ian Burford will be playing in the orchestra supporting the musical. Claire will be playing her clarinet and Ian will be playing the French and English horns. This is a great opportunity for them and we would ask you to hold them in your prayers for these performances.

## In Remembrance

Juanita Spicer, the mother of Laurie Drope, passed away on the morning of Sunday, July 19. Services for Juanita were held on Friday and Saturday.

Evelyn Linthicum, a former member of Zion's Outpost Branch, passed away on July 17. After living in Wichita for a number of years she and Ralph had moved back to the state of Washington. We received notice of her passing from James Linthicum, her son, who still lives in Wichita.

Your prayers for these families is requested. May the grace and comfort of Jesus Christ be theirs.

## For the Calendar

October 11, 10:30 am	Election of Branch Officers
October 15-18	U. S. National Conference
November 1	End of Daylight Savings Time
December 6, 10:30 am	2010 Budget Meeting
December 6, 6:30 pm	Women's Dept Advent

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY for the Sperry family in Honduras. They still need prayers about the truck accident in June. They have several people to whom they are witnessing the gospel. Some of the family are traveling back to the United States.

### Jesus! The Name We Love

Lyrics: James George Deck (not all verse shown)

Jesus! that name we love,  
 Jesus, our Lord!  
 Jesus, all names above,  
 Jesus, the Lord!  
 Thou, Lord, our all must be;  
 Nothing that's good have we,  
 Nothing apart from Thee.  
 Jesus, our Lord!  
 Righteous alone in Thee,  
 Jesus, the Lord!  
 Thou wilt a refuge be,  
 Jesus, our Lord!  
 Whom, then, have we to fear,  
 What trouble, grief, or care,  
 Since Thou art ever near,  
 Jesus, our Lord!

# Thou Art Near, O Lord

By Gary R. Whiting

A necessary declaration of faith for all Christians is the belief that God, whom we worship, is a God who has made himself knowable and discoverable. There is a remarkable parallel found in the creation of the earth and its location in the universe to the principle of God's discoverability.

"Simply stated, the conditions allowing for intelligent life on Earth also make our planet strangely well-suited for viewing and analyzing the universe."

*The Privileged Planet* is a book by Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay W. Richards, published in 2004. The subtitle of this book is *Our Place in the Cosmos is Designed for Discovery* and is the thesis of this book. Earth has been placed in an ideal location in the to allow us to learn the maximum amount about the Earth, our solar system, and the known universe.

"The fact that our atmosphere is clear; that our moon is just the right size and distance from Earth, and that its gravity stabilizes Earth's rotation; that our position in the galaxy is just so; that our sun is its precise mass and composition — all of these facts and many more not only are necessary for Earth's habitability but also have been surprisingly crucial to the discovery and measurement of the universe by scientists."

The authors believe that the

earth is in a unique position in the universe. It is ideally placed to permit human life and its location in the Milky Way galaxy allow for the maximum amount of scientific discovery possible.

"We don't think this is merely coincidental that cries out for another explanation, an explanation that suggests there's more to the cosmos than we have been willing to entertain or even imagine."

*The Privileged Planet* outlines a principal which is first identified in the pages of Scripture. When Adam and Eve were created, the first impression is that they had a close relationship and fellowship with their Creator God. They lived with him, they talked with him, they walked with him, and he spent time with them. The most immediate and most visible consequence of the sin of our first parents is the loss of fellowship and communication with God. The remainder of history, to our day, is the story of God seeking to recover that close relationship with his creation. God wants to be known and he has declared himself and all that he does.

All things have their likeness; and all things are created and made to bear record of me (Genesis 6:66)

Paul (Romans 1:20), describes

that God has made himself known in the things of this world. He created everything to bear witness of himself. He wanted to draw his creation back into his presence. Therefore, in the course of history, we find God revealing himself to his children. He spoke to Adam from the garden and gave them commandments. He called Abram out of Ur. He spoke through the prophets and caused his servants to know him and to extend that revelation into the generation in which they lived. He called Lehi out of Jerusalem into the new promised land of the New World. He showed himself by faith taking back, and to Moses, and to Isaiah, and Nephi.

God clearly identifies himself as a God who is near at hand and not a God who is far off. He wants to be known and for this reason He has given commandment to the children of men that they should call on His name. With this commandment and others, God is clearly seeking those who will come to him and permit him to restore the fellowship that was lost by sin in the Garden of Eden. In the greatest of all the revelations that God has made to his children, God self took on the flesh of our

(Continued on page 5)

humanity and came among us to demonstrate his nearness and his desire to have close communion with us. He spoke his words into human flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

Through Jesus Christ, God has made a way for us to be restored to our proper orbit and returned once again to our proper location in the spiritual universe that we might know him and see him. There is a promise to those who will seek Him with all their might that they will find him. In Moroni 8:29, the purpose of Christ's coming into the world and the commandments of the gospel are shown as the way that lead us to being filled

“with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence and prayer until the end shall come when all the saints shall dwell with God.”

At the end of chapter seven in the same book, we read that if this perfect love dwells in us, and it will if we pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart that you may be filled with this love which yet bestowed upon all who are true followers of his son Jesus Christ,

that we may become the sons of God that when he shall appear, we shall be like him — for we shall see him as he is — that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure.

Amen (Moroni 7:53)

God has ordained the gospel as the means by which we may be drawn to faith in Jesus Christ and through the atonement of Jesus Christ, we are drawn into the Father's presence. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the mark of our fellowship with the Father (see John 14). The presence of the Holy Spirit is maintained in our souls by our diligent prayer accompanied by our faithful obedience to all His commandments. And when we do this then our hearts will be filled with this perfect love and those who possess this love when Jesus returns we shall see Him as He is and we shall be like Him.

Everything that God has done, and everything that he is doing, is designed to make Himself known to us. And when we know Him and his son Jesus Christ whom he has sent, this is eternal life (John 17:3).

Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? (Jeremiah 23:23)

Our God is near. Our God is knowable. He wants to be known by us so much that Jesus came and died on the cross for us.

It was sin that made us strangers and enemies to God. But God

has delivered us, through the gracious intervention of His Son, Jesus Christ, from the power of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son (see Colossian 1:12-14)

This then is the basic and essential tenet of the Christian faith, that God is near at hand and that he is mindful and attentive to the events and circumstances of our lives. He does long for our fellowship. He has sought us by His own voice, by the testimony of angels, by the scriptures which have been written, by the voice of his servants whom he has called, and by the gift of His Son.

O how this single principle will alter the way that we seek God. Understanding and believing that God is near and is seeking us should comfort and challenge us. It should forever change the way that we behave. Though He seeks us, He is Holiness, Purity, and Light. Sin is intolerable to Him. Our worship of God, our seeking Him, must honor His holiness and His mercy. Having this faith fact firmly planted in our souls will encourage us to be faithful even during the difficult days of our trials and stir us to walk in righteousness and holiness according to His commandments.

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Pam Burford taught the songs for the week and led many of the participants in a bell choir performance of “My Country Tis of Thee.” Claire Burford provided piano accompaniment during the week.

After the lesson for the evening, a period of recreation was held in the yard of the church. Jacob Burford and Jeff Drope worked on recreation. The evening activities were designed to support the lesson and the theme for the day.

Snack time followed recreation. Innovative foods were designed around the theme. This was a very popular part of each evening. Crafts time followed immediately after the snacks. Everyone gathered upstairs again for a review of the night’s lesson, some singing, and a prayer before going home.

**Monday Night:** My Soul Standeth Fast in That Liberty, in the Which God Hath Us Free. (Alma 28:13)

Jonathan Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, played by Dwight Burford, introduced the theme for the opening night. He recounted his own experience and thoughts about signing the Declaration. He suffered many things as he immediately became a high profile target for the King of England.

Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence also suffered great loss for their willingness to stand up to the tyranny of the Crown. Mr. Hart and his fellows were willing to fully commit themselves to the cause of liberty. Because of their commitment to the cause of liberty, the United States is a land of liberty today.

Liberty requires a citizen willing to commit themselves to the cause of liberty. This may require

sacrifice as each individual labors to preserve the blessings of freedom for his or her neighbors and family.

The gospel liberty also requires a willingness to be committed to the principles of liberty found in the gospel. As in the nation, indifference leads to a loss of liberty as sin encroaches and enslaves the soul.

The evening’s recreation was based on the historic act of patriot rebellion, the Boston Tea Party. The teams were instructed to throw tea bags (bean bags) into the harbor (a box). A “British soldier” was tasked with preventing tea bags from landing in the harbor. It was all good fun.

During the snack time Renee O’Day’s thirteenth birthday was celebrated. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to her. She was properly embarrassed.

**Tuesday Night:** Raise the Standard

Chief Captain Moroni was the central character of Tuesday night’s lesson. His character was portrayed by Gary Whiting. The lesson was centered around the story of the title of liberty. This fragment of Moroni’s torn coat became the rallying point of the Nephite civilization against those who would overthrow their government.

Moroni stood up for liberty when he was needed the most. He stood with courage and integrity which was based on his faith in God and the promises of the Scriptures. His example helps us to understand that when our liberty is threatened we would be well served to place our reliance on the promises of God and act with courage.

The recreation for Tuesday night involved two teams, one defending a fort and the other team at-

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

tempting to break through by kicking balls through the legs of the defenders. After refreshments everyone returned to their crafts.

**Wednesday Night:** Pray for the Blessings of Liberty

George and Martha Washington came to visit on Wednesday. David and Debbie Newman played the parts of the Washingtons. They talk to us about the difficulties that George Washington and his army endured at Valley Forge. This winter encampment of the American army challenged and united the men under Washington. Mr. Washington is well known for his prayers during this difficult time and he attributed his success to God's hand in answer to his and others' prayers.

Nine pin or skittles was a classic game of the Revolutionary War era. It was our recreation on Wednesday night. It was a lot of fun, but when the call came for snacks, everyone quickly lined up to eat the chocolate cupcakes. Then, it was back to work on our various crafts before the closing.

**Thursday Night:** Resist Evil

One of the most successful generals who served under General Washington was Nathaniel Green. He was a young man with skill and good leadership ability. He applied himself diligently to the task of supporting the revolution as a way to resist the evil imposed on the colonies by the English crown. He was portrayed by Ian Burford, and was shown to be one of the great heroes of the time period. His faith and hard work are excellent examples to us of what it is to stand fast in liberty by resisting evil.

The story of Nathaniel Green was reinforced at recreation with a galloping good time. The smallest

person that we could find was carried back and forth in a relay on the backs of the other team members much like the rider of the Pony Express would exchange horses during a long mail run.

During recreation we celebrated another birthday. This time it was Claire Burford's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. We all enjoyed birthday cake with her.

**Friday Night:** Support the Cause of Liberty

Benjamin Franklin was the final visitor for the week of Vacationed Liberty School. He was portrayed by Roger Smith. Mr. Franklin was a true friend of liberty. He gave many long years of service to his country. He first served in France seeking finances and military support for the cause of the revolution. Later, he helped reestablish peace with England and was instrumental in the making of the Constitution of United States of America. Although he was much more than a diplomat, he used his considerable skills to support the cause of liberty.

Benjamin Franklin's example encourages us to be a friend of the liberty which Jesus offers to all people. He is looking for those who will support the cause of liberty, or in other words, the cause of Zion.

The order of events on Friday night was different because we started with dinner. The main dish was large old style ribs. This was accompanied by traditional fixings. The meal was excellent and there was an abundance of food. It was certainly better than the pepper soup served at Valley Forge.

The evening's recreation was the Fire Department game.

**Crafts**

There were a number of crafts made by a that distance  
*(Continued on page 10)*

# Month Calendar



## Zion's Outpost Branch

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this year. The boys practiced tinsmithing and made ornaments. They made kites adorned by various designs representing our liberty. They also made quill pens and ink. The boys also made liberty bells by painting clay pots.

The girl's crafts were divided into two age groups and between them they created friendship pillows, mob hats, quill pens and ink, Tussie-Mussies, Stand Fast for Liberty stars and crosses, chests, bookmarks, and aprons.

The adults and older youth made tea boxes. After sanding and varnishing, the lids were engraved using various scriptures or sayings related to our liberty in Christ. The engraving work was performed by Sacred Engravings, operated by the

Burford family.

On Sunday, June 20, during the Sunday school hour, we reviewed the week and all of its activities. We watched a presentation of many of the pictures taken during the week. Participants for the week received certificates of attendance.

This year's Bible school was a great time. Everyone learned a lot and had lots of fun. We were challenged and inspired by our historical visitors.

Many thanks to Pam Burford for her hard work and to her family for their support. Thank you to the many people who made this year's Vacation Liberty School a success. God bless you until we meet next summer.