

Zion's Outpost Branch Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 2

The Church of Jesus Christ, Zion's Outpost Branch

February 2009

Giertz Ministers in Wichita

Elder Robert Giertz and his wife Barbara, visited Zion's Outpost Branch on Sunday, January 18, 2009. Bob assisted in the setting apart of Elder David Newman to be the branch Bishop's Agent and preached. Barbara brought the ministry of music during the morning worship service.

Bob and Barbara were charter members of Zion's Outpost. In those days, they lived in Kingman, Kansas. They made many drives into Wichita to participate in the activities of the church. Several years ago, they moved to Blue Springs, Missouri.

Bob is serving as a counselor to Bishop Carl Cederstrom. His ministry involves the financial life of the church and writing stewardship training materials. He has made two trips to Germany to preach the gospel.

The second German mission was the focus of his sermon on January 18. Bob traveled with Elder John Mundy, a veteran of many European missions.

While he spoke, Elder Giertz showed maps and pictures of the people to whom he had ministered. We heard wonderful stories of hearts blessed by the Spirit of God through the ordinances of the church and the gospel story. During the trip, the Lord provided places to stay and kept them safe from harm.

It was very good to hear the testimonies of God at work among the German people. It was very tragic to hear that few Germans feel the need to consider God or the gospel of Jesus Christ in their lives. Germany is typical of most of Europe in its very secular lifestyle.

There are two American elders who are now living in Germany. Don Thomas is a civilian on a contract job and Mark Nunn, a major in the military, are trying to work together to bring ministry to the few saints there and carry the gospel message forward.

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Newman Set Apart as Bishop's Agent

Bishop Carl Cederstrom requested that the various branches who are part of the JCRB nominated men to serve as Bishop's Agents in the branch. Elder David Newman was nominated by the branch. His appointment was confirmed in a letter from the Bishop.

The Bishop's Agent serves as a liaison between the branch and the Bishop. He would also see that tithes and consecrations are forwarded to the bishop for the use of the church.

The Bishop's Agent is also a person who

will teach the people of the local church the stewardship principles.

Brother Newman was set apart to his duties during the worship service on January 18. Elder Giertz was assisted by Elder Gary Whiting. The setting apart prayer thanked the Lord for Brother Newman willingness to serve and divine blessings and strength were sought to help him.

The establishment of Bishop's Agents in the branches is another sign of the Lord rebuilding order and strength in the church.

The Zion's Outpost Branch Newsletter is published monthly by the Publications Department of Zion's Outpost. The editor is Gary Whiting. Please reference the newsletter if quoted for other than personal use. The newsletter is used to inform members, friends and seekers of the events taking place in the Branch and to promote the work of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is available at no charge to those asking for a subscription. Contributions to support its publication are appreciated.

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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

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ZION'S OUTPOST PUBLICATIONS

GOOD NEWS CONCORDANCE

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

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

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

Giertz

(Continued from page 1)

There remains much work to do in Germany and Elder Giertz requested our prayers to assist the work there.

Sister Barbara Giertz is serving as the chairperson for the Women's Ministries Committee of the JCRB. She was named to this committee after the April 2008 Conference. The Committee named her the chair in the fall of 2008.

Barbara sang a song recorded by Twila Paris called "How Beautiful." It is a song about the body of Christ. The song was performed well and contributed very nicely to the worship of the day.

Bob and Barbara are leaving for Nigeria in early February. They are going to work with the saints of the church. Bob, and others, will teach gospel and stewardship principles. Barbara, and other women, are going to help the women of Nigeria organize for better ministry.

May the Lord bless their efforts for the work of the Kingdom of God!

Omer Smith Injured

Omer Smith fell at one of his son's home and injured himself. He was hospitalized for evaluation. Doctors determined that Brother Smith had broken at least 4 ribs. He has returned home and is improving. While in the hospital, Brother Smith requested the laying on of hands for the sick. After the ordinance he was greatly blessed and soon went home. The Lord is good to His people. For this let us praise Him.

Whiting at Zarahemla Branch

Elder Gary Whiting and his wife, Sandy, traveled to Zarahemla Restoration Branch in blue Springs, Missouri on December 28, 2008. Brother Whiting was invited to bring preaching ministry in the branch.

The sermon touched on the need to apply renewed diligence in our response to the gospel. To become a Zionic people we need a vision and diligence that we have so far lacked. We will need to exercise a steadfast faith that believes the Lord's word without question. God is faithful. Are we willing to trust Him?

The Blessedness of Gospel Times

Isaac Watts

How beauteous are their feet
Who stand on Zion's hill!
Who bring salvation on their tongues,
And words of peace reveal!
How charming is their voice!
How sweet the tidings are!
"Zion, behold thy Savior King;
He reigns and triumphs here."

How happy are our ears
That hear this joyful sound,
Which kings and prophets waited for,
And sought, but never found!
How blessed are our eyes
That see this heav'nly light
Prophets and kings desired it long,
But died without the sight.

The watchmen join their voice,
And tuneful notes employ;
Jerusalem breaks forth in songs,
And deserts learn the joy.
The Lord makes bare his arm
Through all the earth abroad;
Let every nation now behold
Their Savior and their God!

What is Man That Thou Art Mindful of Him?

Scripture has multiple examples of men and women who have encountered the Lord Jesus and tasted of His glory. The lessons of their response to this revelation is the subject of this month's review of worship principles.

January's theme reminded us of the necessity of discovering and declaring the greatness of God. This act of worship sets the table for the application and benefit of this month's theme.

When we begin to realize the majesty of the Lord we serve, His person begins to pull our attention and our affection more wholly to God. Looking with eyes of faith is the key, designed of God, to permit us to see Him and be like Him.

When Isaiah was shown the throne room of God, he saw the majestic power and holiness of God. Isaiah was overwhelmed by the purity of the Lord's nature, the power that He holds, and the infinite affection which the hosts of heaven pour out to God. With this vision plainly before Him, the prophet began to understand his own sin. Only in the light of Christ can we see the corruptness of our hearts, the vileness of our tongue, and the waywardness of our feet.

The light of Christ illumines the nature of our Maker and reveals who we are. His strength shows our weakness. His speech silences our pitiful words. His might deeds the futility of our acts. There is no boasting from the heart of women and men who have seen the Lord.

Our first duty, as the created ones of our Father in heaven is to give glory to Him, the only True and Living God. Obedience to this first call, permits us to complete the picture of our relationship to God. Until we see the greatness of God and pitiful, low and lost state of our nature, we can never worship God as we ought.

There is a great pride that must be driven out of the human heart before we can approach the throne of God. That pride is based on a false belief that the natural man is sufficient, good and worthy of attention or merit by God.

Worship opens the eyes of our spiritual man to see things that the natural man cannot perceive. It is a gift of God to show us our weakness (Jacob 3:8). God has used many means to reveal the weaknesses of His servants.

By Gary R. Whiting

For Elijah, it was the visitation and ministry of the ravens and a widow followed by the understanding that God had an army of servants reserved for service. (1 Kings 17 and 19).

In the life of Moses, a stunning revelation was given to him when he was taken into the presence of the Great God of Heaven and was shown a vision of history's panorama. When the glory of the Lord withdrew from Moses, he found that he was so weak that it took hours to regain his natural strength and said,

Now, for this cause, I know that man is nothing, which thing I never had supposed; but now mine eyes have beheld God; but not mine natural but my spiritual eyes, for mine natural eyes could not have beheld, for I should have withered and died in his presence; but his glory was upon me, and I beheld his face, for I was transfigured before him. (D&C 22:7b, c)

Moses had been harboring his version of the pride of self sufficiency in his heart. In the moment that the tremendous difference between God and man was made plain to him, he saw

the wonder of God and the weakness of man. It was the gap between the Creator and the created being. Despite being created in the image of God, sin has so corrupted us that King Benjamin was not mistaken or too harsh or insulting when he said,

And now I ask, Can ye say aught of yourselves? I answer you, Nay. Ye can not say that ye are even as much as the dust of the earth: yet ye were created of the dust of the earth: but behold, it belongeth to him who created you. (Mosiah 1:60, 61)

Like Moses, and Elijah, the King understood that only by the grace of God, are any of us able to do any good thing. The natural man is living in the temporal world, but is dead to Jesus Christ and the spiritual life. Sin has killed us, but unless the Light of Christ shows us the deadness, we continue in death.

Even the soul that has come to the knowledge of God and has exercised faith in the name of Jesus, still must struggle against the pride of this life. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, wrote that we must be careful to avoid thinking more highly of ourselves that we

should. This admonition in Romans 12:3 follows immediately after he had written that our reasonable duty to God is to sacrifice ourselves to Almighty God (Romans 12:1, 2).

This testimony is plainly recorded in the written scriptures. The Holy Spirit's witness agrees with that which is written. There is also a third way that God has left this witness to us—nature.

Nature ministers the revelation that we are weak and needy in many ways. This truth is understood by standing alone in the middle of the vast prairies and farmland of the country. It is seen in the immenseness of the world's oceans, in the intricacy of the microscopic and submicroscopic world. We are often humbled by the mighty mountains and the wondrous carvings of the water and wind, such as the Grand Canyon. Also the testimony of the great storms of wind, the quaking of the earth and the powerful waves of the sea.

All of these things are too great for us. Those who have experienced in any way the sense of smallness and weakness in the testimony of nature's majesty

have understood something of the testimony God wants us to learn.

The greater God is in our eyes, the weaker we are. The smaller we see ourselves, the more the grandeur of God becomes a joy and a blessing to us.

In the months that follow, we will discuss the various worship responses that these two great revelations lead the Christian worshiper to make.

The mark of a saint is not perfection, but consecration. A saint is not a man without faults, but a man who has given himself without reserve to God.

-- W. T. Richardson

When a person's faith seems to collapse without warning, one can be sure it has been the result of inner conflicts--the termites of disobedience.

-- Quinton J. Everest

Month Calendar

See 2009
Event
Calendar

See 2009
Event
Calendar

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The Last Word

The Devon Park Restoration Branch, Independence, MO has been sued by the Community of Christ church over the use of the name Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS). The restoration branch has used the RLDS name on its sign for years. The lawsuit was filed on December 1, 2008.

The branch has established a Defense Fund to raise money for their court and attorney costs. In a letter from the branch, they asks for contributions to be sent to: The Devon Park Legal Defense Fund, c/o Elmer Rawlins, Treasurer, 2121 Aqueduct Place, Independence, MO 64057-1010. Details on the suit may be found at www.devonpark.org.

We were all saddened by the news that Ken Meyers son, Nathan died on January 27, 2009. His funeral services were held at the St. Columbia Parrish, Conception Junction, MO. Please remember the family in their loss.

Ian and Claire Burford were able to attend the Book of Mormon Retreat at the Odessa Hills Campground on January 23-25, 2009. They said it was a very good experience.

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.

— Benjamin Franklin