

Zion's Outpost Branch Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 1

The Church of Jesus Christ, Zion's Outpost Branch

January 2009

Advent Season Remembered

The advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, also known as the celebration of His birth, was celebrated in a number of ways this year. First was the hanging of the Greens at the church. This annual event places wreaths and other greenery around the sanctuary of the church. This marks the beginning of the Christmas season at church.

After the decorating was completed, everyone was invited to partake of chili for lunch. Debbie Newman organized the decorating effort and provided the chili.

On the four Sunday's before Christmas and on Christmas Eve, the birth of Christ was celebrated in special Advent worship. The devotions involved the lighting of one new candle for each new devotion. Each candle represented an aspect of Christ's ministry. The final, white candle was lit on Christmas Eve. A reading from scripture and some devotional thoughts were read followed by the singing of a

verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It was a nice remembrance of the Condescension of Christ for us.

On December 7, the branch members met in the home of David and Debbie Newman for the Women's Annual Advent Service. This was open to all adults, male and female. Through Scripture and song, the story of Christmas was rehearsed. An excellent array of snacks followed the worship time.

Sunday, December 21 was the day of the branch annual Christmas worship. Five different people read a variety of Christmas scriptures while a series of pictures were shown on the screen. The readings were supported by congregational singing and the use of recorded music. It was a beautiful time of contemplation and remembrance for all who were able to attend.

A Christmas Eve prayer and testimony service was held at the church. Many spoke of the ways Jesus has ministered to them through this season.

Members Prayer List

Several members of the branch have had health problems in the last month. Please join us in praying for their recovery.

Laurie Drope fell from a horse over Christmas and broke a collarbone. This occurred while she was in Missouri visiting with family. She is now wearing a brace.

Bob Skeen is recovering from pneumonia. He contracted the illness about 2 weeks ago. He is making a good recovery.

Omer Smith fell on December 19th at home while unloading groceries. He lost his balance

on the driveway and fell face down on the concrete drive. His injuries were complicated by the blood thinner medication he takes. Omer was hospitalized for a few days as doctors made sure he was doing well.

Marylyn Smith is being moved into a care home in Kingman, KS for further treatment.

The Drope family continues to ask for prayers for Sharon.

Please continue to remember Brother Leak and his full recovery.

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 Forgiveness	\$5.00

Budget for 2009 Approved

The branch met for a business meeting on December 7, 2008. A budget for 2009 was discussed and approved. The budget anticipates improvements to the kitchen and the parking lot.

The kitchen improvements are long over due. The cabinets in the kitchen are probably original to the building. They all suffered some damage before the basement walls were repaired years ago. The cabinet doors are very worn and need to be replaced. The cabinet tops are also in need of replacement. The tiles of the back splash are falling off. All of these areas will be addressed with the kitchen upgrades.

The parking lot improvements will include improved drainage for water around the garage entrance. This may include laying additional concrete in some areas and better grading in the driveway area.

Other budget areas include plans to continue working on the audio system. Hopefully we will be able to add digital video recording capabilities in 2009. We will also install upgrades to the audio recording capabilities of the system. This will permit us to make digital recordings and CD copies of sermons. Digital recording will also allow us to post copies on the web site and expand our outreach.

Burford Family News

Ian Burford was crossing the intersection at Hillside and 37th Street north on December 5, 2008 when his car was hit by another vehicle. Both vehicles were severely damaged and both drivers were taken to the hospital for treatment. Ian's car was totaled.

Ian was banged about and very sore for a few days. He has recovered nicely since that time. The other driver, a woman, did suffer some injury, but was expected to recover. Ian and his family appreciate your prayers on his (their) behalf and ask that you also pray for the other driver's recovery.

Brent Burford, 15, was awarded the Top Popcorn Seller for Boy Scouts of America's Quivira Council. Brent sold \$3228 worth of popcorn this season, earning him a prize from the Council. The Council consists of 13,000 Scouts, and Trails End Gourmet popcorn sales support over 25% of the Council's annual budget. Thank you to those of you were able to support the Burford Lone Scouts this year, as well as the Council, through your orders.

A YEAR UNTRIED BEFORE ME LIES

A year untried before me lies.

What it shall bring of strange surprise,

Of joy, or grief, I cannot tell;

But God my Father knoweth well

I make no concern of mine,

But leave it all with Love divine.

The sun may shed no light by day,

No stars at night illumine my way.

My soul shall still have no affright

Since God is all my life and light.

Though all the earthly lights grow dim,

He walks in light who walks with Him.

No ill can come but He can cure,

No word doth all of good insure:

He'll see me through the journey's length,

For daily need give daily strength!

Source unknown

O Worship the King

By Gary R. Whiting

[Jac 2:28] And all flesh is of the dust; and for the self-same end hath he created them, that they should keep his commandments, and glorify him for ever.

To understand the importance of worship in the life of a Christian, you and I must come to an understanding of God and His purposes in us. Our God is a personal God. He loves His children and He desires the best for them. He is the ultimate end of our creation, as He is also the beginning and the sustainer in its duration.

We were created to have fellowship with God. He created Adam and Eve and placed them in a garden that was conducive to their prosperity and the fellowship God desired. In Eden, the Lord was able to walk with the man and woman and they were in His presence.

This fact is confirmed by the fact that God did not immediately apply the temporal death penalty to our first parents, but delayed physical death as a time of probation (D&C 29:12a, b). God also pre-

pared Jesus Christ from the foundation of the world to be our Redeemer. It is further supported by the fact that Paul describes the work of Christ on our behalf as the means by which we are reconciled to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:18) and that by faith in Christ we are adopted by God into His family as sons and daughters (Romans 8:10-17). To restore the fellowship which existed in the pre-Fall Garden of Eden, the Lord “was



wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

It is very plain that Jesus Christ died on our behalf, but it was also for God’s sake that the sacrifice was made. God has

sought after us. After Adam and Eve sinned and were cast out, the Lord God sent angels to preach to them and teach them repentance (D&C 29:12a). Time after time, the Lord sent prophets, judges, angels and other messengers to bring backsliding Israel back to Him. Isaiah wrote that because of this sacrifice, the Lord would be “satisfied” because He would justify many by bearing their sins (Isaiah 53:11).

God, who has sought after us, has made Himself known to us through various revelations. In Romans, Paul writes that nature testifies of God. From the beginning the Lord has communicated by angels, the Holy Spirit, His own voice and ministers sent by Him with the Word of God given to them. All of these messengers are intended to open our eyes and understandings to the fact that there is a God, who He is and how we should seek Him. These are the foundations of worship.

If God had not revealed Himself, we could never have found Him. We would not have known to seek Him. From the days of the first man, God has sought us and invited us to return to Him.

Section 90 of the Doctrine and

Covenants begins with the critical elements of coming to God through Jesus Christ and then expounds on Jesus Christ and the nature of the incarnation. After this opening, verse 3 says,

I give unto you these sayings that you may understand and know how to worship, and know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name, and in due time receive of his fullness, (D&C 90:3b)

Genuine worship arises out of an understanding, by faith, of who God is, what He is like, and what He has done, is doing, and will do. This understanding is not merely academic or the accumulation of facts about God, Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation. If, by faith, we permit this knowledge to work its way into the deep parts of our heart and soul, we find that

. . . the word is good,
for it beginneth to

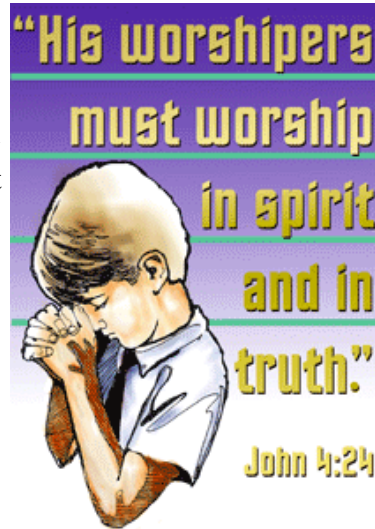
enlarge my soul;
yea, it beginneth to
enlighten my understanding;
yea, and it beginneth to be
delicious to me.
(Alma 16:154)

Worship is seeking after God with our whole heart, mind, might and strength. It is letting the testimony of God draw our hearts to Him in gratitude, prayer and service. It is intellectual, spiritual and emotional in a perfect balance that grows in us as we grow in Jesus Christ. True worship is a gift of grace that is born in us by the engrafted word and arises from us through the birth of the new life Christ provides us in the regenerative process. Worship is a gift we received and a gift we give.

Christians spend a lot of their time in worship activities. We go to church, attend worship services, prayer meetings, sing hymns and participate in the ordinances of the church. Despite all of this activity,

most Christians have never applied themselves to understand what worship is, how it is accomplished, or even why it is important. This lack of understanding has hindered the preparation of church attendees and therefore, the effectiveness of worship in the lives of church members.

The Lord has given us sufficient insight and instruction for Christians to worship with purpose, intelligence and effective-



ness. A study of the Lord's instructions and the principles of worship will begin to open Christians to the wonders of Spirit guided worship. Just as in every part of the disciples life with Christ, the purpose and principles must be understood

through study and applied by faith before the fruit of obedience is evident.

Through the months of 2009, I will attempt to outline the principles of worship as I have come to understand them. These lessons will coordinate with the monthly themes on the scripture calendar for the year.

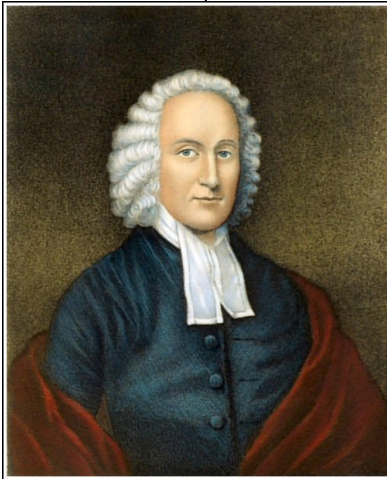
New Year Resolutions

The New Year is often a time when people want to make a fresh start and try to do things they have wanted to do or have felt that they ought to do. Below is a list of New Year's resolutions compiled by Jonathan Edwards, a famous Puritan preacher who lived from 1703-1758. They are, in his own words, as follows:

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humble entreat Him, by His grace, to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will,

for Christ's sake. [I will] remember to read over these Resolutions once a week:

1. Resolved, That I will do whatsoever I think to be most to the glory of God, and my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration; without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence.
2. Resolved, to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general.
3. Resolved, Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.
4. Resolved, To live with all my might, while I do live.
5. Resolved, Never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.



6. Resolved, Never to do anything out of revenge.

7. Resolved, Never to speak evil of any one, so that it shall tend to his dishonour, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.

8. Resolved, To study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

9. Resolved, Never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of a prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession which I cannot hope God will accept.

10. Resolved, To ask myself, at the end of every day, week, month, and year, wherein I could possibly, in any respect, have done better.

11. Resolved, Never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.

12. Resolved, After afflictions, to inquire, what I am the better for them; what good I have got by them, and what I might have got by them.

13. Resolved, Always to do that which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it.

14. Let there be something of benevolence in all that I speak.

From the *Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. I

See 2009
Event
Calendar

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The Last Word

Elder Robert Giertz has agreed to bring preaching ministry on January 18, 2009. While he is here, he will assist in setting apart Elder David Newman as the Bishop's Agent for Zion's Outpost.

Brother Newman was appointed to the role of Bishop's Agent by Bishop Carl Cederstrom in November of 2009. The Bishop has requested that each man appointed to this position be set apart to that duty.

Setting apart is a special blessing upon a person for God's blessing to enable the person to serve in a particular capacity. It is not an ordination, but a recognition that the duty to be performed will require additional gifts and insight. Setting apart is performed by the elders of the church through the laying on of hands.

Following the setting apart of Brother Newman, Elder Giertz will speak about his recent missionary journey to Germany.

This Sunday is a potluck Sunday and everyone is invited to stay for the food and fellowship.

The 2009 Scripture Calendar is now available. If you would like to have a copy and cannot come to church to pick up your copy, give us a call or write to us and a copy will be sent to you through the mail.

The theme of this year is "O Worship the King." Through the year the subject of worshipping God will be studied.