

CBRB GOOD NEWS

January 2015

Issue #4

Continuing Our Commitment to Serve

Over the last year our branch has organized a donation drive to help with basic necessities of individuals and families living at the Omaha Open Door Mission. The Open Door Mission is a Gospel Rescue Mission that helps meet the basic needs of those living in poverty or those that are homeless, while inspiring hope through the gospel message. The Open Door Mission provides shelter and housing to over 800 people and serves hot meals three times a day to any in need. We would like to continue to help in this effort and will be starting collections again this month. Please see the donations needed below and consider ways that you may be able to help. Matthew 25:35-41 "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



OPEN DOOR MISSION

Donation Items

JANUARY - Toothbrushes

FEBRUARY - Toothpaste

MARCH - Shampoo & Conditioner

Poem

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Upcoming Events

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The Potter's Wheel

By Maxine Clark

Submitted By Blanche Collins

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

22nd - Zion's League

31st - Youth Night

February

1st - Restoration Study & Fellowship

5th & 19th - Zion's League

20th-22nd - Winter Revival

March

5th & 19th - Zion's League

22nd - Restoration Study & Fellowship

29th - Youth Easter Pageant

A potter, at the potter's wheel,
A vessel planned one day.
A vessel meant for usefulness
Was fashioned from the clay.
The potter worked, as oft' before,
The finished art in view,
But it was marred and useless, so
His dream did not come true.

But then another plan had he,
And thought 'twas worth a try
To make another earthen jar
Before the clay was dry.
So while the potter's skillful hands
Remolded it with care,
The clay then yielded to his touch
And beauty blossomed there.

The vessel then reflected pride
Of potter's craft and dream;
For through the potter's loving touch
The vessel was redeemed.
And I, much like the earthen jar,
Was marred because of sin;
But Christ, the Potter, saved my soul
And made me new again.

So, like the clay in the Potter's hands,
His beauty to reveal,
I must be yielded to His touch,
Be subject to the wheel.
It's ne'er too late to seek His love,
A new life to begin;
Christ can remold, give beauty to
A life that yields to Him.

Domestic Outreach in Ontario and Minnesota

By Elder Brian Twombly



On August 14, our family visited saints in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Holy Spirit graced our afternoon visit and communion service reminding us that God knows precisely where we are and no matter where we are He is always watching over us.

As my wife, Monica, and I planned our summer vacation to the north shore of Lake Superior, I was filled with longing to fellowship with the saints. We did not know of any saints in that region but High Priest Paul Gage had some email contacts with Rick and Janice Henderson in Thunder Bay, Ontario and Gary and Melody Nelson in Clitherall, Minnesota. We had debated whether to go to Canada on our trip. Monica and I both had passports but our 2 year-old son, Samuel did not. We did not have any specific tourist destinations that we wanted to see in that region of Canada, but we decided to go to Thunder Bay and visit the area. The day after we applied for Samuel's passport we heard about Rick and Janice who lived in the exact Canadian city that we were going to visit. We now knew why we were going to Canada.

As we commenced our journeys, I was made aware that God knew exactly where we were and had a plan for us. It was a blessing to visit and talk of the gospel and share testimonies one with another in Rick and Janice's home. I appreciated their hospitality and patience with our energetic 2 year old. Though isolated saints, the Lord has blessed them in their lives.

As we continued our journeys to western Minnesota, we attended the Clitherall, Minnesota Community of Christ church on Sunday, August 17. Two Restoration families attend at this congregation and the pastor was agreeable to me preaching for the service. The Holy Spirit blessed me with words to speak. This is a small congregation with about 20 people in attendance. The church has had a presence in this town for over 100 years and was founded by members of the Latter Day Saint Cutlerite group in 1864. After church we had dinner with the Restoration families at the home of Gary and Melody Nelson. Also in attendance was the family of Levi Mellenkamp. The Holy Spirit attended our fellowship and I was reminded that God is always with the saints whether in large congregations or with each scattered saint.

Dream or Vision?

By Bruce Chapin

December 14, 2014

In January of 2014, while providing ministry as an elder in the Community of Christ Omaha (Nebraska) Central congregation a number of concerns arose involving the future of the Community of Christ, in general, and Omaha Central specifically. Most who read this will know well the changes that were occurring in the Community of Christ. As for Omaha Central, we were a congregation of about 30 attendees on average. The average age of the congregation was somewhere around 90. With dwindling numbers and finances we were faced with deciding what to do and when regarding the congregation's membership and assets.

I had made this a matter of regular and frequent prayer. I was desperately trying to keep hope alive, find ways to bring growth and ministry to the group. To be sure, I was not the only one so engaged. I had made a commitment to the members of the congregation that I would provide ministry to them until I was pulled from the pulpit or the facility was closed. We were all very concerned and disappointed with the choices the Community of Christ was making regarding interpretation of the Scriptures and the minimalizing the Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants.

In the middle of January 2014, I again approached the Lord in prayer, seeking guidance on how to proceed. I turned in for the night after my time with the Lord. While sleeping I had the following dream – or perhaps vision.

I went to church as usual one Sunday morning on a bright, spring-like day. Something was needed for the service and I set out to get what was needed from a local store. Upon returning to the neighborhood of the church building I could not find the facility. After what must have been close to an hour (dream time is hard to measure at times) I finally saw the church

emblem in the peak of the church. I kept my eye on that singular sight and followed it to the building.

I went into the building, which was certainly the Omaha Central church, and was shocked at what I found. I did not recognize anyone that was there. Everyone was dressed in black suits or dresses and the women all had on wide brimmed black hats. The music that was playing was something like a cross between heavy metal and reggae. Nothing resembled the church I had left just an hour before except the layout of the building. I felt lost, confused and broken hearted. I lowered my head in sorrow and left. On my way out the door I noticed a plaque that read, "The New Community of Christ, established March 31, 2014." The significance of this date is that it was the date that the Community of Christ officially adopted and began to practice gay ordinations and marriages in North America.

On March 30, 2014, our congregation visited the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ; as a possible place of worship for those of our group who no longer accepted the leadership and teachings of the Community of Christ. It is my joy to say that almost every member of the Omaha Central Community of Christ, at that time, joined with the Council Bluffs Restoration Branch. For me it has been like coming home.

I shared this dream with several individuals before the Community of Christ announced the changes in practice and the date that it would take effect. I truly believe the Lord was answering my prayers and provided the means and inspiration to the congregation so we could continue to fellowship in his name and under his blessing.

CBRB Church of Jesus Christ Zion's League

By Priest Mark McCormick

It's been a personal dream of mine to see a Zion's League formed again in Council Bluffs. There hasn't been a Zion's League in this city for over 30 years! The Lord told this congregation last January that, "The Spirit of the Lord is here in Council Bluffs! Use His spirit wisely and well and you shall be blessed!" – Elder Jim Mulheron (January 19th, 2014). I think that time always vindicates the prophet. In this case this message was of God. Over the last year, our group has grown numerically by about twenty souls.

The question is – Has our spiritual condition grown over the last year? That is a question that each of us must reflect on. However, the Zion's League being *reformed* is a testament to the dedication of each of us striving to follow God and having a great yearning to learn more about him. This might indicate that there could be at least an ounce of spiritual growth...I would hope!



A little History about Zion's League: Zion's League was started during the time of Prophet/President Fredrick M. Smith. The purpose of the League was to revive the youth of the church and give them more reason to be enthusiastic about God, His church, and of course...Zion!

Back Row (left to right): Elena Yroz, Bruce Chapin, Nikki McCormick & Mark McCormick
Front Row(left to right): Aaron Beacham, TJ Beacham, Layne McGinnis, Aly Burk & Molly Burk
Front: Blake McGinnis

CBRB held its first Zion's League meeting Thursday, January 8th, 2015. The second meeting will be on Thursday, January 22nd. During this meeting Priest Mark McCormick led the group in a relaxed "fun time!" There they played some Twister, then a game called "Blinded by the Light". Blinded by the Light was new to all of us so it took a little time getting used to. Elder Bruce Chapin then led the class discussion where, he, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, set a high bar for the other teachers following this meeting. Brother Chapin began the coursework with a short discussion on the scriptures, particularly the Book of Mormon, and how all the scriptures tie together. The children were active in the class and seemed excited to begin building their Zion's League Binder!

CBRB Zion's League Schedules are tentative as the group figures out what works best for the branch, but for now here are the schedules:

School Year

(Sept – May)
Every Other Thursday
 5:30 PM - 5:55 PM
 5:55 PM – 6:00 PM
 6:00 PM – 6:25 PM
 6:25 PM – 6:30 PM

Summer Schedule

(June – August)
Every Thursday
 4:30 PM– 5:15 PM *Free Time / Organized and Unorganized Fun*
 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM *Clean up / Get ready for class*
 5:30 PM – 6:25 PM *Class*
 6:25 PM – 6:30 PM *Short Worship / Go to midweek service if staying*

I'll leave you with this phrase, "Onward to Zion, Faithful and Strong, Zion the Beautiful Beckons Us On!"

Youth Section

Using the letters in the "THE LAND OF ZION" how many words can you make?

