

CBRB GOOD NEWS

Council Bluffs Restoration Branch

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Council Bluffs, IA 51503

<http://cbrb.weebly.com>



*Proclaiming the original doctrines of the Reorganized
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*

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WANT TO SHARE WITH US?

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Motherhood Honored by a Lovely Evening

By Evonne Sherer

The women of the congregation felt especially honored with an evening of dining fun provided by the men. The evening started off with a menu offering choices of chicken, potatoes, vegetables and cheesecake with various toppings. After ordering, it was served directly to our table by one of the nice gentlemen of the church.

As we ate, Mark read an interesting piece about Lucy Mack Smith from the book "They Were Good People" by Francis Harper, Jr. It was a wonderful inspiration to all of us as we were reminded how the mother of the prophet suffered hardship and trouble through much of her life, but never wavered in her dedication to the Restoration. Following this Blanche Collins read a poem she had written about her own mother.

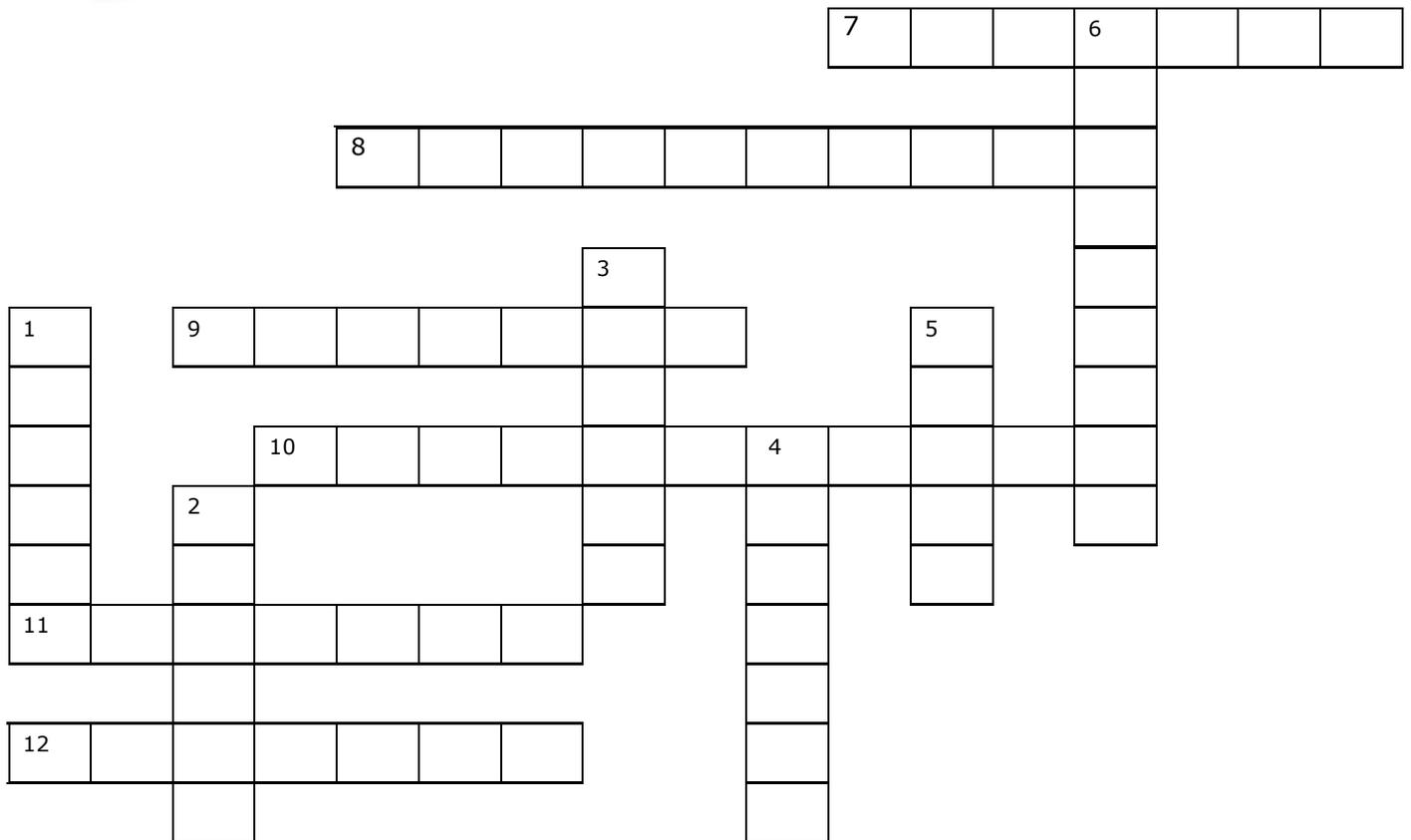
For fun, Julie and Mark had some trivia questions about women in church history and prizes were given for those who knew the answers. Women who had special milestones were honored as well. These milestones ranged from being the oldest mother, having the most children or being the youngest mother. The whole evening was very enjoyable and we all felt honored to have love expressed this way to each of us.





YOUTH SECTION

Priesthood Crossword



1. Visits the house of each member and attends to all family duties
2. His duty is to assist the teacher
3. Administers to all temporal things
4. Acts under the direction of the apostles
5. To take the lead over all church meetings
6. To be the father of the church, to counsel and give advice to those who seek it
7. President of the church, seer and revelator
8. Must be ordained by the direction of a high council or general conference
9. Lesser priesthood after the order of Aaron
10. Holy priesthood after the order of the Son of God, holds keys to spiritual blessings
11. To watch over the church to make sure there is no iniquity in the church
12. A special witness of the name of Christ in all the world

**For help see Doctrine & Covenants Sections 17, 104 and 125*

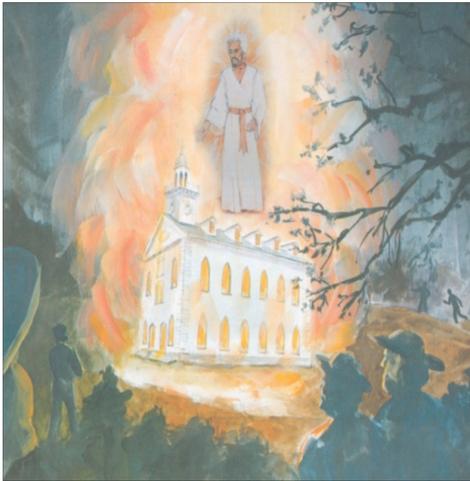


Illustration of the Kirtland Temple Dedication Service and Endowment Revised by Brandie Youna. (2014)

The weekend of Friday February 21st thru Sunday February 23rd 2014 was a blessed weekend for CBRB! We had the privilege to have an abundance of guest ministry at the revival and together they brought a unified message for our Council Bluffs congregation. Approximately 30 - 40 souls were in attendance throughout the weekend's events. Our Sunday Worship was blessed with 57 souls in attendance!

The Theme was **"Remember Jesus!"** It is so important in this day and age that we do *Remember Jesus!* (Matthew 26:24-25)

The CBRB Winter Revival was a Success!

By Priest Mark McCormick

"For this is in remembrance of my blood of the new testament, which is shed for as many as shall believe on my name, for the remission of their sins. And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall observe to do the things which ye have seen me do, and bear record of me even unto the end."

This is one reason why I truly love the Sacrament Service with the presentation of the emblems resembling the broken body and shed blood of our precious Lord! There are other means by which we remember Jesus such as when we talk of him! The Biodrowski family had Morning Worship on Saturday in which they shared how they as a family remember their mother and grandmother Edith by talking of her amongst themselves! Similarly when we talk about Jesus we remember him in our Lives!

Brother Scot Bandel, from the North Platte Restoration Branch, had the first sermon on **"Remember Jesus's Earthly Ministry"** One of his memorable statements was *"We are not to be a passive people, but a passionate people!"*

Brother Mark Walker, from the Decatur City Restoration Branch, then presented his class revolving around Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. There was good discussion there as we **remembered Jesus's Earthly ministry** and what he taught his disciples.

Brother Bandel then had a class on **Jesus' Great Commission**. The message brought forth in this class the questions, *"What are you doing for the Lord and His Church today? How can you share His message to those that you are around?"*

Continued on Page 4

Brother Francis Harper, Jr., from the Woodbine Followers of Christ had the evening sermon on the topic of **"Remember Jesus' Great Commission!"** One memorable statement from this message was *"The Restoration Branches have the greatest depository of the Fullness of the Gospel on the Earth today!"* Brother Harper also said two other moving statements one being *"We are not called to be natural, we are called to be supernatural!"* and second, *"If you love your brethren, then bring them to the Lord!"*

Another event that transpired on Saturday was a showing of *"The Harbinger: Decoded"* - While the details may not be entirely correct, only time will "Vindicate the Prophet" - as the last Presiding Patriarch of the Church (Elbert A. Smith) stated. Two things are certain though; **this nation is in danger of judgment and desperately needs to repent as a whole for its sins!** The Lord is not interested in judgment.

He *"wept over Jerusalem"* as the scriptures say. The only reason he has judgment is because he has **hope** for us! We must know that as the last days prior to the return of Jesus the Christ unfold the dark will get darker; the people of light and truth **MUST** become brighter and stronger! (See Isaiah 60:1-2)

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

There does need to be a Revival of His Truth going forward throughout the Land! We know that this land (America) is precious to the Lord and it is His Land, therefore is also has the promise, and warning, to those who reside on the land. We do know that II Chronicles 7:14-16 is a promise from God!

"If my people (That is you) which are called by my name (That is you), shall humble themselves (That is you), and pray, and seek my face (That is you), and turn from their wicked ways (That is you); then will I

hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin (That is you), and will heal their land (That is you). Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."

Sunday Worship concluded with Brother Walker speaking to us on the promises of Jesus to us! He stated, *"Be thankful for the bad things for they open our eyes to the good things."*(I Thes. 5:18) Brother Walker also encouraged us in saying, *"Saints remember your present situation is **NOT** your fixed destination!"* Once again he exhorted us to work together as he preached, *"When **ALL** members of the body work together, everything goes much more smoothly!"*

Saints, we have much to look forward to! Trust in the Lord always! We have the promise of Matthew 6:38

"Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

**An Inspired Message
Given by Elder V.D. Ruch
At the Communion Service of the Council Bluffs Branch
Sunday, October 2nd, 1949**

Verily, thus saith the Spirit unto you my people; Your gathering together this day to renew your covenant with me which you made in the waters of baptism is pleasing in my sight. My unlimited love and compassion is extended toward you as I discern the righteous desires of your hearts and the longing that many of you have to live closer to me and to become more perfect in my sight. Conditions in the world coupled with your human weaknesses make it difficult for some of you to consecrate your lives more fully to me. But, my children, I say unto you this morning, that if you will humble yourselves before me, repent of your sins, and seek me in earnest prayer I will give you strength to overcome and you will be blessed with great spiritual power.

Oh, my people, you have many lessons yet to learn. It is the little things in your lives, things of little value to you, that you allow to hinder your spiritual development and rob you of many spiritual experiences and blessings. Most all of you must learn to love one another and live together in peace. The spirit of criticism is hurting the branch as a whole and the members individually, preventing the operation of my spirit among you. In the various departments of my church there must be greater unity if you would be instruments in my hands for the building of my kingdom. The world needs my kingdom today as never before. The forces of evil and the weapons of war have become so powerful in the world that civilization could be almost wiped out in a brief period of time, and such will happen unless more people are touched by and respond to my spirit. I am depending upon you, my people, to assist in the building of my kingdom. Be kind and helpful to each other and give this community a demonstration of real Christian living. As your nonmember friends gaze upon you may they be constrained to say, "Truly, those people have been with Jesus."

For this to happen you must make Jesus your Lord and Master. May he have his way in your lives. This community has played a very important part in the history of my church, and shall continue to do so. Many rich experiences have been enjoyed by my people here, but that which you have enjoyed in the past will become insignificant in comparison with the manifestation of my power among you in the future as you reach greater spiritual heights. This, my church, shall increasingly become a force for good here as more room and adequate quarters are provided for the carrying on of my work. Many, many souls will turn their faces toward my church seeking comfort and counsel and divine guidance in the solving of their problems and in the working out of their soul's salvation.

In order that you might be ready to take advantage of these opportunities and to be instruments in my hands to bring blessings to mankind, the Priesthood is admonished to study, learn my holy will, get experience by ministering to my people now, and to develop into true shepherds of the sheep, able to give them counsel, comfort, and instruction as they have need. Unless you prepare yourselves by doing the little things which your hands find to do, you will not be ready to do the big things when they come.

To men of my church, who are not of the Priesthood, are called to assist in this work according to the gifts of God unto them. There is much work to be done outside of the Priesthood as well as in it. Do not hesitate to talk with people about the church. Share your spiritual experiences with them and endeavor to win them for Christ. You are admonished to visit my people to encourage and strengthen those who are sick and shut-in, and those who have grown old. Many people get lonesome and feel that they are forgotten. Seek out such and give them attention and affection. Bring them to church in your car and perform other little kindnesses for them. O, there is so much service to be rendered and so much ministry to be given. Can I depend upon the men of my church to do these things?

I admonish my handmaidens to also enter in and occupy. Some of you have done much hitherto in performing many types of ministry. I commend you for it. This you should continue to do. Do not become weary of well doing. Do not allow outside activities to so fill your lives to the extent that you have no time or strength left to serve me. You are serving me as you minister in the various departments and organizations of my church as one of old has said, "It is far greater to be a doorkeeper of the House of the Lord, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Do you consider it a little thing that I have called you out of the world into the fold of my church? If you will not acknowledge me before men I will not acknowledge you in the courts of glory. There is a place for all of you to serve. Enter in and occupy.

My young people are again admonished to be faithful to me and my church. As you pass through the critical adolescent period of your lives be careful that you do not lose interest in worthwhile things. Do not sell your birthright in my kingdom for that which perishes with the using. Keep your lives clean and pure before me so that, in future years, you may not have cause to regret foolish mistakes made today. Never under any circumstances, be ashamed to tell anyone the name of the church of which you are members. You are called to serve in my church today. Believe I not bestowed many rich blessings upon you? In appreciation for these blessings is it too much to expect you to consecrate your lives to me, attending as many of the services as possible, yea, even the prayer meetings, and there bear testimony of my goodness to you? My only purpose concerning you is to save you from the power of the devil who seeks to destroy your souls. I desire to spare you much suffering and disappointment in this life as well as the world to come. Do not compromise with sin. Keep your ideals and standards high and other young people will look up to you and call you blessed.

Oh, my people, what must I do to prove my love for you? I have brought you into my church. I have blessed you in numerous ways, yea, many blessings of which you were not aware. I have placed at your disposal my gospel and my church by which you may obtain celestial glory, if you are faithful. Yet, many of my people in this place have become indifferent toward me and my church. My heart is heavy with sadness because of this condition. Unless they repent and return unto me they cannot receive celestial glory. What a mistake they are making! They are selling their soul. No matter what may be the cause of this indifference it isn't important enough for them to allow it to bring damnation to their souls. To all such lukewarm members, to whom this message may come, I call upon you to return unto me and my church, renew your covenant, and become an active member in good standing, worshipping me in spirit and in truth. Make a desperate effort to remove every obstacle that stands in your way. Beware of the whisperings of Satan who seeks to deceive you and damn your soul. Humble yourselves, repent of your sins and come unto me.

These are important days in which you live. These are days to proclaim my gospel. The salvation of some people is in the balance. If they are not won for me now they will never be. It is well that arrangements have been made for a series of meetings to be held here in the near future. I admonish you, my people, to support these meetings by your presence and your prayers. Bring your friends that they may have an opportunity to hear my gospel. If you will stand by and support my servant, Harold I. Velt, in these meetings, I will also stand by him and bless his efforts in this place.

Satan is not pleased with the progress that my church is making in this place. I warn you to watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. He will take advantage of every opening to come into your personal lives or into the branch and divide it. He will seek to separate you, my people, in regard to the interpretation of my scriptures or points of doctrine. As in days of old, he will seek to raise up men to deceive and lead people away after them. My power is greater than his. Put your faith and trust in me and I will lead you triumphantly forward in the accomplishment of my righteous purpose.

Thus Saith the Spirit.

Meet Some of Our Newest Members... Mylon & Lana Larsen

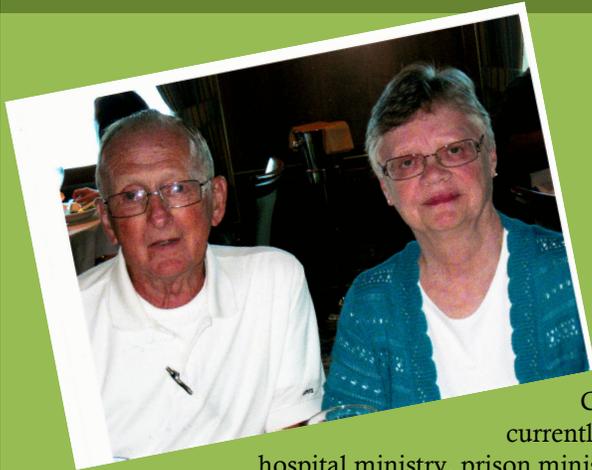
Mylon and Lana married in 1961. They have two children, a daughter who lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and a son who lives in Omaha, NE. They have 7 grandchildren.

Mylon was born in 1938 on a farm near Pierce, NE. He graduated from Omaha North High in 1956 then worked for Union Pacific Railroad for 31 years before retiring in January 2000.

Mylon joined the RLDS church in March 1969 at the Omaha Central Congregation and was ordained a Priest in 1971 and an Elder in 1976. He currently brings ministry to the residents of Durham Booth Manor in Omaha, hospital ministry, prison ministry and to shut-ins. He plants a large vegetable garden each spring and enjoys woodworking.

Lana was born in Council Bluffs, IA in 1943. Her family lived in Gretna, NE for a while then moved to Humboldt, NE. She is the second youngest of nine children. She joined the RLDS church in 1954 and was baptized in Stella, NE. Joe and Melba Cook are close family friends. Melba was even her Sunday School Teacher when she was a teen. While their family was growing, Lana did day care in their home, having cared for 27 children through the years from birth to kindergarten. She enjoys sewing and doing craft projects.

Mylon and Lana have been fortunate enough to do some traveling since Mylon's retirement as well.



Meet Our Oldest Member...Beulah Pearl (Blodgett) Woster

Beulah was born in 1912 in Farifield, NE and was baptized in 1920 at the South Side Congregation in Independence, MO. She married Matt Woster in 1931 and they were married 71 years before he passed away in 2002. Beulah has four sons; one in Oregon, one in Colorado and two in Omaha. She enjoys baking and makes great peanut brittle and baked beans. She rarely misses church and has been known to keep the priesthood on their toes with some of the questions she asks.

