

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

“... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them.”
Message 53:3

In This Issue

Message 115	5
Articles	6
The Record of the Nephites: U.S. Geography	6
Finding the Plates	11
Young Adults	11
- Karen Wilkin	
Junior	14
Meaning of the Church Seal	14
- Thresa Ray	
Primary	15
A Creative Creation Snack	15
In the Beginning	15
- Ruby Draves	

Happy New Year

**“Let all take new
courage, new faith.
Let the Spirit lift you.
Fear not to lift your
hands to the Lord.”**

Message 89:14



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message
THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the universe; Ruler and Judge of all; unchangeable and without respect of persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness, and Commander.
3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the Law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; viz.: Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination; (b) Blessing of Children: (c) Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17); (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and millennial reign of Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.: The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.
8. We believe the fruits of the Spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.
9. We believe that in the Bible is contained the Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is the added witness for Christ; and these contain the "fullness of the gospel."
10. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of Church extension when acting in harmony with the Law of God.
12. We believe that man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the Missionary Supervision and the General Watchcare of all the Churches.
14. The primary function of the General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all the world.
15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.
16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein the Divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.
17. We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.
18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of the Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when chosen or appointed by the Church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but good trusting in God and the people, is applicable.
19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the supervision and direction of general conferences of the Church. The temporal affairs of the Local Churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.
20. We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.
22. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.
23. We believe a Temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue, and people, that the promise of God to Israel may be fulfilled.
24. We believe that New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 13:4-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."
25. We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics, and should not affiliate with any society which administer oaths or covenants in conflict with the Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

THE GREATER LIGHT

(The Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe)
BUSINESS OFFICE: 4224 S. Hocker Dr, Bldg. 11-Ste. 104, Indep. MO. 64055
GENERAL MAIL BOX: P.O. Box 199, Independence, MO 64050
Phone: 816-836-1913

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION
The Church Of Christ With the Elijah Message
The Assured Way Of The Lord , Inc.

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR/BUSINESS MANAGER

Reece Johnson, 39602 E. Boswell Rd. Lone Jack, MO. 64070
Send all materials for Publication and Subscription to the
Editor/Business Manager

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Thompson, 507 N. Chestnut St., Cameron, MO 64429

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Joy Ellen Draves, 16400 E Cogan Dr., Independence, MO 64055

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Thresa Ray, 1231 S. Spring St., Independence, MO 64055

YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT

Karen Wilkin, 1205 A Westwood Dr., Branson, MO 65616
Brenda Humpert, P. O. Box 433, Grandview, MO 64030

*All articles and letters must be submitted by the 5th of
the month preceding publication.*

HEADQUARTERS' OFFICES

P.O. Box 199, Independence, Mo, 64050

Or

4224 South Hocker Dr, Bldg. 11-Suite 104, Independence, MO. 64055

CHURCH HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Apostle Jairus Yates & Apostle Reece Johnson

SEND ALL TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE BISHOPS' OFFICE
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CHURCH GENERAL RECORDER'S OFFICE

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Jairus Yates, 35994 County Road 150, Preston, MO 65732
Phone: 417-722-9733

SECRETARY OF THE QUORUM OF TWELVE

Reece Johnson, 39602 E. Boswell Rd. Lone Jack, MO. 64070

WEBSITES

http://www.johnthebaptist.info
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THE GREATER LIGHT is posted on the website bimonthly by *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, INC.* 4224 South Hocker Dr, Bldg. 11-Suite 104, Independence, MO 64055.

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Message 53:3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53:10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

THE GENERAL MISSIONARIES

Every Elder's Duty is Missionary where opportunity permits.

APOSTLES

Ashley Beckham, McKinney, TX. ashley@johnthebaptist.info
Reece Johnson, Lone Jack, MO. reece@johnthebaptist.info
Richard Johnson, Lamoni, IA. richard@johnthebaptist.info
Meshak Kebasi, Kenya, Africa meshak@johnthebaptist.info
Adam Stokes Beverley, NJ. adam@johnthebaptist.info
Donald Thompson, Cameron, MO. donald@johnthebaptist.info
Jairus Cree Yates, Preston, MO. jairus@johnthebaptist.info

BISHOPS

Ethan Johnson Lee's Summit, MO ethan@johnthebaptist.info
Alexander Simiyu Wafula Kenya, Africa alex@johnthebaptist.info

**THE QUORUM OF TWELVE
TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Ashley Beckham- Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Mexico. (254-717-4836)
Reece Johnson- Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Eastern Canada (816-366-2038)
Richard Johnson- Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, California, New York, Central Canada, and Western Canada. (641-784-3451)
Adam Stokes- Virginia, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, Vermont, Massachusetts. (443-487-3374)
Donald Thompson- Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Hawaii. (816-804-4556)
Jairus Cree Yates- Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Bahamas. (417-722-9733)

HANDMAIDENS OF THE LORD

4224 South Hocker Dr, Building 11-Suite 104
Independence, MO 64055
Chairlady: Tammy Thompson 816-284-9123
Vice Chairlady: Krystal Oglone 816-209-2239

It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of this Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John

The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17: 11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority of the Son of God*, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgement* has come. Awake those that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

One-Hundred Fifteenth Message

The Messenger, John the Baptist, came into my home in Independence, Missouri, March 8, 1993, at 2:30 a.m.

Being not too well from a cold, I was in my front room reading 'The Word of the Lord.' I felt the Spirit of God very strong. I had a light on to see while reading. Suddenly it became very light, the entire house lit up with the light of the resurrection.

I had looked out to see what the weather was like and had left the door unlocked. The Messenger, John the Baptist, walked in. I arose to greet him. He took my right hand as we exchanged a few words in greeting. He said "Peace to you," and I said "likewise, God bless." He sat near as I took my table to write.

I hope that all who read these words will know the Spirit of the Lord and seek him to follow the truth. Following is the Message.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Write the message I will give you. I come from the Lord's presence. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, I speak His Words, His Will. I bring peace for your life and all who will hear me, through the Message I bring to you.

2. Let Norman D. Lyles and Larry Gosier Williams cover the work in foreign areas, and know the Lord works with them and those they labor among. Let Eddie Lee help in the Work in Africa.

3. Let Leonard H. Draves know the work the Lord directs his work to be in the office. There is much that can be accomplished— as has been directed in the past—

keeping the recording and files of members. Others will help as the work calls for and progresses.

4. Behold! There are many almost persuaded to come into this work knowing the Lord has spoken and speaks the Assured Way. Deliverance will only come to those that believe, enter this truth, and endure to the end. Eternity with God will have place for all such— this is God's planning.

5. When mankind awakens to the program and Plan of God adjusting their lives to the way of life; letting the Holy Spirit ring in their lives, and walk the way of righteousness; then salvation will bring them deliverance. Behold the glory of God in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer; resurrected to break the bands of death. My Message is one of Hope in the eternity with God; a Message of Conviction, a Message of Deliverance. Will mankind hear it and follow through?

6. See those that have lost the way, the Spirit of the Lord has been pressed out of their lives. They become empty vessels. Their efforts faded away and come to a sad end.

7. Hold the peace. Let not the contentions of the world destroy hope. The righteous shall be preserved. The Lord will stand His in Holy places until the indignation passes over.

8. See those that have set up their own way to believing in what I speak; their actions deny the authority I bring. They seek prominence and their works will all be destroyed.

9. When cares and burdens come up— take them to the Lord in prayer, in wisdom, and deep concern. He will answer to your blessing. You will see His power move.

10. Praise the Lord, let the hands of faith carry on. The Lord's Zion must come forth.

11. See those that rejoice because of my coming. I come not to another. I come to

you. This is your work to take the Message and give it to the Church, to the brethren and the world. Many will accept it and the salvation they must come to.

12. the powers of evil will seek to destroy. Some you feel after would harm the Work if it did not first destroy them. Let doubts and fears be removed. Many will join in this Work and the success of the righteous will be great in the Lord's sight.

13. Study deeply the Messages I bring. Illuminate your minds with this power of deliverance— victory in the Lord.

14. Those inquiring of this Work, teach them the Way of Life, and as they come this Way, they will bring others to the truth, they shall be in this ministry. This is the Lord's anointing and appointed way of Peace. Finding the truth in the "Bible," "The Record of the Nephites," and the book, "The Word of the Lord," the words I bring and will yet bring. Worship and find the gifts.

15. Repentance and faith is the beginning, the baptisms, the hands must be laid upon all that the Spirit might come to those that prepare for it. Establish the words I bring in your lives. I will come again as the need might be.

16. It is through and in the atoning blood of Christ that mankind is saved.

17. There are many that have long represented Christ. Take to them the words I bring. Lead them into this Way with all its gifts and blessings, representing Christ and His Church. This Holy priesthood is the pure love of Christ.

18. Remember you are not alone, for far more than ten-thousand times ten thousands are waiting at the gate to enter and be a part of the Kingdom and Zion of God. The out-cast shall know where they belong and be delivered.

19. Continue to pay your oblations to the Lord and endure. Peace I leave with you and will come again. Amen."

Articles

The Record of The Nephites: U.S. Geography

Brother Leonard Draves received a testimony of *God's Spirit of The Truthfulness of the land spoken of in The Record Of The Nephites was the same land as this The United States of America*. Below is the testimony he received and gave at the 2004 General Assembly in preparation for the Nephite study.

Dear Ones, in the early Church, it was a known belief that *The Record Of The Nephites land was indeed that of The Northeast portion of The United States, but through the years it was changed and taught that it was Central America*.

I had studied published works of the geography of *The Record Of The Nephites* and found them all coming up short in proving that *The Record* came from Central America. I, and my wife, even searched, studied and received permission to revised L.E. Hill's (Scholar of R.L.D.S. writings) finding in a booklet for *The Church*, yet remained unconvinced of its correctness.

When I was given this information concerning the geographic area of *The Record in Northeast United States (Great Lakes Region)* from Brother Mervyn Johnson, our Church Historian, I was Blessed greatly by *The Spirit of God* and knew without a doubt that this was indeed the area of *The Record Of The Nephites*. It was like a great burden lifted from me and a window of knowledge opened up for me in my understanding of *The Record*. Therefore I wanted the people of *God's Church* to know also *The Truthfulness of The Great Lakes Region* and *The Record Of The Nephites*.

Question: 'Why would the people of Central America come all the way to the Great Lake Region to bury The Record Plates when they lived in Central America?' It never made sense to me. So Brother Mervyn Johnson and I would like to show you all this day a tape produced by The Mormon Church concerning artifacts of the people of 'The Record Of Nephites' in the land around The Great Lakes in Northeast United States. We do this because tomorrow morning in our study class, we will show you another tape concerning the geographic location of 'The Record Of The Nephites,' being here in The United States.

When we use The Scriptures to search for the locations where the people of The Record Of The Nephites lived, the answer is very different than the one 'Learned Men' have given us for the past 150+ years. (2 Nephi 9:28)

Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery and Brigham Young, all knew The Hill Cumorah in New York, was and is the one and only Cumorah of The Record Of The Nephites. There are over 14 landmarks described in The Record Of The Nephites near and to the west of The Hill Cumorah!

There are many Scriptures that point to The United States Of America as the land Jared and Lehi were led to by The Hand of The Lord.

The question has been raised, 'How could the people of Nephi live within a few miles of Zarahemla and not know who was living in that city?' The Record Of The Nephites is a record of only two groups of people, those who knew God (The Nephites) and those who knew not God (The Lamanites). The people of Zarahemla knew not God, they were therefore Lamanites. Mosiah was led by The Lord to Zarahemla. He taught them about God and they became Nephites and part of The Record.

Moroni, in The Record Of The Nephites, suggests the people of Jared lived

on this land, and that The Nephites also lived on this very same land.

Ether 13:2-3, Ether spoke of The New Jerusalem, that shall come down out of Heaven. And that it would be on 'this land'. Most of the time when The Record Of The Nephites mentions 'this land', it is referring to the land that is now named, The United States of America, and that land alone!

Ether 2:7-12, again Moroni repeats The Decree of God that is on 'this land', and reminds us that we living on 'this land' are also under that Promise. 1 Nephi 13:13-24, is like reading 'the founding' of the U.S.A.

2 Nephi 10:10-20, again The Lord tells of 'This Land' and only The United States Of America will fit. The word Isles, as described in The Bible Dictionary, suggests any land that is washed by a sea is an Isle.

3 Nephi 21:4, talks of Christ telling The Nephites what will happen on 'This Land' and these things (The Gospel) came forth from the one and only Hill Cumorah!

Because they can find no passages in The Scriptures that match the area of Central America, many say the whole land was changed at the death of Christ. However, from the time of the people of Jared, to Mormon, The Record of The Nephites describes several locations as being peopled by both The Jaredites and The Nephites. As you read (Ether 10:20) and look at a map of The Great Lakes, it is easy to see the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario (Sea East-Ripliancum), The Niagara River (River Sidon), Lake Erie (sea West) divide the land. While in Central America the land divides the Gulf of Mexico, and The Pacific Ocean.

2 Nephi 9:29, "But to be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsels of God."

Ether 13:2-10, places the people of Jared near where The New Jerusalem is to be. We know that 'this land' is the choice land of all the rest. It is the place that The Lord

plans to build His Temple and given the spot of land to be on.

The Northeast part of ‘this land’ is where *The Gospel came forth, The Record Of The Nephites, The Priesthood of God, and the keys of all the dispensation of the earth, were given not far from The Hill Cumorah. This is the same area the people of *The Record Of The Nephites* lived in!*

Every landmark mentioned in *The Record Of The Nephites* can be found there: the four seas (*Helaman 3:3-4,8*) and the land of many waters (*Mosiah 8:8, Mormon 6:4*).

Our prayers are that you will study this out and ask God to give you ‘Light’.

The Promise Land in the United States

We already know that *The Record of The Nephites* is another testament of Jesus Christ. It is the record of a people that were separated from those spoken of in the *Holy Bible*. *The Record of the Nephites* tells us that Lehi was commanded to leave Jerusalem and go into the wilderness. Had he and his family merely left Jerusalem and continued to reside in the area, what purpose would there be to have a second record of God’s people. Lehi and his descendants would still be interacting with and subject to all that affected Jerusalem and thus, most likely would have been included in the *Holy Bible*, negating the need for a second record. Eventually, the Lord commanded Nephi to build a ship and He would take them to the Land of Promise. The only purpose of a ship is to leave the land, and leave the land (or Continent) they did. But where is the Land of Promise? Where did the events of *The Record of The Nephites* take place?

How do we know the events of *The Record of The Nephites* occurred in the Americas?

Once Nephi built the ship to take Lehi’s family to the Promise Land, God directed their way through the Liahona. We know that they set sail from the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula but the question is: Where did they land— where did they end up? The answer lies in the purpose of the journey. God wanted Lehi to leave the land of Jerusalem because the people of that land had turned from God and had become wicked. He wanted Lehi to take his family to a **NEW** place where they could start anew, start fresh. If we were to look at the world map, what is the only land that would have been considered “NEW,” completely uninhabited by people? The answer: The Americas, which centuries later would become to be known as “The New World.”

Where in the Americas did these events occur?

Ether 13:2 says, “...that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord...”

Ether 13: 6 continues, “And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph...”

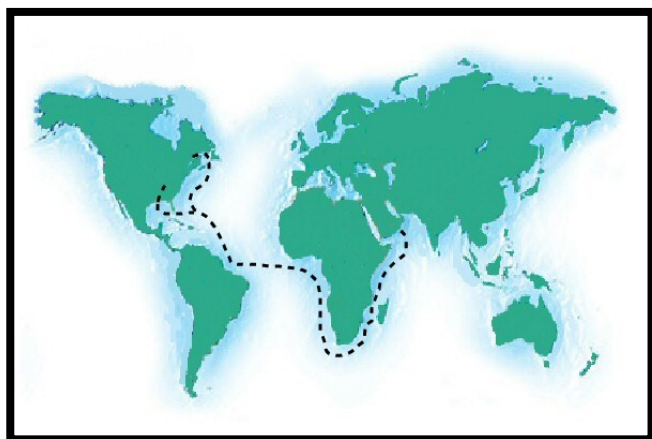
The Record of the Nephites is considered to be the history of Stick of Joseph. Lehi’s family and subsequently the Nephites were responsible for writing most of *The Record of the Nephites*. Plus Lehi was commanded to leave Jerusalem to start anew, it only makes sense that they would build up another Jerusalem— a New Jerusalem— wherever they eventually settled. Wherever that may be it is in “THIS LAND.”

1 Nephi 13:13-20 records the founding of a Gentile nation whose inhabitants (13) “...went forth out of captivity, upon the water” to the land of promise where they (15) “...did prosper, and obtain the land of their inheritance; andthey were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful...”

1 Nephi also noted in verse 17 that “...their mother Gentiles gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them;” and (19) “...they were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all nations.”

Finally 3 Nephi 21:4 says “...that they should be established in **this land**, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father...”

Where in the Americas is there a predominately white people who took to the seas fleeing persecution in their mother country, then fought their mother county to gain their independence in order to become a prosperous Christian nation under the banner of “The Land of the Free?” The United States of America.



Where in the United States did these events occur?

Ether 10:20 says “... they built a great city by a narrow neck of land, by the place where the sea divides the land.”

Helaman 3:4 & 8 speaks of a land that has “large bodies of water and many rivers.” This land expands (8) “...from the sea

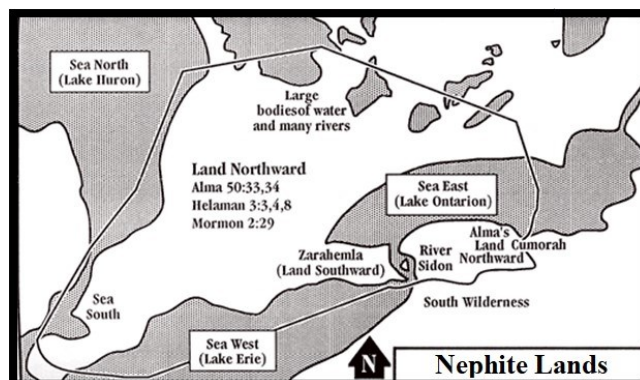
south to the sea north, from the sea west to the sea east.”

Mormon 2:29 reveals that the Nephites had “...the land northward; yea, even to the narrow passage which led unto the land southward...”

This is confirmed in Alma 22:32, “...the land of Nephi, and the land of Zarahemla, was nearly surrounded by water; there being a small neck of land between the land northward and the land southward.”

Finally in Alma 22:29, we are told that in that narrow passage of land there is a river named “Sidon, from the east to the west.”

The only place in the United States where there are bodies of water large enough to be considered “seas,” between two of which is a “narrow neck of land” that contains a river connecting “the east to the west” is located in the Great Lake region which spans both Canada and the United States.



As we study these maps and those subsequently included, it is worth noting that although *The Record of the Nephite* lands may spill into Canada, most can be found in the United States.

Is there anything to confirm that the Great Lake Region corresponds with The Record of the Nephites?

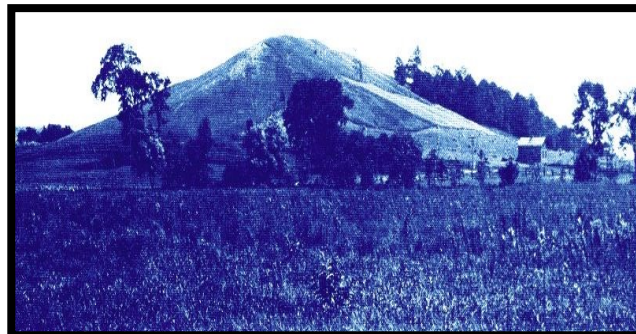
Mormon 6:6-7 reveals “...when we had gathered in all our people in one to the land of Cumorah, behold I, Mormon... having been commanded of the Lord that I should not suffer that the records...which were sacred, to fall in into the hands of the Lamanites, (for the Lamanites would destroy them,)... hid up in hill Cumorah, all the records which had been entrusted to me by the hand of the Lord... (7) And it came to pass that my people... did now behold the armies of the Lamanites marching towards them; and with that awful fear of death which fills the breasts of all the wicked, did they await to receive them.”

In 1823, the angel Nephi came to Joseph Smith and told him that there was a precious record written upon gold plates hidden in a hillside. The next morning, Joseph went to the Hill Cumorah and using a stick, he moved a large rock and found a stone box containing the gold plates. The Hill Cumorah is located in New York not far from Lake Ontario which is believed to be the Sea East.

There are two points to be made here. The first being that Mormon and his people were faced with the invading Lamanite army that vastly outnumbered them and death was almost a certainty. Mormon had to hide the plates quickly to prevent them from falling into the enemies hand and being destroyed. If the events of The Record of the Nephites occurred in Central America, as is widely believed, does it make sense for Mormon to travel 3,200 miles to hide the plates in Hill Cumorah, increasing the chance the plates would fall in the hands of the Lamanites at some point along that treacherous journey?

That brings me to the second point. The plates were found by Joseph Smith in New

York inside a hill named Cumorah, a name that was somehow maintained for hundreds of years. The logical conclusion is that the events in *The Record of Nephites* occurred in the same area in which they were found.



Hill Cumorah near Manchester, New York

Furthermore, there are several cities in this area that share similarities both in spelling and in pronunciation with several cities mention in *The Record of The Nephites*. Below are a few of them:

<u>Modern Day</u>	<u>Record of The Nephites</u>
Agathe, Saint	Ogath
Alma	Alma, Valley of
Angola	Angola
Antrim	Antum
Antioch	Anti-Anti
Boaz	Boaz
Conner	Comner
Ephrem, Saint	Ephraim, Hill
Hellam	Helam
Jacobsburg	Jacobugath
Jerusalem	Jerusalem
Jordan	Jordan
Kishkiminetas	Kishkumen
Lehigh	Lehi
Mantua	Manti
Monroe	Moroni
Minoa	Minon
Moraviantown	Morianton
Morin	Moron
Noah Lakes	Noah, Land of
Oneida	Onidah
Oneida Castle	Onidah, Hill
Orner	Omner
Rama	Ramah
Ripple Lake	Riplianccum, Waters of
Sodom	Sidom
Shiloh	Shilom
Tecumseh/Teneecum	Teancum



rived there. Convenient to the village of Manchester, Ontario County, New York, stands a hill of considerable size, and the most elevated of any in the neighborhood. On the west side of this hill, not far from the top, under a stone of considerable size, lay the plates deposited in a stone box. This stone was thick and rounding in the middle on the upper side, and thinner towards the edges, so that the middle part of it was visible above the ground, but the edge all around was covered with earth. Having removed the earth and obtained a lever which I got fixed under the edge of the stone and with a little exertion raised up, I looked in and there indeed did I behold the plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the Breastplate, as stated by the messenger. The box in which they lay was formed by laying stones together in some kind of cement; in the bottom of the box were laid two stones crossways of the box, and on these stones lay the plated and the other things with them.

I made an attempt to take them out, but was forbidden by the messenger and was again informed that the time for bringing them forth had not yet arrived, neither would they until four years from that time; but he told me that I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, and that he would be there to meet with me, and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for the obtaining of the plates.

Although there is no way for certain to know where *The Record of Nephtie* lands are located, the evidence is very compelling. It may not be for us to know, at least at this time. After all, the Lord said that "...Much will yet be revealed.." (Message 52:13) not to mention "...The Mysteries of God will no longer be hid if you will have great faith and endure." (Message 74:12)

Finding the Plates

The following description was given by Joseph Smith revealing what he found in 1823:

I left the field and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were deposited; and owing to the distinction of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant that I ar-

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

I came across an essay Alexysss had written a couple of years ago. As I reread it, I felt it would be a good testimony to share with you at this time. I've been thinking a lot about how we can do good for others

and express the Love of Christ by acts of kindness. God loves it when we do good for others. He spent His life doing that, didn't He? Here is what she wrote. Her title was:

A Good Deed Goes a Long Way.

“The soft crocheted yarn slides across my hand as the stranger looks me in the eyes. It's round with red on the bottom and around the sides with white on the top. It was handmade with love and kindness and I didn't know what to say. This lady was giving me something that she had in her purse. Only if I could have known what other nick knacks and special treasures could have been in there but I was young and I got happy even with this small gift. The gift was small, it wasn't fragile but it was enough to make me not want to use it because it was precious to me. She had asked me that day if she could get my help, so I helped her and that is where it all started.

It was the weekend, me and my family went to Walmart to grab some things we needed. I went off on my own like I usually did but it was different this time. I was in the tea isle for some reason and this is where I met this lady. She was a stranger to me and I can't remember her face, but I can remember our interaction together. The lady was short and she said she had back problems and she asked for my help and, of course, I was glad to help her. She asked me to grab her some tea off of the bottom shelf for her since she couldn't bend down very easily to get it. Once I got it for her, she thanked me and said for me to wait a second. I waited and she pulled out of her purse this small round handmade cup coaster. I, of course said that it wasn't necessary to give that to me, but she was persistent on me having it. She truly appreciated my help even though it was something so small. It

has such a great meaning to me.

I was so excited, I went to find Mom and Nana. When I found them I showed them the little handmade cup coaster the lady gave me and I wanted them to meet her. By the time we got back there, she wasn't there. I couldn't find her anywhere, but I had this little cup coaster of her's that was now mine. The reason this little gift means so much to me is it shows the gratefulness of the lady and it shows people that happiness doesn't have to come from big gifts, money or even an animal, but happiness can come from the small things like a handmade cup coaster. The cup coaster to this day is safely stored away for keeping in my room so that nothing can harm it. The cup coaster is so special to me I don't want to use it as a cup coaster. I just want to keep it safe and clean as it is so precious to me.

That day, I not only got the gift of a cup coaster but I got the gift of the woman's kindness and love with it. She wanted to express back to me the kindness I showed to her in being so willing to help her. This cup coaster saw the kindness and love of two people. It also saw that human deeds create a world of difference, and it shows your character through and through. Even though a cup coaster can't remember or see things happen, it's still the fact that it represents the kindness that brings the most joy.”

While this is such a simple story it still carries a beautiful testimony for not only Alexyss but also for that sweet lady. God works in mysterious ways and He had a plan that day for both of these ladies to be blessed. Alexyss will remember this for the rest of her life.

Kindness is something anyone can give without losing anything themselves. It is not what you do but who you are. Remember the story of the Good Samaritan? He went over and beyond showing an act of

kindness to a fellow human being (after several people passed this man by) and took him to get him taken care of and even paid for his care.

Luke 10:25-37, "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

26. He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27. And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?"

30. And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34. And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?"

37. And he said, He that shewed mercy

on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise."

Note in verse 37, Jesus answered and said, "...He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go and do thou likewise." In other words, Jesus was saying, do the same to others as the good samaritan did for the man in need. It is an example that Jesus used to encourage us to follow in those footsteps. If you don't know what to do for others, pray that God would open opportunities for you to be able to be a blessing to others. It could be showing an act of kindness by helping someone at school that is really in need of encouragement or even just a smile, saying a simple "hello" or opening a door for someone who has their hands full. Acts of kindness come in all shapes and sizes, from simple little things like Alexyss did for the sweet lil' lady at the store, or something big like helping a fellow student change a tire or share your lunch with someone in need. Everything you do for someone else out of kindness- you do it unto Jesus, you are touching the hem of His garment. These acts of kindness are helping you to store up treasures in Heaven, for everything you do for others is noticed by God.

Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.

32. *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

May the Lord bless you in this New Year as you seek to grow more in Him and become the person God would have you to be. Maybe one of your goals this new year could be doing more good things for others and see where it takes you.

God Bless,
Karen Wilkin

Junior

Thresa Ray

The Meaning of Our Seal



“And there appeared a great wonder in heave; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:”- Revelation 12:1.

There can be no misunderstanding of the significance of this symbolic woman. It is the Church of Christ as the following verses will show.

2 Corinthians 11:2, “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

Ephesians 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

Revelation 7:10, “And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”

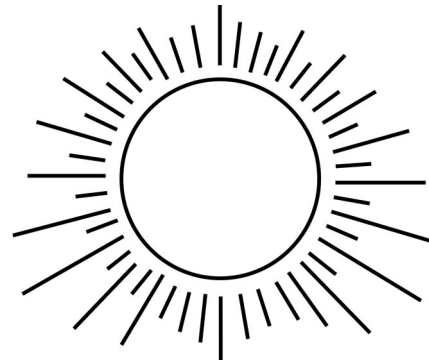
John 3:29, “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is filled.”

Message 54:6, “This work shall contin-

ue on for love is the message I bring. The Church of Christ shall never again be destroyed. The evil shall not prevail against her for she shall be adorned with a crown of twelve bright stars and garments of righteousness.”



The woman stand for The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message.



The sun stand for the greater light of Heaven– the gospel of Jesus Christ.



The moon under her feet stands for the lesser lights of religion; such as the Mosaic law which is no longer the ruling law.



The crown of twelve stars stand for the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

Message 2:7, “Then the Messenger said, ‘Look!’ and I looked up and saw the ground had also raised and I could see the woman again but this time in a better dress. She looked up with a smile, her clothes were white, her hat was very fine and becoming in the shape of a crown with twelve bright stars. Her children were coming to her from every clime, even from the valley. The mist had raised. They were slowly building on the temple. To the west, the east, north and the south, in the sky stood the figures in large letters ‘1929.’”

Primary

Ruby Draves

A Creative Creation Snack

Ingredients

1. Vanilla Pudding
2. Chocolate Chips
3. Cool Whip
4. Oreos
5. Sprinkles
6. Peanut Butter Chips
7. Gummy Fish/Birds
8. Animal Crackers
9. Sour Patch Kids
10. Bowl/Spoon

Instructions

1. You can either make this snack afterwards or while reading the Creation story.

2. **Day 1- Day and Night.** Begin with an empty bowl. For Day, add vanilla pudding. For Night, add chocolate chips.

3. **Day 2- Sky.** For the sky, add cool whip.

4. **Day 3- Earth/Sea/Plants.** For this day, crushed Oreo cookies that would resemble earth or sea.

5. **Day 4- Sun/Moon.** You can add star sprinkles, peanut butter chips, or other goodies that look like sun/moon or stars.

6. **Day 5- Fish/Birds.** Add gummy fish or birds.

7. **Day 6- Animals/Man and Woman.** Add animal crackers and sour patch kids.

8. **Day 7- Rest.** Explain that God rested and said, "It is very good." Now we can rest and enjoy eating our snack.

In the Beginning

Genesis 1-2:3

Have you ever looked around and wondered how everything you see and hear was made? Why do we have night and day? Who thought of oceans, rivers, streams, and lakes? How did mountains, volcanoes, canyons, deserts, forests and plains get where they are? And where did all the animals come from? There are so many cool things in this world that SOMEONE has to be responsible for it. There is no way that these things just happened without some help. And whoever did all of this, has to be really special, powerful and smart to know how to make everything and figure out how it all everything works together in order for it to survive.

Well, the Holy Bible tells us exactly how the world was made. In fact, the very first sentence tells us WHO is responsible for everything we see. Any guesses who? Yep! Genesis 1:1 says “In the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth.”

God spoke and our universe was made. How awesome is that! But there was one problem— nothing was in it but water. The Bible tells us that the earth had no shape

and was really dark. So God had a lot of work ahead of him to make everything we see and know about today. It took him six whole days to do it!

On the first day of creation, God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. He called the light Day and the darkness Night. *Genesis 1:3-5.*

On the second day, God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” The firmament is another name for the sky and where do you find water in the sky? In the clouds, that is how we get rain. So on the second day, God made the sky and the clouds dividing the water in the clouds from those below. *Genesis 1:6-8.*

On the third day, God made land and sea. He said, “Let the waters under the earth be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear...” God called the land, ‘earth’ and the waters, ‘seas.’ Now that He had land, something needed to be done with it. It was bare and dull—nothing was on it. So He said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit...” *Genesis 1:9-13.*

On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon, and stars. He said, “Let there be lights... to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and seasons, and for days and years.” He then made two great lights: the bigger one, the sun, was to be seen during the day; the smaller one, the moon, was to be seen at night. He also made the stars to keep the moon company. These two great lights help us track the days and the seasons. One day is one rotation of the earth, it takes 365 days (one year) for the earth to travel around the sun, and depending on how the earth is tilted towards the sun depends on which season we are in. *Genesis 1:14-19.*

Then, on the fifth day, God made the animals in the sea and the birds in the air. The Bible says He blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas and let fowl (birds) multiply in the earth.” *Genesis 1:20-23.*

On the sixth day God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth...” And so all the animals were made, whether they walked or crawled on the ground. *Genesis 1:24-25.*

But there was still one thing missing? Who was going to take care of the earth and everything in it?

So God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness and let them have dominion (rule) over the fish of the sea, over the fowls of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” The Bible tells us, “And God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them.” Once God was done, He looked over all of the earth and decided that everything He made was good. *Genesis 1:26-31*

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And **on the seventh day** God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which God created and made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” *Genesis 2:1-3.*

God worked six days and on the seventh day he rested. But the most important thing to remember is that He blessed the seventh day and made it holy. That is why we attend church every Sunday. It is a day of rest and a day to remember all the wonderful things God does for us... The first being that He made this world and entrusted it to us.