

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 90	61
2026 General Assembly	63
<u>Sunday, June 22, 2025</u>	63
2:00 p.m. Preaching Service:	63
Holiness- <i>Ashley Beckham</i>	
4:00 p.m. Sacrament & Baptism	65
7:00 p.m. Preaching Service:	65
The Way of Righteousness	
- <i>Richard Johnson</i>	
Handmaiden's Study	70
The Tongue- <i>Tammy Thompson</i>	70
Youth Classes	73
Junior	73
God Has a Plan & Purpose For	
Your Life- <i>Thresa Ray</i>	
Primary	76
Christ in America- <i>Thresa Ray</i>	
Obituary	80
Nawassa Greenwell 1961-2026	



2026 General Assembly

The 2026 General Assembly News Part 1

“...Meet in the assembly and cry mightily unto the Lord, for many shall come to learn truth...”

-Message 39:23

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

The 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 go 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.

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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."

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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***.

**THE BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS
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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

NINETIETH MESSAGE

I was awakened at 2:15 a.m., July 10, 1970 and heard the front door latch click—thus I knew the door was opening. I hear the screen door close. I heard the main door close. I wondered who may be entering at this hour. It is not unusual for any of the family to be coming late because of the work hours. So I was not frightened, but in seconds I felt the great power of God and recognized the light. Because of being able to see the clock and all around me—the light of the resurrected one, the Messenger was present.

I heard his footsteps crossing the front room and coming down the hall to my bedroom. I watched for him to appear. In radiant light there he approached the open door facing me with his right hand held up near level with his chin, slightly reaching out, hand open, palm facing me tilted directly at me.

By this I know I have done well to defend his coming to me. I felt a great assurance it was well with my soul. I spoke the words, “from my precious Jesus.” All this happened in less time than it takes to tell it. Glory to my Jesus—Don’t muzzle the ox that treadeth out the grain.

With a stern, loud, yet pleasant voice he said, “Behold!” Immediately, I was carried away in a vision, though I knew the room ceiling was above me it was as though it were not there. I looked beyond and far, far in the heavens, I saw a great white throne and on it sat our Lord the Christ Jesus.

All around this throne were multitudes of people, glittering in brightness as if they were clothed in bright white raiment, their voices were ringing out—Holy, Holy, Holy is our Lord, Hosanna to his name! I saw much and heard many praises and songs of joy; a sound of music and singing, and felt a peace that permeated my whole being.

I thought, all this, concourses of angels or saints that once were on the earth. Then I appeared to be real close to them in vision, and wondered if they knew I was looking in upon them. I thought I knew men, like Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and many, many others. All the righteous that was before the Christ came through the

resurrection. Those that before had lived in the Lord’s will, their sojourn here on earth and were counted righteous for their faith and good works. Redemption, deliverance and salvation was theirs to have to eternity with God.

Again I proclaimed, “Precious Jesus,” I heard my voice, and the vision closed. Many more things I saw and heard which I have not written here.

I know my Lord lives and on the earth again shall stand with many saints with Him. I want to be worthy. I understood that all righteous before Christ’s resurrection were resurrected at that same time.

I want all who read these words, the angel Message to prepare for that eternal way and day with our God. Deliverance has come.

I do not know how long the vision lasted but it must have been some time compared to the things I saw and heard. A great serene feeling of joyous ecstasy was all over me. I thank God for this wonderful way of life.

The Messenger was still standing there just inside my bedroom door. His hands pleasingly at his sides he stepped closer to me and began to speak on.

-W.A. Draves

1. “Arise and write the words I will give you. Do with these as you have done with the others- publish them in the book, ‘The Word of the Lord,’ and send to the ends of the earth.

2. Arrange so you may do more in this work, as the way opens. The Lord will direct and it will be well with you and others that hasten to follow.

3. I come to you with a Message from the presence of the Lord. To the believing and faithful peace and joy, they delight in my coming.

4. Press on, greater trials await the nations, the people and the Church. Let nothing destroy your faith and good works. Deliverance has come—reach out. The way is prepared for greater outpouring of the Spirit and mighty things will be revealed, but only to the humble.

5. The Lord will water the seed you have sown. Many more shall yet come. Much more shall yet come to pass of miracles and healings and a better way in the lives of many.

6. Fret not over what men may say of you. You have those to stand by you and this work. Respect ye one another and lift each other by being faithful to this work of redemption, the plan of God.

7. Every tree, the churches, the Lord has not planted shall be rooted up. There are many false claims and proclaims that is of the evil one to get gain and make merchandise of the word of God. When man is not humble and his soul is not calm, know ye this, it is not of the Lord.

8. Some you think to be your friends is laboring for satan, seeking to destroy your good and this work.

9. Those that will work together, stay together in faith and good works.

10. Those that will not come to understanding of my teachings, what I have to say to all ministry- unless they hear and follow through, their works will not stand and in the end they will not be there.

11. Behold, it was said by the Christ, that I come not eating nor drinking and men say I have a devil- but it is they wherein is the devil. Fear them not, be calm, for I come, and I speak the truth.

12. In ancient times, it has been told of my coming in this day and time: the end time, the closing time, the midnight cry, the time of purifying the ministry, leading all Christendom into one fold, wherein is one shepherd, the Christ Jesus who shall rule all nations and peace shall be from one end to the other of this world.

13. There are those that stumble over the words of truth and claim to love the Lord Jesus. However, if they knew Him, they would be meek and lowly of heart- full of peace. Let them be delivered from the adversary and learn the full truth, more perfectly, the fullness of the Gospel of Christ.

There is no other way mankind can be saved. Hold to that I have given, build upon the instructions and directions I have given of the Lord. Shape your lives by the words I bring, for I come from the Lord's presence and my mission is one of love and deliverance. For the way is prepared that mankind may walk therein and be saved.

14. From another language and tongue the Lord has spoken to this people through the book,- The Record of the Nephites,- the language of the Nephites and Jaredites; which to hear in their language would appear as stammering lips- but what the Lord doeth He doeth well.

15. Yet there are those that imagine a vain thing, making evil thoughts against my words, and the Lord's plan.

16. All that are heady and high-minded seeking prominency, shall be brought low. Some will learn and yet know this work is true, though they fail.

17. When the rivers of the seas flow towards the heavens, then many that believe not, shall say, 'The Lord He is great, He doeth all things well. Surely, these things are true and He has spoken.' Some will believe, but woe to the slow to hear.

18. As it was in the days of Noah, the doubter, the disobedient, the sinner were all taken away in their unbelief.

19. Does not the Revelation say that I come with the everlasting gospel, to preach to them that dwell upon the earth? Who is man that claimeth to have more than this?

20. When men work in subtle manner he destroyeth himself. Seek to deliver and save all that will come this way.

21. Let all labor that can. Send others into the field of service.

22. Let the church stand firm that the residue of troubles will not harm you.

23. There will be many troubles and trials within and without the homes, the nations and the Church, until you will rejoice to stand together. Let peace rule your lives- watch what you say and do, and where you are.

24. Let the assembly of the people be in peace. Let the conferences of the apostles and bishops continue throughout the year and always to come closer to each other and the Lord's will.

25. Pray the Lord of the vineyard to send forth men of renown and faith to work in this way. Let the women help all they can- there is much to be done.

26. I leave peace with you and I shall come again, when the Lord directs. Amen."

2026 General Assembly

Sunday, June 28, 2026

2:00 p.m. Preaching Service

Ashley Beckham

Holiness

(Written from notes taken during service)

"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."- Isaiah 6.3.

God is Holy beyond any idea.

Isaiah 6.5, "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

Alma 42:22, "But there is a law given, and a punishment affixed, and repentance granted; which repentance, mercy claimeth; otherwise, justice claimeth the creature, and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the

punishment; if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God."

Message 28:5, "My Temple will be built by those who will prepare themselves in righteousness and in humility, for none shall be accepted by Me whose hearts are filled with unrighteousness. Holy, Holy is My house that shall be built, and only that which is holy shall enter therein."

Holiness belongs to God and flows from Him.

So what is required from us? EVERYTHING!

Leviticus 19:2, "Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy."

Message 9:2, "Fear not the word of men whose hearts are carnal and filled with selfishness, and who seek their own glory and not the glory of God. Let the people of the Lord take warning that they rid themselves of all these things, for the Lord wants a holy people, whose hearts are single, and who will love that they may also be loved of God."

Message 57:2, "The Lord your God wants a holy people, those that will humble themselves before Him. He knows the hearts of all and their desires. He knows your weakness and faith."

Message 9:4, "But remember, this work is sacred, the work that you shall do. Therefore, be humble in all that you do and say, for God looks upon the heart, and only the pure in heart are acceptable to Him. By your lives and by your teaching you must prepare a people who shall be worthy to meet Christ at His coming."

The call of Holiness is a life-long commitment. Moroni tells us that we must have a broken heart and a contrite spirit. With

this, we can only become holy through the atonement of Christ.

Moroni 6:2-4, “Neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the Church that they truly repented of all their sins.

3. And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him unto the end.

4. And after that they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of The Church of Christ, and their names were taken, that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith.”

Romans 7:17 & 25, “ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

Mosiah 5:2, “And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; and also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.”

Moroni 10:33, “And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins,

that ye become holy without spot.”

Message 20:8, “Let nothing disturb your minds; cast behind you the traditions of men. Let the hands be laid upon those that I have told you, that the light and power of God may come to them to the extent that they will humble themselves, that light may come to them. Let the elders also be set apart, but let none take part in this work until they have come in by the door and have been baptized for the remission of their sins, that they may be a pure people, and that God may use them in His work to His glory, and the carrying on of His work. Have no part with those that have rejected the Message I have brought and will bring to you, for the Lord will direct in all things that shall be done.”

Message 36:6, “I am he who shall minister unto ten thousand times ten thousand and they shall be tried and purged. For I sit as a refiner of gold, and as with fuller’s soap, purging the hearts of men and cleansing out the dross, the sins of men. For man must be made holy before he can come in the presence of God, or the glory of the Lamb, slain for the sins of the world, that mankind might believe on Him and be redeemed from that awful state.”

Hebrews 12:6, “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

Ephesians 5:25-26, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”

4 Nephi 1:2, “And it came to pass in the thirty and sixth year, the people were all converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there was no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly

one with another;"

Message 34:7, "Let more be sent in the fields and contend not among yourselves. Seek to be just in all things. Practice the law of love in your homes, for in your hearts My law shall be written," saith the Lord, "and My work shall be accomplished by pure hearts and clean hands. My house shall be built. The gospel preached in all the world. The glad tidings must go forth; and great shall be your joy in the end.'" "

Psalms 24:3-4, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4. He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

Message 80:13, "Establish peace and power will dwell with you. Sanctify the people in holiness and good works, obedient to the words I bring. Let the work of preaching and teaching continue everywhere and the Lord will be your strength and stay."

Message 37:5-6, " 'Ye that are called to edify My Bride,' saith your Lord, 'keep ye My sayings and the ways of righteousness in your hearts. Sin not, but be ye holy vessels, and lo, I will quicken your understanding. Keep the thoughts of kindness in a willing manner toward your fellowmen. Fall not in the hands of the adversary, that is a thorn unto My body. Hold high the banner of righteousness, and Zion's cause shall be the Millennium reign.

6 'Lo, I come quickly,' saith the Lamb of God, 'He that keepeth My sayings, in him will My love be perfected. Be ye cogitative and visions of divine and glorious light shall be about you. Think ye upon the ways and words of the creator of mankind that knoweth the hearts of all men.' "

Holy vessels is the identity that God

wants for us. And what is our reward?

" 'Lo, will My servants do My bidding,' saith God, 'or must I call others? Fail not in your calling; but lift up your voices and carry your burdens to Me the Lord your God, and I shall hear- and lo, I shall help you one and all. Be faithful, and I," saith your Lord, "will stand you in holy places when the great destructions shall come; and I will not take vengeance on those that know Me when I come, but shall number you among My jewels. Then great shall be your joy. Out of weakness many shall be made strong.' "- Message 33:8.

We shall be counted among His Jewels and stood in Holy Places. We are to be holy without spot. This is the gift from God for all those who believe, come and trust Him. So be Holy in God's Power.

4:00 p.m. Sacrament & Baptism Service

Sacrament service was held by Reece Johnson and Jairus Yates. Reece Johnson, Thresa Ray, and Tammy Thompson offered prayers.

Sister Jada Johnson was baptized by Jairus Yates, confirmed later that evening by Gary Ray and Jairus Yates.

7:00 p.m. Preaching Service Richard Johnson

The Way of Righteousness

The Record of the Nephites specifically identifies Christ as "the Fountain of All Righteousness" in Ether 12:28.

Message 51:7, "Fear not, the words I bring are from the Lord. I speak at His command. Greater things shall be revealed for in principle and in power by the Spirit of the Lord all righteousness shall be brought about."

"...I bring a Message of Life to the Church that a people may be prepared in righteousness. Will they heed it and continue to follow?" Message 55:5.

"...I have come to minister that comfort may come to all who will walk righteously in this way. All that I have brought and will bring comes from the Lord, your God." Message 64:3.

"But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream." Amos 5:24.

Note: Water acts as an effective symbol of God's Justice and righteousness. Holding forth the Way of all righteousness of the Word of Life with His Spirit and Truth planted in the heart of the believer to provide cleansing and nourishment stored up as if a well of living water through faith, hope, and charity springing up unto everlasting life which wells up as if a fountain of living waters and overflows to others.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14.

The imagery perfectly fits the prophets of old and now that prophet like unto Moses sent in due season offering spiritual nourishment and life. That prophet appointed by God as a ruler in His household offering them fruit meat whose seeds are the Word of the Lord in due season in the way of righteousness. (Matthew 24:44-45.)

"The mouth of a righteous man is a well

of life.." Proverbs 10: 11.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life..." Proverbs 11:30.

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life.." Proverbs 15:4.

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" Psalms 1:3.

"The righteous shall have victory over the oppressors. Let the ambassadors of the Lord go far and wide proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom—let more be up and doing ...for the good of the Church, the kingdom of God on earth. Let it grow, let it move forward." Message 98:14-15.

The words of the book "The Word of the Lord" are Spirit and Life, like a river of the Waters of Life. The Messages of Life "that evil may be done away and the time may come that satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men, but that they may be persuaded to do good continually, that they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness and be saved." Ether 8:26.

"Teach diligently the doctrine of the Gospel of the kingdom. Pray earnestly, willingly obey and His Spirit shall attend you, that you might be instructed more in the way of peace and in all things pertaining to your welfare and salvation." Message 41:4.

"The long planning and covenant of God shall have its fulfillment. His kingdom shall roll forth until it fills the whole earth, and all mankind shall obey His will. I speak light and life; will they hear it?" Message 99:5-6.

In John 3:5-11, Jesus teaches Nicodemus entry into the Kingdom of God requires a spiritual rebirth, being born of water and the Spirit using the image of our physical birth of flesh and blood to demonstrate the spiritual

reality of becoming a new creation (creature) in Christ through faith and obedience to God's will, found in His way of all righteousness.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8. The wind (Spirit that is unseen) bloweth with power where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:6-8.

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you...

10. ...the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Romans 8:8-11.

"...this must come to all that shall be permitted to dwell in the presence of Christ, for sin cannot receive the glory of God, nor the power of the Holy Spirit." Message 12:4.

The metaphor of "the Fountain of All Righteousness" represents the Love of God for us. "We love him because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19. Our Faith, hope, and charity that brings us unto Christ, and the gift of His righteousness identified as a fountain of life or "fountain of living waters," by an angel seen in 1 Nephi seen by his father and himself.

In Jeremiah 2:13, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them

out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

"O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:" Isaiah 48:18.

"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light." Psalm 36:9.

"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth." Psalm 119:142.

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130.

"I opened my mouth, and I panted: for I longed for thy commandments." Psalm 119:131.

Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6.

John 7:38 says; "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (Like a well or cistern where water is stored. When prompted by God's righteous Spirit then he can speak the Words of the Lord as if a fountain of Life).

Message 31:2, "Truly God has used you as an instrument in His hands—by the power of that righteous Spirit He spoke through you..."

According to the Record of the Nephites in 2 Nephi 1:26-27, it is the Power of the Holy Spirit that was in the man that caused him to speak the Words of eternal life which was in him and not his own words.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will shew you things to come." John 16:13.

An example found in Message 39:9-11,

“...For I send one mighty and strong and unto him have I given power to utter words — eternal words — and light is His covering, to set in order My house. From his bowels gushes forth truth, a fountain of truth to speak My words, for I have spoken. In Me is the light that shineth in darkness, and by My servant I give these words unto you. I send a great light, and few there be that perceive it because of the precepts and commandments of men.”

‘Perceive’ means to become aware, or notice something or someone by using sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.

10. “Verily I say unto thee, hear ye the whisperings of My Spirit; turn unto Me and do that which is just. Build ye upon My rock, and the things pertaining to righteousness. Obtain My word, and it shall make you free, and My Spirit shall give light unto all that will walk humbly before Me, and love, that they might also be loved of Me.

11. The greater light and power shall come as My people will prepare for it.”

“...I give the word in due season. I speak in the Spirit and power of God, of the Elias, the assured way, a fountain of truth. I am clothed with light for a covering. The words I speak are eternal words. I speak the words of Christ, the living God. His words shall judge you in the last day....

3. Let the Church and all men respect the resurrection, for with it there is hope for all mankind...” Message 84:2-3.

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2. (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the

Father, and was manifested unto us.)” 1 John 1:1-2.

“I am God, I change not. I am He that was called Jehovah. I am Jesus Christ. I am the Beginning and the End. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. I am the Lord. I am He that was manifested in the flesh, in the flesh-death and resurrection. I am He that is risen. I am the Lord God.

18. All they that hear Me and learn of Me, hearing My decrees and obey shall have right to eternity with Me, your Lord God Christ forever.” Message 84:17-18.

The life that was with God was robed in flesh, who was able to be touched, and he is equated with “eternal life.

John 5:26-27, “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment...” for sins and for mercy through faith in the eternal atonement of His own flesh and blood.

“There was the incarnate of God in the flesh to offer the sacrifice of ending all spilling of blood and the altars of figurations and shadows. That men might give a broken heart and contrite spirit to serve a living God.

23. Flesh death and sin must come to an end for the quickening Spirit of God to rule and dwell in mankind in righteousness.” Message 85:22-23.

“...Preach the gospel, teach the people repentance, that they may live in all righteousness before God...” Message 16:3.

“The Lord has prepared a place and a way for the righteous and those that come this way, through the waters of baptism and the laying on of hands in this authority I bring to you and the Church, keep it sacred,” Message 105:7.

“ ...Faith in God’s word must be heard and the baptisms, that men be born again of

the water and Holy Spirit, with (refining) fire. from the Lord—and peace will rule, and satan have no power on those who heed and obey, having strong faith,” Message 71:12.

“Let mankind respect the Lord Christ, and honor Him; His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection, bearing the sins of all that will come unto Him and receive deliverance and salvation.

9. ...I speak His will. I bring the Message of life, speaking His words and instructions...” Message 108:8-9.

“Behold, I come to you from the Lord’s presence. I come at His command, to speak His will. I am the John the Baptist that preached repentance in the wilderness. Many of Judea, of Jerusalem, came to me. Even Jesus the Christ came that I should baptize Him, that the fulfilling of the way of righteousness should be fulfilled.

2. Who is mankind that hath less than this authority that I give- that I bring- have brought to the Church? Does mankind believe it and follow through, or does he have his own way, his own doctrine, his own plan? From whom does he receive authority? Will it last? Will it stand the test in the end?” Message 116:1-2.

“...My baptism is to fulfill the way of righteousness. There is no other way for salvation to come to mankind, only to follow the Christ Jesus, only through Him.” Message 118:5.

Message 84:2 & 18, “...I give the word in due season. I speak in the Spirit and power of God, of the Elias, the assured way, a fountain of truth. I am clothed with light for a covering. The words I speak are eternal words. I speak the words of Christ, the living God. His words shall judge you in the last day. Shape your lives by the words I bring, and it will be well with you. This is the

assured way of the Lord.

18. All they that hear Me and learn of Me, hearing My decrees and obey, shall have right to eternity with Me, your Lord God Christ forever.”

“Thus, saith the Lord: ‘...Hold fast in faith that which I have given thee that no man take it from thee. I am the Lord and I give My word that it may bring life. My words shall judge you in the last day. I am the Christ, your Lord and Savior. I am the God of the living. Those that drink of the water of life I give shall never thirst,’ saith the Lord.” Message 66:24. Amen.

Testimonies

Tammy Thompson thanked the Lord for allowing her family to be here tonight and noted how much of a blessing it is to see her children and grandchildren being baptized (Jada Johnson), blessed (Shay McGinney), and administered to (Willow Johnson). She is glad to see that Sister Gladys Moore was able to make it to the Assembly and thanked her for all her love and work she has done.

Gladys Moore thanked the Lord for quieting all the noise in her life, allowing her to hear His small still voice.

Ola Thompson expressed her thankfulness for all present and for the ministry who she can openly discuss the Lord with. She prays that we will feel the Lord’s love deeply during the Assembly and be able to take it home with us.

Jada Johnson testified she had three dreams about her baptism and each time she entered the water, she saw Jesus right beside her.

Thresa Ray expressed her thankfulness for the East Independence Church of Christ who opened their baptismal pool for our use

and for waiving the rental fee. She noted that the usual locations were all unavailable. Thresa thanked the Lord for opening up the way.

Handmaiden's Study

The Tongue: Can be Used for Good, or for Your Demise

Tammy Thompson

The tongue is a small member of the body, yet Scripture teaches that it possesses enormous power. With our tongue, we can bless, encourage, testify, teach and praise God. Yet with the same tongue, we can wound hearts, destroy relationship, spread contention, and grieve the Spirit of God.

God's Word warns that the tongue is one of the greatest sources of sin among His people. As women who desire to honor Christ, we must examine out speech and submit out words to the Lord.

Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

The Tongue Reveals the Condition of the Heart

Jesus taught that our words are not random; they flow from what is inside of us.

Matthew 12:34, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Our speech often exposes:

1. Bitterness
2. Pride
3. Anger
4. Jealousy
5. Unforgiveness
6. Love
7. Kindness
8. Faith

When sinful words emerge, the deeper issue is often a heart that needs cleansing and surrender to God. So we need to ask ourselves: What do my words reveal about my heart? Do people hear grace or criticism when I speak? Are my conversations pleasing to God?

The Tongue can Destroy like Fire.

James gives one of the strongest warnings in Scriptures concerning speech.

James 3:5-6, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

A small spark can burn down an entire forest. Likewise:

1. One rumor can destroy a reputation
2. One harsh statement can wound a child
3. One angry outburst can damage a marriage
4. One critical comment can divide a church.

Many wounds caused by words remain long after they are spoken. The destructive fire of the tongue:

1. Gossip
2. Slander
3. Harsh Criticism
4. Angry Words
5. Mocking
6. False Accusations
7. Complaining
8. Contention

The devil often uses words as weapons to create division among God's People.

Gossip is Often Accepted in Society, but Scripture Condemns it.

Proverbs 11:13, "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

Gossip:

1. Breaks Trust
2. Damages Friendships
3. Creates Suspicion
4. Hurts Families
5. Divides Churches

Many people disguise gossip as:

1. Prayer Requests
2. Concerns
3. "Just" Sharing Information

Before sharing information, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? Would you say it if the person were present?

The Tongue can Stir Up Contention

Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up

anger."

Proverbs 10:20, "The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth."

Contention often begins with words. The tongue can:

1. Escalate Conflict
2. Deepen Misunderstandings
3. Create Strife in Homes
4. Damage Friendships

One uncontrolled moment can undo years of relationship-building. God calls women to be peacemakers rather than promoters of conflict.

The Tongue can Be Deceitful

God hates lying because He is a God of truth.

Proverbs 12:22, "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight."

Proverbs 10:31, "The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out."

Deception includes:

1. Direct Lies
2. Half-truths
3. Exaggerations
4. False Flattery

A woman of God should be known for her honesty, kindness, and integrity.

The Tongue can Curse When it Should Bless

How can we say hateful things one moment and then speak kindly in the next?

No one will believe our kindness because they have seen the fruits we are bringing forth. James points out a serious inconsistency among believers.

James 3:10, "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

How easily we can: Sing praises in church on Sunday morning, and then criticize someone on Monday. God desires that we have consistency between our worship and our speech.

The Damage Caused by an Uncontrolled Tongue

The tongue can destroy:

1. Marriages- Harsh words can wound a husband, hurt his spirit and weaken your intimacy
2. Children- Critical words can leave a child feeling bad about themselves and leave lifelong scars.
3. Friendship- Careless speech can cause mistrust and end treasured relationships.
4. Churches- Gossip and criticism can hurt and divide a congregation.
5. Personal Testimony- Unholy speech and can cause others to not want to hear anything we have to say and damage our witness of our Lord before the world.

Many sins of the tongue cannot be undone, even when forgiveness is granted.

Victory Over the Tongue

No person can perfectly tame the tongue in their own strength.

James 3:8, "But the tongue can no man

tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

Victory over our tongue comes through:

1. Surrender to Christ
2. Daily Prayer
3. Yielding to the Holy Spirit
4. Filling our Hearts with Joy

Reading and studying of scripture in the three books, The Holy Bible, The Record of the Nephites, and The Word of the Lord.

David prayed in Psalm 141:3, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

This should become our daily prayer. We must be examples to not only our families, but for the world so that we can be a light for Jesus and this Work, and lead others this way. Watching our speech is very important when the world is watching us.

Using the Tongue for God's Glory

God did not give us a tongue to merely avoid evil speech, but also for good.

He gave us the words to:

1. Encourage the Discouraged
2. Teach God's Truth
3. Comfort the Hurting
4. Share the Gospel
5. Bear Testimony
6. Pray
7. Worship
8. Praise God

Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying..."

Psalm 35:28, "And my tongue shall speak

of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.”

So the tongue may be small, but its impact enormous. It can bring healing or hurt, it can bring unity or division, life or death. Every day, we must choose how we use this powerful gift from God. As Christian women, may we always seek to have speech that reflects the character of Christ, and have words that are gracious, truthful, loving and edifying.

There are so many verses in the Bible about the tongue. Here are a few:

- Job 5:21, 33:2-3;
- Romans 3:13-14, 14:11
- Samuel 23:2
- Psalms 5:9-10, 10:3-7; 12:3; 35:13; 37:30; 39:1; 52:2-5; 71:24; & 119:172
- Proverbs 10:19, 31; 12:18; 15:4; 17:4; 18:21; 21:23; & 31:26
- Matthew 12:36-37
- James 3:2-12 (The Bible’s longest and most detailed teaching on the tongue.)
- 1 Peter 3:10
- The tongue is also spoken of in The Record of Nephites.
- 2 Nephi 31:13-14, 32:2-3

The Word of the Lord has verses on the tongue, as well.

- Message 62:6; 81:16; 37:14; & 92:9

In closing, we have to ask God to guard our hearts and our mouths. We need to ask God to forgive us for our careless words, gossip, criticism, and speech that dishonors Him. We need to pray for God to fill us with His Holy Spirit so that our words may bring life, encouragement, truth and healing. We need to ask for help in setting a watch over our lips and help us tame our tongues and to

use it only for His glory. We need to stay studied, pray, and fast. We want others to say: “See how they love one another!”

Dear sisters, I love you all so very much. God bless you.

Youth Classes

Junior

God Has a Plan & Purpose for Your Life: Find It & Be Blessed

God does have a plan and purpose for each and everyone, but many times people never know or find what their true calling or purpose might be. One reason people don’t find out their purpose is because they don’t endure. Often God reveals to us one step at a time what path He would have us take. We are not capable of understanding all of God’s great plan for us at one time. So God gives us step by step instructions as we endure, study and pray. Message 45:13, “The Messenger said, ‘See what the sin of man has done. Broken homes, ruined nations, and many souls taken to the beyonds, not knowing the will of God nor what the end will be.’”

It is God’s will that we commit our life to Him and He will direct and show us His will and plan for our lives as we are obedient and endure. We can look at the testimony of W.A. Draves: As a young boy, W.A. Draves received a prophecy that he would be called in God’s Church and that he would do a work for God and be visited by an angel. We know that this prophecy did come to pass. The messenger tells W.A. many times through the message that he was born for this work. You too, were born for a work for God. Several

Messages alludes to this. "...but for this cause were you born..." -Message 25:2. "...For this work were you born, to take the instructions..." -Message 41:14. "...For this work were you born. Keep your calling sacred..." -Message 54:17. "The authority and trust that was placed upon you has not been taken from you, and will not be taken from you unless you deny the Lord God and my coming. For this work were you born. Be true and the Lord will bless you." -Message 60:7. "...For this work were you born..." -Message 64:12. "...Fear not what men may say of you and those that are with you. You were born for this cause. Many will follow in this way. Deliverance will be for the faithful." -Message 96:11. "You are the Lord's scribe. For this work were you born. The Lord is your shield and preserver. His strength is given to sustain you." -Message 110:2.

The Message also tells us that others were born for this work. Message 86:22, "Some are born to be with you in this cause—lest they stay with you defending the words I bring, they destroy their gift. Some are true and will yet be true to their righteous calling—not thinking themselves to be great."

John the Baptist gives his testimony concerning his calling. He too tells us that he was born to do a work for the Lord. Message 11:12, "I am John, the same John that prepared the way before Christ when He was here. I am the Messenger sent from God to do the work for which I was born. I have come in the past, and will come in the future. I am a prophet and thy fellow servant. I am he that preached baptism and repentance in the wilderness of Judea. I am the John that was beheaded. I am the Messenger to prepare the way. I am the Messenger of the Lord to direct in building the Temple, and I shall be with

Christ when He shall come to His Temple. I am the Messenger that shall bring the warning to the people of the destruction that shall come to pass. My message is one of love to them that will obey it."

Message 28:7, "Thus saith the Lord your God, 'I have sent My servant John to you with the Message, for behold He is My choice, and for that purpose was he born,..." Message 51:10, "have sent My servant John to reveal My will- and he shall yet come, as much shall be done, for this work was he born, to prepare the way before Me..."

At the time when John preached repentance in the county around Jordan, he did not know the full extent of his calling. How could he know that after being resurrected, he would still be preaching repentance? God reveals His plans as we are faithful and able to comprehend them. We can see in the *Bible*, in the Book of John, chapter 1, verse 21-23, when asked if he were the Elias or that prophet, John answers no. But we know and he knows now, that he is that prophet.

Jesus gives His testimony to Pilate; John 18:37, "Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

The testimony of Jeremiah also lets us know that we are born for a plan and purpose. Jeremiah 1:4-8, "Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

5. Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

6. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I

am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

8. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.”

So we can see and know that God has a plan and purpose for our lives but how do we find God's will, plan and purpose? The first step is to commit our life to Jesus. By committing our life to the Lord, we are giving up our will for God's will. Only through this commitment can we be obedient and it takes obedience and endurance to find God's will. Some of God's great promises for obedience are found in the *Bible*. Deuteronomy 6:20-25, 7:6-15, 11:1-32, 12:28 and 4:29-31.

Isaiah 1:19-20, “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Almost every Message tells us to be obedient. Message 37:24, “Some have been discouraged and their faith weakened. Let them be enlightened of the greatness of this work, that they might be encouraged. For remember, satan has done many things in the past that has led men astray. With enticing words he has led men away from the teachings of Christ and His Church. Listen not to the whisperings of satan. Be not led by pride nor the love for praise of men. Make clean your hearts and humble yourselves more- as conditions will come that will require greater faith. Be kind to all men. Cry repentance. Preach the gospel to the nations for all must be warned. Peace will have place in the hearts that are honest and obey. For salvation only comes from obedience to the words of Him that shall judge you at the last day.”

Remember Jonah. He was disobedient

and we saw what he went through. If he had not repented, he would have died in the whale's belly. God gives all of us the choice to obey or disobey.

Message 49:6 tells us that obedience to the Lord's words will bring about the reign of peace.

The only way we can be obedient is to commune with God. We do this by talking to the Lord= Prayer. When we worship and pray, we can feel the Lord's presence by the Holy Spirit. We cannot be obedient without having God's Spirit to guide us. John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Also John 16:13, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

Now that you know you were born for a reason. That reason will be revealed by the Holy Spirit when we endure and are obedient. But what are you being obedient about? Keeping God's commandments and doing things that the Holy Spirit guides us to do as found in the *Bible*, *Word of the Lord*, and *Record of the Nephites*? In other words, you have to obey by actions. Go to church, participate in church services, love and help other people. Jesus was our example of obedience. Now that you have accepted Christ as your savior, you are part of His body and you have work to do. 1 Corinthians 12:27-28, “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of

healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”

The Messages tells us that all must work somewhere. There are many jobs in God's church and all the jobs are important. Notice, in the office of the church, that there is a work called "helps" This little work is not mentioned often but none of the work could be done without it. We all need help sometimes and Jesus, Himself, is a helper. Jesus said he is a present help in times of trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

If you are not sure what your calling is or what you can do in the Lord's work, you can start as a 'help.' The job description is- Help wherever help is needed. Have you ever needed help and you were so thankful when your help arrived? This is a work for all of us- help where and all we can. Help your family. Help your neighbor. This may seem like a little thing but it is often the little things that mean the most and God will bless you. Jesus appreciates when we help others. That is His main job!

Matthew 25:40, “...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.”

Message 11:7, “All those who shall help you to take the Message to the people shall be blessed;...”

Message 104:26, “Let all awaken to their calling and help more in this work, attending services, worship and working among the people”

Message 101:20, “Publish peace and the way of the Lord, helping the work in all places.”

You are important. You were born for a purpose and calling in God's work and will. You will find that purpose through dedicating your life to Jesus' service. The Holy Spirit

will be your guide for what you should and should not do. Don't quench the Holy Spirit. Obey what the Holy Spirit guides you to do. You are a part of the body of Christ and as part of the body of Christ, you have a work to do. The Holy Spirit will reveal more and more to you about your service as you are faithful and obedient. You can start your service for the Lord and in His Church as “Helps.”

God has a Plan For You

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

God does have a plan for you!

- He has plans to do for you.
 - To save you.
- He has plans to do in you.
 - To change you.
- He has plans to do through you.
 - To help you help others.

God will not only impact your life but impact others through you!

Primary

Christ in America

Samuel the Lamanite told the people that Jesus would be born in 5 years. The Nephite prophets had taught about the coming of Christ many years before. Almost 600 years earlier, Nephi had a vision of Mary and the baby Jesus whom Samuel had spoken of.

1 Nephi 11:14-20, “And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he saith

unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou?

15. And I saith unto him, A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.

16. And he saith unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God?

17. And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.

18. And he said unto me, Behold the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God, after the manner of the flesh.

19. And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after that she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look!

20. And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.”

Five years after Samuel the Lamanite preached in Zarahemla, a new star appeared in the sky. It was light for a day and a night and a day. The people in the Promised Land knew that Jesus had been born.

3 Nephi 1:9-19, “Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death, except the sign should come to pass which had been given by Samuel the prophet.

10. Now it came to pass that when Nephi, the son of Nephi, saw this wickedness of his people, his heart was exceeding sorrowful.

11. And it came to pass that he went out and bowed himself down upon the earth, and cried mightily to his God, in behalf of his people; yea, those which were about to be destroyed because of their faith in the tradition of their fathers.

12. And it came to pass that he cried mightily unto the Lord, all the day; and behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying,

13. Lift up your head and be of good cheer, for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to shew unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.

14. Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfill all things which I have made known unto the children of men, from the foundation of the world, and do the will, both of the Father, and of the Son; of the Father because of me; and of the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

15. And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi was fulfilled, according as they had been spoken; for behold at the going down of the sun, there was no darkness; and the people began to be astonished, because there was no darkness when the night came.

16. And there were many, which had not believed the words of the prophets, fell to the earth and became as if they were dead, for they knew that the great plan of destruction which they had laid for those who believed in the word of the prophets, had been frustrated; for the sign which had been given was already at hand;

17. And they began to know that the Son of God must shortly appear; yea, in fine, all the people upon the face of the whole earth from the west to the east, both in the land north and in the land south, were so exceedingly astonished, that they fell to the earth;

18. For they knew that the prophets had testified of these things for many years, and that the sign which had been given was already at hand; and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief.

19. And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given.”

Thirty-three years later, after Christ was crucified, He appeared to the people in the land Bountiful (3 Nephi 11-28). While there, Jesus healed and taught the Ancient Americans many things.

In 3 Nephi 12:3-12, Jesus taught the Beatitudes, the same found in Matthew 5:3-12 “Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit which cometh unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4. And again, blessed are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted;

5. And blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6. And blessed are all they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

7. And blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8. And blessed are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9. And blessed are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

10. And blessed are all they which are persecuted for my name's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11. And blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake,

12. For ye shall have great joy and be exceeding glad, for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

In 3 Nephi 13:9-13, Jesus taught the people how to pray with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). “After this manner therefore pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

10. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

11. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

12. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

13. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

Jesus also taught the Ancient Americans how to forgive others when someone does something wrong to them. He wanted them to know that how we forgive others is how Jesus will forgive us. We all make mistakes at times, and we certainly want God to forgive us when we do. 3 Nephi 13:14-15 says, “For, if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

15. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Then Jesus asked for the little children to come to Him. He blessed them and showed them His love for them. 3 Nephi 17:11-2, “And it came to pass that he commanded that their little children should be brought.

12. So they brought their little children and sat them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst; and the multitudes gave way till they had all been brought unto him.

13. And it came to pass that when they had all been brought, and Jesus stood in the midst, he commanded the multitude that they should kneel down upon the ground.

14. And it came to pass that when they had knelt upon the ground, Jesus groaned within himself, and saith, Father, I am troubled

because of the wickedness of the people of the house of Israel.

15. And when he had said these words, he himself also knelt upon the earth; and behold he prayed unto the Father, and the things which he prayed cannot be written, and the multitude did bear record which heard him.

16. And after this manner do they bear record; the eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father;

17. And no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak; and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father.

18. And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying unto the Father, he arose; but so great was the joy of the multitude that they were overcome.

19. And it came to pass that Jesus spake unto them, and bade them arise.

20. And they arose from the earth, and he saith unto them, Blessed are ye because of your faith. And now behold, my joy is full.

21. And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.

Lastly, Jesus sat down with the ministry, explained many gospel principles and chose disciples to lead the Church. He taught them how to baptize "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." 3 Nephi 11:23-27, "Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them:

Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them.

24. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying,

25. *Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

26. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.

27. And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name, for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one."

He spoke concerning how to serve the sacrament and the sacrament prayers. Jesus explained that the bread represented the body of Christ and the wine (grape juice) represents the blood of Jesus.

Jesus taught that His Church should be called "The Church of Christ" after Him. That is why our Church is called "The Church of Christ, With the Elijah Message, The Assured Way of the Lord." 3 Nephi 27:7-8, "Therefore whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake;

8. And how be it my church, save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name, then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel."

Before leaving, Jesus ordained 12 men to be disciples in Ancient America. 3 Nephi 19:4 tells us their names were Nephi, Timothy, Jonas, Mathoni, Mathonihah,

Kumen, Kumenonhi, Jeremiah, Shemnon, Jonas, Zedekiah, and Isaiah. These are in addition to those disciples in Israel that we read about in *The Holy Bible*.

Jesus taught the Ancient Americans many things- many more than what has been mentioned here. He was very pleased with these people because they have very strong faith and loved Jesus very much.

Obituary

Nawassa Greenwell 1961-2026

Our dear sister Nawassa Liann (Yates) Greenwell, 64, passed away on Tuesday July 7, 2026, in Camdenton, Missouri. Her breast cancer had returned and metastasized to her liver, much to our surprise. However, Nawassa was true to her faith in God and salvation to the end.



Nawassa was born in Jackson County, Missouri to Vincent and Barbara (Napier) Yates on September 16, 1961. Her siblings are Wallace (Wife- Geraldine), Nancy (Husband- Roma) Harrison, Don (Sue), Bootie or Arlen, Debbie (Mike) Evans, Errol (Debbie), Leat Stanley, Gayland, Preston (Kimberly), Jairus (Kimberle), Loyah (Mike) Vannicolo, and Liauna (Troy) Metscher, and many nieces and nephews. Nawassa was preceded in death by her husband Mike, her parents, and four of her siblings: Wallace, Nancy, Bootie, and Gayland.

Nawassa graduated from Skyline High School in Urbana, Missouri, in 1979. She continued lifelong friendships with so many of her classmates.

Nawassa married Gary Ball in January 1981 and they had three children: Candace (Cesar) Irizarry, Colton (Lacey) Greenwell, Ashley (Justin) Hilton. Nawassa married Michael Greenwell in 1987. To this union was born Zachary Greenwell. Mike adopted Nawassa's older children, gave them his name, and treated them all as his own. Nawassa had 17 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter at the time of her death.

Nawassa's faith was demonstrated in the way she taught her children, the way she prayed for others, the way she asked for prayer, the way she treated others, and the way she lived her life day to day. She encouraged all to develop and cultivate a life of faith. Nawassa was a member of The Church of Christ with the Elijah Message, the Assured Way of the Lord.

Nawassa's Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at Allee-Holman-Howe Funeral Home in Camdenton.

**“And ye now therefore
have sorrow: but I will see
you again, and your heart
shall rejoice, and your joy
no man taketh from you.”**

-John 16:22

