

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

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2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**We Invite you to Attend the
2023 General Assembly**

**14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240,
Independence, Missouri 64055**

**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.

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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*.

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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

Twenty-Sixth Message

The Messenger came to me at my home near Port Huron, Michigan, Sunday June 21, 1931. These are the words as he gave them to me to write.

-Otto Fetting

1. "I have delayed my coming with this Message, for the Lord knows your suffering, and your strength. The Lord sent me to you and not to another, for He knows your heart, and your life, and from childhood has watched over you, to do this work, which is very great. For no greater responsibility was ever placed upon man than taking the Gospel to the nations of the earth in its purity; therefore, be true until your work is done. For God will be with you to finish your work if you will remain humble before Him. Seek not to please man, nor fear man, for the Lord is your strength.

2. God has chosen you and your brethren as apostles in The Church of Christ. The work has been committed to you men to take it to the nations of the earth, to establish churches in all nations, and to direct in all things as the Lord will direct you.

3. Remember, this is God's work and He will help you in your work, that the Gospel may be preached and the Message of Warning of Christ's coming may go to all people. Let the Message I have brought to you be translated and printed in all languages, that all may read and know that the Lord has sent me, and that no one will have an excuse at the judgement day. Let this be done as fast as you can. But see that it is translated correctly, for this the Lord has

entrusted in your care.

4. Let no one treat lightly the Message of the Lord, for his eyes are upon you and your work, and your thoughts cannot be hid. Let your work be done in soberness and firmness, but in humility and love.

5. See that all speak the same thing. Let no one preach and teach the traditions of men.

6. The Lord has placed the work of the churches and the preaching and teaching in the hands of the apostles as in the days of Christ when He was here; and the finances and the care of the poor and needy in the care of the bishops. Therefore see that the work is done as the Lord will direct. Let the elders preach the Gospel, baptizing those that come to The Church of Christ. Let them labor among the people, healing the sick, blessing the children as they are brought to them. Let them lay their hands on them that the Lord may confirm their work by the Holy Ghost, that the Spirit of God may lead them in all truth.

7. Let the women assist in the work by taking the Message from house to house, that all may be warned.

8. Let John Allshouse, H. L. MacPherson, and Ray Griffith be set apart as apostles in The Church of Christ. Let them so arrange their home that nothing will hinder them from taking the Message to the nations; for the time is at hand when the apostles will have to go to other nations. Therefore, arrange your home and set it in order. Remember, this is a time of hast.

9. Let P.A. Ely be set apart as a bishop, and J.V. Johnson and Harold Frazer as elders; but remember with this Call will go added responsibility, for God requires humility, for He will direct.

10. Thus far your work has been accepted of the Lord. Wait for His direction in all things, lest He reject your work, for the Lord knoweth your needs.

11. Let those in Europe receive such

help as can be given them from time to time, that the work may go on, until it has been fully established, for they are in need of Messages. Let some of the German Messages be sent here, that they may be taken to their own people.

12. There will be those from time to time that will hearken to the whisperings of satan, and doubt will enter their minds, and they will reject the Message the Lord has sent. Let man forsake his unrighteous ways, and cleanse his mind from evil thoughts, and seek after righteousness and justice, and peace with all men. For the Lord will not spare those that continue in their wickedness.

14. Let A.W. Bogue give all his time to the bishop's office, that the work may go on. Let him set his house in order that nothing may hinder him in his work. Let the work be more firmly established in Independence, for the time will come when the Word of the Law of the Lord will go forth from that place. Let the people repent and hearken to the Words of the Lord, and God will pardon their mistakes, for there are many who are seeking for Light and Truth.

14. There are those who have been slothful in their calling. God has looked upon them in pity, but let them remember that God will reward everyone as His works shall be, and in time they will see their loss.

15. There are those who have contended about the Assembly, for their hearts were not right; let them repent. The Lord will direct in His work. Let the Voice of Warning go in peace as I told you. Publish not your traditions, but send the Message the Lord has sent.

16. Let George A. Backus go back to the Mountain States as he is needed there now.

17. Remember the things I have told you. Read the Messages. Study them, that you may know the Will of the Lord, and save yourselves from the things that are coming to ass. Let no one be idle, that all may assist in the Lord's work.

18. I will come and direct as the Lord will have need of me. Be humble in your

work. Take no part in the contentions of the word, but let you mind be at peace, that the Spirit of God may dwell in you, and prepare your mind to receive the Words of the Lord. Amen."

Articles

The Kingdom of God vs. The Kingdom of Heaven

"And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." - Matthew 3:2

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." - Matthew 6:33

Is there a difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven? Are they distinguishable? Absolutely! The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven in five respects:

1. Universal vs. Messianic

The Kingdom of God is Universal, including all moral intelligences willingly subject to the will of God, Whether angels, the Church, or the saints etc.

Luke 13:28-29, *"There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.*

29. *And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."*

Hebrews 12:22-23, *"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.*

23. *To the general assembly and*

church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.”

The Kingdom of Heaven is **Messianic**, mediatorial, and Davidic, and has for its object the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth. Therefore the Kingdom of Heaven is not “Heaven” or “in Heaven” BUT “from Heaven,” an extension of The Kingdom of God.

Matthew 3:2, *“And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

I Corinthians 15:24-25, *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*

25. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”

Message 21:1, *“... Again the Lord has spoken and the warning is going to the world: ‘Repent! Repent! For the kingdom of God is among men.’ ”*

Message 86:60, *“In the Bible and Record of the Nephites contains the teachings and pattern of the fullness of the gospel in its plain and precious parts. But my words and authority gives the right to set the church in order- the Church of Christ with the Holy Priesthood authority and power to act in the establishing of the kingdom of God on earth and bringing in the Zion of the Lord. The kingdom and the dominion shall be for the saints of the most high.”*

Message 98.15, *“The need is great that I speak on this. Many have asked that the Lord speak His Will and declare what must be for the good of the church, the kingdom of God on earth. Let it*

grow, let it move forward.”

Articles of Faith and Practice 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 God in all the world.”*

(“the Kingdom of God established on earth”- Message 22:19; 24:9; 39:6; 40:4; 47:2; 49:20; 53:3; 98:4; 99:5; 100:13; 101:19; 104:4)

2. Entrance: Baptism vs. Profession

The Kingdom of God is entered only by the **New Birth (Baptism)**.

John 3:3, 5-7, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

5. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6. 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.”

John 10:9, *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”*

Message 37:7, *“...He that cometh to me through the door will I baptize with fire and the Holy Ghost...”*

The Kingdom of Heaven, during this age, is the sphere of **Profession** which may be real or false.

Matthew 13:3, *“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold a sower went forth to sow;”*

Matthew 25:1, 11-12, *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*

11. *Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*

12. *But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.”*

3. Cosmic/Universal vs. Earthly Sphere

Since the Kingdom of Heaven is the **Earthly Sphere** of the **Cosmic/Universal Kingdom of God**, the two have almost all things in common. For this reason many parables and other teachings are spoken of the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew, and of the Kingdom of God in Mark and Luke. It is the omissions which are significant.

The parables of the wheat and tares, and the net (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50) are not spoken of the Kingdom of God. In that kingdom there are neither tares nor bad fish.

But the parable of the leaven (Matthew 13:33) is spoken of the Kingdom of God also, for, alas, even the true doctrines of the kingdom are leavened with the errors of which the Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Herodians were the representatives.

4. Inward/Spiritual vs. Organic/Manifest

The Kingdom of God does not come with outward show but is chiefly that which is **Inward** and **Spiritual**.

Luke 17:20, *“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation.”*

Romans 14:17, *“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”*

The Kingdom of Heaven is **Organic**, and

is to be **Manifested** in glory on earth. It is the kingdom covenanted to David’s seed; described in the prophets; and confirmed to Jesus through the angel Gabriel.

Zechariah 12:8, *“In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.”*

Luke 1:31-33, *“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

32. *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

33. *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”*

5. Eventually be One

The Kingdom of Heaven **Merges** into the Kingdom of God when Christ has “put all enemies under his feet.”

I Corinthians 15:24-25, *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*

25. *For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”*

As we have seen, the Kingdom of Heaven is not the Kingdom of God in all aspects, although they share much in common. Likewise, the Kingdom of Heaven is not the same thing as “heaven.” When the New Testament uses the phrase “the Kingdom of Heaven” it is not referring to heaven. Instead it is referring to the Millennial Kingdom which has been ordained from heaven, that is from God - hence the often interchangeability between “Kingdom of Heaven” and “Kingdom of

God.” So the Kingdom of Heaven is a kingdom from heaven, not a kingdom in heaven. God reigns supreme in heaven. Heaven is the focus of His Authority- the point from which He rules the universe. The words “of heaven” then are referring to the origin of this Kingdom. It is the place from which the Kingdom is coming, not a destination by which we are going.

The “Kingdom of God” is, therefore, the master term, the all encompassing Kingdom. And is the Kingdom to be sought after as commanded in Matthew 6:33:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Message 86:60 says that the Bible and the Record of the Nephites (and subsequently the Word of the Lord) “contains the teachings and patterns of the fullness of the gospel” by which (along with the Authority) are the means to establishing the Kingdom of Heaven. Also as Message 98:15 points out, the Church is the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore we must first know the Kingdom of God in order to know His true Church and to further establish the Kingdom of Heaven throughout the earth as commanded.

Message 98.15, *“The need is great that I speak on this. Many have asked that the Lord speak His Will and declare what must be for the good of the Church, the kingdom of God on earth. Let it grow, let it move forward.”*

Message 83:11-15, *“Those that have obeyed and are obeying my injunctions and directions, retaining and preserving the authority I bring are the Church of Christ with the Elijah message, established anew in 1929. Let it go to the ends of the earth, proclaiming the gospel of Christ.*

12. *The Lord has reserved and preserved many to help in this work in the*

far reaching and soon to come. Many are desirous to hear the Message of life, the gospel, the glad tidings, the good news with the authority of the Lord- the fulfilling of the word.

13. *The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world. Yea, it shall be published in all lands. Deliverance will come to all that will hear and obey. Come all the way.*

14. *All that come to the Church of Christ must be baptized of the water and of the Spirit. The hands must be laid on al, that they may receive the gift of the Spirit of God; truly be born again.*

15. *Teach the decrees of the Lord that all shall be converted to salvation and the gospel. The way of life in the kingdom of God to eternity shall be their reward.”*

The Kingdoms

God	Heaven
1. Universal	Messianic
2. Cosmic	Earthly
3. Baptism/New Birth	Profession
4. Spiritual/Inward	Organic/Physical
5. Primary	Secondary

Through Christ the Kindsome of Heaven merges with the Kingdom of God.

Interesting Facts

1. The Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned 31 times in the Bible & **ONLY** in Matthew. Matthew’s audience was the Jewish people. Since the Kingdom of Heaven is “Messianic,” could he be trying to convince them that Jesus Christ is the Messiah?

2. The Kingdom of God is mentioned 63 times in the Bible, specifically in the New Testament.

3. The Kingdom of Heaven, as a specific phrase, is not mentioned in the Word of the

Lord. But is described as and eluded or referenced to when speaking of “the Kingdom of God on earth.”

Testimonies

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My father is William A. Draves, who the Messenger, John the Baptist, visited and gave Messages 31 through 120. I and my siblings were so blessed to have a wonderful father and mother, Ruby Draves. We had peace and love in our home and were always taught to follow Christ. I believe all of us have testimonies of when the angel visited Dad.

When the 80th Message was given, I was 10 years old and was blessed to see the light of the angel! My bedroom was at the far end of the basement. I got up in the night, to go to the restroom. I always turned on all the lights to see my way. I would turn on the basement light and the light over the stairway going upstairs. Then upstairs, I'd turn on the kitchen light, the dining room light, the living room light, the hall light and finally the bathroom light. This particular night, I turned on the basement light, and the light over the stairway. When I opened the door to the kitchen the room was already lit, and I didn't need to turn on the lights. I went through the dining area to the living room and it was already lit. I could see the big clock on the wall saying 3:30. The hallway was lit and Dad and Mom's room was at the end of the hallway. There was a super bright light coming out about 6 inches from under their door. I didn't think anything was different about that at the time. I just thought that Dad and Mom must be awake. I went into the bathroom. So, I walked back through the house, walking through the light of the angel all the way to the basement stairway. The next morning, my Dad asked, who went to the bathroom about 3:30 last night? Then of course, I learned that the Messenger was

there! The lights were all turned off upstairs

so the light was from this heavenly being!

What really stuck with me was seeing that bright, bright light coming out from under their doorway. Since, I have noticed that if you look at a room at night, that has the light on and the door shut, the light stops immediately below the door. I feel blessed to have experienced seeing and walking in that light!

Whenever the angel would come, it would be awesome to see my Dad, and his joy and beautiful countenance. It was almost like he glowed- he didn't glow of course, but his countenance was so beautiful. If the angel had sat in a chair, we would be eager to sit in that chair! (Maybe we would soak up some goodness or a blessing- or just actually sit where John the Baptist sat! That is just amazing to me and so thrilling!)

One time, John the Baptist carried a chair from the hallway into the bedroom to sit on it while he gave the Message. We have seen the imprint of his body when he sat on some extra bedding that was on the end of the bed. One time when Dad was sitting at the kitchen table to write the Message as John the Baptist gave it, John moved our Church Cookbook out of the way. Needless, to say- I saved that cookbook. To think that John the Baptist actually touched it- is amazing to me.

Many times, I would know that the angel came that night because I slept so very, very well. I'd wake up with such a wonderful peace that I knew the angel visited.

I thank God, that He loves us so much to send His Messenger to deliver His Messages to us! It has been a long time since John the Baptist has come, but he will come again because his work is not finished. I look forward to his return! So much has been given and there is so much more to come!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After our baby, Aavely (av-el-lee), died. I started a charity that helped other families who had children that died. The charity was called Aavely's Wings.

We would make fancy burnt wood plaques with the child's name and a poem on them. We would buy books or anything that would help the families. We paid for a few caskets, and we were available to chat with them when they needed to talk to someone that understood the pain of losing a child.

I feel like there is a testimony involving every single family we helped. Aavely's Wings was a blessing and it made me feel like Aavely's death was helping other people.

But there is one family's story that stays close to my heart. The child that died was a 7 year old girl. Her Daddy was so sad when she died, he didn't know how to live without her. Someone reached out to us and told us about him and we got to work. I got in touch with him and asked if we could have his address to send him a few things.

Normally I'd MAIL people the gifts and give our info so they can text or call if they want to chat. We would continue to reach out around holidays, birthdays and heaven anniversaries, but never forced people to talk to us. This guy really stuck in my mind, though.

I had a strong feeling I should deliver this stuff in person, instead of mailing it. We had never done that before and I worried we would be over stepping but this feeling was so strong. I decided to order him some yummy food and we would surprise him with dinner.

My husband, Delsie, Brinlee and I all delivered the gifts and a big bbq meal from Smoke House barbecue, for him and his girls (he has 3 other daughters). He invited us in and we talked about everything for a while. It wasn't a long visit, but it was a good one.

The next day he sent us a message and told us he stayed home from work that evening because he wanted to end his life. He said God sent us at exactly the right time. He

said we saved his life.

I told him it was God, not us. I told him we had never imposed like that before, we usually mail the gifts, but I had a strong feeling we needed to do this in person. God gave me that feeling and God saved his life.

If you ever have a real strong feeling to help someone, that's probably God trying to push you. I'm a real quiet person and it was not like me to show up at someone's house, especially a stranger's, but God pushed me out of my comfort zone and I listened to that feeling. God will use you too! So always try to listen to those feelings.

Love in Christ,
Sister Jessie Evans

Young Adults

Joy Draves

The Fruit of the Spirit: An Introduction

Today we are going to take an introductory look into the Fruit of the Spirit.

Is it *Fruit of the Spirit* or is it *Fruits of the Spirit*? So, how many fruit of the spirit are there? Galatians 5:22-23 says: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

If there are nine fruits listed, it must be plural! Right? Well, the simple answer is No.

Throughout the Bible, God's wisdom is revealed through nature. The Fruit of the Spirit is no different. The Fruit of the Spirit is described as a single fruit, because fruit is made up of more than one substance. It has juice, pulp, peel, a core, segments, and seeds that are all held together by a skin or rind. It is then attached to a tree by a stem where the nutrients flow in. If you just drink the juice and throw out the rest, how can you use the

seeds to grow more. If you take the fruit from the vine on the tree and do nothing with it, it will wither and rot. If the vine is not cared for, it can smother the tree and the tree will die. This is also how it is the Fruit of the Spirit: it is more than just one substance. All of its substances combined are greater than the sum of its parts. God makes it and requires our growth of faith that necessitates our tending to it.

So, what are the individual substances and how do we tend to them? Here is a quick look.

Love will enable us to appreciate our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and, of course, our family and others around us. Love is taking the initiative to build up and meet the needs of others, without expecting anything in return.

Joy will allow us to enjoy our relationship with God, His creation, others, and our circumstances, with an expression of delight, and real, authentic happiness from and with harmony with God and others.

Peace is surrendering and yielding ourselves to the Lord, to be in His control, for He is our ultimate peace! Allow tranquility to be our tone, control, and our composure. This will be fueled from our harmonious relationship with God, handing over control of our heart, will, and mind to Him. Once we make real peace with God, we will be able to make and maintain peace with others.

Longsuffering (Patience) is showing tolerance and fortitude toward others, even accepting difficult situations from them, and God, without making demands or conditions. Patience allows us to endure a less than desirable situation, to make us better, more useful, and even optimistic and prudent. Hence, its name, longsuffering. It allows us to put up with others who get on our nerves, without losing other characteristics of grace.

Kindness is the medium through which Christ's love becomes tangible through us. It is practicing benevolence and a loving attitude towards others. Kindness is the essence that shows the world that we are a Christian,

like the fragrance coming from a flower. It is being convicted with God's Word, and then modeling it to others. Kindness is the subject to the object of who we are in Christ!

Meekness (Goodness) displays integrity, honesty and compassion to others. It is doing the right thing, even when it does not feel like we should, as Joseph did. He was betrayed and sold as a slave, yet, he chose to make his situation into something good, and to help and treat others better than he needed to.

Faithfulness is the application of our faith in action, fused with being dependable. It is not faith itself, rather, the fruit and character of faith. It is the "gluing" fruit that will preserve our faith, and the other characters of the Spirit, and identify God's will, so we can be dependable and trusting to God and others. Faith is the one fruit that we give to God, whereas faithfulness and the other fruits, virtues and characters are from the Spirit working in us! Faithfulness is authenticity, the power and motivation for Christian living. Because God is trustworthy with us, we can be faith-worthy in Him!

Gentleness is the character that will show calmness, personal care, and tenderness in meeting the needs of others. It is to be more than just a personality; it is to be who we are, from the work of the Spirit within us.

Temperance is allowing God to be in control of our will and heart, and seeking the Spirit to enable us. Then we will know what not to do, and guard the areas in which we are weak. This will allow us to have discipline and restraint, with obedience to God and others. It is not allowing distractions to derail or remove us from His will and plan, so we will not be held back from what Christ called us to do.

The Fruit of the Spirit is a description of who we are to be in our entirety. It is the basic, foundational character upon which the other characters rest. It shows us that our walk with God comes with a responsibility to take the knowledge we have learned from

His word, our faith, and our prayer life and to apply it, while His love is working through us.

Junior

Thresa Ray

P.U.S.H.

Pray Until Something Happens

Dear Youth,

There is no problem too big or too small to take it to the Lord in prayer! If your prayer comes from the heart and you pray sincerely, He will hear your prayer!

Jesus taught us how to pray in Matthew 6:5-15. Included in this is the 'Lord's Prayer'.

9. "...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

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

11. Give us this day our daily bread.

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

13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen."

We need to show reverence to God. Set your requests before Him. Ask in Christ's name.

John 14:13-15, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14. If ye ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

15. If ye love me, keep my commandments."

We also need to be careful what we ask for. God lets us make our own choices. He does not force us to follow Him or to do the right thing. He might grant our prayer- because we asked. Sometimes, we might ask for something that might not be the best for us.

We need to always ask for God's will to be done. God knows all our needs and concerns. The only way we will be fully happy is if we are in God's will. Sometimes our prayers are answered but not in the way we expect.

Pray God's will be done in every circumstance. 1 John 5:14, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:"

Sometimes our prayers are refused because of sin, selfishness, doubt, disobedience, inhumanity, or pride. See Psalm 66:18, James 4:3, James 1:5-7, Proverbs 28:9, Proverbs 21:13, & Luke 18, 11-12,14. We need to be right with God ourselves and we also need to have faith that God will answer our prayers!

You don't have to be at any special place to pray. You can pray at Church, in your bed, kneeling by your bed, at the dinner table, all alone, with a group, on a beach, in a house, indoors or outdoors. You can pray anywhere, -everywhere.

You don't have to have a certain time to pray. It's very good to wake up and start your day with a prayer asking God to guide and protect you throughout the day. Pray at mealtimes blessing your food and whatever you feel the need to pray for. Pray at bedtime, to end your day with a prayer before you go to sleep. Anytime during the day that you think of something you need to pray about- say a prayer. You don't have to pray out loud, God hears your thoughts. We can silently pray to God anytime we want to.

1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing."

You can always have a prayer in your heart and on your mind.

Also quiet your soul. Listen to God. He will show you things through His majestic creation. You may hear His still small voice whispering to you or maybe even hear a loud voice. God has His angels about you to inspire your thoughts and actions. Pray to God very often throughout the day and you will

find you have a closer walk with God and be more in tune with His wants and desires for you. It will be much easier for you to resist temptation that comes before you.

Message 102:11, "Knowledge cometh from study of Books, Grace from much prayer, Salvation by obedience, Deliverance by endurance."

Message 6:3, "...Pray often;..."

James 5:16, "...The effectual fervent

prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Prayer can change things! Prayer can make a difference! God is only a 'prayer' away. Pray sincerely and frequently! **Pray Until Something Happens!**

Always remember to "Thank God" for answering your prayers!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Kristie Johnson

Bible Word Search

Can you find the words on the left in the word search grid?

- Abel
- Adam
- Baptism
- Cain
- Christ
- Church
- Creation
- Cross
- Eden
- Eve
- Garden
- God
- Heaven
- Jesus
- Lord
- Love
- Mary
- Moses
- Noah
- Serpent

Q	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	L	C	G
C	B	M	A	B	E	L	G	O	R	K
C	R	A	A	D	A	M	A	R	O	X
H	S	E	P	R	E	E	R	D	S	N
U	H	M	A	T	Y	V	D	C	S	O
R	C	E	O	T	I	E	E	H	J	A
C	A	G	A	S	I	S	N	R	E	H
H	I	L	O	V	E	O	M	I	D	M
P	N	G	O	D	E	S	N	S	E	L
K	J	E	S	U	S	N	O	T	N	O
Z	F	J	P	R	M	S	Q	V	N	Y

Obituary

Jeanette Oglesby Simmons September 8, 1934– April 14, 2023



Jeanette was born to the union of James and Cornelia Oglesby in Chicago, IL; one of four children; and three brothers preceded her in death.

She had to be a sister and mother to the brothers as their mom died when

Jeanette was fourteen years old.

She was a graduate of Dusable High School, Chicago, IL. She also went to Beauty School for haircare. She discovered her talent and gift of song at an early age. Later in her teenage life, a street preacher came to the neighborhood. On her porch, he told her some things that left her shouting and praising the Lord, as she use to say, and had been shouting ever since! She spent many years singing in choirs and traveling with churches as well as with the United States Postal Choir, which traveled to nursing homes and to Washington, D.C. God afforded her a life, marriage and children, but yet he had more. He started moving in her life toward her being a hard riding soldier for the Lord. Later, she was introduced to the Church of Christ with the Elijah Message (Malachi 4:5). This brought her to an understanding that she was born for this cause- to serve the Lord and do His will.

She joined the church and was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: by the Elder Alfred Moore of the Chicago Local. There was a time in her life at one of the General Assemblies in Independence, MO, a prayer and prophecy was uttered over her head by Apostle WA Draves that an extension be added to her life as she chose the Lord over what the world had to offer her. She remained faithful and a member for roughly fifty years in the service of

the Lord! In 1972, she took a leap of faith and had complete trust in the lord and His Word. She quit her postal job, packed up, and gave her love ones a choice to go or stay behind, for word came through Elder Moore that the Lord wanted the local to leave the wicked city of Chicago. All those who believed the report and the Lord, packed up with u-hauls and cares, with kids in tow, left for an unknown territory, a place called Auburn, AL, which was once the home of the Elder leading the flock. Trusting in and having great faith, in the Word, the Lord opened doors for them, elevated them and supplied their needs. She set down her roots to this place, where she would labor. She did just that to all that would listen and take heed to grab ahold of this great work. She was an active servant unto the Lord with caring and sharing, singing His praises, “plugging my sponsor everywhere I go!” as she would say.

She represented the Widow Branch AL, of the church, keeping the light on in the window for the traveling men of God, a safe haven, to refresh, restore, and renew; a hot meal for their journey this far.

She is preceded in death by her grandson, Yannick B. Monk.

Those left to rejoice, remember, cry and miss her would be me #1 daughter, Deborah, Kidd Jointer; two sons, Mort Armstrong, GA and Ben Jamin Monk (Shelia), TX; two granddaughters, Dedra Louise (James), TX and Ashly Rose (Oladele Adebogun), TX; two grandsons, Legison K Kidd (Bijana), AZ and Eric Kidd (Charita), AL; five great grands, Devante Kidd, IA, Dakenah Kidd, IA, Daryah Kidd, IA, Dakai Kidd, AZ and Eriyana Kidd, AL; one great-great grand, Evan Kidd, IL; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Far and near all knew about aunt Jeanette or J.J. down through the years.

Special connections: the Handmaidens of the Lord, and the Brethren of the Church of Christ with the Elijah Message, Ms. Shirley Green, Ms. Bertha Mount and family, Ms. Barbara Austin, and Ms. Alice Provo and family. We will miss you J. J.

2023 General Assembly *June 25-27, 2023*

Dear Readers of '*The Greater Light*,'

Greetings in The Name of The Lord Jesus Christ. It is that time of the year again that we start thinking and preparing to gather together in *The House Of The Lord* to meet and worship with our Brothers and Sisters from all parts of the world.

We invite and encourage everyone to attend **The 2023 General Assembly of The Church Of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way Of The Lord, Inc.**, as we Study and Teach The Word Of God in Truth.

Come with a Prayer upon your heart that God will Rule and Overrule in all things. The Gospel of The Kingdom Of God must go forth from This Center Place to all the Nations. The Independence, Missouri Local will be holding Sunday Morning Services at 10:00 a.m. at The General Church Headquarters, located at **14500 E. 42nd Street S., Ste. 240, Independence, MO. 64055**. All are welcomed to attend. The General Assembly will start at 2:00 p.m. at the same location.

Message 18:3, "The cleansing time has come. God by His Spirit, will touch the honest in heart in all nations and will gather them together to prepare a people that shall be His Church in very deed. I shall go before The Lord, to prepare The Way and prepare a people to meet Christ. This is my work."

Message 43:15, "This is the day that ye who are Called must work with your might for The Pruning of The Vineyard of The Lord for the last time. Therefore turn away from the traditions of men and things that cause contention."

When we **Come to The Assembly** it is a very Sacred Time of Deep Worship, Praise and Glorifying Jesus Together. It's for Loved Ones, for The Sick and The Afflicted, for those who are Struggling Financially, Emotionally, Mentally, Physically and Spiritually. It is a Time of Deep Reverence before The Lord. It is a Time we Partake of The Sacred Emblems together, The Communion, The Sacrament of The Lord. It is a time we unitedly humble ourselves before The Lord and seek to cleanse ourselves

within that we might come before the Lord with Clean Minds and Hearts.

Message 42:2, "This is The Lord's Work. You men are called from among men to represent Christ and His Church. Therefore be very humble. Meet in your Assembly in peace and let the Lord by His Spirit remain among you. Behold, the Lord will meet with you, for truly this shall be the beginning of great things to come to pass."

Message 60:12, "Gather in the Assembly and cry unto the Lord. Let no evil come among you. The Lord will hear all those that repent and obey His Will. Let your prayers be of the heart. Let not contention be found among you."

Message 69:6, "Let the Assembly meet in peace, let rejoicing be in your hearts. Pray earnestly and the Lord will meet with you by His Spirit, and great peace shall flow to all- and the faith of the faithful shall be heard. Power shall come as your hearts shall be prepared."

Location:

The Church of Christ with The Elijah Message,
The Assured Way of the Lord, Inc,
14500 E. 42nd Street S., Ste. 240,
Independence, Missouri 64055

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, June 25, 2023

2:00 p.m. Opening Assembly Service
3:30 p.m. Sacrament, Prayer & Testimony
7:00 p.m. Preaching Service

Monday, June 26, 2023

10:30 a.m. Priesthood Meeting
1:00 p.m. Preaching Service
2:00 p.m. Membership Meeting
3:00 p.m. Prayer & Testimony
7:00 p.m. Preaching Service

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

10:30 a.m. Priesthood Meeting
1:00 p.m. Study
2:00 p.m. Preaching Service
3:00 p.m. Closing Service & Sacrament

*****We will not be holding Children's Classes this year. Please plan accordingly.**