

The Greater Light

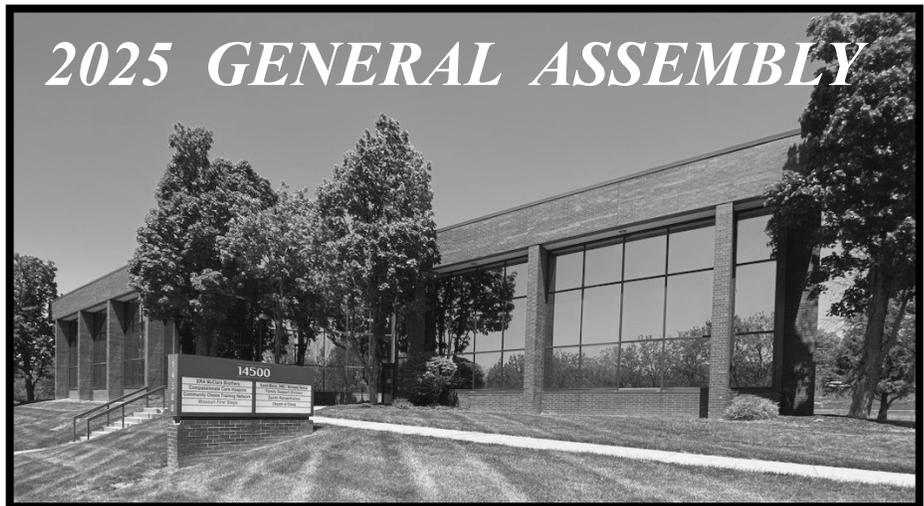
The End Time Messenger

“... 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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Happy Mother's & Father's Day



**We Invite you to Attend the
2025 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 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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EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR/BUSINESS MANAGER

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

ASSISTANT EDITOR

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Ruby Draves

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Thresa Ray

YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT

Joy Ellen Draves-Dreher

*All articles and letters must be submitted by the 5th of
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HEADQUARTERS' OFFICES

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

14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240, Independence, MO. 64055

CHURCH HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Apostle Jairus Yates & Apostle Reece Johnson

SEND ALL TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE BISHOPS' OFFICE

14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240, Independence, MO. 64055

CHURCH GENERAL RECORDER'S OFFICE

14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240, Independence, MO. 64055

BOARD OF PUBLICATION: The Twelve

CHAIRMAN OF THE TWELVE

Richard Johnson, 301 South Oak St., Lamoni, IA 50140

SECRETARY OF THE QUORUM OF TWELVE

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

WEBSITES

<http://www.johnthebaptist.info>
<http://www.theassuredway.org>
<http://www.ancientofdays.org>

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Message 53.3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53.10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

THE GENERAL MISSIONARIES

Every Elder's Duty is Missionary where opportunity permits.

APOSTLES

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

BISHOPS

Alexander Simiyu Wafula Kenya, Africa alex@johnthebaptist.info

**THE QUORUM OF TWELVE
TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Ashley Beckham— Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Mexico. (254-717-4836)

Ethan Johnson— Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Hawaii. (816-510-5453)

Reece Johnson— Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Eastern Canada (816-366-2038)

Richard Johnson- Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, California, New York, Central Canada, and Western Canada. (641-784-3451)

Adam Stokes- Virginia, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, Vermont, Massachusetts. (443-487-3374)

Jairus Cree Yates- Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Bahamas. (417-722-9733)

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 THE QUORUM OF TWELVE

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Thank you.



THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

One Hundred Sixteenth Message

On September 4, 1993, I was not sleeping well, praying much of the night. I arose about 5 a.m., was through bathing, dressed and finished shaving, when the light of the Messenger filled the house. He walked in, I turned and we met at the kitchen door. He slapped me on my right shoulder. It was hard at the time but I felt good later. He spoke greetings, I answered, "Bless you." We touched right hands. He left about 7:00 a.m. Following is the Message.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Behold, I come to you from the Lord's presence. I come at His command, to speak His will. I am 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?

3. Let faith, repentance, and the baptism be taught, with proper authority, and the laying on of hands for the gift and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

4. Fear not those seeking to be prominent, or of outstanding; creating doubts, not feeling the Spirit of God. Be humble in all your thoughts and peacefully worship before God, and your fellowmen. He will reward.

5. When you are in need of light, wash yourselves, that you will be clean, consecrate your heart to serve the Lord. Seek Him in earnest prayer and He will give you the light you need.

6. The image of the Church is set in pace. The authority established, the power given. Let it develop and progress the Lord's way. He will provide and show His hand.

7. Be discreet, be humble, lift your life style to be tidy, neat, patient and full of grace. Think again, you represent the Lord's body and members in particular, that your humility will be accepted of God and man. God is just. He will open the door before you. My Message is to all that will hear, listen, open and obey. Deliverance will come.

8. Let all know to come this way. Those that are almost persuaded, come. Be firm, let not satan beguile you. The authority is given in its channels, let it be so. The Lord gives His Spirit to lead and hold the faith. Where is the progress? Why stand ye still when there is much to cover?

9. Faith, repentance, the baptisms, teaching Jesus Christ and His atoning blood in redemption that salvation will come to all that hear and obey the full plan as taught in *The Bible, The Record of the Nephites,* and *The Word of the Lord,* the words I bring as the angel of God. I am His Messenger, a resurrected being. I am John the Baptist, I am the Elias.

10. The pattern and form is placed before you. Who is man to claim to have more than this? Many of the Lord's people will accept the Message, but remember this is a work of love. It will bring life, happi-

ness and peace to those that accept it, but sorrow to those that reject.

11. Indeed the work is in the hands of the faithful. I give charge that you see that it is directed humbly and in love. The work you do will be recorded in heaven. That which you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. That which you loose shall be loosed in heaven. Those that do or have spoken lightly and bitter of this work, their charge and responsibility they betray, and it is taken from them. Therefore, they cannot work in the sacred work of the Lord, walking in darkness at noonday. They release and destroy themselves.

12. The earth shall be filled with the light I bring- keep it sacred- the words I bring. Mankind chooses the way he would go, progressing his own destiny. The Lord knoweth man's heart and those deceiving, not true to the trust of righteousness. Thus, there will be changes in those called to lead. The process of their function has been hindered.

13. Therefore, let James Nabende be released from the apostle's office, function and calling. Also, Fanuel Andango be released from the bishops office, function and calling. Slothfulness has destroyed their calling. The spirit of this work has faded from them. Let the moneys also go where the work is being done.

14. Also, George Rhodes be released from the bishop's office and his charge in the field. Likewise, George Wilkin be released from the apostle's office, function and charge.

15. In time others will be called to fill vacancies as will be proven of God's power. This is a holy work and cannot be frustrated by the will of man.

16. Man's failures and wasted works must not hinder this Message or its mission. Let the work continue and progress on its way. I will come again as the need will be. Amen."

From the Apostles

A Father's Prayer for A Useful Life

Leonard Draves

2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:" These words were spoken by Paul. I know these words are true with our fathers. And since this is Father's Day, I wish to speak some on fathers.

As we look back over the years that our fathers gloried in the things they have suffered for the Lord, how easily we remember their accomplishments in the Lord, our Church, and the number of people won for Christ through their interpretations of Christ's life and teachings. Paul asked two questions of the Lord when he met Christ on the Road to Damascus: "Who art thou, Lord" and "What wilt thou have me to do?" Have you asked these questions yourself?

Message 72:18, "Blest are all those that see this way and the God of the living, the God of heaven and earth that stretched forth His wise design."

We realize that those two questions are the key to understanding life with the Lord. "Blest are all those that see this way..." Since that day, Paul asked the Lord those two questions to this day. They become the ruling passions of our life to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection and to do His Will in everything. I can't begin to tell you how many times my own father spoke these words to me: "To know Jesus and the power of His resurrection.

Message 97:4, "Know you this, the way is prepared that mankind may walk therein

and be saved; will they hear it?"

Message 102:11, "Knowledge cometh from study of the books and grace from much prayer, salvation by obedience, deliverance by endurance."

So now we know the secret of a truly useful life- to know Jesus and to walk in the Way the Lord would have us go. I know that our fathers, at least my farther did, had a great passion for winning souls for Christ and this great Assured Way of the Lord and for telling the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Dad not only told people of these things but they saw his words put into practice. Just as your fathers have done.

We can only imagine these days how people discussed the Words of God, religion, the friends that visited our fathers, the Doctrine of Christ, and the prayers our fathers uttered. We know the words our fathers told us and so we give all praise for the good words taught to us by our fathers. We can now understand easily what Paul meant when he said, "the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;" (Philippians 1:12).

My father taught me freedom, the truthfulness and fullness of the Gospel, right from wrong, and how to be a servant of God. The words that freedom's father taught his children will continue to live and work for Christ within each of us, and should it be their death, then we shall be with Christ which is better by far. Life gives us an opportunity to spread the Gospel and preach and teach the things of Christ as well as having the joy of fellowship with people. Our faith and love for Jesus will enable us to look at death calmly and unafraid.

I know that the teachings of my parents has given me a successful life and certainly a useful life. In my mind and eyes, my father was a great man. The king of man I hope to be. Do you remember what Jesus

said about one who desires to be great? "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11). What a revolutionary statement! Then greatness meant power rather than service, but Christ's Words and Doctrine gradually turned that around leading to a successful life. Our desire for greatness is to serve the Lord in all things the best we can. That my friends are what our fathers wanted for us.

The Bible tells the long story of God seeking to reveal Himself to man and to bring man back into fellowship with Him- a fellowship sin had destroyed. Our souls feel are and reverence before the Power of God. We know that God is one of law and order. He has laid down laws for the universe, which cannot be disobeyed. God had given His children laws which He wants us to obey but it is willing obedience that He requires. Too often His children are disobedient; but God, though just, is full of mercy- a gracious and forgiving God.

How many times have you asked your own earthly father for forgiveness? That is the next questions... How many times have you asked God for forgiveness?

Isaiah 40:28-31, "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Now, I want to read some beautiful words describing God's wisdom and strength that speaks to your very soul.

Matthew 6:24-33, "No man can serve

two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

25. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26. Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27. Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28. And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29. And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32. (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

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

After hearing these Words of God, can you not hear your own father speak the same. I know my father has said these things to me and the rest of his children.

We know that God is true! 1 John 4:16, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and

God in him." Is this not the same as it is (or was) with our own earthly fathers? It was with mine!

If you seek to know Jesus, you will learn more and more of God, for God is revealed in Christ. There is much I could say toward this. But if you recognize God as the giver of every good gift of life- your parents, your home, relatives and friends, what you eat, wear and all life's extras like music, art, etc. you will learn to know God better. If you see God's power and love in a beautiful sunset, in the promise of the rainbow, in the song of a bird, and the loveliness of a flower, you are not only learning to know God better but an awareness of God's presence is becoming a part of your daily living.

Again, these are things my earthly father taught me. How can you keep from loving your Heavenly Father when you think of what He is and what He has done for you! You have been thinking of God's power, glory, kindness, justice mercy, holiness and so on,' but always remember that no human being can halfway understand what God really is. Between man's humanity and God's Divinity, there is a bridge that even imagination cannot span. No one needs to do so. We know enough to arouse our deepest love and gratitude and a desire to respond to the Call of God.

Message 52:9, "Let love dwell in your hearts that He may dwell in you and His love be perfected, and that you may stand in the Day of Judgment."

It would be a poor kind of love that failed to show itself in deeds. To love God is to want to serve Him. God not only calls His followers to serve Him but to fight for the rights of the underprivileged in our society, be He also calls His children to a daily service of kind, helpful, Christian living.

My earthly father taught this also to me. He also taught me to recognize God's blessings. Dad expected me to show love

and to serve the Lord without any effort. I was expected to do my part, study The Books, apply them to my life, show by example and to attend services. Dad wanted his children to build up a habit of worship. He wanted us to feel and respond to the presence of God, to be willing to do what God told us and to listen to God's guidance.

John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Mother Tonight

Poem, 1942

W.A. Draves

Dear mother, tonight I am thinking of you
Of loved ones at home, the family there too,
Of the love that God gave to a mother's heart
Of the preciousness of it, tho' we are apart.

For your smile tonight, mother I weep.
Through the lonely hours, O I cannot sleep.
I picture how 'round the warm fire all 're
sitting.

Threads of pure gold your thoughts are
knitting.

Talking of loved ones, the home light burning.
Oh for peace of home tonight I am yearning.

Within my broken heart, is a prayer, a deep
sigh.

Mother tonight for thee I cry.

I think of when a child, in the cradle I laid,
When looking to me, smiling you said.
"How happy I'll be, when to manhood you
grow."

For that smile tonight, the tears from me
flow.

How precious the thought a noble mother's
love

God gave to her heart, from His throne
above.

I think Oh dear and sweetly inspired,
A true mother's love that never grows tired.

Articles

Overcoming the Power of Satan

Thresa Ray

We are living in the End Time. Satan knows his time is sort before he will no longer have time to deceive mankind, destroy hope and destroy lives. So he is working overtime to accomplish all the evil he can.

Message 4:2, "...Remember satan has great power and many will be deceived by his power."

Message 23:3, "Follow not the traditions of men, for they will lead you to destruction. For Satan will do all in his power to blind the mind of man to lead him away from God."

Message 7:6. "...Satan knows his time is short when he shall deceive the nations no more. Therefore he shall bring destruction upon the wicked, and trials and temptations upon the just that he may try their faith and deceive them if they will not watch and pray."

Message 7:10, "...Satan will destroy all that he can by his power."

Message 13:2, "Satan knows that his time is short, therefore his power from beneath will work, and oppose the power from above. There is, and will be, distress of nations, and greater trouble shall come to pass..."

As you can see, there are many verses in the messages that warns us of satan's power. I've only listed a few and am only at Message 13. God tells us that satan will destroy the very elect if possible. So how can we fight against the power of satan?

Message 9:1, "...There are those who read the Words of the Lord and the proph-

ets and have faith therein. Upon these satan has no power...”

Message 73:7, “...Remember, the greater your study and illuminating of your minds with the Words and Will of the Lord, the greater your understand and Light shall be; freeing your lives from the bands of satan and all his powers, making you a blessing among mankind.”

Message 113:11, “Keep the Faith, be diligent, hold to the vigilance and the Sunlight of Righteousness shall overshadow with healing in His Wings. Study deeply the Words I bring and it will work well with you. As you believe the Words of the Lord and the prophets, and obey, satan has no power on you.”

God wants us to study His Words and the words of the prophets, and put them in our mind and hearts so that we can call upon those words in our times of need, live our life being obedient to those words and can fight the power of satan. That way, he will have no power over us.

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Message 7:11, “Let your faith be strong in the Lord your God. Read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Read it often. By faith you shall do your work...”

God wants us to increase our faith by studying Hebrews chapter eleven. This chapter tells of the faithful works of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses’ parents, Moses, Joshua and Rahab. Plus, many other heroes of faith. Understanding how these people had faith in God and what they accomplished because of their faith will increase your knowledge and faith.

Message 5:13, “Let all your work be done in faith, for behold you can do nothing without faith. Faith will make you strong...”

What are the scriptures that we should study? The Holy Bible tells us there are three measures of meal. (Matthew 13:33) We have three books (to get our complete meal.)

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

Message 102:18, “Prove all things by the Words of Truth in the ‘Bible,’ ‘Record of the Nephites’ and ‘The Word of the Lord.’ All this is established for mankind, the guidelines of Hope and Deliverance. Man’s idealisms shall come to naught.”

Message 102:52, “I speak that all Christendom may flow together and abide by the ‘Bible’ revealing great Truths, the coming forth of ‘The Record of the Nephites,’ the book, and ‘The Word of the Lord.’ Behold the Books that will lead all mankind to Eternal Hope and Salvation, Deliverance in the Lord.”

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 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.”

John 8:12, “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

God says he will stand his righteous people in places of safety when the indignation passes over. We will have trials and temptations, but God will be with us all of the time if we are humble and call on Him. Call on God in your times of joy and happiness and in your times of need. God will show us the way. As we increase our faith,

learn God's Words and will, obey, seek God in prayer and live our lives to please Him, satan will have no power over us. God will help us to make the right decisions and choices. He will bless and guide us. Life will not always be easy but it is easier with God. He is our shield, our light, our protector- so as we study the scriptures, learn of God, and obey- we can overcome the strong holds of satan, and satan will have no power over us!

Message 112:4, “**‘Study the Words I send that My Messenger brings to you. Let your minds be illuminated in peace, and joy will rule your lives,’ saith the Lord.**”

Love in Christ
Sister Thresa Ray

A Little Bit about ‘Nothing’

Ruby Draves

Nothing: “*not at all, not anything; no single thing; having no prospect or progress; of no value.*”

Despite its clinical definition, we all know that ‘nothing’ is never simply nothing. When have we ever really seen ‘nothing;’ as the absence of anything; the opposite of something; or the antithesis of everything. A box may appear to have ‘nothing’ in it but what of the air found within. We know air is not ‘nothing’ but ‘something.’ Just ask anyone who has lived through a tornado or hurricane. No one ever said, “Its nothing but air. What are you worried about?” Equally, ‘Nothing’ is ‘everything’ to the cancer patient receiving a remission diagnosis. ‘Nothing’ on the scans means everything to them. Evidently, ‘nothing’ has weight and significance.

God Created the World from Nothing

It seems fitting to start at the beginning. Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” ‘Everything’ we see and experience was created from ‘nothing.’

We Know Nothing without the Lord

Job 8:9, “(For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:)”

John 4.25, “The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.”

Amos 3:7, “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

Luke 8:17, “For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.”

Luke 12:2, “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.”

1 Corinthians 4:4, “For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 8:2, “And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.”

Message 7/8:5, “You have been appointed to inquire of the Lord. If you will do so in prayer and fasting your vision shall be opened and nothing shall be withheld from you.”

We Are Nothing without the Lord

Matthew 5:13, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

Titus 1:15, “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their

mind and conscience is defiled.”

Galatians 6:3, “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”

Jeremiah 13:10, “This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.”

Message 31:8, “Much is folly before Me and man is nothing of good when he heeds not My voice...”

Message 83:5, “The ways of man will not save you. I give the instructions and the authority in its assured way. Those that speak lightly of my words, deny me and the trust and authority—it is taken from them for they lose by their sin. In time they will amount to nothing. Fear them not. They have no right nor authority from my words.”

Mosiah 4:11, “...as ye have come to the knowledge of the glory of God, or if ye have known of his goodness, and have tasted of his love, and have received a remission of your sins, which causeth such exceeding great joy in your souls, even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness...”

We Can Do Nothing without the Lord

John 15:5, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

Matthew 17:20, “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Message 5:13, “Let all your work be done in faith, for behold you can do nothing

without faith...”

I Corinthians 13:2-3 “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

Isaiah 41:29, “Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion.”

Message 60:3 confirms the above, telling us that without faith or love, we can not work. Why? Because “this is a just work of love.” God is Love, (1 John 4:8) without His help we can do nothing, for “man is continually evil unless he is filled with the Spirit of God.” (Message 16:1). Fortunately, nothing is too hard nor impossible with the Lord.

Nothing is Impossible with the Lord

Jeremiah 32:17, “Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”

Ecclesiastes 3:14, “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”

Luke 1:37, “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

Message 50:14, “...Nothing is impossible with God and so all the faithful shall learn His law, and obedience shall bring them rest.”

We Have Nothing without the Lord

Everything we have is of the Lord (Romans 11:36, 1 Chronicles 29:14). Therefore, the opposite must be true: we

have 'nothing' without the Lord. The Lord provides; we only need to ask (Matthew 7:7).

Nehemiah 9:21, "Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not."

Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

1 Timothy 4:4 "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"

2 Corinthians 6:10, "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

The Lord gave us our very life. He has provided all that we have. Though, we may possess 'nothing' in physical wealth, with Him our Spiritual wealth is 'everything.' As is should be, "...for great is your reward in heaven..." (Matthew 5:12).

We Carry Nothing Out of this World

1 Timothy 6:7, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

Psalm 49:17, "For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him."

Matthew 6:19-20, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"

Proverbs 10:2, "Treasures of wicked-

ness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."

Clearly, 'nothing' is not simply nothing. When the Lord is involved, 'nothing' is absolutely 'something' and at best, 'everything,' Therefore, I leave you with this last thought and encourage you to think a little bit more about 'nothing.'

Message 90:4, "...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."

Young Adults

Joy Draves

The Fruit of the Spirit: Meekness

I want you to think about a bowl of plastic fruit sitting on a table: You see the beautiful bowl of fruit and you wonder... is that real fruit? You can't tell from looking at it. It looks so good it must be fake. So eventually you break down and touch it to find out.

There is some plastic fruit out there disguising itself as meekness. It can take on several different forms. One of the most dangerous forms it takes, and unfortunately quite common today, is a refusal to stand for anything. This false meekness avoids trouble at the cost of allowing even greater trouble to develop. Being meek does not mean that you will never take a stand for what is right. It does mean that you will humbly consider what is best for others and firmly take a stand when

need be.

In today's society, many churches have gotten the real fruit of meekness and its counterfeit confused. In an attempt to "not offend" anyone, many so-called Christians will tolerate almost anything and refuse to stand firmly on God's Word. This refusal does not make one meek; it makes for a coward. We must boldly live out God's truth... and we must do it with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2, "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2. But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

A few things I want you to think about: How does meekness differ from tolerance? How is the Word of God distorted, even among believers, today? What has been the effect of this distortion of truth? How can we gently "set forth the truth of God plainly"?

The fruit of meekness/gentleness must come from within. It will only flow from a humble heart. Pride and meekness cannot exist together. So, how does our heart become humble, so that gentleness will spring forth?

Junior

Thresa Ray

Happy Mother's Day & Happy Father's Day

Dear Youth,

We set aside a day to celebrate our mothers and a day to celebrate our fathers- Mother's Day and Father's Day. Our mother and father see to our wellbeing, provides food

and shelter for us and guides us in the way we should go. They love and protect us.

What does the Holy bible say about our mother and father?

Ephesians 6: 1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2. Honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise;

3. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Proverbs 4:1, "Hear ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

The scriptures make it clear that we should obey and honor our parents. The following are two poems I'd like share:

A Mother's Beatitudes

Author Unknown

Blessed is the mother who
understands her child,
For she shall inherit a kingdom of memories.

Blessed is the mother who
knows how to comfort,
For she shall possess a child's devotion.

Blessed is the mother who
guides by the path of righteousness,
For she shall be proud of her children.

Blessed is the mother who
is never shocked,
For she shall receive and know confidence
and security.

Blessed is the mother who
teaches respect,
For she shall be respected.

Blessed is the mother who
emphasizes the good and minimizes the bad,
For her home shall always be filled with
happiness.

What Is a Dad

Author Unknown

A dad is someone who
wants to catch you before you fall
but instead picks you up,
brushes you off,
and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who
wants to keep you from making mistakes
but instead lets you find your own way,
even though his heart breaks in silence
when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who
holds you when you cry,
scolds you when you break the rules.
shines with pride when you succeed,
and has faith in you even when you fail....

I would like to add that a father and mother teach you by their good example how to grow into a strong God loving person. It is even one of our "Ten Commandments" to honor our parents.

Exodus 20:12, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

This Commandment has a promise for us when we obey it- that we will have a long life on this earth if we obey our parents. You may think "big deal" right now. But it will be a 'Big Deal' when you grow older and want to live a long time to see your own children and grandchildren.

As Ephesians 6:1 says- It is the "right thing to do"- to honor our parents. So show them respect, obey them and do special things for them, showing your love for them. Always be kind and respectful. Be a blessing to them because they have blessed you so much with the many things they have done for you!

Remember to ALWAYS show respect and love for our most important father- our Father in Heaven- God.

May God bless you as you bless your parents and all those you come in contact with. Always let the light of Jesus shine through you in your words and actions!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray

Primary

Ruby Draves

Abraham & Isaac

Genesis 22:1-13

If you remember, God told Abraham that he would bless him and Sarah with a child in their old age. Sarah wasn't quite sure that this was possible but Abraham knew that with God anything is possible. God had blessed him greatly; He gave him riches, cattle and land. Why not this? When Isaac was born, Abraham loved him so much.

One day, God told Abraham to take Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:2). Back then, it was not unusual for people to sacrifice an animal to God to show Him that they love and respect Him. You might think that Abraham would have been upset asking why God would give a precious gift, like Isaac, to him just to take him away. It was definitely a strange command, but Abraham knew God would not ask him to kill Isaac without some plan for him.

Early in the morning, Abraham saddled his donkey, took two young men, wood for the altar and began the journey with Isaac to the place that God designated. After three days of traveling, Abraham saw the place in the distance. He told the two men to stay with the donkey while he and Isaac took the wood further on to worship alone. While walking, Isaac asked his father, "We have fire and wood but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham replied, "God will supply the lamb." So they continued on (Genesis 22:6-8).

When they arrived, Abraham built the altar and laid the wood on it. Just as he drew his knife to slay Isaac, an angel of the Lord called out to Abraham saying, “Abraham, do not lay a hand upon Isaac. I know that you love and respect God, seeing that you were willing to give up Isaac to Him.” (Genesis 22:12). Abraham looked up and near the altar in the thicket was a ram. Abraham freed the ram and placed him on the altar sacrificing it instead of Isaac.

God tested Abraham to see if he really loved Him. He knew that Abraham loved Isaac so much, that it would take a lot for Abraham to give him up. But because Abraham obeyed and believed in God, he knew that God had a plan and would not steer him wrong. Because of Abraham’s faith, Isaac was spared. If we believe and follow God’s commandments, He will bless us too. God will never ask us to do something wrong. So even if it seems strange or dangerous, we must trust God always.

Craft: Burnt Offering

Materials

1. Optional: Red Tissue Paper
2. Craft Sticks or real sticks
3. Black Construction Paper
4. Cardboard– small piece
5. Cotton Balls
6. Google Eyes
7. Scissors
8. Glue



Instructions

1. With glue and sticks from your backyard or craft popsicle sticks build a small altar by alternating sticks one on top of the other.
2. Cut out a small cardboard circle– no wider than you altar.
3. Glue cotton balls on the cardboard.
4. Cut out a small black circle with ears to make the rams head.
5. Draw eyes or glue google eyes on the head and then glue on top of the cotton balls.

6. Cut out 2 horns and glue to the head.
7. Place the ram on the altar.
8. Optional: crumble a small piece of red tissue paper to represent fire. Place it on the alter prior to adding the ram

2025 General Assembly *June 22-24, 2025*

Location:

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

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, June 22, 2025

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

Monday, June 23, 2025

- 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 24, 2025

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

Handmaidens of the Lord*

10:00 a.m. Monday & Tuesday

Children’s Classes*

1:00 p.m. Monday & Tuesday

* Both located in classrooms across the hall.

