

The Restoration Letter

News of Zions Outpost Independent Branch
1733 Northeast Parkway, Wichita Ks. 67208

November/December 1989

Vol. 4 No. 6

Abramson, Page Visit

On the weekend of November 4, 1989 Lee Abramson and Norman Page were in Wichita. On Saturday, Lee spoke about the origins and purposes of the Church of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, of which he is a leading member. He answered questions presented by the audience as well. Later he presented some information on the provisions for a "general assembly" from the Doctrine and Covenants and church history.

Brother Page gave information and answered questions about the recently formed Quorum of Seventies.

Both men remained for the worship service on Sunday.

Before and after this visit we have been counselled by a few as to the wisdom or foolishness of having these men in our branch. We have also heard reports of rumors concerning the events of that weekend. All of the

rumors we have heard have been incorrect. We have had people worried that there may be a split in the branch because of the visit, or that we had decided to join the organization that Lee represents.

Needless to say it is distressing to our group to have these kinds of stories going around about us. Especially when none of the stories are true.

Brother Abramson was here by our invitation, and Brother Page accompanied him with our permission and foreknowledge. They did not seek an audience, they were asked by the Branch President to come. The idea of the meeting was to allow our congregation the chance to ask these men any questions they might have. Both the Church of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and the Seventy Quorum are subjects of much conversation and rumor. We thought it well to get the testimony of these men to help us make our own decisions concerning them.

When Lee came here he was already told that

our branch had no intention to join the organization he represents. At no time, that I am aware of, did he make a "pitch" to that effect.

The branch has not taken a vote or made any kind of "official" statement regarding these two organizations. There is a wide range of opinion concerning these groups within our membership. There is no intent to force any kind of decision on these matters.

Therefore there is no truth to any story that Zion's Outpost did anything other than hear what these men had to say.

It is our hope that the rumors will stop. They are not useful nor correct. Often they can be used as a means for division. Satan loves to create these kinds of breaches in the relationships of the Saints. Regardless of the original intent, rumors are not good. The information given here is accurate.

- This report was written by Gary Whiting.

Preaching Ministry

We have been blessed in the last few weeks by some very good preaching ministry from the resident priesthood. Priest Keith Lane gave an excellent sermon on the need for personal repentance. His words were blessed by the Spirit and they were given in a deeply reverent and sober manner.

Priest Bob Giertz spoke on the relevance of the Old Testament scriptures to our present spiritual condition. He spoke specifically on the nature and purpose of the Sabbath and the principle underlying the command to keep this day holy. He said the Sabbath was given for our blessing and not as a burden to the Saints. Brother Giertz commended this day to the Saints as a gift from God and challenged us to rediscover the Sabbath of the Lord. An article written by Brother Giertz on this subject will appear in the next *Restoration Priesthood Journal* that will be out this month.

The Lord's Supper was celebrated on the first Sunday of December after a sobering and inspired address by

Elder Jim Crawford. He spoke on the significance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in light of the covenants of the Lord. He reminded us that the Sacrament is to be preceded by honest repentance before the Lord and entered into with humility and dedication. The Saints were cautioned not to partake without proper preparation, yet they were reminded of the grace of God and not to forget His goodness. Do not hesitate to partake if you have prepared. God is merciful and desires this communion with us through Jesus Christ.

Elder Dwight Burford spoke on the subject of being prepared to stand. He reminded the Saints that we are living in an age in which we expect the hand of the Lord to move in great power through the world. Those who will stand and not be shaken are those who have taken the Holy Spirit as their guide. It requires people to be settled in their hearts concerning the will of God and their willingness to serve Him. It requires the Saints to be very diligent in the ways of righteousness. The Holy Spirit is our guide into the ways of righteousness. Brother Burford exhorted the

The Restoration Letter

Saints to heed the voice of the Spirit and cultivate a deep and trusting relationship with the Spirit of God so that we may follow live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Christmas Programs

Two special Christmas programs were held this month. The first was given on Sunday night, the 10th for the whole branch. It was a celebration of not only the birth of Jesus but also a reminder of the mission of Christ. Several scriptures and scripture stories were read. In between the readings were hymns sung by the congregation and specials provided by soloists, a men's quartet and the children of the branch singing as a choir. The program was designed by Sister Laura Harris. Cookies, punch and fine fellowship closed an excellent time of worship.

The following Monday night the Women's Department held their annual Christmas worship. The branch membership was invited to attend.

"The man who finds fault," remarked Deacon Goodentart says, "generally accumulates a lot of what he finds."

November/December, Volume 4, Number 6

Branch Elections

The following people were chosen to serve as officers for 1990 at Zion's Outpost Restoration Branch.

Presiding Elder - Jim Crawford

Secretary - Pam Burford

Music Director - Laura Harris

Treasurer - Lindon Robinson

Christian Education Director - David Price

Youth Leader - David Newman

Publications Director - Gary Whiting

Social Director - Marion Crawford

Women's Leader - Leigh Dawn Anders

Facilities Committee:

David Newman

David Newman II

Conrad Friend

Barbara Giertz

Presiding Elder

Head Deacon

Women's Leader

Auditor - Barbara Giertz

These individuals will serve terms running from Jan 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990.

The Restoration Letter

is published six times a year by Zion's Outpost Branch. Letters and comments may be addressed to Zion's Outpost Publications, 1733 Northeast Parkway, Wichita, KS 67208 (316) 686-3012.

We ask that if you like this letter and you want to help us publish it, that you send \$5.00 for a single year subscription. It will be mailed free of charge to all who ask.

Compiling Editor - Gary R. Whiting
Reviewed by Jim Crawford and Steve Anders

Our Address

Zion's Outpost Restoration Branch holds all of its services and meetings in their building at 6300 North Tarrytown in Park City, Kansas. Park City is just a few minutes drive north of Wichita. The phone number there is 744-1020.

The address given at the top of this newsletter is where the newsletter and other publications originate. This was the first "official" address of Zion's Outpost until we finally found a permanent place of worship.

AS I SEE IT

by Gary R. Whiting

The human body is an organism of marvelous design. Those who study it at all come to realize that there is no more intricate example of creation than this human body.

As I was led to consider the wonder of our bodies I began to consider the ways that our body can teach us about the response we should make to God. There is much about our bodies that operates without any conscience control by us. Most of the thousands of operations that take place within us every minute take place without any awareness on our part that they have transpired. These operations are the basis of physical life. They are essential to our existence, yet they occur independently of our conscience control.

Stop now and consider the design of our bodies. They are made up of thousands of billions of tiny little cells of many different types and sizes. Each with a role to play. And in a state of health, each cell works as a part of the whole to preserve the life of the whole body.

It is hard to think in terms of billions and trillions of anything, but consider this. In each cubic millimeter (the letter "m" in millimeter on this page is about 2mm wide; it takes about 25mm to equal 1 inch) of human blood there are about 4 million red blood cells, about 8,000 white blood cells, about 300,000 platelets and all of these make up less than half (about 40-45%) of the total volume of that cubic millimeter. The rest is fluid and in this fluid there are a multitude of nutrients, proteins

and minerals.

Just looking at a single red blood cell out of the millions we find lots of things going on. The major component of the red blood cell (RBC) is a large molecule called hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is composed of four protein molecules called heme which are combined with iron. This hemoglobin molecule carries the oxygen for our bodies. The RBC also contains systems to carry away CO₂ and other waste products, it works to control the acidity of the blood and it maintains itself. The red color of blood comes from the multitude of RBC's in the blood.

When the RBC is destroyed (the average life is 120 days) the body begins a series of steps to break down the hemoglobin. In each of these steps there are enzymes required to do the work of breaking down the molecule and reclaiming the iron. As the body proceeds through these various steps it shows us an example of what real faith is.

The bodies command is to break down the molecule. It "knows" how to do this. It always does step 1 first. It never worries or wonders if the required enzymes will be present or not. It just does what it should and (when the body is healthy) the required enzymes, etc. are present when needed. There is no evidence that the body ever waits to do its work, or puts it off waiting for more instruction, or for confirmation of its task. It never seems to worry about the supply of enzymes. The enzymes never worry about whether or not they will be needed or if they will do what they are supposed to do, they just go to work as soon as they are called upon.

This process and thousands of similar operations are repeated

November/December, Volume 4, Number 6

daily in RBC's and other body systems as well. The body does what it was designed to do without question. It is understood that the body doesn't have the capacity, on a cellular level, to think, wait, worry or argue of its own volition. But the body as a whole when joined with a spirit certainly does.

We are composed of obedient components that do their job as they were designed to do, assuming a healthy state exists. But not even all these obedient components can make an obedient or righteous soul. The soul of man must become obedient, and to the same kind of total obedience as the body's cells demonstrate.

Our bodies provide an example of the response God asks of us. Are we not of the earth? And the earth and the elements obey a celestial law (Sec 85:6a,b). By this I mean that the elements of which we are made obey the celestial law because these elements behave as God designed them to work.

I could multiply examples of body systems and other things in nature that provide a similar example for us. What is the lesson that we should learn?

It is that when Jesus said the flowers neither toil nor spin and yet the Father cares for them, he was telling the truth. It also says to us that we will be cared for in like manner if we will but learn to listen to the Spirit's instruction to us and yield our hearts to God's control. We are not our own creators, how can we be a law unto ourselves? This is foolishness. Yet for many people, even those in the church we believe that we can decide for ourselves what we can and cannot do. And here we claim agency.

We act as though the gift of

agency grants us freedom from accountability or judgment. We act, although we may profess to believe differently, that we may select our own destinies. God granted agency so that we could choose God our Father and choose to love his creation as he does and choose to obey his commandments (Gen 7:40). We may choose otherwise but to do so is to choose death over life. Adam's sin shows us that although the effects of choosing evil may not fully manifest themselves immediately, the process of death begins immediately. Since we all have chosen evil or have sinned, we are all dying, unless the atoning blood of Christ is applied in our lives. Through Jesus we have a claim again upon life through faith and repentance. This is simply choosing again and this time choosing life. Those who endure in this choice of life will live and those who do not endure will die.

In this matter the body gives us another example for illustration. What if the body chooses to do other than what it was designed to do. The answer is that the body becomes diseased or dies. Allergic reactions are the result of the bodies immune system being too aggressive and not stopping at a reasonable response. If some of the bodies tissues yield to the influence of some factor or another and change their growth patterns, a cancer develops. If the lungs cease working or the heart stops beating there is immediate death of the body.

The choices we make do matter. They do mean life or death. The purpose of agency is to choose God. Let us therefore yield ourselves to God unto life. Surrounded by so many witnesses, let us press on to the Kingdom of God.

The Restoration Letter

BLUE PENCIL NOTES

by Elbert A. Smith

Trouble is said to be a very efficient teacher. But most of us are such dull pupils that we must remain a long time under tutelage.

The emblems of the Lord's Supper seem even to cast a certain sanctity about those who serve them. But they cannot make that clean which is unclean or holy which is unholy. So the Lord has commanded those who bear the vessels of the Lord shall be clean. That means plenty of soap and water on the outside and good clean living on the inside.

It is bad to have more money than brains -- especially when one is broke.

Current Fiction:

The dentist: "Now this positively will not hurt."

The grocer: "Yes, ma-am, these are strictly fresh eggs."

The plumber: "Yes, I will fix that water faucet tomorrow."

The doctor: "No, it is not a serious operation."

The preacher: "Now, in conclusion."

All of us: "I will pay that bill next week."

If we had to bear all the burdens of life in one day we would be crushed down upon its very threshold. We have to carry only the burdens of one day at a time. That we may have strength for the day, "give us this day our daily bread."

ZION'S OUTPOST BRANCH

1733 Northeast Parkway
Wichita, KS 67208-2339
(316) 686 - 3012

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WICHITA, KANSAS
PERMIT # 1538