

The Branch Newsletter

February

2000

Zion's Outpost of the Church of Jesus Christ
6300 Tarrytown Park City, KS 67219

New parking lot pad for the church was poured in the first week of January 2000. This project was approved last year and delayed until this month by work schedules and weather. Thonen and Sons Company did the work.

With the new parking area, a new pad for the storage shed was poured at the north end of the parking area.

We will not be able to park on the new area until the first weekend of February to allow for proper curing of the concrete. Some base and extra gravel will be necessary to finish the area. Later, when the weather allows, parking blocks and stripes will be applied to the parking area.

More research has been done on the parking lots light situation. Although the light poles spoken of in the last business meeting are available, building the bases appears to be quite an expensive project. The bases would cost between \$300.00 and \$400.00 each plus the cost of wiring and providing

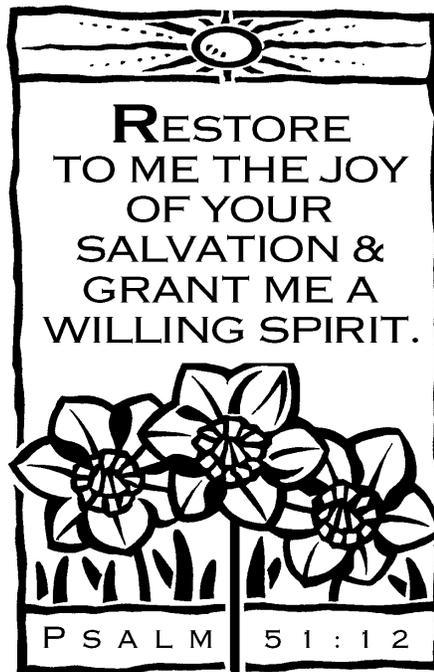
power.

A good alternative seems to be contracting for a KGE security light that could be mounted on our existing poles in the yard. The price would be \$27.50 per month for a 150 watt high pressure sodium directional security lamp. A 36 month contract

required is required. KGE will mount and maintain the light in this agreement. This is the most cost effective means for us to provide lighting for the parking area.

Many thanks to Brother MDwight Burford for dedicating his time around Christmas to the completion of the closets downstairs. They really look great and will help relieve our storage problems.

An updated directory for the Branch is completed and will be available soon. Please review the new listings for accuracy and completeness. If you find a deficiency, please communicate this to Gary Whiting.



February 2000 Scripture Calendar Reading Assistant

Below are brief comments and impressions about the daily scripture portions for each day of the worship calendar. I wanted to be able to show why these scriptures were selected and what they meant to me. Perhaps this will assist you in your daily study. - GRW

FEBRUARY 1 Genesis 5:1,2

This scripture illustrates two important facts about the gospel. First, it was preached from the beginning from God to mankind. It originated in heaven and has been personally transmitted to us from heaven by our God. The second point is that the commandment to repent is the basic commandment of the gospel and is the direct result of believing the gospel. If we will not repent, it is because of unbelief. Unbelief is the primary sin of mankind. It is the failure to accept that the Lord loves us, desires our presence with him and that he does nothing but that which is designed to redeem us. Repentance is the evidence that faith is in operation.

FEBRUARY 2 2 Nephi 12:78

When we repent, we are declaring that we are surrendering to God's wisdom and ways. We forsake our own wisdom, strength and resources. Our Father in Heaven covenants only with those who agree to come to him according to the terms of the gospel. Thus unless we believe the Word of God and repent, we disqualify ourselves from redemption. God's salvation is conditional upon our faithful penitence.

FEBRUARY 3 2 Nephi 6:48-50

Repentance is a commandment. It is a commandment with consequences. If we obey it completely, we will be baptized and be saved. If we choose to disobey the Word of God, we will be damned. This is the spoken, immutable and sure Word of God.

FEBRUARY 4 Acts 2:38

Peter's pronouncement reveals to us that our repentance opens the door to the reception of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost's presence makes us holy and leads us to do that which is holy. Repentance is vital to this process.

FEBRUARY 5 Acts 3:19,20

Repentance brings a blotting out of all of our sins. This is accomplished by faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. This scripture says that when we repent God sends Jesus Christ to us. For each person who thus believes, Jesus brings a time of refreshing.

Remembering the scripture from yesterday which says that God sends the holy Ghost to us when we repent, today's scripture says that God sends Jesus Christ to us. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the same as the presence of Jesus Christ in us.

FEBRUARY 6 Joel 2:12-14

The passion, depth and investment of repentance is plainly described here by the prophet Joel. Repentance cannot be thoughtless and lackadaisical. No, true repentance requires our whole heart, mind and strength.

FEBRUARY 7 Ezekiel 18:30,31

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), but in Christ there is everlasting life. Ezekiel asks, "Why will you die?" Our iniquities will be our ruin unless we rid ourselves of them through genuine repentance and make "a new heart and a new spirit."

FEBRUARY 8 Section 16:6d

The commandment from heaven is plain and simple. Everyone of us must repent because of sin. The first fruits of repentance is baptism (Moroni 8:29). Hence all of us are under the requirement to repent and be baptized.

FEBRUARY 9 Psalm 30:5

The miracle of repentance is described here by the Psalmist. Sin makes us the enemy of God and his justice is turned against the sinner. When we repent, the anger of God is turned aside and his mercy envelopes us and we are brought into fellowship with our Lord. Oh, the power, wonder and indescribable mystery of God's grace and atonement, through Jesus Christ!

FEBRUARY 10 Section 49:2g

Repentance is grounded in faith. Truly believing in Jesus Christ leads a soul to repentance and baptism. A faith without this response is immature or faulty. The name of Jesus Christ is the name by which we are known in heaven. To be

repent and baptized in that name requires full reliance on his saving work and a determination to serve him to the end. This is taking the name of Jesus upon us.

FEBRUARY 11 Matthew 18:11

Jesus came to redeem us from being lost, i.e., dead in trespasses and sins. His call to us is come to me and it is phrased as “Repent.” This should put the idea of repenting in a new light. Rather than being an exercise of punishment or retribution, it is an invitation to eternal life in Christ. Thus it is not a grievous commandment, though it may be difficult.

Please also note that in this passage a very valuable clarification is made in the text of the Inspired Version. Note that Jesus told the disciples that little children have no need of repentance because they are saved by Jesus. With this background the action of the disciples to send away the little children brought to Jesus is more understandable (see Matthew 19:13 which has also been clarified to reflect this idea). The disciples were not being mean or inconsiderate, they were trying to be true to what Jesus had taught them. A look at Moroni 8 is also helpful on this subject.

FEBRUARY 12 Luke 24:45,46

Without the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and his resurrection, they could be no repentance. The atonement made possible our regeneration by his blood. Repentance is not merely changing our ways, it is changing our ways based on aligning ourselves with Christ by faith in his saving work. It is purposeful only in the context of faith in Jesus Christ. Any other changing, however noble is dead work.

FEBRUARY 13 Acts 5:31

This passage further illustrates that repentance is fully dependent upon the work of Christ. Repentance is a gift from God to us. His sacrifice made it available and meaningful. Because it is the gift of God to us, it is a means of life eternal for us.

FEBRUARY 14 Section 16:3c

Today is Valentines Day, a day celebrated with acts of love. For Christians, our Valentine came in the form of the son of God, beaten, spit upon and killed as he hung on a cross outside of Jerusalem. Such immense suffering was laid on him that sweat

like great drops of blood came from every pore. What grace and amazing love! He bore all this that we could repent and return to him. No greater love can be seen than this, that God himself should come down and suffer for our sins.

FEBRUARY 15 Section 32:2f,g

Repent, repent, open the door of your heart, remove all the obstacles and let Jesus come in unto you this day. When you receive the Lord Jesus and enter into his life you receive the kingdom of God by fellowship with the body of Christ and the Lord’s presence. This is the commandment for each of us and the message of the gospel to be taken into all the world.

FEBRUARY 16 Section 1:5f,g

The Lord is pure. Those who will be in his presence and endure must also be pure. Repentance by faith is the means by which we receive the blessing of the Lord. Repentance does not erase sin, it transfers the weight of sin to our Lord who has suffered death for sin. We are saved from bearing the effect of God’s justice. We must repent or we cannot be saved...

FEBRUARY 17 Section 17:6a

In many ways Section 17 is like a constitution for the Restoration. In the opening verses a simple, concise description of the gospel. In this verse, repentance is seen as a vital element of the gospel. It is consistent with the gospel in whatever age it has been taught. Note the company repentance keeps, faith, worship and endurance.

FEBRUARY 18 Section 108:11d

Verse 11a begins with a reminder of why the Lord has issued the commandment for repentance, “that men might be partakers of the glories which were to be revealed.” The gospel has gone forth to achieve this end. Our response to God’s work is repentance.

FEBRUARY 19 Section 58:9c,d

Repentance brings forgiveness. This is the testimony of Christ. When Jesus says our sins are forgiven, he means that he remembers them no more. God, who knows all things, is able to tell when we have fully repented. How can we know if someone has repented? The repentant person will confess his

sins and forsake them. This principle is very useful for judging yourself as to the veracity of your own repentance.

FEBRUARY 20 Section 39:2b

Repentance is a key element of the gospel. Why are there those who, in the name of the gospel, reject making the call for repentance a key element of our preaching, teaching and witnessing? What gospel would reject this key element of the Lord's gospel?

FEBRUARY 21 Luke 3:13

John the Baptist, the messenger sent before the face of the Lord, exclusively preached repentance. This is the kind of repentance that bears fruit and the first fruit taught by John was baptism. Note that repentance is an equal requirement on us all. There are no class or blood line exemptions in the gospel.

FEBRUARY 22 Alma 19:69

The fruits of repentance which are offered as sacrifices of worship and honor to God, will result in eternal rewards. True repentance with a desire for righteousness will result in eternal righteousness. This is the end of the redeemed of the Lord.

FEBRUARY 23 Luke 15:7

Heaven rejoices at the repentance of one sinner. No repentance is too small for heaven to notice and there will never be enough repentant sinners in heaven. There is always room for as many as will repent. If there is such joy over a sinner who does repent, how does heaven feel about the sinner who will not repent?

FEBRUARY 24 4 Nephi 1:2

Baptism, in the name of Christ, is the first fruit of repentance. All who truly come to Christ will obey this commandment of the Lord. Those who do so will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

FEBRUARY 25 2 Nephi 13:24

Nephi teaches us that the gate to fellowship with the Father is repentance and baptism by water. Then follows the gift of the Holy Ghost, a testimony that our sins are remitted and the power of God in us to live holy lives.

FEBRUARY 26 Helaman 2:25

Although not specifically mentioned, the

principle of repentance is here in this verse. It is seen as the sincere heart calling on God for his mercy. Specifically, we are to call on God for mercy through faith on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. A key element of our repentance is calling on God, because "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered" (Joel 2:32).

FEBRUARY 27 Alma 10:30

Salvation is the gift of God to us. We have a required response to make, but we must never forget that it is God who saves us. Though we are commanded to repent, it is God who inspires us to repent and he grants us the grace to turn from our wicked ways. It is the work of God, but it is credited to our account. Without his power we can do nothing.

FEBRUARY 28 Alma 16:218

This is a beautiful prayer of blessing. May God grant this for each of you and may you desire this for all who cross your paths.

FEBRUARY 29 1 John 2:1,2

Our desire and effort should strive for sinless lives. Be ye holy, is the commandment. When we fall short and repent, Jesus Christ is our advocate with the Father by virtue of his shed blood at Calvary.

My Hope is in One who knows my heart
He's been with Me right from the start.
He fashioned me inside the womb,
Lives in my soul, I sing His tune.

Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace,
Show each heart Your sweet release.
Grant each seeker Your promised love,
As You teach them from Your word above.

Be glorified in each new day
As your children reveal what you have to say.
Today is the day for the redeemed to sing,
So those in darkness might know the King!

by Cheryl 1999

The Lord Is My Shepherd

There was once a Shakespearean actor who was known everywhere for his one-man show of readings and recitations from the classics. He would always end his performance with a dramatic reading of Psalm 23.

Each night, without exception, as the actor began his recitation - "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" - the crowd would listen attentively. And then, at the conclusion of the psalm, they would rise in thunderous applause in appreciation of the actor's incredible ability to bring the verse to life.

But one night, just before the actor was to offer his customary recital of Psalm 23, a young man from the audience spoke up. "Sir, do you mind if tonight I recite Psalm 23?"

The actor was quite taken aback by this unusual request, but he allowed the young man to come forward and stand front and center on the stage to recite the psalm, knowing that the ability of this unskilled youth would be no match for his own talent.

With a soft voice, the young man began to recite the words of the psalm. When he was finished, there was no applause. There was no standing ovation as on other nights. All that could be heard was the sound of weeping. The audience had been so moved by the young man's recitation that every eye was full of tears.

Moved by what he had heard, the actor said to the youth, "I don't understand. I have been performing Psalm 23 for years. I have a lifetime of experience and training, but I have never been able to move an audience as you have tonight. Tell me, what is your secret?"

The young man humbly replied, "Well sir, you know the psalm . . . but I know the shepherd."

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TO: