

The Branch Newsletter

March

2000

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

Many changes are visible in and around the church building as the result of work performed last month. Hopefully, none of these will be ignored by this report.

The parking lot project is nearly complete. By late January the pad was ready for use. A load of base rock was delivered and spread. After a few weeks to allow this to settle and pack down, the white rock was delivered and spread out.

Parking blocks were purchased and set in place with the help of Bob Skeen and one of his relatives. These are not yet anchored in place, but soon will be. All that will remain to be done after the blocks are fixed in place is painting.

A security light has been installed to light the parking area. The light is mounted on the pole just to the north of the porch in the front of the church building. It is a directed light to avoid disrupting the home life of our neighbors. The light was installed by KGE and costs us approximately \$27.00 a month. A three year contract is in force.

After careful examination of our options, this

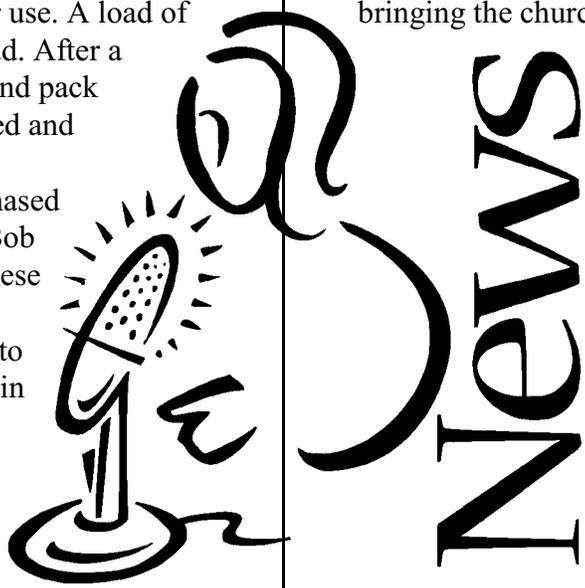
type of light was judged by the Facility Committee to be the most effective and cost efficient for our needs.

Sister Claire Burford has been working on a Girl Scout merit award and performing a service for the branch at the same time. She has been working on bringing the church facility into accordance with

good safety standards. Much of her work is not yet visible, but it she has been doing a lot behind the scenes.

She investigated the status of our building as an emergency shelter for the community. The building has been inspected by the American Red Cross and has been certified as an alternate shelter for Park City. The primary shelter is Chisolm Trail School.

The Fire Marshall has also inspected the building and made several recommendations. This has included the installation of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. An additional fire extinguisher has been installed downstairs also. The Fire Marshall has also strongly suggested that we install vent hoods over the stoves in



the kitchen as soon as possible. The Facility Committee is looking into this modification.

Claire is also working on upgrading the pass through in the kitchen. The Red Cross noted that this feature is a great benefit to them in a shelter.

Several other important safety items are being addressed by Sister Burford. Please take note of these things and thank Claire for her hard work.

We were happy to have the guest ministry of Elder Gary Metzger and his family on February 6. Brother Metzger has long been a friend of the branch. He brought a very encouraging message to us following the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that morning.



Gary spoke using testimonies from his ministry to illustrate that God is actively preparing to bring Zion to the earth. He showed that God is working to bring the people of Book of Mormon heritage to a knowledge of the gospel, to prepare leaders to bring them to Zion and that God is setting the stage for Zion to come to pass. The Holy Spirit attended Gary's ministry and brought assurance of the truth of his words.

We enjoyed a warm fellowship together after the service during lunch. It was good to catch up on how the Lord had blessed our friends. Like Alma of old when he met the sons of Mosiah after a long absence, it was good to know that they were still our brother and sisters in the faith of Jesus Christ.

A scheduled visit by the Older Youth from Warrensburg, MO was canceled due to a tragedy. A few weeks before their scheduled visit, we were contacted by the group who volunteered to come to Wichita for a Witnessing Weekend.

On the 15th, David Newman was contacted with the news that the visit would be canceled. A tragic shooting involving a family in Warrensburg had taken place. The father was in custody for the shooting deaths of his wife and several of his children. Two children survived the shooting and were still in the hospital recovering from critical wounds at last report.

The family name is Woods. Please pray for this family and their friends.

We are still looking forward to the visit from the Oak Grove youth scheduled for March 18, 19, 2000. This Witnessing Weekend was originally set up a year ago, but had to be postponed twice last year.

Please look for announcements about this visit. Requests for housing that weekend will be made after the number of guests is known. Your prayers for this weekend of ministry are also requested.

March 2000 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

MARCH 1 Alma 13:46

Because of the fall of mankind by sin, we are separated from God and subject to death. This is the justice of our Holy God. Nothing we can do on our own will merit any good thing. So God has provided a means for our rescue. Where we could do no good, Christ did good for us. He has atoned for our sins and this atonement is available to all who will receive the gift by faith. Christ's goodness is granted to us by faith and repentance.

MARCH 2 Mosiah 1:103

Salvation is God's gift to us. It is given freely on the condition of faith in Jesus Christ. This scripture calls to our attention that Jesus was coming to his own. He became like us through the Incarnation. In other sense, we were his because he made us by the word of his mouth and he came to recover what was already his. However, his rescue is not indiscriminate. We have proven ourselves unworthy of his pure presence, therefore only those who are willing to surrender wholly to him can be rescued. Thus we are called to have faith in Jesus Christ's salvation.

MARCH 3 Alma 17:66

This simple verse gives a concise description of the responsibility of the ministry and the church. The basic call of the gospel is to repentance and faith. These are accomplished only in the company of the other basic virtues of the Christian, humility, meekness and endurance in righteousness, i.e., resist temptation. The next verse continues the brief lecture of Christian discipleship with the exhortation to never weary of good works (the fruit of endurance in righteousness). This verse is a gem by which we learn the kind of company that faith keeps.

MARCH 4 Romans 10:16

Faith is plainly the gift of God to us. How is the gift delivered to the heart of men and women? Paul writes that it comes to us through the preaching of the word of God. It is vital for mankind to be exposed to the gospel. Thus, preaching, teaching and personal communication is the means designed of God to bring faith to life in the hearts of people everywhere. The preaching of the word awakens hearts to a knowledge of God, an awareness of the fallen condition of man, a longing for God and supplies the means of new life. Sometimes this task is spoken of lightly, ignored and otherwise avoided by us. However, Jesus Christ himself performed this vital task on our behalf.

MARCH 5 Section 32:3a

Notice that salvation cannot come through good works, moral living or high ideals. Salvation only comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Without faith, Jesus says, "they cannot be saved." This is the gospel and the Rock upon which Jesus builds his church.

MARCH 6 Romans 3:25, 28

Propitiation is a big word that has a simple but profound meaning. It means to appease or to conciliate. Faith in Christ's blood brings to the believer the righteousness of God for all sins that are past. Faith alone is sufficient to bring this saving miracle.

MARCH 7 Romans 4:7, 16

Only those who know this blessing can appreciate the magnitude of what Paul is describing in verse 7. Faith allows us to come before the Holy and

Almighty God and be judged as righteous. Those who hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God are eternally blessed and grateful for this unspeakable gift of salvation by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

MARCH 8 3 Nephi 12:32

Jesus came to provide a means for us to find rest in him. His death and resurrection has done all that is required for us to find that rest. His blood is able to wash away our sins and make our garments as white and pure as Christ is. However, we must surrender ourselves to Jesus or else our garments will retain their filthiness. Faith, repentance and endurance to the end are required of us, else there is not promise of rest.

MARCH 9 Romans 5:1

Faith in Jesus Christ brings peace with God. Sin separated us from our Heavenly Father by placing us at enmity with God.. The blood of Jesus Christ bridges the gap and reconciles us to God, if we exercise faith in Christ. Jesus is the way back to God, but his work is effective for us only if we are willing to cross the great divide by walking across the bridge. Unless we, by faith, cross over from separation to fellowship, we remain in condemnation.

MARCH 10 Galatians 2:16

The Jews had grown up in under the rule of the Mosaic Law. Over the years it had been modified to become a very complex set of rules. They believed that only in flawless obedience to each of these rules could a person please God. Christians often scoff at the Jews for this ridiculous mind set while we often bind ourselves and others with multiple labors to achieve salvation and the blessing of the Lord. However, we are justified by faith and not by our personal labors.

MARCH 11 Galatians 2:20

The effect of faith is the act of crucifying the old nature and the lusts of the flesh in favor of the life which Jesus gives to those who trust in him. Jesus becomes our life and power when we lay down our lives through faith in Christ. When we trust his word, he gives us the strength to die and then the power to live. Our faith then is in the love of God for us and the integrity of his word.

MARCH 12 Colossians 2:12

Again we are shown the necessity of faith as the means of both our death and our resurrected life in Christ. In this, our Lord Jesus Christ is our example and archetype.

MARCH 13 Ephesians 6:16

Why is faith compared to a shield? When we exercise faith in Christ we gain the wisdom of God to discern the temptations and barbs of the devil. Jesus is described as our shield (Psalm 28:7). Jesus gives us new life and he preserves us in that new life. Faith puts out the fire of Satan's attacks because of Christ.

MARCH 14 1 Corinthians 2:5

Faith is in God. We must be careful to avoid having faith in systems or doctrines developed in the wisdom of men. Our faith is in the work of God through Jesus Christ. The arm of flesh will fail us, but Jesus is sure forever.

MARCH 15 Luke 17:5

What an appropriate and profound prayer! We have learned that faith is not by or in the wisdom of men, therefore let this be our prayer when we are unsure of anything pertaining to our faith. Ask of God . . . (Matthew 7:12).

MARCH 16 1 Peter 1:7

Faith is a precious gift which is at first found in us in a rough, unpolished form. Jesus serves us by placing us in circumstances to refine, polish and mature faith in us. Peter writes this to assure us that these situations do not represent God abandoning us, but they are God's way of establishing us in the promise of eternal life. Peter knew the value of endurance, i.e., "hanging in," and was writing from the perspective of one who had endured and was reaping the benefits of his life in Jesus Christ.

MARCH 17 1 John 5:4

Faith is powerful. Just how powerful, is hard for us to realize unless we actually allow Jesus to be our life. Verse 5 amplifies the term faith when John wrote that those who overcome are those "that believeth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

MARCH 18 1 Nephi 3:117

Faith is an eternal benefit. The promise of faith is to be known as "righteous forever." This kind of faith is in the Lamb of God whose blood makes us white.

MARCH 19 2 Nephi 13:28

Nephi speaks of unshaken faith. This is faith that has no other object than the Lord Jesus Christ. Nephi defines this kind of faith as "relying wholly upon the merits of Him who is mighty to save." This kind of faith is not distracted, diluted or otherwise contaminated by having a hope in anything or anyone beside Jesus Christ.

MARCH 20 Helaman 2:107

Aminadab's words are plain and impossible to misunderstand. Turn away from your sins and cry to God until the assurance of your forgiveness and salvation is established in your heart from the throne of grace. Too often we hesitate or fall short of this kind of diligence and thus fail to know the benefits of full saving faith.

MARCH 21 Helaman 5:96

This scripture amplifies the importance of the scriptures in the development of saving faith. The writing of the prophets helps to lead men to know and trust in God. As a result men and women repent and call on the name of the Lord. All of this brings a change of heart. This change of heart is a spiritual heart transplant. Our flawed and evil heart is exchanged for the heart of Jesus Christ.

MARCH 22 Section 1:4d

This is an important verse for us to understand if we are to appreciate the reasons for the Lord bringing the Restoration Movement. One of the chief reasons listed in this passage is that faith would increase in the earth. The necessity of faith is for the salvation of mankind and is a vital part of God's plan for the Everlasting Covenant. As a church, we cannot forget this primary call of the Restoration. To miss this is to miss the purpose for which we have been so blessed.

MARCH 23 Section 11:4b

Faith is a critical element that must be found in the heart and character of those who are able to serve the Lord in the gospel work. Notice the company that faith keeps. This is a good scripture to use when we look to judge ourselves to see if we are walking in Christ or not.

MARCH 24 Section 25:1b

Faith is really the key to the principle of common consent. The church is to be governed and operated by faith. This means that you and I are not to judge items, make decisions or act in our own wisdom. Rather, we are to seek the mind of Christ and labor together for the glory of God. There is no room here for politics, personal or group agendas or schemes. If not by faith it is sin (Romans 14:23).

MARCH 25 Acts 14:22

One of the duties of the minister of God is to establish the saints in the faith of God. Once we enter into the Christian life, we have the necessity to endure. Various tribulations will assail and test us. The minister of God must confirm (strengthen, comfort and assure) and exhort (encourage with much exertion) the saints to continue in the faith.

MARCH 26 Moroni 6:5

Jesus is the object of our faith. He is here identified as the author and finisher of our faith. Each member of the church has a role in the faith of every other member of the body. We must see to it that each person's faith is encouraged through the word of God, friendship, prayer, accountability and participation in the body of Christ.

MARCH 27 Helaman 2:31

I think that one of the beautiful lessons of this verse is the word "they." It was the body of Christ, the true believers, that matured in their faith together. Using the principles of Moroni 6:5, the church prospered in Christ, despite the persecution and injustice which they suffered from those who were without faith.

MARCH 28 Alma 16:143

Faith does not require or demand full disclosure before we trust and act. Saving faith trusts

the Lord and believes that God will never forsake us, that he will provide for us and that he will grant us all of the resources needed to do whatever he asks of us. This faith looks at the vision of God and follows Christ, relying on his merits. To require a perfect knowledge before trusting and obeying Christ is to rely on our own merits and not the Lord's.

MARCH 29 Section 98:5h

Faith is the assurance of eternal life. External circumstances do not and cannot alter this promise from God. Our endurance in faithful service to God in the face of persecution, is often the testimony that melts the heart of unbelief in another or that which strengthens a brother or sister to remain steadfast in the faith.

MARCH 30 Habakkuk 2:4

Faith resides in the humble spirit. A proud man, one who is exalted in his own eyes, cannot have true faith. True faith requires humility before Christ, repentance of sin and a lifelong dependency on the merits of Jesus Christ. This is the faith that brings justification and sanctification. In this faith, one shall live.

MARCH 31 1 Nephi 1:23

Faith grants access to the tender mercies of our Lord. The love of God is not known except through the condition of faith and all that attends to faith (repentance, hope, endurance, etc.) The chosen of the Lord are those who do exercise faith. All are called to have faith, few will do so. Will you?

More Hymns of the Church (??)

The Contractor's Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

The Politician's Hymn: Standing on the Promises

The IRS Hymn: All to Thee

The Shopper's Hymn: Sweet By and By

The Meteorologist's Hymn: There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

I Will Do More

I will do more than belong –
I will participate.

I will do more than care –
I will help.

I will do more than believe –
I will practice.

I will do more than be fair –
I will be kind.

I will do more than forgive –
I will love.

I will do more than earn –
I will enrich.

I will do more than teach –
I will serve.

I will do more than live –
I will grow.

I will do more than be friendly –
I will be a friend.

– from the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sassamansville, PA

Zion's Outpost
6300 Tarrytown
Park City, KS 67219

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2000

TO: