



The Branch Newsletter

April

2000

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

We had the privilege of receiving the presence and ministry of 25 friends from various branches in Missouri. Nineteen youth from Missouri came for a Witnessing Weekend to Zion's Outpost on March 18, 19. They were led by Steve, Julie (and Michael, their young son) Mapes and Mark and Paula Churchill.

The youth arrived about 1:00 pm on Saturday at the church, where they were met by several of the local youth. The afternoon began with lunch, followed by a class, planning and preparation for the Sunday Service. After Supper, the youth were divided into teams to visit various church families. Visits were made in 5 or six homes by the teams. From the reports given by the youth, the visits went well and were greatly appreciated by the families.

A brief review of the visits ended the night as the youth met at the church before scattering to the homes where they slept. Perhaps many of the evenings went as ours at the Whiting home.

We had three young ladies stay overnight at our house. We returned from the church about 9:15 pm. We talked for a couple of hours as we became acquainted. Suddenly, it was almost Sunday and we decided that we should get some rest. We really enjoyed having them over.

On Sunday morning, the youth presented the 9:30 am worship and the 11:00 am worship. These

were times of testimony and songs. Elder Steve Mapes brought some closing thoughts on the last service.

The youth and the congregation met together for a potluck lunch after church. Then, after pictures and good-byes, the group headed north to Missouri.

This weekend was originally scheduled about one year earlier. On two different occasions the weekend had to be cancelled. It was obviously worth the wait. All who participated were blessed by the activities of the weekend. Hopefully this type of activity can be held again in the future.

This is a roster of the visiting youth who attended the Witnessing Weekend:

Scott Walters
Omer Libich
Kalan Smith
Kenny Clay
Nathan Fieth
Ryan Fieth
Aaron Fieth
Ammon King
Liz Norman
Tara Lively

Mindy Mulheron
Michael Lidberg
Jim Bullard
Jeremy Lidberg
Aaron Norman
Chris Humphrey
Sarah Bressman
Hannah Sherer
Kimberly Younger

Church Cleaning Schedule

The church cleaning schedule has been revised recently. The new schedule is listed here. Please review this carefully. You are probably not partnered with the same family as you were in the past. Thank you for all of your help in keeping the building clean. This really does help others worship and makes a good impression on our visitors. If your family is not presently assisting in the church cleaning and you would like to help, please let us know.

4/8	Knodel - Whiting	4/15	Burford - Newman
4/22	Skeen - Drope	4/29	Smith - Knodel
5/6	Whiting - Burford	5/13	Newman - Skeen
5/20	Drope - Smith	5/27	Knodel - Whiting
6/3	Burford - Newman	6/10	Skeen - Drope
6/17	Smith - Knodel	6/24	Whiting - Burford
7/1	Newman - Skeen	7/8	Drope - Smith
7/15	Knodel - Whiting	7/22	Burford - Newman
7/29	Skeen - Drope	8/5	Smith - Knodel
8/12	Whiting - Burford	8/19	Newman - Skeen
8/26	Drope - Smith	9/2	Knodel - Whiting
9/9	Burford - Newman	9/16	Skeen - Drope
9/23	Smith - Knodel	9/30	Whiting - Burford
10/7	Newman - Skeen	10/14	Drope - Smith
10/21	Knodel - Whiting	10/28	Burford - Newman
11/4	Skeen - Drope	11/11	Smith - Knodel
11/18	Whiting - Burford	11/25	Newman - Skeen
12/2	Drope - Smith	12/9	Knodel - Whiting
12/16	Burford - Newman	12/23	Skeen - Drope
12/30	Smith - Knodel		

April 2000 Calendar Reading Assistant Pray Without Ceasing

APRIL 1 SECTION 49:5C

This scripture speaks one of the fundamental principles of the Christian life. In the earlier paragraphs of this verse the Lord promises Zion to come and the recovery of Israel, God's ancient covenant people. Then the Lord calls the church to be about its duty (Go forth), discard your other concerns, dreams, ungodly ways, etc. (repent of all your sins) and rely on the Lord for daily wisdom and guidance.

The command to ask of God is one of the simplest and most profound commandments the Lord has given. It is as much an invitation as a commandment. God has made himself available to us in such a way that every person may go to the Lord for wisdom in the conduct of our life. Don't miss the deep meaning here; the very God of the Universe is ready at a moment to grant wisdom, guidance, hope and knowledge to those who ask him in faith. This opportunity is dependent upon our being in the work that God has set us to (or a desire to accomplish the same) and repentance of our sins. Thus, the command to pray always is shown to mean keeping a constant communication with the Lord in all we do.

APRIL 2 SECTION 3:1E

Prayer is a very important part of the victorious Christian life. Satan hopes to separate us from God and then destroy us. But Jesus calls us to come to him. This gathering of our hearts to the Lord places us under his protection and in the strength of his powerful right hand. Combining this with diligence to our calling, wise labor in faith, God is able to successfully defend us against all the wiles of the devil. God graciously says that in this we are conquerors over Satan. Do not be fooled, we conquer only in the strength of the Lord and by his grace. Our victory is his and to his glory.

APRIL 3 SECTION 17:6E

Many scriptures carry the theme that is evident in this scripture, "Pray always, lest you fall into temptation." This warning is made to individuals and the church. In plain language, the Lord is saying, "Pay attention! Don't blow this off, life is dangerous. You must draw near to me in prayer or you will fall into temptation. No one is immune from this danger and none are so mature or wise

that they can avoid these pitfalls without the direction of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's presence and counsel is only available through prayer (Section 42:5b).

APRIL 4 SECTION 18:6A

Again, the counsel of the Lord calls us to pray always so that the Holy Spirit will be poured out abundantly upon us. Without prayer, the Holy Spirit is measurably withdrawn from us. God will not inhabit space that is not opened to him in our hearts. Failing to pray is the same as refusing God entrance into our lives and hearts.

The consequences of this act of refusal are immense. We refuse the peace, love, joy, patience, brotherly kindness and all of the other fruits of the Spirit in our lives. We are turned over to ourselves and left alone in the face of Satan's temptations.

On the other hand, praying and receiving the presence of the Holy Spirit brings all of these many benefits to us and opens a fellowship with the Lord that is eternal and peaceful. The stakes are eternal. Therefore, take heed, pray always that the outpouring of the Spirit of God may be always with you.

APRIL 5 SECTION 75:2C

More benefits of seeking the Lord in prayer are mentioned here. Prayer, the drawing close to God and submitting to his will, is a source of strength for the faithful. We are to ask for the Spirit to be in our lives that we may have endurance and strength (faint not). For those who so seek it, God says, "I will be with them even unto the end." Amen (let it be done).

A wonderful assurance from the Lord is this promise. Pray and I will always be with you, even unto the end. There is no love for me like the love of Jesus.

APRIL 6 SECTION 85:21A

Prayer is closely related to fasting. Fasting is the denial of some pleasure or needed thing in life to allow room for the Spirit of God to make inroads in teaching, doctrine and victorious living despite the many temptations that might otherwise have drawn us down. Prayer and fasting is a kind of sacrificial offering made to God showing our love and reverence for him. Prayer and fasting, as it ought to be done, demonstrates that there is nothing we hold as dear as the presence, wisdom, love and counsel of the Lord God the Universe.

APRIL 7 2 NEPHI 3:38,39

This scripture was chosen because it does show the passion and consistency of constant prayer. Nephi loved the Lord and his word. He loved his people as well and spoke often to the Lord on their behalf. However, the scripture is impressive because of Nephi's testimony that the Lord heard his prayer. Our God hears our prayers and loves to draw near to those who call on him. Note that the Lord responds in marvelous ways according to the testimony of Nephi in these verses and extending into 40 and 41. Angelic ministry, knowledge and visions all were given to Nephi because of his faithful prayers.

APRIL 8 2 NEPHI 6:103, 104

Jacob, being quoted by his brother Nephi, encourages us to pray by day and give thanks in the night for all the mercies and greatness of the Lord to us. Prayer opens our heart to love the Lord and his works. God gives us the ability to rejoice and know his covenants and condescensions as he ministers to us in prayer.

APRIL 9 2 NEPHI 14:11, 12

Prayer is a ministry of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. God knows that when we pray in the Spirit, we bind Satan's ability to lead us away and we open our souls to God. Therefore, the Lord, by his Spirit, continually nudges us to call on him in prayer.

Satan fears praying people and does all that he can to keep us out of prayer. He will try to distract us, confuse us, interrupt us, deceive us or discourage us from praying. If we pray, he has no power and the most powerful means of defeating us is by preventing prayer. So he tempts us by evil spirits to not pray.

To accomplish any good thing for the Lord, we must pray. This is an act of submission of our will in favor of the Lord's. It honors God as worship and allows him to lead us in his wisdom. This wonderful thing called prayer can make or break a Christian's life. So give heed to the word's of our friend Nephi and pray always.

APRIL 10 MOSIAH 11:148, 149

Prayer is a part of the ministry of the word of God in the church. It is a response to the work of the Lord's ministry. It is designed to bring us to the truth according to the Lord and allow his righteousness to flow into and through us. It is a commandment of God that we are to pray without ceasing. We may see it as a chore, God sees it as a way to free us from sin and grow in his likeness. Perspective is very important.

APRIL 11 ALMA 10:28

Our prayer life opens our soul to the ministry of God. This verse reveals three benefits of that discipline. We are protected against temptation, led by the Holy Spirit and transformed into the children of God.

I suppose that if we understood the benefits of prayer and the fact that the Lord gives us prayer as a means to be bathed in his grace and to be freed from the onslaught of sin and the burden of its effects.

APRIL 12 OMNI 1:47

Prayer is a means of making a living sacrifice to God. Thus, when we pray to God with the sincerity of our heart, with the intent to please the Lord, we are laying our lives on the altar and offering God everything that we have.

APRIL 13 ALMA 12:14

The sons of Mosiah, after their conversion to the true faith of Jesus Christ, had a desire to bring the gospel to the Lamanites. These faithful men knew that without the blessing of the Lord, they would surely fail. Prayer and fasting became the means of their submission to the will of the Lord and their supplication for guidance and the assurance of the Spirit's presence with them as they labored. In prayer their desires and hopes were honed to divine standards. Prayer is a resource through which the Father is able to lead and train us to know and do his will.

APRIL 14 ALMA 16:219, 238

Verse 219 is a representative of the several verses that form the context. There is no aspect of our life that is outside of the realm of God's concern for us. Moreover, there is no part of our life that we should exclude from God. Take everything to God and seek his wisdom and blessing on it all.

APRIL 15 3 NEPHI 9:31, 38

The condition of unceasing prayer is one of heart attention. In other words, constant prayer does not require perpetual vocal prayer. This occurs when the direction of our heart is aimed at worshiping and adoring the Lord, regardless of the place where we are or what we are doing. Obviously, if we are in a place that does not induce this desire for a constant prayer relationship with Jesus, we need to repent and exit that place. There is a time for vocal prayer and a time for heart prayer alone. There should never be a time when there is no prayer.

APRIL 16 LUKE 21:36

Unceasing prayer acts as a sentry for our heart. A sentry is a guard who patrols an assigned area. His or her job is to watch for any approaching danger. When danger is discerned, the sentry must give an alert or warning. After the warning, the sentry must begin the defense of the area. The entire base or complex depends on the sentry to keep alert and do its duty. If the sentry of prayer is not functioning, the enemy can easily attack the unsuspecting area and do great damage, even to the point of full destruction.

Our hearts are vulnerable to spiritual attacks. Jesus warned us to stay alert through prayer to avoid being overcome by the enemy. When Jesus returns to gather his people, the hearts that have been overrun will not be counted worthy to enter into the kingdom of God. Those persons will not find deliverance from the wrath to come because they failed to warn and defend the stewardship God gave them.

APRIL 17 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

One of the shortest, yet most profound verses of the Bible. This is advice, commandment, warning and a gift. Let us then take heed and pray always.

APRIL 18 COLOSSIANS 4:2

Another brief but potent scripture. The writer, Paul, assumes that prayer is already a part of the reader's life. If it is not true in your life, then read the passage, Pray and continue in prayer. Paul touches on the subject of watching. Prayer maintains a spiritual alertness and freshness. It is activity of the soul that prevents one from falling asleep. Spiritual sleepiness is the sign of grave danger for it implies no awareness of God or his desires for our life. This is sin and it is the precursor to horrid sins. Lehi admonished his older sons to Awake! And shake off the chains of death that bound them (2 Nephi 1:38,39).

APRIL 19 ROMANS 12:12

This twelfth chapter of Romans is a guidebook to the daily, practical aspects of Christian living. It was written to Christians living in a wicked and pagan society, Rome. Among the many virtues encouraged by Paul, being instant in prayer was included.

Instant implies quickness and immediacy. We are familiar with instant in our foods, drinks and even auto service. In our society instant is often associated with impatience, but that idea is not found here. Just before his

counsel on prayer, Paul says that the saints are to be patient in tribulation. Instant then describes a relationship with Christ that makes Jesus the first thought in any trouble or other event of life. Jesus is the first one we turn to for help, counsel and conversation. There is no delay or hesitancy about going to Jesus in prayer. Whatever the situation the Christian's first thought is, "Let us pray."

APRIL 20 ACTS 8:14, 15

Prayer is the means by which the Holy Spirit is granted to the believer. Confirmation of the water baptized is an important aspect of the ministry of the church. But it is really a function of the Lord's ministry to the member and the church. Without the prayer of faith, this ministry is not available to the church. Continuance in prayer is a vital part of maintaining the presence of the Lord in our lives.

APRIL 21 LUKE 18:1

Jesus taught men and women to pray always. Jesus taught that prayer is an important part of maintaining spiritual strength and alertness. Fainting here is not the idea of passing out, but the idea of losing strength or giving up. In this parable, Jesus shows the importance of persistence in prayer. Keep knocking, keep asking and the Lord who is gracious will hear you.

APRIL 22 DANIEL 6:10

Daniel shows us another kind of persistence prayer. He knew that his life was in danger by continuing to worship the True and Living God in prayer. I am also sure that he knew that these conniving men had pushed this unjust law past the king in order to hurt Daniel. But Daniel's faith was not in laws of men, but in God. He simply returned to his usual pattern of prayer as an act of faith and God delivered him from the hands of the evil minded men who sought his life. We must pray always in spite of the world's opposition to prayer.

APRIL 23 NEHEMIAH 4:9

Nehemiah's job was to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed for over 120 years at this point. The Temple was functioning, but the city was uninhabited and undefended. Nehemiah came to Israel, rallied the leaders and the people and set to work on the restoration of the city wall. Enemies of the Jews opposed the work and threatened war. Nehemiah ignored their threats and continued his work, but not without two important things. He armed the people and set watchman

on the walls to guard against attack. Furthermore, he and his people prayed to God. We should not forget that prayer does not eliminate our obligation to work with the Lord to do the wise and prudent things. Prayer does not mean that God takes over and we can nap on the couch until the action is over. Prayer means a desire to join in with God to solve the problem at hand.

APRIL 24 PSALM 42:8

God's commandment to us is to pray without ceasing. But it is not a unilateral condition, i.e., God does not ask of us what he is not also more than willing to do for us. David notes that God's loving kindness is with us all during the day and by night we are comforted and kept by his song. David must be drawing on his experience as a shepherd here. During the daylight hours the shepherd is with the sheep, moving them, bringing them to food and water. The shepherd defends his flock from danger throughout the day. At night, the shepherd would sing and his presence comforted and calmed the sheep. God cares for us as the Good Shepherd (John 10). He pledges to always be with us, his command to us is to look for him and stay with him through prayer all the time.

APRIL 25 PSALM 55:16, 17

The context of this verse is the tale of a man betrayed by a friend. Jesus was so betrayed and perhaps some of us have suffered the same. Though the trial be great and difficult, the man of God calls on God at all times and in all situations. Evening, morning and noon are the prescribed times for prayer in the Jewish world. Remember that Daniel prayed to God, three times a day. These three times comprise the entire waking day for a Jew. It is symbolic of always being in prayer to God.

APRIL 26 PSALM 5:1

David often begins his prayer with a plea to God to hear his prayer. It is a way of seeking the Lord's presence. It is an act of humility as opposed to demanding or simply expecting God to hear without even the slightest hint of recognition that the God of the Universe is being addressed. We ought to carefully consider the majesty and glory of God in our prayers. It is only through the sacrificial death of Our Lord Jesus Christ that we have access to the throne. We have no intrinsic right to expect God to hear us. By grace we are given access to the throne of God. Though God is infinitely gracious, we should not presume God's attention. Rather let us approach with humble faith and reverence, the Mercy Seat of our God as

we pray.

APRIL 27 MORONI 6:6

Prayer is not an individual act. It is an act performed by individual members but is really a function of the body of Christ as a whole. Moroni records that the church after the visit of Jesus Christ had the habit of coming together frequently for worship. Prayer was one of the functions performed. This is the wisdom of the prayer service. In prayer, the members of the body of Christ are drawn together in worship and ministry. Prayer is the byproduct of a healthy member of the body of Christ. The more prayer, the healthier the body of Christ. Are you contributing to the health of the church through prayer in private and in public worship? If not, you are not pulling your weight.

APRIL 28 ACTS 2:41, 42

The measure of a healthy church is prayer. Through prayer the body is nourished and refreshed. When combined with regular study, worship and fellowship in love, the body will find strength and blessing. Such was the case of the early New Testament church, the Golden Age church in the Book of Mormon and many other occasions.

APRIL 29 MORMON 8:3

Intercession through prayer is a typical of a loving Christian. The Holy Spirit stimulates love and compassion in our hearts. By this we are led to pray for one another and seek the Lord's blessing for our brethren and sisters. Prayer is more than an act of obedience or even of worship. It can also be a means to serve one another and free the Lord to bring a multitude of blessing.

APRIL 30 ROMANS 8:26

Finally, the act of prayer is not truly an act of our own. It is the work of God through us. The natural man is incapable of acceptable worship or prayer. The atonement opened the throne of mercy to us and further God has granted his Spirit to teach us to pray. Often, what God needs to have prayed or what we ought to pray and just cannot for lack of understanding or ability would go unaddressed if not for the intercession of the Holy Spirit praying for us. What a wonderful blessing God has given us in prayer. He has granted it as a gift, he blesses it, he guides us in it, he strengthens us and finally, when we are unable to do so, his Spirit prays for us.

Schedule of Upcoming Events

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- April 23 Special Easter Services
 Begin at 8 AM
- May 1-31 Church Deep Cleaning
 Month
- June 5-9 Vacation Bible School
- June 17 Food Preparation for
 Burford Family [time to be
 announced]
- June 25-July 1 Sr. High Camp [fall grades 10-12 & grades of 2000]
- July 9-15 Jr. High Camp [fall grades 7-9]



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TO: