

Joseph Smith Ministries

VOL. 1

AUGUST 2012

NO. 9

“LAY DOWN THE FENCES AND FIND COMMON GROUND”



Joseph F. Smith

is the son of Arthur Smith, the grandson of Alexander Smith, and the great-grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr. He comes in Christ's name to invite all those who believe in the Book of Mormon and the restored gospel to prepare for Zion's redemption.



✠ The Willing & Obedient ✠

“Ye must needs be led out of bondage by power, and with a stretched out arm; and as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be.” (D&C 100:3e)

FORTY DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

Moses spent 40 days in fasting and prayer on Mount Sinai. He received the Ten Commandments. The Jews teach that Moses' fast began on the first day of Elul and that Moses received the law on Yum Kuper. The first day of Elul this year is August 19.

We invite all believers to prayer and fasting. We certainly need the Lord's intervening direction. Yet we are not worthy of it unless we are willing to become united. A time of repentance, reconciliation, fasting and prayer is the only way to achieve God's guidance.



August Schedule

Joseph will travel to the Bemidji Reunion where he will provide ministry. He will also participate in groups that meet for prayer and fasting.

The Hope of Zion

The first latter-day saints yearned for the holy city—braving the rigor of the American frontier to settle virgin land in Jackson County. Although they did not succeed in that day, the hope of Zion has burned brightly in many saints since that time. Although no effort is now in place to build Zion in the specified area, God has not forgotten it. He will redeem it Himself and soon.



Building the Temple

Internal bickering between the Presidency, the Quorum of Twelve and the Bishopric of the Reorganized Church created a crisis in 1925. Almost 3000 members of the Reorganization joined the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, some of whom were members of Alexander Smith's immediate family.

The Church of Christ was formed in 1862 by five branches under the leadership of Granville Hedrick, who was ordained as their president in 1863. They were the first Latter Saints to return to Independence after the Mormons were expelled from Jackson County in 1833. They began repurchasing the Temple Lot in 1867.

By 1925, the Church of Christ membership had dropped to about 300. Because it had already agreed with the RLDS Church that both churches held priesthood authority, protesting RLDS members transferred their membership to the Church of Christ without re-baptism.

The 900% gain in membership helped the Church of Christ retain and manage the Temple Lot. On February 4, 1927, Otto Fetting presented a revelation directing the Church of Christ to build the Temple. A later revelation said that the survey markers must be moved ten feet to the east for the temple to stand on the appointed spot. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on April 6, 1929. That May the excavators found the two stones that Joseph Smith had dedicated and laid on August 1, 1831 buried directly under the moved markers.

According to Joseph F. Smith's memory, the excavation was completed by the following October. That evening, the Quorum of Twelve met in the church. A loud, quarrelsome argument commenced. As Winfield Gould picked up the tools to leave, he looked toward the noisy, contentious meeting and saw the devil dancing on the excavation's north bank. By the next morning the north bank had collapsed. The excavation remained open until 1946 when it was filled in. (Continued on next page.)

Support Joseph

Joseph has a message and a plan. The time of tribulation is very near and Zion's redemption is just as close. You, along with fellow believers, can begin preparing today. And you can help others, too.

We depend on your contributions to take Joseph's message to those who seek his ministry. Please send your tax deductible contributions to **The Joseph Smith Support Fund**, PO Box 774, Blue Springs, MO 64013. Thank you for your support.

Follow Joseph on the Web

For those who use the Internet, you may find up-to-date information at our website. Either www.josephsmithministries.org or www.jfsm.org will take you to it. You may contact us through that site or write us at the address to the left.

Want Your own Newsletter?

If you are not receiving your own Newsletter, please request one by writing us or signing up at www.jfsm.org/newsletter.html.

Building the Temple Continued

On February 12, 1930, Joseph Luff, a member of the RLDS Church, but respected and welcomed within the Church of Christ, gave a prophecy during prayer service. It stated, among other matters, *“The temple of your purposing ye shall not be permitted to build,”* adding, *“Upon the ruin of your brother’s hopes ye shall not erect a monument.”*

God is not in the business of validating competitors. He is in the business of saving souls. He directed members of the Church of Christ, but He refused to choose only them. God will not achieve His latter-day goal by approving some at the expense of others, but will *“gather together in one all things in Christ”* (Eph 1:10).

Joseph Luff’s revelation chastised those *“who have interpreted the scriptures to your liking”* and *“who now seek to defend the steps unwisely taken.”* This may especially apply to our day of fragmentation when various fractions of the church—all with unbroken chains of priesthood authority to Joseph and the angel—present and defend various interpretations about organization and procedure.

Jesus invites His people to become one (D&C 38:6a), to *“let nothing separate you from each other and the work whereunto you have been called”* (D&C 122:17b). Yet, differences keep believers apart, sometimes so separate that they cannot even worship together.

In 1930, the Lord called those divided by perceived differences to repent. He scolded those *“who hear not, from the spectacles of your blundering a call for repentance but in blindness limit the need for repentance to those from whom you hold yourselves separate.”* The blunderings that cause division among Restoration believers are most obscure to those who see the need of repentance in others, but not in themselves.

A call to repentance came last year. Its words of counsel invited, *“Seek earnestly to be reconciled one with another. . . Contend with no brother, but come together in prayer and fasting. . . Fast and pray, to repent, and to forgive.”*

The land of Zion has remained unredeemed since 1834—a total of 178 years! While some faithful saints returned, they have not built *“up the waste places of Zion”* (D&C 98:4g). They may have started well when the Church of Christ repurchased the Temple Lot or when the RLDS bought land and built several improvements, such as the Independence Sanitarium, but where are those improvements today? Zion languishes, while divisions increase and contentions prevail. When will it stop? When will the saints repent?

Joseph Luff’s 1930 prophecy promised, *“For behold from both here and there and from every circle where God’s intervening hand shall smite and awaken to repentance, shall arise a cry to which He will give ear, and His answer will dissolve the obstacles that hinder and the differences that provoke contention, and from thenceforth those who remain and give heed to His revelation shall abound in the joy of their sanctified experience and God shall have a united people.”*

Are believers in the restored gospel to the point that they are willing to follow God’s counsel? Has everyone grown tired of following their own understanding and erecting their own designs?

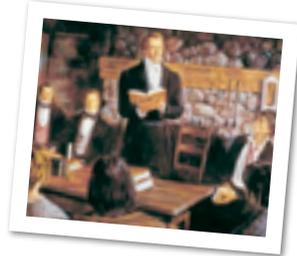
It is time for those who realize they do not know how to gather the faithful or how to resolve the differences—it is time for all those who are weary of debating or distressed by contention—to repent. It is time to change how we treat each other. It is time to be reconciled and ask God for forgiveness.

We invite all who yearn for Zion’s redemption to bow to God and petition Him in repentance, asking His forgiveness. It does not matter where. It can be in a branch, in a group, in a home, or in a closet. It does not matter where. It matters only if it happens!

Dear saints, the time has come to seek God and ask His intervention. But to exercise sufficient faith, we must bury our weapons of war and be reconciled. And we must be willing to be fitly framed together by His workmanship into the temple of His making, a living witness of God’s redeeming power. Let repentance begin.

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PREPARING THE FAITHFUL FOR A TIME OF



TRIBULATION AND ZION'S REDEMPTION

JOSEPH SMITH *Ministries*

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