

# The Ensign

Zarahemla Branch Newsletter

August 2016

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## Pastor's Corner

### Hope

By High Priest Brad Gault

**We are** in the middle of another political season and it's tough to watch. So much vitriol and partisan rancor. So much *argumentum ad hominem*. As a nation we are divided and polarized as never before and not just across the political spectrum but in just about every aspect of life. We seem so far from the nation that was raised up by the providential hand of God.

God said that he “established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men who [he] raised up unto this very purpose” (Sec 98:10e). The political sentiment of the church has been from nearly its inception that “we believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man” (Sec 112:1) but that “he holds men accountable in relation to them” (Sec 112:1).

Moroni “prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren so long as there should be a band of Christians remain to possess the land” (Alma 21:43). Our constitution, albeit under attack, was established in answer to Moroni’s prayer to “secure the blessings of liberty.”

But David Barton wrote that “if our understanding of historical facts and constitutional intent becomes confused or mistaken, the resulting policies may be not only ill-founded but may actually create the very abuses that the Founders originally intended to avoid” (from the Forward to *Original Intent* by David Barton). Historical fact has been distorted and one could argue that we are seeing what David feared.

Is there hope for our nation?

Yes, I believe there is and it is found

## August Birthdays

1 John Olivarez	19 Lincoln Herman
3 Wally Gross	20 Max Hawley
3 Kyle Todd	20 Oliver McKay
7 Barbara Griner	21 Frank Frye
8 Reginald Nelson	23 Liam Todd
10 Ann Rideout	24 Neil Simmons
11 Georgia Gault	25 A.J. Moore
11 Beth Stireman	26 Andrew Nelson
12 Bobbi Chinnery	28 Kyle Norman
18 Jim McKay II	30 Michelle Thien
18 Alisha McKay	31 Dan Norman
19 Ken Simmons	31 Phil O’Camb

in the very purpose for which our nation was established: to be a crucible of freedom in which the gospel might be restored and flourish in order to establish the literal kingdom of God on earth. There is a land that has been consecrated for the gathering of the Saints, a land of promise, the very place for the city of Zion and no other place shall be appointed.

God says that “he removeth kings, and setteth up kings” (Dan 2:21). He causes nations to rise and fall. He uses one nation to bring judgement against another ... all for his purposes. What we see in the political landscape in our nation today may not make sense to us. It may even upset us but we must trust that it is all for God’s purposes. He is sovereign over all the nations. He reigns in truth and righteousness.

So while we may not like the politics of our nation and fear that we may lose our liberty, we can rest in the hope that God will accomplish his purposes. His word will not return to him void. He has appointed a place. It shall be called the New Jerusalem and it will be a “land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God.” And most importantly “the glory of the Lord shall be there” (Sec 45:12c-d). Let us so order our lives that we might have the privilege of citizenship in his kingdom that will surely come to pass.



**Seventy  
Rex  
Norman  
Curtis Jr.  
baptizes  
Prince Paul  
Kaposi  
at Lunzu  
Blantyre,  
Malawi.**

## Rex Curtis Visits Malawi and Mozambique

**A missionary team** composed of Randy Vick and Rex Curtis returned from Malawi and Mozambique in late July with news of a bounteous harvest and many great blessing wrought through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

The same missionaries had visited these areas in February 2016, with a few baptisms and a branch organized in Malawi. During this follow-up visit the response to the gospel was tremendous. The priesthood in Malawi and Mozambique provided able assistance to the missionaries during this trip.

According to Brother Vick, there were 122 baptisms and 10 ordinations. In Mozambique, four new branches were organized. Missions, groups of members that lack members or priesthood to allow them to be organized as branches, were also organized. Three missions were established in Malawi and four missions in Mozambique.

Brother Vick wrote, “The Malawi and Mozambique Saints are on fire after receiving the Restoration gospel teaching they have been waiting for a decade to receive.”



**Elder  
Kingsley  
Zaccariah  
and  
Randy  
Vick  
blessing  
Atupele at  
Kisnje,  
Malawi.**

(Missionary articles were condensed from “Into All the World,” by Gary Whiting, *Latter Day Saints’ Beacon*, August 2016)

# Dan Norman Brings the Gospel to Tahiti (French Polynesia)

**Brothers** Dan Norman and Charles “Chuck” Sperry traveled to Tahiti in June and July. They found the church suffering from a loss of contact with those who speak and teach the “old Jerusalem gospel.”

Church members in Tahiti call themselves Sanitos. Many of the Sanitos tend to hold to the original teachings of the gospel and reject the new policies and doctrines of the Community of Christ. When the missionaries found the inactive Sanitos, they were warmly greeted and told that the Sanitos had prayed for six years for someone to come visit them. Brother Norman said, “they had begun to think they were the only ones holding to the original gospel doctrines and practices.”

After some initial roadblocks in their search for members, the Lord opened the door through a taxi driver. When Dan and Chuck entered the taxi, they met the driver whose name was Paulette. She became the key that opened the work in Tahiti during this visit.

Paulette is a Sanito, but she had not attended church for seventeen years. Through her many contacts the missionaries obtained the name and address of a man called Foster. This man led them to many others members.

Members in Tahiti have a strong desire to support the work of the gospel. When they heard about the success in Mozambique and Malawi they volunteered to buy French language scriptures to provide for the people in those countries.

The Sanitos are very anxious to continue their relationship with the restored gospel. Plans for a return trip in the autumn of 2016 are now being made.



Sanitos and non-members gathered for worship in Tahiti. The Sacrament was administered to the Saints for the first time in six years.

## Youth Activities

Don't forget, the Zion's League will be making Care Kits to send to troops through Operation Gratitude in August. We are collecting items to include in the kits. If you would like to donate, these are the items we are needing:

- \* Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- \* Toothpaste (4 oz. or less)
- \* Dental floss
- \* Deodorant (solid only, 3 oz. or less)
- \* Disposable razors (Leave in original packaging. Small packs (5 or less) are okay.)
- \* Gum, mints, or breath strips
- \* Foot powder/baby powder (4 oz. or less)
- \* Hand/foot warmers
- \* Q-tips (small packs only--50 swabs or less)
- \* Mini flashlights
- \* Batteries (AA and AAA, 4-pack or less)
- \* Facial tissue (small packs only--10 tissues per pack)
- \* Lip balm/Chapstick
- \* Wipes (small packs only--30 wipes or less) or individual moist towelette packets
- \* Mini sewing kits
- \* Nail clippers

There will be a box in the South Wing for donations until August 17. Thank you for your help!

# August 2016

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## Sunday

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### 7

Presiding Deacon:  
Kyle Norman  
8:00 Priesthood  
Prayer Service  
9:15 Devotions:  
Norman Family  
Piano: Ashley Gault  
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship  
Presiding: Brad Gault  
Preaching:  
Wayne Simmons  
Piano: Ashley Gault

6:00 Summer Series  
Saints' Haven  
Restoration Branch,  
Sibley, Mo.  
Speaking: TBA  
Youth Service

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### 14

Presiding Deacon:  
Rudy Leutzinger  
9:15 Devotions:  
Dean & DJ Falconer  
Piano: Kevin McMilian  
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship  
Presiding: Bonner Davis  
Preaching: Jim Noland  
Piano: Kevin McMilian  
Special Music:  
Katrina Baker

6:00 Open Forum  
Presiding: Brad Gault  
Continuing discussion of  
the JCRB's recent deci-  
sion to ordain Apostles  
and Patriarchs. Focus is  
on what we need to do to  
move forward together.

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### 21

Presiding Deacon:  
Lloyd Stilwell  
9:15 Devotions:  
Rex & Penny Curtis  
Piano: Jeri Gault  
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship  
Presiding: Doug Trahern  
Preaching: Rex Curtis  
Piano: Jeri Gault  
Special Music:  
Heather & Jeri Gault

6:00 Evening Service  
Presiding: Bob Moore  
The Restitution

*Pot Luck after worship!*

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### 28

Presiding Deacon:  
Jerry Gerber  
9:15 Devotions:  
Doug & Marla Trahern  
Piano: Jill Moore  
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship  
Presiding: Rex Curtis  
Preaching: David Bronson  
Piano: Jill Moore  
Special Music:  
Andrea and  
Naomi Alaniz

6:00 Evening Service  
Presiding: Doug Trahern  
Religio

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm Young Adults Ice Cream outing. Yogurtini in Blue Springs.
<b>8</b> 7:00 Priesthood Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Roger Gault Assisting: Jack McClain	<b>11</b> 6pm Ladies' Night Out. Olive Garden in Independence. All women invited; bring a friend.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Swim Party Patrick & Joy McKay's house. Bring a snack to share.
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Bob Moore Assisting: Wayne Simmons	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10am - 11:30am Zion's League at the church. Putting together care bags for the troops.
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Dean Falconer Assisting: Jerry Gerber	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Patrick McKay Assisting: Rolland James	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
			<b>Coming up:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next priesthood prayer service Sept. 4.</li> <li>• Branch Retreat Sept 23-25. Details TBA.</li> </ul>		