

Called to Become the Living Church

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During the recent Elders Conference, the Pastor for the Conference, Brian Mundy, sent a text on the Wednesday of Conference at 10:21 PM, to several with these words, *“Brothers I feel a need to ask for additional prayers. As the Pastor, I have seen a continuing to grow in the ways of righteousness and we are truly experiencing walking with God. I believe we are also experiencing transformation and even the prophecy from the opening night being fulfilled. I feel as though we are, or have been brought right to the edge and there is a step that needs to be taken that will require every ounce of faith that we can muster. There will be fear on some parts – what or who they will leave behind if they take this leap of faith. All of this is just weighing very heavily upon me. The easy answer is just let God keep doing what he’s doing but if there is something else that needs to take place I just need to know. Please hold the people in this reunion up in your prayers mightily.”*

On Thursday of Conference, the day after Brian sent out his text, Elder David Joyce was the speaker at the evening service. He made a point in his sermon in regards to Section 1 of *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Brother David told the people that we misquote this scripture. We say *“the only true church upon the face of the earth, with which I the Lord am well pleased.”* David reminded us that this statement is not the complete scripture. What the scripture says is *“the only true **and living church.**”*

The Conference ended on Friday night. The next morning, being worn down, I was lying down on my bed and was thinking about the week of Conference. I thought how all of the sermons and all of the classes were powerful. The gathering had brought many people from the states, and other lands. I began to think about the extraordinary fellowship that we had. It was more than just that we got along that week – it was that we trusted one another to the extent that there was no contention or strong disagreement. As Brian had said we felt that we were, *“walking with God.”* While I was thinking on this experience we had shared in together at Conference, the Lord gently said to me, *“**The people have become my Living Church.**”*

Arthur Oakman shared in his 1966 lecture series that the church is more an organism than it is an organization. This means that the church must be alive and be living if it is to represent the living Christ. I understood that the organizational church was not being restored at this time but rather the “Living Church.” The living church “walks with God.” The fear that Brian expressed is not only that there would be some who may be left behind, but the fear is that we will not be able to maintain this level and will return to our former ways, such as the children of Israel wanted to do. Moses told his people to *“go forward”*. As the Lord prepared the way for Israel so he prepares the way for Zion. Look upward, press forward.

