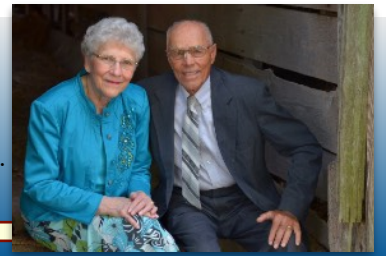


# THE FORUM

## Blessing Creators

Donors find opportunities.  
Page 4.



Community of Christ  
Historic Sites Foundation



*Preserving & Sharing  
Church Heritage*

### To Make a Donation

Preserving and sharing church heritage and telling the sacred story is both a privilege and a responsibility.

To give to the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, call (217) 453-2246.

An alternative is to send donations to P.O. Box 338, Nauvoo, IL 62354. You also can give at [www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org](http://www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org).

### On the Web

To stay up to date with foundation events, view striking photos, and learn contact information, visit [www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org](http://www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org).

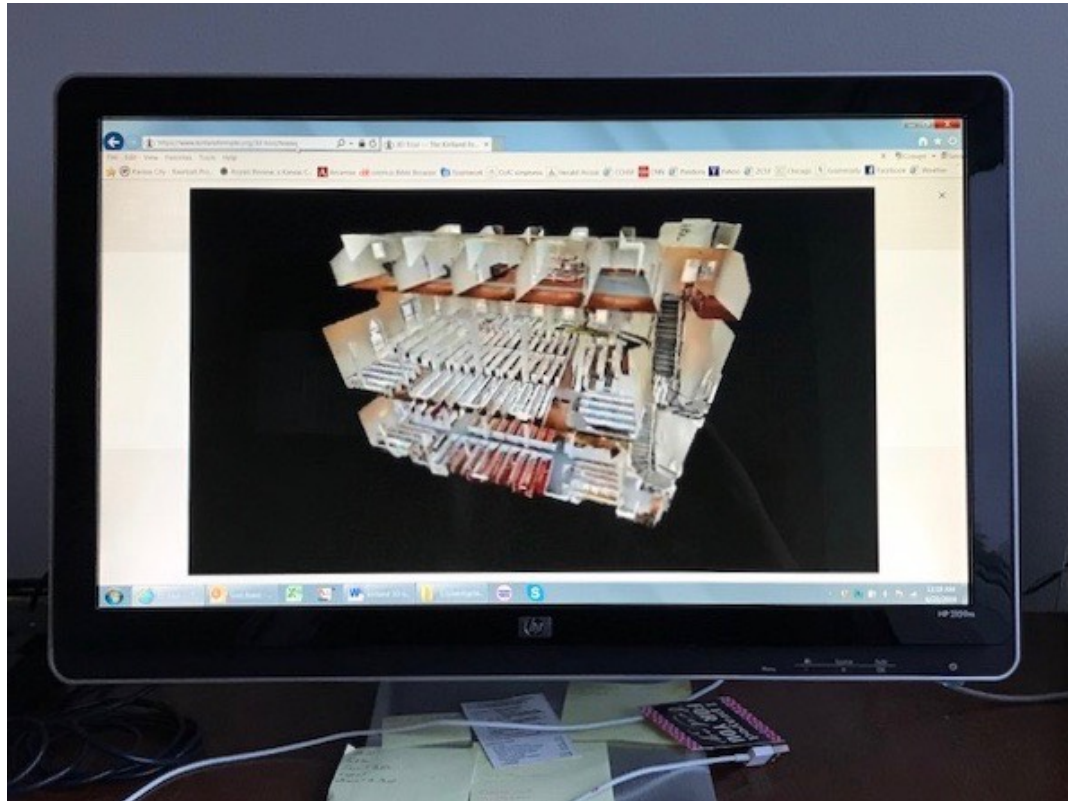
### Electronic Forum

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## Kirtland on Cusp of Virtual Tours



By Greg Clark

The 19th and 21st centuries are about to shake hands at the Kirtland Temple thanks to a wondrous technology project.

The 3D mapping project will provide perhaps the biggest upgrade in presentation since the Temple was dedicated in 1836. The result will make a virtual-reality tour available to guests from New Zealand to North Dakota, anywhere someone can hook up with the Internet.

Nothing can replace the sensation of

walking into the Lower Court in person and seeing the decorative windows, pew boxes, and pulpits. But perhaps as soon as late this fall cyber visitors will be able to experience standing behind those pulpits, something guests who actually step into the Temple can't do.

"It is a 3D mapping of the Temple so people can virtually explore all of the spaces," Site Director Seth Bryant said. "The

*See Kirtland on page 3*

## Deepen Your Faith; Take a Holy Land Tour

By Greg Clark

They'll stop in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born; visit the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized; and tour the streets of Jerusalem, where Jesus rode on a donkey.

Even more, participants on next autumn's Holy Land tour sponsored by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Founda-

tion will receive insights to the church's missionary impact there.

The tour, which will run October 22 through November 1, 2019, also will feature stops in Jaffa, Caesarea, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Masada, and Qumran. In addition an optional three-night pre-tour (Petra

*See Holy Land on page 8*

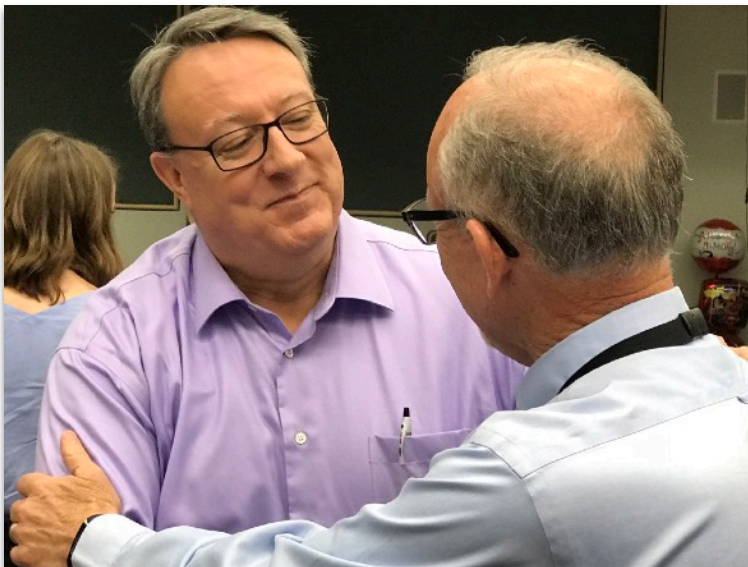
## Jeff Naylor, Innovator and Builder, Leaves Board

By Greg Clark

Jeff Naylor says his “guilty pleasure” is taking old things and making them new again. He was talking specifically of his home in Oak Hill, Virginia, but the same could be said of his 11 years with the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

Jeff, whose stint on the board will end December 31, has played a key role in the way the foundation seeks to fulfill its motto: “Preserving and Sharing Church Heritage.”

He served as president from 2008–2015, bringing diversity to the board’s makeup, breathing life into fund-raising,



*Jeff Naylor (left) also finds joy in working with Apostle Rick Maupin on the World Church Finance Board.*

and supporting numerous historic properties that help disciples connect their current faith journey with the past.

The history bug bit him when he was a kid, and he credits a ninth-grade American-history teacher for nourishing that fascination for “old” things.

“He was a great storyteller, and he was very honest about our history as a country, highlighting for me an understanding of Native American, African American, and Latino experiences you wouldn’t get in a textbook.”

Jeff’s love of history, however, tran-

scends dusty books. In a very real sense he’s married to it. You see, his wife, Susan, previously served briefly as the foundation president. He accompanied her to the groundbreaking of the Kirtland Temple Visitors Center. While there he made contacts that eventually led to an invitation to join the board in 2007. A year later he became the president.

He immediately faced several challenges.

“The foundation at the time was attempting to grow its fund-raising capabilities but did not have a lot of the resources in place to make that happen—such as a website and updated materials that sell the foundation’s story. You name it, we were deficient.

“Also, I looked around the room and I saw a lot of well-tenured board members who were primarily from the greater Kansas City area, so there was little geographic, gender, or age diversity on the board.

What we’ve learned and know from being Community of Christ is that we gain our best understanding of who we are as a people and...who we will be going forward with diversity. I knew over time with board member retirements there would be opportunities to significantly change the diversity equation.”

Board members—men and women—now come from across the country. They include young adults and the recently retired. “We’re not there yet with ethnic diversity,” Jeff said. “But we’ve hit on age, gender, and geography.”

Meanwhile, Jeff, 54, tackled the fund-raising responsibility with vigor. His strong leadership has sparked the board to steadily improving success. As a result, funding for internships and physical projects at the historic sites has improved.

Jeff, an official with the Investment Company Institute in Washington, D.C., explained how it happened.

“First I would say was the hiring of staff to perform important initiatives on behalf of the board.” He especially praised Barbara Walden, hired as executive director. “She brings authenticity, enthusiasm, and a level of understanding of history to our board and the history community that continues to bless us.”

For Barb, the admiration is mutual.

“For me personally, It’s hard to imagine the work of the foundation without Jeff Naylor. Over the last decade, it has been a thrill to follow his lead as he has fearlessly launched new fund-raising campaigns and events, set courageous goals, and pushed for higher standards for the organization across a broad spectrum.

“Jeff has made a significantly positive impact on this organization and has strengthened our passion and mission for preserving church heritage. He will be greatly missed as a board member, mentor, and friend. Our board meetings simply won’t be the same without his wisdom and wit.”

Jeff also cited financial improvements. “Every year, we grew the revenue received by the foundation and managed expenses in a way to put the foundation on solid financial footing for the future. That has continued to grow under Karen’s leadership and the current board structure,” he said, referring to Karen Graham Wade, the current president.

“Fortunately for the foundation, and for all who value the role played by our historic sites, Jeff is the type of person who believes in change,” said Karen. “And, how those bold moves have paid off! The Historic Sites Foundation has

come far in the last decade, and we owe so much to Jeff for leading the way. I can't tell you how much I have valued Jeff's support and guidance...."

A key in his tenure, Jeff said, was "creating the environment where people were constantly looking for the better way to carry out the mission of the foundation and share church heritage of future generations. ...There are always new opportunities in front of us."

In describing why this all is so important to him, Jeff talks about the importance of place and home.

"There's nothing like home. We're more relaxed, attuned to our surroundings, feel we belong. That's in many respects what I would hope members of the church would feel when they visit Kirtland, Nauvoo, Plano, Heritage Plaza, and Liberty Hall.

"The places are part of the DNA

that grounds us, gives us roots, helps us to understand what was happening in the times they were prominent and are important in the life of the church today.

He cites the Plano Stone Church and says it's more than just a historic building; it's a place where people are seeking and finding community today. The same, he said, goes for all the historic sites.

"We just have to understand how powerful and transformative that can be." Especially for young people.

But aside from God's love, nothing is forever. Jeff understands that, and he cites a verse from Ecclesiastes when explaining why he's stepping away from the board.

"To everything there is a season. That really is it. Change is not a bad thing. To leave the board in such good

hands with its leadership and constitution is the right thing to do. I have loved my service to the board, but I recognize that others also should have opportunities to enjoy that joy."

His passion for the church remains visible in many other ways. He's a member of the World Church Finance Board, is president of the Chesapeake USA Mission Center, and serves as a bishop.

"We need to have people understand that just as with church members in building the Kirtland Temple...that when we as a church band together with the leadings of the Holy Spirit, we are able to accomplish great things."

But as he prepares to leave the board, he coyly deflects one last question: Which site does he like most?

"When you have kids, you're not supposed to pick favorites."

## Kirtland

*Continued from page 1*

pulpits, places they'd never be able to go in person."

Besides seeing areas as if actually standing or walking there, cyber guests will be treated to different views. For example, a "dollhouse" presentation will present a 3D look of the Temple's main floors.

The project came about after Apostle Lach Mackay and Bryant met a man who performs similar services for real estate agents.

Bryant said the mapping process used a rotating device that sat on a tripod. "It had like nine lenses and lasers. It took a very complex series of pictures. It's a moving panoramic photo that also includes telemetry and data. It's incredible to see. It's almost like a living organism."

The presentation, however, will involve more than those scans. "We have about 30 points along the tour where text or video will present interpretive data that can help you," Bryant said.

Work remaining includes creation of a website for presentation. It probably will link through [www.Kirtlandtemple.org](http://www.Kirtlandtemple.org). If viewers want to make the experience more immersive, they can use a virtual-reality headset, though Bryant said it won't be required.

The project cost about \$6,000, Bryant said. A grant, proposed by Mackay from the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, helped. Virtual site visitors will pay a nominal historic-preservation fee that will go toward the Temple.

"The Kirtland virtual-reality project is incredibly exciting," said Barbara Walden, executive director of the

Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. "For years we have struggled to describe the experience of walking into the Kirtland Temple for people who have never visited the site. Now, with the assistance of technology, church history enthusiasts will be able to experience the second-best thing to a real visit.

"In addition, the viewer will be able to explore areas of the Kirtland Temple not covered on a general tour, from exploring the Lower Court pulpits to peering into crawl spaces and choir lofts. People from all over the world will now have the ability to experience Kirtland's historic 'House of the Lord' while sitting on a beach in Tahiti, gathered at a reunion ground in England, or from the comfort of their own living room. The story of the church now has the capacity to be a three-dimensional experience for people all over the world."

The tour will be especially gratifying for people who might never be able to take a physical trip to the Temple. Individuals, reunions, classes, and other groups all will be able to experience walking into Joseph Smith Jr.'s office, opening the door and entering a pew box, and much more.

Someday, application could extend even further. Imagine touring the Mansion House in Nauvoo, Illinois; Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa; or other foundation-supported sites.

"I love sharing the Temple," Bryant said. "It's incredibly exciting to see it shared in a new way. I don't think it will take away from our visitor base. It probably will stimulate more traffic...Because it's so cool, I enjoy seeing the Temple from this perspective."

## Take a Tour Teaser

For a preview of just a few options the virtual-reality tour will present, visit [Kirtlandtemple.org/3d-tour/teaser](http://Kirtlandtemple.org/3d-tour/teaser).

# Donors See Blessings Beyond Counting

By Greg Clark

Why do Phillis and Jack Davison, two elders from Macon, Missouri, support the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation with their donations?

Several reasons come quickly to Phillis:

- \* Coming generations.
- \* Family history.
- \* Personal experiences.
- \* The future.

Then she sums it up neatly: "If you don't do the right thing that God tells you, it will all be taken away."

"It," of course, is more than the historic sites. It's blessings.

It's the blessings that our church heritage brings. It's the deep appreciation for a lifetime of blessings through the church. It's the blessings of ministry that extend beyond the wood and stone of historic buildings. It's the hoped-for blessings as her family moves into the future.

"I really think it's important for the sites to be kept up," Phillis said. "I think it's important for us to teach our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

She says this from personal experience.

"The first time I was [at the Joseph Smith Historic Site] in Nauvoo, I went to the Homestead and the Mansion House. When I walked in I felt like Christ was right beside me. It was an awesome experience. I'll never forget it. When I'm down and out, I hope I can go back and recall it. Basically, it was because I had been taught so much."

And she wants future generations to be taught, too.

"I feel like we're not teaching our children the sacred story as much as we should be."

That sacred story has been ingrained in her through her entire life. Now in her late 70s, she calls her family "dyed-in-the-wool Community of Christ." She recalls parents who taught her the importance of church heritage

and then backed up their teachings. Even when they had little money, they took their kids to historic sites because they saw them as important. They didn't have a car, just an old pickup truck.

But they still went to places such as the sacred grove, Plano, and Nauvoo.

"Our parents were very avid in teaching us church history," she said.

In her parents' minds, Phillis said, they couldn't afford not to go. Now Phillis wants the same expressions of faith to grow in her family.

"I want my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be excited. Our granddaughter was an intern at Nauvoo and Kirtland, and she had a wonderful experience. She learned so much. She just thought it was great. It's a wonderful program. That's one reason we've given money."

Her excitement has carried over to other expressions of faith, such as retreats and bus trips sponsored by the foundation.

Combining church heritage with retreats such as one she experienced last year in Bevier, Missouri, can help in the key work of building ministry on the foundation of church history.

That weekend featured worship led by Barbara Walden, executive director of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. Also, re-enactors Charlie and Pam Robison made an appearance, and other leaders such as Tom Morain and Glenna Van Buskirk played roles.

"I think having more of those



weekends or more things written for classes" can help the church move forward, she said.

Walden emphasized the importance of donors to the mission of the foundation: "Our generous donors are crucial to fulfilling our mission to preserve and share Community of Christ heritage. Without our donors like Jack and Phillis, the foundation would not be able to fund internships, maintain the historic sites, develop educational resources, provide guest ministry, or raise awareness about the relevance of church history in today's church."

"Everything we do as an organization is due to the generosity of our remarkable supporters."

In return, she said donors experience many benefits.

"Donors receive the satisfaction of knowing they are preserving the historic sites for the next generation. Donors are also the first to hear about the latest happenings at the historic sites. Whether it's new discoveries in archaeological digs and academic research, or special events and new bus tours, our donors are among the first to hear the latest news about Community of Christ historic sites."

She said meeting many donors has changed her life. "I am blessed not just by their generous gifts, but more importantly, their friendship."

# Mission Center Finds Blessings in Helping Fund Internships

By Greg Clark

Robert Cook might have been the perfect person in the perfect place at the perfect time.

He serves as president of the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center, which covers turf in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois.

The area includes the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois. Further, at a young age Cook had a spiritual experience in Nauvoo that helped shape his life.

Put it all together, and it's no surprise that under Cook's guidance, the mission center has become a regular and generous supporter of the Alma Blair Internship Program. The interns spend summers learning about their church heritage, guiding visitors, and doing other tasks at properties supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

For this help to happen under the leadership of this person, at this time, in this place seems, well...perfect.

"We are nose-to-nose with the historic site staff and what's going on in the historic sites," Cook said. "I am very firmly trying to get the mission center and the historic site to work closely together. One of my objectives in proposing this to the mission center conference was as a show of support for the historic sites and the staff."

The foundation, charged with preserving and sharing church heritage, greatly appreciates individuals, congregations, and groups that help keep the sites humming.

Cook knows firsthand the impact the sites can have. He moved to the Chicago area in the late 1960s and soon visited Nauvoo.

"I was currently reading a book about life on the Mississippi River and had some involvement with family history connected to Nauvoo. When I walked on the streets it was one of

those experiences that led to the way I thought about things. Ultimately, it would lead to me moving here."

His life also has been connected to other sites. For example, he says his ancestors in Kirtland, Ohio, "were blessed by working on the Temple. ... and were part of the Plano Congregation at the time when the Stone Church there was built by the World Church."

If Cook were the perfect person to support the intern program, then Randallyn Smith was the perfect person to benefit from it.

"We did have, the first year, a young lady from one of our congregations who was an intern," Cook said. "If we had not been doing our yearly support, we would not have searched her out. It made a big difference in her life."

That young lady, Smith, is a Grace-land student. She interned in 2016 in Nauvoo, and again in 2017 in Kirtland.

"I happen to be a history major, and I'm kind of a local from the area," she explained. "I attend the Carthage Congregation, where Robert was pastor. He brought it up. I remembered going there on class trips and thought it would be interesting. He planted the idea.

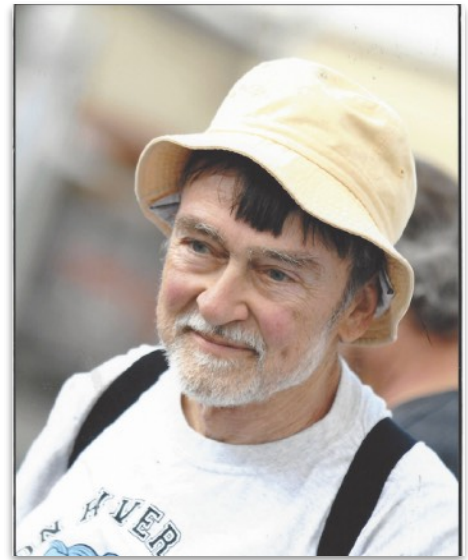
"I graduated, and two days later I moved to Nauvoo."

She cites the connections the sites make between past and present.

"The church has progressed in really wonderful ways. But...I have been fortunate to understand that looking back at roots is important. There were things I didn't know about the church. There is so much to it, and it gives me a greater appreciation for the church today, being able to see and understand where it came from."

David Bolton, who was co-director of the Nauvoo site during Smith's internship, praised the program.

"Guides...get a chance to develop their faith with the benefit of knowing



the church's history. And they learn how to engage with complete strangers about the church and its history. The church benefits from guides returning to congregational life as informed and eager disciples."

He said Smith "was eager to learn, willing to help with any task, and brought an uplifting and caring attitude."

This summer Smith was preparing for a June 30 wedding, so she couldn't intern again. But she was overjoyed to fill in for three days when the Joseph Smith Historic Site was short-handed. She sees her connection with the sites as an ongoing relationship.

"I foresee myself being involved in some capacity. There's more to my story in reference to the historic sites."



# Caravans Visit the Past, Plant the Future

By Greg Clark

Trish Heath and Kyle Joyce found that youth caravans to historic sites confronted them with remnants from the past that rose up and grabbed them.

Both went on caravans when they were younger. Both experienced God and the church in new ways. And both found it impossible to say no when asked if they'd help lead a new generation of kids through the steps of yesteryear.

They know firsthand how a caravan's benefits, connections, and memories can play key roles in helping youngsters move into adulthood with a mature faith. Those experiences are repeated dozens of times each summer as groups of kids and adults board buses and head to places such as the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois; the Kirtland Temple in Ohio; Liberty Hall in Lamon, Iowa; and more.

Their understandings also are echoed by Barbara Walden, who as executive director of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation has seen seemingly countless buses roll into the historic sites.

## Trish's Story

Trish Heath was no rookie. She'd experienced a caravan herself as a youth in 1971. Then she served as a full-time youth minister for the Far West USA Mission Center from 2001–2006. In that role, she led a caravan. One of the kids who went was Scott Blair, who later became the mission center's mission coordinator.

Last year, "he called and said, 'We're doing a caravan, and you're the director.'"

Trish couldn't say no.

"I still had all my information, and I had my resources, so it wasn't like it was hard to pick up."

Numerous stops and hundreds of miles later, the bus rolled back into St. Joseph, Missouri, filled with 16 tired teenagers, seven adult leaders, and many happy memories.

"It was a humbling experience and such a joy to see the kids grow in their spirituality and be able to share with them," said Trish, a 61-year-old elder. "We did teaching on the bus before we'd visit the sites. That way the kids felt like they knew about the places before we got there."



*Trish's caravan did more than tour; it helped with a service project.*

Besides learning about church history, the kids grew in other ways.

"We had several girls who had never led a campfire, and they took the opportunity to do that. We did a couple of church services, one in Plano (site of the Plano Stone Church) for their Sunday-morning service. And many of the kids participated."

But the trip wasn't just about history. At a stop in Indianapolis several boys paused while playing basketball to invite a local youngster to a campfire. He came. Also, the caravan visited a theme park and did a service project, cleaning up "a huge yard for a lady who had lost her husband."

The growth continued long after the caravan.

"We did four church services after we got back in several congregations. The kids gave testimonies, and you learned then how they felt about the trip and how fun it was."

She noted that with some kids the seeds planted on a caravan sprout immediately; with others it may

take 20 years. "It sets in them that there is a difference in our church, and we studied the Mission Initiatives. As they grow into adults they will use what they learned in that week's experience in their faith walk."

The teens weren't the only ones to benefit. Trish had been planning the trip with others for several months when she got word in early June that her job had been downsized.

"So I was in a place [that wasn't good] when we went, and it brought me out of it. Just being with those kids on a daily basis was great."

## Kyle's Story

For Kyle, a 31-year-old seventy from Kansas City, Kansas, his first caravan was wrapped up in a high-school romance, the sacred grove in Palmyra, New York, and a life-altering experience. It happened in 2006.

"My [now] wife invited me to church when we were in high school. ...I was still learning the ins and outs of Community of Christ. But when getting off the caravan I wanted to be part of the church.

"The first experience I had was on a visit to Palmyra. We did a worship service in the Sacred Grove and were allowed the opportunity to walk through the grove by ourselves. The

whole time I'm learning about Joseph Smith...One thing that caught my attention and led me into youth ministry was that God appeared to this 14-year-old boy.

"When I thought of God appearing to a child, that was a pretty cool story. ...And on top of that this is a child who is searching and is just a couple of years younger than I was at this time. I was asking a similar question. My mother was Catholic, and my father was Southern Baptist.

"I felt serenity walking through the woods. What I ended up feeling in those woods was that Community of Christ was home, and that was where I needed to be.

"We got back, and I said, 'Kristine, how do I become a member of the church?' The moment we got back, I told my parents I wanted to be part of that church, and they were very supportive."

Kyle, now a third-grade teacher, since has helped lead caravans. He has found big allies in getting teens to commit to the trips: grandparents and parents.

"They do everything they can to get kids to go. Pretty soon the kids realize that the places their grandparents and parents told them about are real places. We see that come alive. It's like being in a living, breathing textbook."

The teens who committed to the 2014 caravan knew they'd see lots of historic sites. What they didn't know was that they'd help save one.

"In 2014 there was horrible flooding. So we worked with Lach Mackay (then director of the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo) to sandbag the Nauvoo House. I've never seen senior high kids work like that. They held back the Mississippi River.

"They were helping sandbag so this part of history they had learned about would be safe. They had ownership in it. God is so involved in our history."

Kyle is passionate about supporting the sites, as well as the staff members, volunteers, and interns. He sees them playing key roles into developing disciples from the teens.

"They need to know their history, why our church is so different, and why we're doing this caravan. History is so much more than reading a book or sitting in a class. The sites provide powerful experiences—being there, praying there, being prayed for there, shedding a tear there. We can talk about it in KCK all we want, but when we go to the sites it's so much different. It brings history to life."

### Barbara's Story

Barbara said that just like the youth of earlier generations, today's

teens are struggling with difficult questions and yearning for a relationship with the Divine.

"Church members are seeking a personal relationship with Christ and the reassurance that God will not leave them," Barbara said. "The human experience with the Divine transcends time, whether you're an 1830s church member living in poverty or a 21st-century member struggling for certainty during anxious times. Those connections to the past are more relevant now than ever before."

Experiencing the grounds of historic sites strengthens connections between past and present.

"To walk the grounds that early church members strolled along breathes life into the story of the church," Barbara said. "To see where history took place often catches the attention of the youth and opens their eyes to the amazing stories of those who have gone before. It reminds them that they're not alone. Our historic sites are reminders that the God who answered the questions of young Joseph Smith... is the same God willing to speak to us today."

She said the caravan experience also instills pride.

"To see they are a part of something much bigger than themselves...is really impactful to the youth of the church."

Caravan leaders also benefit through the shared experience with the teens. "Something about the historic sites encourages people to open up and share in an honest and vulnerable way," Barbara said. "It's a blessing and ministry for people of all ages."

### The Backstory

There's another story to tell. It involves finances. Caravans are expensive, a fact Trish and Kyle mentioned, emphasizing the value of the sacrifice.

"The thing that's hard," Trish said, "is coming up with the money."

Kyle added: "But it is extremely worth it. I know we struggle, and it's a lot of time, effort, and money, but I think it's necessary."

Kyle and Trish aren't the only ones who see the value. So does David Davis, an attorney at International Headquarters who had his own caravan experience and later interned at two historic sites.

"Understanding your past, or at least knowing it, helps you understand your present and gives you a foundation for the future. One thing in terms of our church's history was that Joseph, as a youth, was able to ask questions and receive. It's good for young people to hear this movement was started by a young person who wanted answers. That can be empowering for young people."



*The kids on Kyle's caravan helped fill sandbags in Nauvoo.*

## Make a Donation, Aid Preservation

*Preserving and sharing church heritage and telling the sacred story of our journey is a privilege and a responsibility.*

*To help the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation fulfill that mission, call (217) 453-2246 to make a donation.*

*Another alternative is to send donations to P.O. Box 338, Nauvoo, IL 62354.*

*You also can donate at [www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org](http://www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org).*

## Volunteers Needed

*To volunteer at a historic site supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, call Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or email him at [lmackay@CofChrist.org](mailto:lmackay@CofChrist.org).*

## Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation

P.O. Box 338  
Nauvoo, IL 62354

## Holy Land

*Continued from page 1*

### Tour Details

**Main Tour:** October 22–31, 2019, \$3,998 per person, double occupancy with air fare from New York.

**Pre-tour:** October 20–23, \$998 plus \$138 visa, tips, and taxes.

**Post-tour:** October 30–November 4, \$1,098 plus \$138 visa, tips, and taxes.

**Highlights:** Jerusalem, numerous biblical sites, the Dead Sea, pyramids, much more.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Barb Walden at [bwalden@historicsitesfoundation.org](mailto:bwalden@historicsitesfoundation.org).

and the Dead Sea), and a five-night post-tour (Cairo, the pyramids, the Nile River and more) will enhance the experience.

In short, participants will receive a special opportunity to experience places they may have only read about in the Bible. Though many disciples know a lot about the role of Jesus in the Holy Land, far fewer are familiar with our church's historical roots there.

For example, few probably are aware that we sent missionaries there from Nauvoo, Illinois, in the 1840s, and

a marker commemorates Orson Hyde's visit not far from Jerusalem's walls.

Later missionaries, in Jerusalem at the turn of the century, struggled to start a school, confronted cultural differences, and delighted in performing baptisms in the Jordan River.

Also, blueberry farmers, passionate about establishing Zion, sailed from Maine in the 1860s on a mission to reunite the tribes of Israel. They landed in Jaffa and were devastated when the dream never materialized.

Some remained and helped start a tourism market that still thrives today.



*Early church missionaries were greeted by a vastly different culture.*