

THE FORUM

Career Starter

Internship leads to a legal path.
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Historic Sites Foundation



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CENTENNIAL!



Guests and workers from long ago (above) and recent years (below) have found Nauvoo's charm.

Joseph Smith Historic Site Celebrates

By Greg Clark

It's not all about history. It's also about the future.

The community of Nauvoo, Illinois, began in 1839 as a place to aid religious refugees. Today, as people celebrate the centennial of the Joseph Smith Historic Site, the place continues to bring blessings.

In May 1918, the site's first tour guides, Brother and Sister J.W. Layton, were assigned to the site. That began what has been a century of managing the property as a historic site. Today, interns and tour guides

continue to play important roles in presenting and preserving history.

But to many the site means much more than history. It also means healing, inspiration, and growth.

"My years at the Joseph Smith Historic Site have been a time of continual challenge in growing my ministry in new and unexpected ways," said staff member Wendy Eaton.

"The opportunity to come to Nauvoo came when I was at a point of being quite

See Centennial on page 8



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Some give to honor and preserve church heritage.

Some give because of spiritual experiences while visiting one of the sites.

Some give to provide opportunities for young people to learn and deepen their appreciation for church history.

Some give in honor or memory of loved ones, past and present.

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The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation gives a big "Thank you!" To Apostle Art Smith for his generosity in sharing his birthday.

In lieu of receiving birthday presents, Art requested that people send gifts to the foundation. The result was \$700 in gracious donations.

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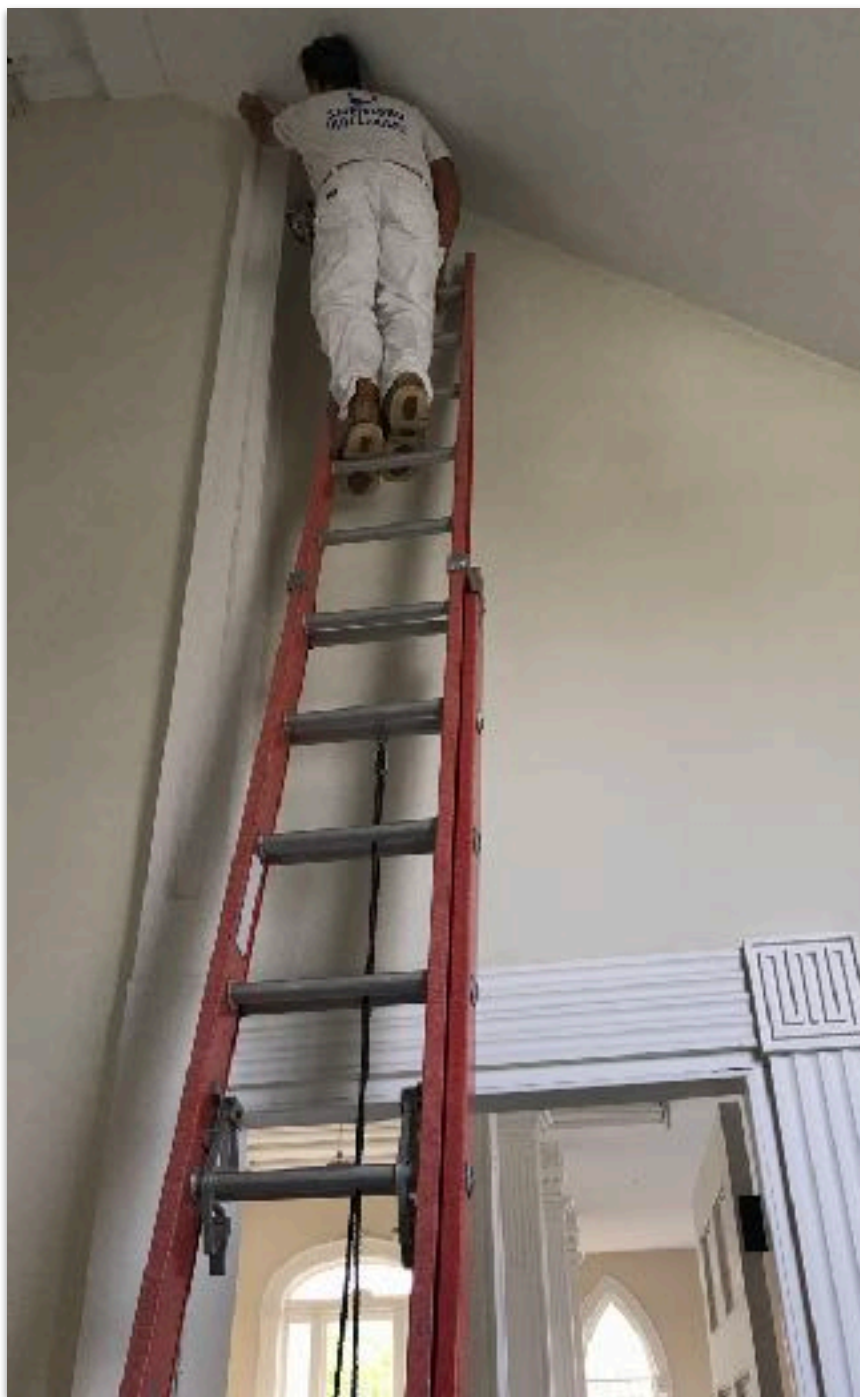
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Fall Bus Tour to Show We're All in This Together

By Greg Clark

The yearning for Zion, God's kingdom on Earth, plays a major role in Community of Christ and its theology.

But we're not the only group that has tried to build communities in service to the Lord. This fall, leaders from the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation will lead a 10-day bus tour that will explore not only our church's heritage, but the stories of several other communal attempts to create heaven on Earth.

The tour, October 13–22, will address past and present sites that are passionate about living the gospel through a communal lifestyle. Examples will include a Benedictine monastery, a Bruderhof community in rural Pennsylvania, and an ecovillage in northern Missouri.

In addition, the tour will focus on the past by visiting a Shaker community in Kentucky, Harmonists in Indiana, and a scintillating slate of Community of Christ sites. They will include the Kirtland Temple Complex in Ohio; the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois; the Plano Stone Church in Illinois; Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa; and Heritage Plaza near the Temple in Independence, Missouri.

The tour, named "Zion Past and Present," also will offer stunning fall foliage and scenic vistas.

The price will be \$1,499 per person double occupancy, or \$1,999 single occupancy. The fee will cover luxury bus transportation from Independence, all overnight lodging, tour and admission fees, and most meals.

For more information and a reservation form, call (217) 453-2246 or visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org.

From Intern to Law Career for Church

Historic Sites Guide Path for David Davis

By Greg Clark

At the turn of the century, David Davis was like most young men. He had questions, lots of them. He was seeking direction, wanted affirmation, and felt unsure about a future career.

Two summers of interning at sites supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation helped him find the answers he needed. Those summers also deepened his faith, provided a clearer understanding of church theology, and gave him more knowledge of church heritage.

He was a history major at Grace-land University, but today he finds himself as a lawyer, working on the legal team at International Headquarters in Independence, Missouri.

"I think the interning experience helped to further establish my connection to the roots of the church, and that helped in times when I may have been questioning," said Davis, an elder. "I've stayed connected to Community of Christ in later years because of those experiences as an intern."

He said the experience also helped his understanding of difficult questions about the church's past.

"For example, at Nauvoo, do you view Joseph Smith Jr. as a prophet? My apt response would be that I view him as a prophet and as a man, and as a man he was fallible. That's why it's important to look critically at what leadership is expressing while still trying to discern where God is leading the church."

His first internship, at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois,



came after he saw a brochure about summer positions. His primary responsibilities revolved around guiding tours, answering questions at the Visitor Center, and doing research and maintenance with a brick walkway.

The experience at the Kirtland Temple in Ohio came after he finished his undergraduate degree.

"After school I bounced around for a bit in the interim between college and going back to law school. I spent some time in sales and retail, some in a suits department at JC Penney's, and I sold Kirby vacuums for a while. I also spent a winter working at a ski lodge in Colorado.

"It was a time when I was somewhat looking for direction and deciding whether law was where I wanted to go. The experience in Kirtland did help to move that along. About a year later I started law school."

The key was his involvement in research to help an official who was writing a paper on the legal title and ownership of the Kirtland Temple.

"I assisted him and spent time in the county recorder's office, looking

through old deeds and land titles to sort out the chain of title. I was on the path to a law career, but the fact the research piqued my interest helped to foster that idea. It was a really good fit."

In his work now, he deals with a lot of property records, child protection, and intellectual property. Barbara Walden, Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation executive director, isn't surprised about how the intern experience affected Davis. She actually taught one of Davis' classes at Kirtland. And she knows what interns go through, because she also has been one.

"For many young adults, their internship at the historic sites is a life-changing

experience," she said. "I can certainly testify to that. My summers in Nauvoo and Kirtland had a major impact on my fellow interns and me."

Since joining the church's legal team in 2013, Davis has been happy that he followed the path the internships set him on.

"I think this position has helped address two kinds of things: My love for the law and working in a legal setting, but also having a job where you feel like you're making a difference—an impact—in the lives of others."

When he's not poring over legal documents, Davis likes other kinds of reading. Favorite authors include James Michener, Louis L'amour, John Grisham, and Tom Clancy. He also enjoys hiking and traveling to national parks.

But no matter what he's doing, he feels connected to church and God.

"One reason I'm a member and like to work in the church is because of that continuous call to the horizon and looking forward, where God is calling us to go in the church today."

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.

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.

Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation

P.O. Box 338
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Centennial

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lost in what to do with myself. ...Nauvoo has been, for me, a place to keep trying, like the many church members who have passed through here since 1839. It has been a place to deepen friendships. It has been a place to accept challenges and taking chances. That is what the story has been here for so long."

Christin Mackay, who leads the site, said centennial stories will be blended into tours throughout the year. In addition, a special photo exhibit in the Visitor Center will display images from the last century. Also, the site will use the centennial as an opportunity to expand its archives with stories from past staff members and interns.

Mackay said that in the beginning, Nauvoo "was a place that new ministers were sent as appointees, a training ground where they could become grounded in the history of the movement."

"Today, we function much the same way. Looking back at intern photos from the last 30 years, many young faces are recognizable as today's church leaders."

She also noted the impact of World Service Corps volunteers at the site. For example, Emile Huri from French Polynesia served last summer.

"He would often close his tours in the Red Brick Store by singing 'The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning.' It brings his-



tory full circle to know that the first missionaries to French Polynesia were sent from the original Red Brick Store in the 1840s. Emile was singing in the reconstructed store, in part because of those early efforts."

Emile's story isn't lost on staff member Rick MacGregor. "I have had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. It has been a pleasure to share the history of the site with new friends and family."

But the historic site's impact transcends the past and present. It extends into the future. Longtime volunteers Don and Evelyn Richardson understand that clearly.

"I hope we can convey God's peaceable kingdom here," Don said. "The site represents not only our history, but it is a missionary tool...It deepens the church's story and shares values that are important."

Evelyn added: "I look forward to the site remaining a strong area of witness in the future. Let us keep our light burning brightly here so others can come and experience the 'Spirit of Nauvoo' that is so hard to put into words. May this kingdom on the Mississippi [River] grow to be a destination for peace, relaxation, spiritual growth, and development."