

# Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."—I Nephi 3:187.

Volume 33

Independence, Missouri, March, 1956

No. 3

## *Some One Had Prayed*

The day was long, the burden I had borne  
Seemed heavier than I could longer bear.  
And then it lifted—but I did not know  
Some one had knelt in prayer;

Had taken me to God that very hour,  
And asked the easing of the load, and He,  
In infinite compassion, had stooped down  
And taken it from me.

We can not tell how often as we pray  
For some bewildered one, hurt and distressed  
The answer comes—but many times those hearts  
Find sudden peace and rest.

Some one had prayed, and Faith, a reaching hand,  
Took hold of God, and brought Him down that day!  
So many, many hearts have need of prayer—  
Oh, let us pray!

—Selected.

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## ZION'S ADVOCATE

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### EDITORIAL

There appeared in the February issue of this paper a notice calling a Solemn Assembly of the Eldership of the Church of Christ. The same notice is in this issue. We have been asked many times about this assembly and what it is for.

It seems human to want to put off at least some of our duties until there is an emergency. Then sometimes we find ourselves at a loss to know just what to do. Perhaps one of the reasons for this call is to get our minds to thinking on more of our duties toward God.

Many want to know what the Assembly is for, why it has been called and how it is to be conducted. We will try to give some thoughts along the line of a Solemn Assembly. This notice states that there is no fixed program to be followed. This we can fully agree with as being the proper way to conduct such a meeting.

An Assembly is: A gathering of persons for deliberation, or for worship.

Solemn means: Under circumstances that indicate a religious sanction of all implied by one's act or word; highly serious; deeply earnest.

If this is to be a solemn assembly, it surely would be for a religious purpose or worship. In light of the above definitions there should be no deliberation. Everyone should come highly serious and deeply in earnest. And this to be that the will of the Lord may be known.

That question, "Why?" comes into the mind of so many. They will ask, what is wrong with the church that we must call a Solemn Assembly? Let us answer that it does not necessarily have to be the church that is in trouble. The church is supposed to be the guiding light for all people to see and to follow if they will.

Look about you and notice every nation of the world. They are in a quandary to know what should be their next move. None of the nations which recognize God are willing to go to war if they can keep

from it. With the heathen nations it is different. Human life is not so highly valued by them, therefore they are easy prey for the devil to stir up to conflict with those nations that are more conscientious.

The time will soon come when the Lord's people will have to rely on Him altogether. If we must rely on Him eventually then there is no better time to start than right now.

The prophet Joel, when looking forward to a time future to our present time, spoke in the following manner: "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of evil.

"Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering to the Lord your God?"

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

"Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the Elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet."

We will consider some of the points that Joel has mentioned: We must turn with our hearts. We humans are so prone to make a great to-do with our lips and tongues but leave our heart out of the Lord's work. But in this case we are told to turn to Him with all our hearts.

And along with a turning to the Lord with fulness of heart we are told to come with fasting. Let us look some at the word "Fast". When Christ was here on earth He taught somewhat concerning fasting: "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance . . . But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly".

A study of the above will show us that to fast is to deprive our bodies of something that they are in the habit of receiving. The meaning of fast according to the English language is: To abstain from food, to eat sparingly or abstain from certain foods.

The weeping and mourning spoken of by Joel could mean a broken heart and a contrite spirit as is spoken of so many times in the Scriptures. Surely, at our baptism is not the only time we should come before the Lord in this manner.

The next point mentioned by Joel would give us the reason to believe that we should humble ourselves as much as we individually can. He says that we must rend our hearts.

His next point is: Turn to the Lord. That means we must leave the world and self behind. We cannot carry self into a solemn assembly and expect the Lord

to meet us there. The same with our thoughts, we must leave all worldly thoughts behind even though they may be the cares of this life that we might be thinking of.

The trumpet has been blown in Zion even though it has not been redeemed. It is still the place of the Lord's Zion and He will redeem it in His own due time.

Make sacred a fast: This means set apart a time and dedicate it to the Lord. If the time is dedicated to the Lord then we must partake of the emblems of His flesh and blood. We partake of the Sacrament that we might always remember Him, and keep His commandments which He has given us that we might always have His Spirit to be with us. If we have His Spirit to be with us we should be led by it.

You may have noticed that Joel said to call a solemn assembly. He also states to gather the people. This means that even though the lay members do not attend they are to gather in their homes at appointed times and take part in the spirit of the occasion.

The congregation is to be sanctified or made sacred. In other words dedicate or consecrate their time during the assembly to the Lord.

This notice seems to be in harmony with the prophecy for Joel writes, assemble the Elders. If the admonition is followed as it is written in the notice: "It is desired that we shall all come in a humble, prayerful attitude," then we can expect the blessings of God to attend us.

In the gathering that we mentioned above, not only the adults are to be gathered but the children and babes as well.

If you have not been having the family altar it is time you were starting, because the time is not far off when you will wish you had.

The reference that Joel makes to the bride and bridegroom signifies that at the time of a solemn assembly we must forego all earthly pleasures and concentrate our minds wholly on the Lord.

I do not believe that anyone would challenge a statement that we have been neglecting our duty to the Lord of fasting and prayer. Perhaps, some have excused themselves because there did not seem to be a concrete statement as to how a fast should be conducted, and rather than go ahead and abstain from food or some food for a season the fast was layed on the shelf.

It is not easy to abstain from food for a very long period of time because the pangs of hunger are hard to ignore. Fasting is the best way there is to build up our self-control. And all of us could stand more of that quality.

This coming Solemn Assembly, we believe, is a good move and in the right direction. It may not bear all the fruit this time that we hope for.

Let those who come, do so with the thought of waiting for the Lord and not running before Him. We are not living in the time spoken of by Isaiah: "Before they call I will answer."

A. F. B.

## CONFERENCE NOTICES

### 1956 Conference Announcement

At 10:00 A. M. on Friday, April 6, 1956, the Ministers' Conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) shall convene as ordered in Independence, Missouri on the Temple Lot.

All who can be at this conference, ministry or not, are urged to attend. The conference will undoubtedly continue up to the 14th or 15th of the month.

Those who plan to attend will need to plan ahead as far as possible. Places to stay will be in short supply on account of a world conference being held in the same neighborhood at the same time by another much larger church. Therefore, write, wire, or phone, ahead to:

The Reception Committee  
Box 472

(Phone Independence 1-3914 or Temple 1-1222)  
Independence, Missouri

Tell them how many each of men, women, boys and girls are coming with you and which can be housed together, etc.

Try to arrive early. Bring bedding and such food items as you readily can. If you cannot attend conference, food and finances can be sent to:

The Dining Hall Committee  
Sister Minnie Smith—Chairman  
Box 472  
Independence, Missouri

As has been the practice previously, the plan is to make no charge for the noon and evening meals at the church, but to accept donations.

If the conference uses a program similar to those of recent years, time will be allotted for the conventions and activities of the auxiliaries: The General Sunday School Association, The United Workers, and the School of the Ministry. There likewise will probably be the customary spiritual services: prayer meetings, Sacrament services and preaching. There will be much for everyone to do.

The prime purpose of the conference is to formally express the will of the people with regard to the affairs of the church: The election of officers and committees, the appointing of the missionaries, the disposition of reports, recommendations and resolutions, etc. These things must be done to enable the church to function properly. However, quick agreement is not always reached in regard to these things, considering that perfection is yet ahead of us. Each conference day will be brim full and perhaps may be tiring.

Therefore, in behalf of the Conference, I beg the prayers of the whole Church of Christ so that the business affairs of the church may be handled in a manner pleasing to God.

Respectfully,

General Church Secretary  
Forest E. Maley

### To the Eldership of the Church of Christ

Greetings:

In harmony with the action of the Joint Council of the Bishops and of the Twelve on the evening of April 12, 1955, wherein it was voted that a "Solemn Assembly" should be called, whereby, if it please God, we might come to an understanding as to what our Heavenly Father requires of us in these "Latter Days", the following decisions have been made.

After careful consideration of this action of the Council, it has been determined that this assembly should consist of the Eldership of the Church; and it is the desire of the Council that all those who have been ordained to the Melchisedec Priesthood should make every possible effort to be present at this Assembly. In considering the time best suited for this gathering of the Eldership, the Council has selected March 20, 1956, as the most convenient time.

Therefore, in harmony with this decision, we hereby give notice that the "Solemn Assembly" shall convene in the upper auditorium of the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri, at 10:00 A. M., March 20, 1956, and all of the Eldership are urged to be present.

It is desired that we shall all come in a humble, prayerful attitude, praying that God in His mercy may direct us by His Spirit, and thus prepare us for better and more harmonious service in His church and kingdom. There is no fixed program to be followed, but we shall be directed by His Spirit from day to day; so let us come in a humble spirit that our Lord and Master may have His way with us.

Respectfully,

ARTHUR M. SMITH  
Secretary of Council of Twelve  
C. LeRoy WHEATON, JR.  
Secretary of Council of Bishops

### To the Eldership of the Church of Christ

Dear Brethren:

This is to call your attention to the Solemn Assembly which is to be held beginning March 20, 1956, notice of which was given in the Advocate for October, 1955, and which again appears in this issue of Zion's Advocate. The first meeting of this Assembly will be held, beginning at 10:00 A. M. Tuesday, March 20. The first meeting will be prayer meeting, to which we desire that you should come in deep meditation and a solemn and prayerful attitude. No program has been provided for any of the meetings that shall follow, as we desire to be led and governed by the Spirit of God along such lines as will bring us to a greater unity of love and understanding.

It is believed that such a gathering of the Eldership of the Church will have a definite tendency to unite us into a more harmonious ministry for Christ, which is the great need of the church today. While there is no program prepared for any meeting except

this first one, it is very likely that some of the many problems of the church will be discussed either in the assembly or by smaller groups of those in attendance. Some of these may be the very subjects we need to counsel with our brethren about, so we feel that this assembly may, if we approach it in the right spirit, be of great benefit to the ministry of the church.

The great object of this assembly is that we may all be drawn closer together, become more unified in our teaching and in all our services to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. So begin now to prepare not only in a material or financial way but more especially in a spiritual way to attend this Solemn Assembly. Let us come praying, let us continue praying for the Spirit of God to direct us.

Respectfully,

Arthur M. Smith  
Secretary of Council of Twelve

### To All the Pastors of the Church of Christ

There has come to us a request that the Pastors of the Church of Christ should be called to meet together in Independence, Mo., on April 7, 1956. The object of this call to the Pastors, especially, is that they might counsel together; that a study might be made of the duties, prerogatives and responsibilities of the Pastors of the Church of Christ; and that the duties, prerogatives and responsibilities might be more clearly defined and set forth, to the end that a harmonious teaching and practice might prevail throughout the whole church.

It has long been observed by those who have labored in the various fields of missionary labor, that there is a wide difference of opinion among the pastors as to their authority, to say nothing of the varied opinion of their duties. This we think should not be. Therefore this effort is to bring these officers of the church together that a better understanding might be obtained among those who are called upon from time to time to serve in this very important and necessary office in the vineyard of the Lord.

It is too often the reflection of these differing opinions that is seen in the membership and in their attitude toward the work that gives the missionary in the field the most concern, and if we can bring about a better and more unified understanding, it will greatly help the missionary arm of the church. As we look about us and see the spirit of contention and strife that is gathering strength on every hand, and the condition among the nations of the world that portend to a more bitter and destructive war than the world has ever seen, we are reminded of the warnings that have been given us concerning these perilous times, and suggest that we strive to prepare for that day inasmuch as it is possible for us to do so, and we believe this is a step in the right direction.

The day may come, and that very soon, that the only missionary work that can be done is that which may be done by the Pastors in their Local Church groups. Again it is quite evident, that in the day that the gathering of the Saints shall begin (if it has not

already started) that the work of the Pastors shall be intensified in the care of those who desire to come and those who shall be forced to delay a little longer. So we visualize the work of the Pastor as that of a Shepherd, who not only feeds "my sheep", but also protects them from evils that might destroy them. This we feel can only be done as we work in unison and harmony.

The seventh of April has been selected as the day when those who are most interested in this matter, (the Pastors) are requested to assemble. This date, since it falls on Saturday, the second day of the Conference, would seem to be a very appropriate time for such a meeting; so we ask all who can to try and be there as early in the day as possible. It is not possible to give the hour when such a meeting shall be called, so come as the minute-men in the Colonial days, ready for action at the moment's notice.

Respectfully,

Arthur M. Smith

### JUST A NOTE LEST WE FORGET

The time is rapidly approaching when we will hold our April Conference, and one of our big problems is the feeding of the visitors who will be with us. We all realize that we must have material food as well as Spiritual food. This year it will require much more than in the past as the Solemn Assembly will meet March 20, and those who attend this Assembly must be cared for. We do not know how many will be in attendance at these pre-conference meetings, but we know the ministry are hoping and praying that a goodly number will be there.

We need your help and co-operation in this effort to care for this service which some one must do for the Master, so if you have canned food it will be appreciated very much. If you have a way to bring or send it to us, we will be very grateful; but if you have not a way to send it, if you will let us know in time we may be able to help you get it here. If you live too far from Independence to send or bring your contribution and would prefer to send us a cash donation, that too will be very welcome as there are always some things we must buy.

You may send your donations either to me or to the Bishops, P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri. We feel we have been blessed in our efforts and our method of feeding the Conference attendance in the past and we feel confident the blessings will continue, but we need your help and co-operation in this a very essential and important undertaking for the cause we all love so much. We hope to see you at the Conference.

Respectfully,

Sister Minnie Smith  
For the Dining Hall Committee

### TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

A reminder to each local Sunday School that we

will be looking forward to reading your report as well as seeing you at the General Sunday School meeting which will be held during the coming conference. We like for the reports to include the number enrolled in your Sunday School and how many children and adults, the type of study used, the number of classes, etc.

We will appreciate any suggestion or criticism which you feel will benefit our Sunday Schools. Come! Let us discuss and exchange our ideas.

If your report cannot be brought or sent by someone to the conference, mail it now to General Sunday School Secretary, Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

Lois Harris, Secretary

### UNITED WORKERS, ATTENTION

We will be looking forward to seeing all the ladies who attend the conference at our United Workers meeting. Our "Old Folks Home Fund" should show quite an increase with the accumulation of "pennies saved" since our last meeting. Do not forget to bring them!

Bring the report from your local of the past year's activities or mail it as soon as possible after receiving this notice to United Workers Secretary, Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

Lois Harris, Secretary

### NOTICE

A motion will be presented at the coming conference to revise some of the wording on the Application For Membership.

Archie F. Bell  
Arthur M. Smith  
T. J. Jordan

### GLEANINGS BY THE WAY

Clarence L. Wheaton

At this writing I am still in Yucatan, though expecting to return to the States before too long. I started this trip from Missouri November 21 and arrived in Ticul, Yucatan, December 22, 1955, in time to celebrate Christmas Day with our members at Dzan.

Final preparation for this trip were completed the afternoon of November 21, and the middle of the afternoon, I bade goodbye to Angela, the companion of most all my trips to Mexico, who remained at home, where she had elected to care for her aging mother, Sister Marion O. Denham, who is now in her middle 80's.

The first leg of my journey took me to Phoenix, Arizona, where I had been invited to come and take part in the Reunion, to be held there following Thanksgiving Day, and lasting over the week-end of November 25 to 27. On the way to Phoenix it was convenient for me to stop overnight with the family of Brother and Sister Robert Maley, at Valley Center, Kansas. Here

we again renewed fellowship with their family, and the family of Brother and Sister Frank Elliott, who had recently moved there from Independence to make their home, as he was able to find more steady employment. We had a fine talk together till after midnight, and early next morning, found it necessary to go on the way. The next stop along the way was to spend a few hours at the home of Sister Massey and her family at Goodwell, Oklahoma. Sister Massey is the daughter of Brother and Sister Keeney, of Houston, Missouri. After supper that evening, we took the opportunity of showing them a fine selection of my archeological pictures, and explain their relation to the Book of Mormon. A little after 8:00 P. M., I excused myself, as I knew that I would have to leave so early the next morning, that I did not feel I should just stay, without a further visit, as my time was too limited. So after bidding them good-bye, and taking a few articles of clothing they had for relief among our Lamanite bothers in New Mexico drove on into the night and finally, when the lights of Tucemcari, N. M., loomed ahead in the distance, I pulled off to the side of the road and made a bed on the front seat of the car. It was nice and comfortable, for a few hours, but when I woke up I was cold and stiff, as the weather up in the mountains was bitter cold.

When I inspected my tires, a routine action, after driving with a heavy load, it was discovered that I had a tire that was going flat. How thankful I was that I had stopped where I did, for the tire marks indicated that it was still up under good pressure at the time the car was stopped. At Independence we loaded on considerable relief supplies to take to Mrs. Till and her Navajo school children, and also a good supply of candies and goodies to bring over here to Yucatan, for the children's Christmas here. In fact the load on my car was almost too much, for there was not even a place left for me to sleep in my bed. It was either a hotel or sleeping on the car seat. As the result, the load was so heavy there were rim cuts on the tube, and when I got to Tucemcari a few hours later, repairs were made and a hot cup of coffee and a bowl of chili warmed me considerable. I then drove on till near daylight and the warm sun made me drowsy, so I again pulled off and took a nap. About noon of that day, the second out of Independence, I pulled into Albuquerque, N. M., where I received a warm welcome at the home of Sister Viola Hening. Here I spent only a few hours, as I was very anxious to reach Gallup, N. M., before dark. I already had an abundance of nice sandwiches, which the Maley's had provided me, and I insisted that our time be spent in visiting and talking the Gospel, as I could eat these sandwiches as I drove along. To me, these fireside visits with out isolated members is just as important to the church and the welfare of its members, as it is to hold a meeting, and at times more so, as we are then able to discuss those questions which are of vital importance to these individuals. At another time, possibly upon the return to the States this trip, I look forward to holding a series of meetings in Albuquerque, where Sister Hening has endeavored to create an interest. However we missed seeing the family, and Sister Jamison, who was away in California at the time.

Toward evening of this same day, I arrived at Gal-

lup, N. M., and learned that Mrs. Till was teaching school at a place on the Navajo Reservation called Crown Point. Checking my maps, I found I would have to back-track some twenty-five miles, and then go back fifty miles over a gravel road to locate her; also Edward Cowboy and his family who were stationed there in government service. So I did not stop long enough to get a hot supper, but started the journey back, as the shades of a cold night were settling around me. By 9:30 P. M., I arrived at Crown Point, and had my load lightened considerably, but not enough to make a bed in the car. The Indian woman, in charge of the kitchen where I left the bundles, kindly offered me a cup of hot coffee, and a piece of pie. You may rest assured that I thanked the Lord for her kindness, as well as her, for I was getting hungry.

Weather conditions indicated that we might have a snow storm before morning, so rather than be snowed in there for a week or two, I decided to drive back at least to Gallup for the night. The school matron offered me a dormitory room for the night, but experience had taught me that it was a perilous thing to be snowed in back there on the reservation, so I thanked her and drove away. At Gallup, I found the town closed up for the night, so decided to try and reach a place called Sho-low, in Arizona, and find a cabin for the night at some motel. But that turned out to be a mistake, so in spite of the bitter cold, I again made my bed in the seat of the car up in the mountains. After two or three hours drive, I made it into the next town, in the small hours of the morning, only to find the place crowded with football players, and a big celebration going on that took all available sleeping quarters. I finally gave up hope of sleeping in a bed, and continued to drive until I would get tired, then rest a few hours and drive on again.

Thanksgiving morning, about 8:30, I arrived at the home of Brother and Sister McIndoo, where I knew there would be a warm welcome and a comfortable bed to sleep in. Here, in the McIndoo home, where a few years back I was inspired to write a poem of sorts of the "House of West Culver Street", I found Louise very busy preparing a Thanksgiving feast, and Ed was just home from his work. The house was filled with the aroma of many delicious foods, for Louise, is among the best cooks, and all through the house was the exciting preparations going on for the members of the family and others who were expected for dinner. How grateful was I, that far from my own home and family at this happy season, I had another home, a missionary home, where I could and did feel welcome to share, even as one of the family, the fellowship of this family. So after a hurried breakfast, and later a warm bath and change of clothes, I went into the "upper room" which we laughingly call the Crow's Nest, for a good nap before dinner. I was awakened to the sound of laughing, merry people. There were the Shaws from Colbran, Colorado, parents of Larry Shaw; Brother Bob Ely and his lovely wife from Grand Junction, whom I have known since he was just a small lad; and of course Donny and Betty McIndoo and their little daughter Kathy; and Larry and Patty, 21 of us all together. When I came down stairs the table was literally groaning with good things to eat. We had a happy day, and time to reflect on the many

blessings our heavenly Father had bestowed upon us by his bountiful hand. And so, we gave thanks for our fellowship, and all the blessings of life we had shared together in Christ.

The next day, Friday, November 25, 1955, the Phoenix Reunion started out with a fine prayer service in the morning, and later a fine sermon by Apostle E. L. Yates, who used Psalm 8 as the basis of his sermon. In the afternoon, Brother Donald McIndoo gave a fine sermon on the "Apostacy", and in the evening Elder Orin Caviness gave us another good sermon, this time on Wisdom, making a very fine analysis. Meals were served in the annex just back of the church, to a very fine gathering of members from many distant places. Here we had the enjoyable privilege of meeting with Apostle Barton, the Elys, Shaws, and Hinkles from Colorado, Brother Oliver Shirk from California, and a host of others, with whom I had labored in by-gone years. A reunion? More than that! A feast of spiritual things, and a tightening of the ties of brother and sisterhood in the sacred household of Jesus Christ. And so the three days passed, good sermons, prayer meetings, a round-table, and on Sunday, a two hour and a half prayer and sacrament service, filled our souls with joy in the Lord, which was to be as refreshing waters from the fount of life. Then evening came. The last sermon preached, the last song, then benediction and separations to go to homes in far away places, to treasure our experiences together there, and then look forward to another year for another such reunion.

During the time of this reunion, I had made it a constant prayer that Apostle Yates or one of the brethren there could go with me on the long journey here to Yucatan. I was considerably disappointed when the reunion ended and Brother Yates informed me that he did not believe that he could get away from his work long enough to make the trip with me.

Monday morning dawned warm and fair. The Grand Junction folks left very early for their homes. I received welcome letters from Angela and Fernando. In the afternoon Brother and Sister McIndoo, and I, went shopping for sewing machines to bring along to Yucatan for the school we hope to see started here before long. I had already brought the sewing machine head for one Singer given me by Brother J. M. Case, and now we bought another complete machine and the base for this one. The next day, we began to unload the things I had brought from Missouri, so as to make room for the sewing machines. That evening Brother Leon called to let me know that he was making plans to go with me. He had had a spiritual experience, which he may later relate to you, and as the result, he went to those in authority and asked for a leave of absence for six weeks, which was granted. So we see, that after the trial of our faith, God hears and answers prayers, and in this way my prayer that "Skeet" would come with me was answered. However this entailed several days of preparation on his part and the processing of his leave of absence before he could get away. During this time I employed my time in getting some much needed rest. Finally we got things packed, and the old truck was loaded till there was hardly room for our clothes. Among other things,

some of the Phoenix folks bought one of those portable folding organs for the church here, and so it went on and on, until the old car literally creaked as we drove down the road.

We crossed the border at Nogales, the afternoon of December 8, and drove steadily for several days down the west coast of Mexico until we reached Mexico City, D. F. On the way we stopped for dinner with Sister Marlene Cobb, daughter of Brother Leon Yates. The first night in Old Mexico, we slept out under the stars in a man's field. The other nights we went to hotels, as the nights were getting cold.

On this leg of our journey, we stopped at several archeological zones for a few minutes or an hour or so, as the circumstances warranted, taking pictures of the ruins, in some places which were new to me. These places proved an unending source of wonder to Brother Yates, who was seeing them for his first time, and which never lose their interest for me. He will have many interesting stories to tell and pictures to show when he returns to the states.

We arrived in Mexico City the evening of December 13, just six days drive from Phoenix, but we did a great deal of night driving, which was possible with both of us driving. The next morning we made inquiry about passage to Yucatan by boat, and were informed that we could cross the Gulf from Veracruz in the next two or three days. So we decided to remain in Mexico City that length of time, and then drive down to Veracruz in time for the boat. Later, when we went to make reservations, we learned that the ship we could go on would not sail till December 27, so we packed our things and started for Coatzacoalcos, the terminal of the railway to the Yucatan Peninsula. By inquiry we learned that we could cross the Isthmus of Tehuacanepc on a new highway which had only recently been opened for travel. So we determined to follow the Pan-American Highway south to Tehuacanepc.

On this stretch of our journey, we visited the great pyramid of Cholula, which covers over 40 acres, is composed of six temples super-imposed, and has an age according to the archeologist of 5,000 years, which would correspond to the Jaredite colonization of that area spoken of in the Book of Mormon. Our next such stop was at Monte Alban, then Mitla, with their beautiful old ruins and frescos of carved stone which are unsurpassed. Crossing the Isthmus from the Pacific to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, took us just five and one-half hours. Part of this stretch of highway had been damaged by the floods of recent hurricanes, Hilda and Janet, thus slowing us up considerable. The highest point above sea level on this stretch of road was less than nine hundred feet, and the distance 147 miles from Juchitán to Coatzacoalcos, a day's journey for a Nephite, for it is a known fact that among the Navajos and Hopis of only a few years back they could easily cover 125 miles in one day from Oriba in Arizona to Fort Defiance, N. M.

At Coatzacoalcos, we had to wait for two days for a train, then Tuesday afternoon, December 20 we loaded the car on the train, and the next morning left Allende, across the river, for Campeche. This was a very interesting two-day journey by train through the

jungles. The train was first-class, steel coaches, with Pullman and Diner. We arrived in Campeche the morning of December 22 and after getting the car unloaded from the train drove directly to Ticul, a distance of 125 miles. Here we were greeted by Fernando, who had rented our little house for us, and it was all cleaned up and ready to move into, which we did that very night.

Next morning we made our way to Merida to pay our respects to the American Consul Mr. Bingham, who had taken the place of our former Consul and friend, Mr. Metcalf, who had been transferred to Guatemala. After laying in a supply of groceries we returned to Ticul and made preparations for Christmas Eve at Dzan. Having brought a small electric generator with us from the States, we were able to surprise the church people at Dzan with a number of Christmas carols played on our recorder. Fernando told us that this music could be heard two blocks away, and that first evening, Christmas Eve, we had the house packed and a crowd of over 200 in and around the church. Sunday, Christmas Day, there were four new members to be baptized, so it was suggested to Fernando that he call on Brother Yates to officiate. This he did, and in the evening we confirmed them and gave them the right hand of fellowship. During that evening service, we also administered to seventeen adults and children for various afflictions, with great rejoicing for the blessings of the Lord thus far.

Having brought a large supply of candy, nuts and fruit cakes with us from the States, we made up scores of little packages for the children, and in addition to these we passed out bowls of candy to around three hundred people who came to our services. It was a very happy occasion for all of us, but the clouds began to form around us, and soon we were to hear the mutterings of the mad priest up there, who is again threatening our lives. We have been warned in dreams, and by those living there of our danger, and for our safety the membership at Dzan has asked us not to come there any more after night, but to come and leave during daylight hours as we will then be in less danger. We therefore ask the prayers of all members for us in this mission. Not only for we who have come here, but especially for our members who constantly live in the midst of this situation.

### HERE AND THERE

This month some of our news is a little late because there was no article in the February issue.

To start our journey we travel to the beautiful state of Arizona to announce the arrival of Rodney Bruce Cobb the baby son of Bruce and Marlene Cobb of Tucson. Rodney Cobb came to make the life of his parents more happy December 20, 1955 and weighed 6 pounds, 14½ ounces.

Then we go northward to Buffalo, Iowa to call on Jack Bell (1-22). "I am a boss at work now in the wash room. I won't get laid off now since I got raised up a little.

"It was 10° below zero Saturday and got to 10° above. It was 5° below this morning. We got about two inches of snow last week and there is still about an inch and a half on the ground."

Going on northward to Bemidji, Minn., we visit Lovita Wentworth (1-12). "As I am living in town now I don't hear much goings on.

"Dad I and my brother and his family were out to Olney, Montana over Christmas visiting my other brother and his family. The mountains are beautiful and I sure would like to see them in the summer time."

Then coming southward to Cowgill, Mo., we drop in on Loren and Mary Lois Bryant (1-2). "It seems like I never have any spare time to write so I am going to just take time out for it. It is a lovely day today even though the wind is a little chilly. Looking at the bright sunshine and hearing the birds makes you feel good and thankful to be alive and able to see God's works of nature. I simply love farm life and it is certainly agreeing with me. I guess married life is agreeing with both Loren and me because I think we have both gained a little weight. We sure keep busy on the farm but I guess the busy people are the happy ones and I really don't suppose we are any busier than anybody else."

Coming on toward the south we hear from Al and Jayce Harris, Ft. Campbell, Ky. (1-1). "We went home on an 8-day Christmas leave. Christmas morning we had little Mark blessed. Debbie Hedrick was blessed then too. It made a very nice touch to Christmas—what better gift than a blessing from God to little children.

The Independence families certainly have a crop of little ones to be proud of. Debbie Hedrick is sure a cutie! She looks like she could think up all the mischief you could handle and then some. We had a very nice Christmas Eve at the Harris hearth along with Bill and Mac Morris and their kids, John and Joan Morris, Mildred and Alice Fawn (Hooker), Enid (Bell) and Grandfather Morris. I've never seen so many presents around one tree! Christmas morning we spent at the Sprague tree. The kids all got up at the crack of dawn to open stockings and gifts. Al said it was the most "Christmasy" Christmas he'd had in a long time. We had dinner with my folks. Grandmother Denham and Aunt Angela (Wheaton) were there too. Incidentally, Mark is Grandmother's 53rd great grandchild.

"My brother is still waiting for the army orders that should have arrived December first. He is supposed to be at Fort Leonard Wood several weeks and then go to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas where he will finish out six months. Then he will be in active reserve for seven years. He is a Private First Class now due to the time spent in Reserve. He is in the Medical Service Corps and will be in the Medical Field School at Ft. Sam and also get actual hospital training at Brooke Hospital there. He should have a lot of fun. We really liked that post. We are getting pretty tired of army life. We're anxious to go home—finish Al's education—and settle down in our little home. We still have 18 months to go then we can call our lives our own again."

Now traveling on southward to Ticul, Yucatan, Mexico to visit with Fernando Ojeda, Ticul, Yucatan (1-21). "Right now we are trying to bring our local here to—



gether so that we can meet together regular and be able to help one another in times of difficulties. We need to find a work for those who will move over here. Our local consists of about twenty-four members, but are scattered and want to be together. We need a school for the children. There are at least 15 of them all together and their parents do not want to send them to the public schools yet because such places are as rotten as can be. And so, it goes on and we find problem after problem to solve and I feel so unable to do much. However, I trust in the Lord and hope it will all work out fine."

We have more news from Fernando received at a later date. (1-24). "We are going to need some one else in our school when we get it established to take care of a few other things around here, I couldn't make a very good teacher myself but I'd do all I could to help. We have about fifteen children ready to enter and that's our first class. The women folks need to be taught too. There are some who cannot read or write, they have to be taught. There are others who need to be instructed on more modern ways of living, taking care of the children, cooking, canning and so forth, and such jobs should be done by a woman, so they can feel free to present their own personal problems that may arise so they can receive better support. And so, there are a hundred other things that need to be done to help this people raise up their standard of living and make a people more useful to God and mankind out of them.

How did you spend your Christmas? We down here had a wonderful time together. Brethren Wheaton, Yates and I went to Dzan and had a very nice reunion there as the Ticul local and the church at Dzan came together to enjoy a two-day (24-25) spiritual banquet together, and besides, we had a host of outsiders. The only thing we lacked was music to accompany our songs. The church from Phoenix, Arizona sent down a nice portable organ, but I couldn't play it myself and so far there is no one else available.

"Four more people were baptized, and after reunion we all went home rejoicing that the time was well spent and that we were blessed with the presence of God in our midst. Since, two more people have been baptized and there are others ready to come in.

"Our weather is just fine now, however, it was real cold last week but we are not expecting to get much of that kind of weather any more until next year.

Brother Yates left for Phoenix yesterday. Brother Wheaton will be leaving within the next two weeks, I guess, and I may go with him as far as Mexico City and then come back.

Clarence and I have been trying to buy a piece of land which will be used for our mission school and home in Ticul but so far we have not made much progress.

Our people are very desirous to see the school going already, some want to study English and that's another detail. I am not doing well enough in English to make a good teacher.

Next Sunday will be Clarence's last Sunday here and Monday we will be at Campeche, ready to catch

the train that will take us to Coatzacoalcos and from there we will continue to Mexico City where I'll leave Clarence so I can return to the "land of enchantment", Yucatan.

Our weather turned cold last night, but today is a hot day. I wished I could go swimming in the ocean. It's beautiful on the beach and there are very few people around. The sand is white and pretty and the water is clear, when the moon shines over the beach it becomes a dream, something you wish could last forever."

In conclusion this month we would like to thank everybody that has helped us with this article.

Ella Engle  
Alice Reed

Note: I think it is a great pleasure to be able to visit with our friends like we can through "Here and There", and I pray God's blessings on all the Young People all over the church. I would like for the young people who are interested in "Here and There" and would like to contribute to it, even if it is just a small letter, to write to me.

Alice Reed  
1502 South Logan  
Independence, Missouri

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### OUT OF THE MAIL SACK

95 West Street  
Millbrook, Plymouth, Devon.  
February 3, 1956

Dear Saints Everywhere:

Seeing the many testimonies in the Advocate, I thought I would like to give mine, and how I came to join the church. It would be a happy memory for me.

I went for a holiday to Wales to see my dear mother and father and while I was there I had the pleasure of meeting Brother and Sister Mason of Ilanelly, and what a pleasure it was, as through them and also my brother, George, also a brother in the Church of Christ, I became a sister in the church. I cannot tell you in words what it has meant to me to be a sister to such beautiful people. In them I found happiness and the main thing, the love of God. I felt that I could not stay outside the Church of Christ any longer. The feeling I had in their company is beyond words, and now with the help of God I ask an interest in your faith and prayers, that I shall remain faithful to the end of my days. I also pray that our branch in Wales will stay open and that it will draw many more into the Kingdom of God. It has been, and always will be a beautiful memory for me the rest of my days, and I hope that my brothers and sisters throughout the church will pray for me to be faithful.

I shall be overjoyed to hear from any brother or sister, who would care to write to me, as I am 200 miles from the nearest branch.

Very Sincerely,

Sister Jenny Farley

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Since I do not have the opportunity of meeting with you in person, I want to take this opportunity to greet you through the pages of the Advocate. And at this time we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to those of you who so kindly remembered our Kathy in your prayers. We know these, and other prayers, have been heard and answered. Kathy has been in school all this year, which makes the first time she has been able to go after the Christmas holidays. A month ago the doctor said she may run and play again after thirteen months. So we give thanks to God for His kindness in remembering His little ones.

I have recently been studying quite a lot about our Hopi Indians, who live to themselves high on three mesas on the Arizona desert. Through the centuries they have steadfastly refused to integrate with others, or to join the Catholic church as most pueblo Indians have done. Because they have kept themselves isolated, it seems to me that here we have a last remnant of Lamanites who still have many of the wonderful concepts taught by Jesus. Indeed they speak of a great Leader to return, and lead them to a holy land, a place of peace and love. They believe He will probably be white.

I think it is most interesting to see how many of the teachings of Jesus have persisted among the Hopi. Some of their ceremonies may, on the outward appearance, seem to be pagan, but on closer observance the Hopi are seen to be a deeply spiritual people, believing in one Great Spirit, the Creator of all things. Jesus told us that as a man thinks, so is he. The Hopi believe that a man's thoughts affect his body and spirit. If his thoughts are happy and good, he will feel the benefit. If they are destructive or depressing, he will be harmed. Through his thoughts he can help or harm others.

It is considered most important that a man have a "good heart", that he hold nothing against his neighbor. So, it is considered permissible, in the days preceding group prayers for one person to ask another, "Have all your thoughts been right and good?" Prayer, for the Hopi is never a mere recital or ritual. It must come from the heart. To pray is to desire, and at the same time to will. Through united prayers, added strength is given. But there must not be one among those who does not have the "good heart."

The Hopi believe firmly in immortality as taught by Christ. In fact, so strong is their sense of the reality of "Eternal life" that it affects all aspects of their daily life. It is a real and living thing to them.

Very early in life a child must begin to learn the aims of the Hopi way. He must learn a course of conduct which will lead to well-being and happiness because he is living righteously. In this way of life, a person must be honest, truthful, considerate, gentle with children, understanding with the old (there are many beloved aged ones, who lead useful, happy lives to a remarkably old age) free from sadness, fear or harmful thoughts, and constantly aware that he is part of a great immortal life. They take literally the teachings of Jesus, to have a joyful spirit; man is that he might have joy.

These teachings are not written. The rules and beliefs are spoken. Over and over little children are taught the Hopi truths, exactly as they were taught to their elders. A Hopi leader has said that it is much better that they do not write these things. Too often he says, when a religion is written down it gets into unfriendly hands. A man who does not understand reads and criticizes. He says it is wrong, and perhaps there is no one near to explain and help him to understand. He may change something. Another man comes along, and writes things out adding these changes and others. Pretty soon you have something much different from what it was intended to be. Still another man reads and says, "No, that is not right. This is the way it should be," and he rewrites it again. Before long all these different people are arguing and quarreling. Each thinks he is right and the other wrong. This goes on all over the world, setting people against each other. And so it is not possible for a man's religion to help him the way it should. Sometime people even fight over their religion. Instead of being joyous and happy with it, they are unhappy.

Because his religion has been a part of his daily conduct from earliest childhood, the Hopi keeps it with him more continuously and with more power than most white people. His standard of righteousness applies without exception to one and all. There is no ruling or priesthood class. Leaders become such because they have attained wisdom, and proved themselves strong and worthy of leadership in their daily lives.

We are living in the times spoken of when the Lamanites are to again become a delightsome people. Those who have striven to uphold the lasting principles that Christ taught will surely be among those who deserve a better place in our great country. They will no doubt be counted among those who are gathered together in the latter days.

An Indian friend of mine here who belongs to the Utah Church says their old beliefs include the building of the Temple, and that she hopes some day to visit the Temple Lot Church. I have had two dreams concerning the "gathering in" at the Temple Lot that came to me in times of discouragement. They have given me comfort, perhaps they will to someone else. The first was several years ago: I was in the upper room of the church, and it was crowded to the walls with people. They seemed to come from everywhere and from many different groups. I only wish I could describe the wonderful feeling of love and fellowship that was in this congregation as many greeted each other with tears of joy at all being together and united. As the meeting came to order, a rather tall, slender, fair man arose and began reading from a long paper he held. On it were listed the contributions that different groups of people were bringing with them. These were not differences of doctrines, but rather fruits of the Spirit and things for the good of all. The contribution of the Temple Lot group was the keeping of the Temple Lot itself through many trials, and the holding to the old truths of the gospel, trying to keep them unchanged. A great love encompassed the whole room, and I heard a voice say, "The gathering-in has begun."

The second dream I had about a year ago: I was

talking with a friend, I do not know who she was, somewhere in Independence. I said, "I would like to walk over to the Temple Lot Church of Christ." She answered that it would be no use, there was nothing going on at that time there, no meeting. But I wanted to go and so we walked over and stood on the sidewalk in front of the door. We could not go in. The door was open, but inside there was great activity by a small group of people. Some were remodeling, others sawing, tearing out sections of woodwork, still others were sweeping trash out through the door. As I turned from looking inside the door, I noticed people converging on the Temple Lot from all directions. Small groups had already gathered near the front walks, and were quietly conversing. A voice said, "All these are eager, and waiting to enter the church. But they cannot come in until the church has been made ready."

My little girl is eight now, and she and I have been studying the Book of Mormon together. The Spirit has been with us so that she is most interested in it, and learning all she can about the church. She would love to have letters from little children who also believe the Book of Mormon.

Our prayers are always for you.

Your Sister in Christ,

Viola Hening  
1925 Five Points Rd. Sw.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

## NEWS FROM LOCALS

### St. Louis, Missouri

On January 1, 1956, we had our Sacrament Service. Brother Alton Shankle, our pastor, was our speaker on January 8. He spoke of the men who were obedient to the Lord and those who were disobedient. He began with Adam and Eve. They were disobedient to God because they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Noah, who was obedient to the Lord, was laughed at by the people because of his building of the Ark. Brother Shankle brought out the righteousness of Joshua concerning the walls of Jericho. In Samuel 17, verses 43 to 45, it tells about David and Goliath. David did not use any metal armor for he believed he had the armor of the Lord.

He spoke of Elijah and Naaman, the Syrian, who came to Elijah's house and asked to be healed. But Elijah sent a messenger and told Naaman to go to the river Jordan and dip seven times.

In Daniel 3, the children of Israel, who would not worship the golden image made by the king, were put into the fiery furnace but they still kept their faith in the Lord, and the Lord saved them.

Brother Anderson was here on January 15 to visit with us. He was our speaker for the day. He asked us if the song, "What a Friend We have in Jesus", which we had just sung, had any meaning to us. We should think of baptism as a new life. God is concerned about all of us. There are too many standing

in the door blocking the way for others to come in. Brother Anderson told us that the Lord went to a lot of trouble that we might have the Gospel. Our salvation is important.

Satan wanted all the glory and said that no one would be lost, and we would not have the right to think for ourselves. God saw that man would sin and fall away and Jesus said that He would go and all the glory would be to God.

Brother Anderson said that he believes Jesus Christ is his friend and he does not believe that Christ has asked him to do anything that he cannot do. We should strive to be better men and women day by day. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

The Church of Christ is to save people, not to condemn them. What is the greatest thing in the establishment of Zion? It is personal righteousness.

Edith Frey, Reporter

### Maple City, Michigan

We held a good program for Christmas which was supervised by Sister Sylvia Mallory with Sister Lucinda Scott as organist. We had some good plays in which the young people did their parts well.

On January 7, the annual business meeting was held and officers were elected. Elder Peter Price was chosen as pastor, Sister Sylvia Mallory as secretary and Sister Lucinda Scott as treasurer.

The local prayer service has been held at Brother Price's home on Wednesday evening because of sickness and the cold weather. There were 21 present last Wednesday evening. The Women's Department hold their meeting every two weeks.

Brother Eddie Mallory was chosen as Superintendent of Sunday School and Brother Leslie Trumbull as assistant superintendent. We have 11 older young people and 6 younger ones. We had 4 adults last Sunday. Brother Price is Bible class teacher. Sister Scott is young people's teacher, Sister Mallory is Junior teacher and Sister Irma Trumbull is Primary teacher. Eddie Mallory is kindergarten teacher.

Those who have visited our local in the past are Apostles Bell, Gould, Anderson and Jordan, Elders Housknecht, Welch, Brantner, Bowman, Heath, Wilkenson and Reed. We were glad to have them visit us and hope to have them visit our local again.

Sister Minnie Price, Reporter

### Wisconsin

Late last fall we had such wonderful meetings that I would like to write our Advocate about them. I do enjoy reading the many letters that are written for our little church paper.

We held a meeting in Fond du Lac the first of October with such a wonderful attendance. The Black River Falls group, Brother and Sister Merlin Eddy and son from Chippewa Falls, Brother and Sister Addie

from Lima Center, the Milwaukee group, some coming as far as 170 miles and then with their return trip, which would make their round trip 340 miles, all in one day, so they could attend and be with their Brothers and Sisters for a Sacrament service. It was so heart warming to see the wonderful effort that was made to attend these meetings. Then we had another group meeting the first of November at Brother and Sister Addie's at Lima Center. I am sure you are all familiar with Lima Center as the Wisconsin reunions are held there. We were so happy to have with us Apostle Bell and Apostle Sheldon, who drove down with Brother and Sister John Davies and daughter from Montfort. The Racine and Milwaukee groups were there, also Brother Barton and mother from Chicago and my family from Fond du Lac. So you can see the wonderful attendance at this Sacrament Service.

Now to bring you up to date. Our last Sacrament meeting was held at Milwaukee, February 5, at Brother and Sister Ray Hunholz, with just the same wonderful attendance. Racine, Lima Center, Chicago and Fond du Lac, quite a range of distance to there, yet the wonderful spirit that is felt is reward enough. Another thing that is so rewarding is to see our young married couples come so regularly and bringing their little ones. It will not be long and our homes will not hold them all. That is for sure.

Now there is an elapse of time—December and January—that I have not written about. I did not attend these meetings, although they were held. I have just given an account of the meetings I have attended; but, I was told the January meeting held at Racine was just like the ones I have written about, with Brother Sheldon being present. When I am not able to attend these meetings I usually go to the Utah group here in Fond du Lac. I have become very well acquainted with these people. If I may, I would like to write of some of the things we have been discussing. In short it has been about the gathering at Zion, beginning at the Temple Lot. In reading and discussing these things I am deeply moved at what I see, and I may be wrong, but this is the way I see it.

On the preface of the little tract Temple Lot Deed, I read these words:

Just a little over a hundred years ago, into the sleepy little village of Independence, Missouri, there came a small group of earnest men. These were not the type of men commonly seen in the frontier towns of that day, neither was the object of their coming all the long perilous way from the East, one of common interest, but rather it was a strange mission upon which these men had come; that mission was the pointing out and dedicating of the "Spot" upon which the Temple of the Lord would finally be built. These were the early founders of that work which has since become known as the "Restoration". Since that time to this, throughout all the changing years, throughout all their suffering and loss, often broken in spirit and body, the descendants of these same earnest men, their children and their grandchildren and those who have joined with them, have looked forward to that time when in deed and in truth, God's work would begin in "earnest", and this "Temple of the Lord" be built.

Although division and separation has scattered those who should be united in effort to accomplish this work, still in every division we find the steadfast faith and belief that this Temple shall yet be built. Thus the spot dedicated by those men over one hundred years ago is still of vital interest to believers in the great Restoration. The land of Zion was blessed and dedicated as the land upon which God should "gather" His people on this continent (in the last day). The spot where the Temple was to be built was revealed to them by the Spirit of the Lord, etc.

There is more, but this is enough to show what the Temple Lot really means to this great Restoration. Now in the Utah Doctrine and Covenants, Section 84, verses 2, 3, and 4, "Yea the word of the Lord concerning His church, established in the last days for the restoration of His people, as He has spoken by the 'gathering' of His saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of the New Jerusalem, which city shall be built 'beginning at the Temple Lot', which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the Western boundaries of the State of Missouri and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith and others, with whom the Lord was well pleased. Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the City New Jerusalem shall be built by the 'gathering of the Saints' beginning at this place even the place of the Temple which Temple shall be reared in this generation."

Also in reading the Book of Mormon, Book of Nephi, Chapter 10, "But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem and there shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon the face of the land in unto the New Jerusalem, and there shall the power of heaven come down among them, and I (meaning Jesus) also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence at that day even when the Gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem."

It would seem that the Father has not hardly started His great work yet, for the city the New Jerusalem has not been built nor the Temple, and it is supposed to "begin" at the Temple Lot.

In reading some of Joseph Smith's writings, I ran across this, a letter from the Prophet Joseph Smith to the exiled Saints in Missouri. This is taken from the book, "Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith", written by Joseph Fielding Smith, of the Utah branch. The letter—"I have always expected that Zion would suffer some affliction, from what I could learn from the commandments which have been given. But I would remind you of a certain clause in one which says, that after much tribulation cometh the blessing. By this, and also

others, and time of the Lord, will be redeemed; but how many days of her purification, tribulation and affliction, the Lord has kept hid from my eyes."

I believe Zion is now redeemed, and has been for some time. I also believe, from the things that are written and the things that are taking place in our world of today, in being prepared to go to Zion. We are told the gathering is to start there, also how the ice is to melt down and the tribes come forth "out of the north countries".

Here is a small article written by Admiral Donald B. MacMillan a couple of weeks ago, and he says—"I have crossed the Arctic Circle thirty times during the past forty-seven years and invaded the far North as an adventurer and explorer trying to solve some of the region's many secrets. I've been pleased to see many signs that the Arctic and presumably the whole world, is growing warmer. Personal observation and experience, rather than a complete set of temperature records, make these predictions possible. For example:

In July, 1954, my wife and I and a small party of associates arrived at Inglefield Gulf. This is a great hunting and fishing ground of the polar Eskimos. We were astonished to find the natives exclaiming over a large catch of strange fish—codfish that had migrated north because Arctic waters were warm enough to be inviting—a number of warm climate birds such as the green teal, and we found new plants, among them a wild dandelion. These were small signs pointing to a gradual increase in Arctic temperature, but there is something far more significant.

Hundreds of glaciers are shrinking inland until they no longer reach the sea. This is because the increasingly warm summer sun melts the frontal edges of the glaciers faster than they can be built up with winter snow. This means that fewer icebergs are being "born" today, since a glacier must reach into the sea before the great chunks of ice forming bergs can break loose and float free."

All these things point out signs of His second coming, regardless if we are of the Utah branch or Reorganized branch or who we are. The work of the Father is going to be done His way and to me complete obedience is the thing that it will take to bring Zion. Obedience regardless of what we ourselves think or want. For Jesus did not want to give His life up on the cross. For He said, "If it be thy will let this cup pass from my lips, but not my will be done, but thine." But it was not the Father's will that it should be so, so Jesus was obedient unto the Father, even unto death.

I must close now and pray we as a people will be obedient to His wishes and keep ourselves close to Him in prayer that He may lead us.

Your Sister in the Gospel of Christ,

Verna Jones and Family

### Georgeville, Missouri

Here we are a month along in a new year. What could have been more appropriate than beginning the year on Sunday at a Sacrament Service. We, as most

other locals, enjoyed a Sacrament Service on January 1.

Our evening speaker of January 1 was Brother Ray Bryant. He used as a Scripture reading the second chapter of Romans concerning judgment. Everyone shall be brought unto judgment. God is no respecter of persons. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God is love. In this same chapter it speaks of not judging others and of forgiveness of others. If Christ forgave on the cross then should we not be kind as we have no nail prints?

Brother Bryant also read the first chapter of James, emphasizing verse 5 and part of verse 6. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." Paul says, ". . . faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17).

He closed by reading Revelation 22:11, 12, 13. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

On January 8 both the morning and evening sermons were preached by Brother Ray Bryant.

He began the morning sermon by quoting part of Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." If we are not watchful we will frolic away. As a scripture lesson he read Ezekiel 33:1-14. Our judgment shall be upon our own heads if we heed not the warning that is sufficiently given. We must not procrastinate the day of our probation. Every tree that bringeth forth not good fruit shall be hewn down.

Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. . . (II Timothy 4:7-8). Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21).

The Comforter shall guide us into all truth if we so desire. We must watch and pray always lest we enter into temptation. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:5).

Brother Bryant read several passages from the Book of Mormon; page 160, verses 1-15, page 162, verses 25-32; and he suggested that we each read the sermon of Alma beginning on page 313. He closed by quoting John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

In the evening sermon Brother Ray Bryant read Psalm 15. "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile

person is condemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel is true. Many of us are just babes in the Gospel. Christ promised to send us another Comforter when He went unto the Father. Brother Bryant read I Peter 1:1-6 and I Peter 4:1-19. We must pray lest we enter into temptation. God is coming to take vengeance. Do we know God? Do others know God's people? "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16). He closed by reading I Thessalonians 5:14-28.

Our speaker for the morning service of January 15 was Brother John Sweem. He began by quoting Matthew 25:21. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." The thing that interests us most is out eternal home. "I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." (John 8:21).

Our lives are the deciding point as to where we shall spend eternity for we are told that Christ will separate the sheep from the goats. We must enter in through the door to have our names recorded in the Book of Life. When we come in we are saved from our past sins but not the wrong we do in the future. We will be judged of the things we do. There are things to do and not to do. Let every man take heed how he buildeth lest his house fall. If we search the Scriptures for the commandments of God we shall find them. We must live honestly before all men. What a joy it is to worship God! When our journey is ended we want to hear, ". . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord", but not, ". . . whither I go, ye cannot come."

That evening we heard from Brother Sweem once again. He used chapter 6 of Ephesians as a Scripture lesson. God worked with David and others. We should serve God as David did. Christ makes intercession for us. We must be strong in faith and look to God. God has all power in heaven and earth. There are two forces at work. We war against spiritual wickedness in high places. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (John 7:17).

We must follow the footsteps and example of Christ. He had the same temptations and the same trials. When one yields obedience to God, Satan works harder than ever before. However well a sin is covered it will be discovered. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4). We must be willing to do those things that please God. Christ came to bring peace. We must submit to His and the Father's will. "And as we would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Luke 7:31). "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15).

Mary Lois Bryant

### Independence Diary

Brother B. C. Flint was our speaker Sunday morning January 15. I Cor., chapter 12 was the Scripture reading. Brother Flint emphasized the first verse. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." The text was I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." There are many spirits abroad in the earth and we are to try them whether they are good or evil. The fortune-tellers have a power which is not from above. Brother Flint told of an experience he and another Brother had when a fortune-teller came to their town and all the people were flocking to her. In an effort to protect the people, they went to her. In their conversation, she admitted that there were two kinds of spirits, a higher and a lower. She could tell the spirits apart by the color of light which they came in. The lower spirits came in a purple light while the higher spirits came in a white light. I John 4:2-3, "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that Spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

That evening Brother Rolland Sprague was the speaker. He invited the little ones to go to the front and sing, "Jesus Loves Me". Fourteen children responded. Luke 18:15-17, "And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." Moroni 8:11-29 instructs those who teach to teach repentance and baptism to those who are accountable and capable of committing sin and that little children need no baptism for they have no need. Baptism is for remission of sin and little children are not accountable for sin. If we as parents exercise faith, our little children will see, learn to understand and have faith while they are little. So let us exercise (practice by use) faith. We will not have spiritual growth without using faith. Every minute is an opportunity to do good, to better ourselves, to exercise faith. We must not relax our effort for one minute or our children, who are following our example, will see our failure and become lax and careless. If we neglect to teach our children the ways of the Lord while they are young, there will come a day when the evils of the world will claim them and they will no longer listen to our teachings. Our children are precious gifts from God. He has entrusted them into our care and we are accountable for the way we teach them and for the example we live before them. This charge is not completed unless we remain faithful and steadfast until the end.

We are sorry to report that Brother Kenneth Smith fell and broke his leg. He is still confined to bed. It is our prayer that the broken bone will knit properly and Brother Kenneth will soon be able to attend services in the little white church again.

January 22, Brother Levi Maley was the speaker for the morning service and Brother Maynard Case for the evening service. I did not hear either of these sermons as our family met with the Saints in Colins, Missouri. We had a very enjoyable day visiting with them and talking of the things of God.

Brother Sweem, from Hamilton, Missouri, was the speaker the morning of January 29. Again we missed the service. We have heard that all three of these sermons were full of good instructions and much food for thought.

January 29 was our monthly all-day meeting. In the afternoon we enjoyed special music from the William Chrisman High School String Quartet, then Brother Marvin Case spoke. His main thought was that God will reward those who seek diligently after Him. John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We cannot keep His commandments and be luke-warm. Many of us are luke warm; not doing any great sin or putting any real effort in doing good. If we hope for a reward after this life, we will have to put forth a great effort to please God. We are quick to say that we believe and love God, but if our actions do not prove that we do, our words mean nothing. Rom. 2:13, "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."

The evening service of January 29 was occupied by Brother Nicholas Denham. In the last days men will be lovers of themselves rather than of God. They will seek pleasure of this earth rather than laying up treasures in heaven. We are told that there will be perilous times such as the world has never known. Following the history of our country, we can see the truthfulness of George Washington's vision. And now we have come to the verge of the greatest destruction ever experienced. The dark storm clouds are already gathering. We are living in the lull before a storm. What preparations are we making in this little quiet that has been given us? We have grown accustomed to the Lord's warnings; the tornados and hurricanes, droughts, floods and mounting accident rates, etc. These are the thunderings that warn of the coming storms. Are we aware, or disturbed, or making any preparation against the storm? We have been commanded to gather together often in fasting and mighty prayer, and we are promised that the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. We cannot survive the storm of the last day unless we humble ourselves and live so that we can have the Spirit of God with us.

Sister Carolyn Sue Nast was married to Frank Fann at 8:00 P. M., February 3. Brother William Sheldon performed the beautiful formal ceremony in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Carolyn is the daughter of Brother and Sister William Nast of Independence, Missouri. Our congratulations and best wishes and prayers for a long and happy life together are extended to the happy couple.

Some of the mothers in our local have organized a group, with the objective of having regular work and play time outside of Sunday School for the children. The children will meet every first and third Friday night of the month to sing, play games and have re-

freshments. The mothers will meet once a month to plan the children's activities. Sister Joy Case was elected chairman and Sister Lorraine Welton as secretary.

Brother Flint and Brother Sheldon were in charge of our Sacrament Service February 5. After the emblems were passed, Brother Elmer Hunter was administered to. He has been in poor health for some time. I would like to mention some of the testimonies that were borne. Brother Johnny Bell, who just returned from the armed forces, spoke of the feeling of brotherhood among those of like faith. He had missed the association of the church people while overseas and never before was he so aware of this brotherhood which binds us together. We are thankful for Johnny's safe return and hope for the day when the other boys in the service will be with us again.

Sister Orlea Premo told of the blessings of healing that her children had received. When we call on the Lord in faith, He does hear and answer us.

Sister Irene Maley told of a dream she had some time ago. In this dream she was looking for someone. Thinking they were in the next room, she went in and only found some of their personal belongings. There was another door and she believed that they must have just gone through it. She opened the door to follow, but when she looked there was only blackness. Nothing to either side, nothing above, nothing below. It was a terrible feeling, this nothingness. She stepped back and closed the door. Then she sat down among those personal belongings and wept. This dream haunted Sister Maley for a long time. She believes that this awful black nothingness will be our lot after death, unless we build now, in this life, for an inheritance in the life to come.

Brother Sprague spoke admonishing that we should not resist the Spirit of God. Some of the young are wrought upon to repent and be baptized, some who have wandered are wrought upon to return, and some in need of physical blessings fail to heed the promptings of the Spirit to ask for administration. Once we resist and start putting off doing these things, it is easy to keep waiting and harder to take the step we should. The Lord wants to bless us, but we have our part to do if we want to enjoy these blessings.

Irene Case, Reporter

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## Y. P. C. L. NEWS

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### Independence

Our meeting of Thursday, January 19, was devoted to a study of the latter part of Chapter 19 of our "Outline History of the Church of Christ" and to the first part of chapter 20. These sections deal with the return of the church to Missouri and its establishment on the Temple Lot. Two interesting points from these readings are the account of the burning of the first church building and the efforts of the Church of Christ to come to a more friendly relationship with the Reorganization, and other branches of this great Restoration.

Thursday, January 26, was a social evening for January at the church. Games and refreshments were the order of the evening.

We are glad to welcome back into our midst one of our young people who has been serving with the United States Army. Brother Johnny Bell arrived home on January 26 from Japan.

The history lesson of February 2 concerned the efforts of the Church of Christ and the Reorganization to draw up a working agreement. This is discussed in the latter part of Chapter 20 of our History.

Our social for the month of February was held at the home of Brother and Sister Marvin Case on February 9. The evening was spent, for the most part, in playing games. The taffy cooked just a little too long which made it pretty hard to pull, but we all had a good time.

Enid Bell, Reporter

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Elder and Mrs. Cleo Heath of 12376 Adams Street, Ravenna, Michigan are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Vivian Arlene Heath to Max Edwin Spencer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Spencer of Ravenna, Michigan. The date for the wedding has not been set.

**REUNIONS**

The Reunion for Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Louisiana will be held from July 28 to August 3. The location will be announced at a later date.

Ireatess C. Keeney, Secretary

**WE ARE SORRY**

In the Zion's Advocate for February, 1956, the author of the poem, on page 29, entitled "The Doubter", should be R. D. McCubbin.

**OBITUARY**

**Henry Arthur Drake**

Brother Drake was born August 6, 1886, near Coy, Missouri, and departed this life January 27, 1956, in his home near Southwest City, Missouri, at the age of 69 years, 5 months, and 21 days.

He was united in marriage, September 18, 1920, to Opal Maude Hobbs. To this union were born twelve children, two of whom preceded him in passing, Emiely Hanna and Patricia Sue, an infant.

He leaves to mourn: his wife, Maude; five daughters: Mrs. Minnie B. West, San Diego, California; Mrs.

Betty Jane Holzrechter, Hooker, Oklahoma; Mrs. Mildred Easter, Seneca, Missouri; Mrs. Dorothy Gibson, Webb City, Missouri; and Eva Lue Drake of the home; five sons: Percy, Fort Crowder, Missouri; Bill and Henry, Seneca, Missouri; and Eddie and George of the home; also, four brothers: Lon, Gilbert and Luther of Southwest City, Missouri; and Jesse of Miami, Oklahoma.

Brother Drake was baptized June 10, 1951, by Brother L. V. Aldridge, joining with the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Those laying on hands were Brother L. V. Aldridge and Brother Steven Black. He transferred to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), June 6, 1954.

Services were conducted at the Oak Hill Chapel by Brother Vance H. Harris, Independence, Missouri, and interment was at Southwest City.

Please send all Articles, Missionary Reports, Bishop's Reports, Activities from the School of the Ministry, Questions and Miscellaneous Items to Archie F. Bell, 1101 West Orchard, Independence, Missouri.

Send Letters and Reports from Locals to Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri.

Send all Poems and Reports from Auxiliaries (Sunday Schools, United Workers, Young Peoples' Christian League) to Marion Sprague, 424 East Walnut, Independence, Missouri.

May we urge all who have material to be published in the Advocate to be sure to have it in the hands of the Editors by the 15th of the month previous to its mailing. Example: Material for the August issue should be in the hands of the Editors by July 15. This will help us to get the paper out on time.

The Editors

**INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING**

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are, as yet, complete.

Send ALL remittances for the Sunday School Association to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

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