

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 the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

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The Other Christmas

The prophet knelt with head bowed low.
His people waited, full of fear.
His heart was anguished with their need.
A miracle was needed here!

Full mightily he cried to God
A sad and weary whole day long.
"My Lord, Your faithful children die
Tomorrow! Lord, Your hand is strong!

"Dear God, You know they kept the faith.
They wait to see the promised sign.
And now, for faith they all will die,
Unless — Oh, God, their faith is mine!"

The day was long. His prayers went on.
He would not stop! Dusk touched the land.
Then lo! A voice spoke, soft but clear.
"Behold, the time is now at hand.

"This night shall the sign be given."
A trembling sigh and joyful tears
Marked the prophet's answered prayer.
Loved ones would live, and free of fears!

For look! The sun sank down and down
Until it left their dazzled sight.
And yet — and yet — a miracle!
The sunless sky was filled with light.

Donna Moser

CONTENTS

The Holiday Season	178	Prayer	189
Sermon - Elder Tony Grzincic	179	Gleanings	190
Sermon - Priest Gerald Case	182	A Response	190
General Church Appointments	186	Letters	190
Missouri Youth Campout	187	Obituaries	191
From Ava, Missouri	188	Notice of Correction	192
From A Church Bulletin	188		

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 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri
 Phone: 833-3995

EDITOR

Elder Roland Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terr., Independence, Mo. 64055
 Phone 373-6605

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Donna Moser, 405 Arabian Dr., Raymore, Mo. 64083, Ph. 331-3141
 Doris Ratterree, 926 So. Logan, Independence, Mo. 64050, Ph. 461-3779

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

C. LeRoy Wheaton, P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051
 Subscriptions and changes of address

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 Att.: C. LeRoy Wheaton, Business Manager Church

Secretary, Council of Apostles, William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Secretary, Council of Bishops, Oren Caviness, Rt. #1, Box 67, Preston, Missouri 65732.

General Church Secretary, Doris Ratterree, 926 So. Logan, Independence, Missouri 64050.

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Editorial . . .

THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Once more we approach the season in which we traditionally observe the birth of Christ (Christmas) and welcome in another New Year. Most of us have observed these holidays from our youth. Although we may not favor the commercialization and worldly celebration of these holidays, we nonetheless are prone to favor their continued observance because of our own pleasant memories with family and friends.

Our addiction to these commemorations are based mainly upon our personal childhood experiences. There was always a certain excitement that went with the special preparations and the looking forward to the school vacation, etc. Even if our livelihood was rather meager, the sacrificing beforehand made it possible to enjoy the holidays with a little more abundance and the rewards were shared by all. Our gift on Christmas morning might have been only a single small toy, but its value was enhanced by the surrounding atmosphere.

The exchange of Christmas cards and letters has been of traditional importance over the years also. Reading the cards and notes of loved ones whom we seldom are able to visit makes the occasion a little more special. Actually the holidays have been the means of drawing families and friends closer.

To many people, the justification of the Christmas holiday is strictly social. Those who have the desire to retain a true sense of purpose, however, try to recapture the first Christmas in the observance of the holiday. In such an effort the scriptures are usually brought out on Christmas morning and the family gives a few solemn minutes to the reading of the story of Christ's birth. In our mind's eye, we can see a loved one holding the sacred book as she religiously and thoughtfully read the familiar passages.

As we reflect again upon the story of the birth of Christ, we realize that only a very few people were privileged to look upon the holy infant in the humble surroundings where he was born. Yet millions have read or heard the story and have tried to recapture that sacred moment. The Son of God, coming to earth and suffering himself to be born in the flesh, was to confront the sinful world and be offered as the greatest sacrifice ever known to mankind. His short life and momentous death has been the central theme of a most controversial truism — the hope of a life after death.

The building of many traditions has taken from and added to the actualities of the Unspeakable Gift to mankind. The hope to see "the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger" may be futile for us, but the hope to see the Christ in full stature with his scarred hands reaching out to welcome us is the inspiration to the true desire to obey God.

The only happening that can equal the humble and sacred event of the birth of Christ is his triumphant

return to the earth. The gathering of those who have proved themselves worthy in his sight will be such an occasion that no one has had any foreknowledge of his return will want to miss.

Undoubtedly the beholding of the Holy Being of Jesus Christ will drive from the human disposition all the enjoyments of lesser things. There will be no reason to recall the favored memories of Christmases past. The Zion state will be so perfect that traditions and old ways will be put away forever and forgotten.

If you are of a disposition to continue the observance of these holidays, bring the past and the future together by pondering both the beauty of the humble birth of Christ and the marvelous promise of his return to earth. Resolve to put forth every effort to be worthy to be among those that will be his chosen people. Most important of all, let us as a people solemnize every thought and remembrance of Jesus Christ on this Christmas Day and throughout the year of 1978.

RLS

SERMON BY ELDER TONY GRZINCIC

March 13, 1977

TEMPLE LOT

(condensed for publication)

Sometimes we take things too personally, but the Gospel message is a personal thing. The Gospel is the truth, and the truth is always free. Truth is truth, whether you accept it or not. And the truth can hurt sometimes if it affects us. Sometimes the truth can go over our heads also, very much so. I am here this morning to impart to you the bread of life.

A little boy named Eugene wrote this letter to God. "Dear God, I didn't think that orange went very good with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool."

You know, sometimes we don't think the Gospel of Jesus Christ affects us, for it isn't part of our lives. It shouldn't be just a part of our lives. If we adhere to and obey the commandments of God we have a precious gift bestowed upon us. Maybe it doesn't come in this particular time in your life, but it comes at the end of the era in which you live. It will come; it is a promise.

I would like to preach a little bit on Jesus Christ and what He means or should mean to us as individuals. I know what Jesus Christ means to me, but to you He has to mean as much or more. I don't believe that all of us are receiving that word of Christ, or the bread of life, on the same ground. I do believe that some of us are here on one level, some of us are on a lower level and some of us are way down there on a still lower level. We receive the word in different ways, because we are not all of the same mind, are we?

I am sure that I am not going to bring you anything new! I am going to bring you the Gospel of Jesus Christ, something that you have probably heard before. Hopefully, the Spirit of the Lord working with me, I might bring it in a different manner so that some of these people who are down on this lower level might see what we are talking about. First of all, Jesus Christ is speaking to you and me.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (John 14:1-4).

He is going to prepare a place. He is singling out you, you who accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you who say you are Christians, you who say you want to follow Christ all the days of your life. Presumably we know that Christ went to Heaven. We believe that Christ is, was and will be. We hear every day from the pulpit that the days are short, Christ is going to come, He is on His way. We believe this. You know, many people accuse the preacher of preaching doom! Then, you know, if doom wasn't preached, somebody would come up and say, "Why don't you preach the other side? Why don't you help us prepare ourselves?" Isn't that the duty of the preacher, to help you prepare yourselves for eternal life? Isn't the duty of the preacher to preach to the adults to teach their children, to bring them up in the ways of righteous men or women?

You know the way. The hard thing is doing it. Another thing is understanding the way to do it. You know what? We all want to be with Jesus Christ. This is our hope. This is our aim. This is the aim of your preachers, to try to make sure that you get there, as well as themselves.

But now, we have the other side of the picture right here in John's words. We have something else. Here are the apostles; they were disciples of Jesus Christ and they followed Him. Now, mind you, Jesus

was teaching them the truth, the way and the light. Now, if you can, imagine that you are there with Jesus Christ. You have walked with Him, you have heard Him preach and teach, you have accepted His words. (I would say that all, or most, of us have accepted the word of Christ as true.) But you haven't searched out that truth.

Now today, have you searched out the truth? From the pulpit the truth is supposed to be given. So, you naturally say, "Well, it was preached so it is the truth." But you may never have searched out that truth for yourself! I don't expect you to take what I say as the truth, just because I am preaching it. Check it out and make sure for yourself. You know what? If you do that you will not stop there. You are going to search and to look, because you're going to desire to know the truth.

We go back to John's words for truth.

"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Ibid, 5, 6).

Now, mind you, here was an individual who had talked with, slept in the same room with, walked from city to city with Jesus. He didn't know what Jesus was talking about — all this time! Are we any different? Is it any wonder that sometimes we are wayward?

We preach unto you Jesus Christ: that He is the way, the only way. He is the truth and through Him is life. Nowhere do I find in the Bible or the Book of Mormon where it says that, if you find Jesus Christ, you find a Utopia! You don't. As a matter of fact, you have a great many trials and temptations. In the day in which we live it is no easier for the young people.

Jesus said more.

"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Ibid, 7-10).

Here was another man who walked with Him; he questioned too. Then we go to the 14th verse of John.

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Do you believe it? Or, do you think you believe it? Do you really believe in what you believe? Or do you just think that? Have you proven it out? Have you

studied it? In the 15th verse Jesus said something else.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Now, I didn't say that. Jesus said it! He had it written down for you and for me and for all of us.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Now, this is important, to keep His commandments, because in keeping them you will eventually have that eternal life. But, if we don't keep His commandments and quarrel and begin to think that it is not worth it, there are too many sacrifices, we are going to be most miserable. No, not right away, for you've got time. You see, too many people think, "Jesus Christ isn't here so we don't have to do a thing about it. These things that are coming upon the world (according to our preachers), we don't have to worry about them. They are not right here! They are not right at our door! Let's wait awhile. Then we might do something about it, and then — just maybe!"

We have heard the story of the five wise and five foolish virgins. That's a great story! Wonder what category we fall in? Are we wise enough to see what is coming on? Are we wise enough to keep the commandments of God, that we might keep oil in our lamps? You see, some of these questions you have to ask yourselves. You have to answer for yourselves. Your neighbor can't answer for you; you have to answer for yourself.

In verse 21 Christ speaks.

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."

I would like to stop right here and break that verse apart. Christ says here, "he that hath my commandments . . .". Now, I would assume that all of the adults here have His commandments, and know them! Then where is your excuse, if you know them? Where will your excuse be? You have none, did you know that? You have no excuse. There isn't any. Jesus Christ is absolute; Jesus Christ is all truth; His truth is written.

Remember that He said, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." Do you love your Lord? I would say that each and every one of us do! Each and every one would say, "Yes, I love my Lord!"

And here is the promise.

". . . he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (Ibid).

If you will go home and read the rest of this chapter you will find that Jesus Christ spoke of Himself, giving you and me promises, some sixty odd times, in one way or another. Yet, we don't know all that we should know of Him.

Did you know that Jesus Christ didn't want to be called good? Yet you and I constantly think of Him as good. What I want to impress on your minds and hearts is that He is a **personal** Saviour to you, and col-

lectively He is a Saviour to us all. But it is all on an individual basis. You know, no matter how much you love your companion, no matter how much you love your children; even though you do the right thing and are obedient to the commandments, you can't get them to Heaven. You can't bid them, "Come up with me." Jesus says we go on an individual basis. That stands for husband and wife and our many loved ones. Many times I think of my loved ones. They haven't accepted the Gospel of Christ. They knew it at one time. Did you know that? They knew it at one time, but they threw it aside for the worldly things, because the world had so much to offer. Worldly things are right now, they are tangible. But if you try to persuade some people to believe and accept Jesus Christ they cannot, because His Spirit is not a tangible thing. They cannot reach out and touch Him.

Maybe you have never thought of this. What a privilege it would have been for any of us to have walked with Jesus, truly, when all this was written! Walk then, and yet have the understanding and knowledge we have now! What a difference it would have made in our lives! But, do you know that same type of day is coming? When Jesus returns we will have that same privilege. That is a privilege.

"And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:16, 17).

Now, here is an individual like you or me, except that he was a rich man. We think of rich men as having honor to some degree. If a very prominent man were to come into this room after the services, you would pay him some kind of respect, more so than you probably would the ordinary man of the street. Now, here was a rich man. He said, "Good master", and note what else he said that was very important. "What good thing shall I do so that I may have eternal life?" He acknowledged that he had to do a good thing to have eternal life. Jesus answered, and notice what He said. He kind of turned the whole thing around, didn't He? Immediately he acknowledged that He wasn't good, first of all. He said, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is God." Now, why didn't Jesus say first, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments?" That was important. But He didn't say it first. He acknowledged God first. Sometimes we don't do that, acknowledge God or Jesus Christ first. We don't.

I would like to tell you something that happened to us last fall. We were in Toronto, Ohio, holding services in a home. You know, holding service in a home used to be taboo. If you didn't have a church building, you didn't hold services in a home, that wasn't the thing to do. Do you know, I have had some of the most beautiful services in a home, with a very few people there?

The Spirit was there witnessing to that service. I am sure there are many of us in this room who have witnessed the same thing. We were holding Sunday School in this particular home. There was a boy about eleven years old there. Just before we closed our Sunday School, just before the last prayer, guess what happened. The usual thing, the telephone rang. So we had to wait. The boy answered the phone. Now, I would like to ask a question here, before I continue the story. If you were holding a service in your home and the phone rang, Mom or Dad, how would you answer the question, "What are you doing?" Now, you have just finished the service. How would you answer that? You know what I would like to have? I would like to have your answers on paper right now. Each and every one of you are going to come up with some different answer. What would you do in that situation? This little fellow said, "I can't talk. We are having prayer." I assume that most of us would begin immediately to make excuses, hemming and hawing, not knowing what to say. He knew what to say, "We are having prayer." You know I watched and picked that right up. I learned something. I am always learning something from somebody, whether from talking to you (whether you are a member of the Church of Christ or of some other church) or from sitting in the congregation. I can learn something from you, I'm sure.

Now notice again. He says, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Note too, Jesus didn't like the idea of someone calling Him good. Now, let's see what some other witnesses called Him, of which He approved or wondered about. Let's go back in Matthew. You are going to be very familiar with this, I am sure.

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? (He has already related to the disciples that He is the Son of man.) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets" (16:13, 14).

He didn't want those answers. He rejected them, and asked the question again.

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am" (Ibid, 15).

Now note: He didn't say "you". He didn't relate the question back to the individual He was talking to, but said "ye". Who do ye (as a group) say that I am?" Now Peter is given a lot of credit here, but evidently was a person who was very quick to answer.

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16).

There was no rejection there. As a matter of fact, Jesus blessed Simon then and told him this.

"... for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (v.17).

He was willing to be recognized as the Son of the living God. Do we recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God? Or do we say that He is just a good man? Now, Jesus rejected that. What about Jesus? What has He done for you and me? Oh, He has given us a church. He has given us the Gospel that He was sent to teach. He gave us each other. Didn't He give us each other here, to band together as the body of Christ?

Now, we recognize the fact that He is the truth, the way and the life. Now, in the way of the truth and the life, Jesus says this. This is for you as an individual.

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:44, 45).

You know, this is just one responsibility of your preachers (not talkers, not speakers, but preachers) to teach the word. It isn't up to the preacher at all to convince everyone that they must repent and be baptized. We do not push this issue on anyone, as far as baptism goes, but we must speak of repentance and

baptism. The individual must repent and desire baptism on his own recognizance, his own free will. Therefore, if we hear the word of Jesus Christ and accept it as truth, we are going to do something about it.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life" (Ibid, v. 47, 48).

There is not other except Jesus Christ. When we do walk through the water of baptism freely, desiring or repentance, then we have made a promise to Jesus Christ that we will walk with Him and be obedient to the commandments of God. We think that promise. We don't literally say it, but this is what we have done. We have made a commitment. Just so the Father has made a commitment to us, and a promise that, if we are obedient to the Gospel and the commandments, if we walk in His way, we will have eternal life. We have this promise.

But it is up to us, as individuals, again, to accept that word, search out that word and do something about the truth that is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a whole lot more to say, but time is short. I pray that just one word might have been said to give a little more light to that which you have already understood.

SERMON

(Gerald Case, Priest)

(Sunday, March 6, 1977, 7:00 P. M.)

TEMPLE LOT LOCAL

(Condensed for publication)

I feel inadequate when I speak from behind this podium. There is no man who, as just a man, has the right to stand in this important work of God. So, in your hearts offer a prayer that I might be a proper tool in the hands of God. This communication has two sides. It requires a listening heart that is fertile, for the seed to rest upon and grow through the rest of your life. When I stand up here, it's not just a test, not a speech that I am required to give; I am not graded on it. The only thing that counts here is what happens in each of our hearts tonight, and how. It can help us to progress tomorrow.

I am going to start with 1 Corinthians, 12th chapter, first verse. These things have been impressed on my mind this last week. I haven't had a lot of time to study them, but they stayed on my mind as I went about my work at school. In nursing we are concerned with body maintenance and preventive care. I think this scripture fits that pretty well. It shows that we are the body of Christ. It tells how we fit together and the gifts that we all receive.

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye

were Gentiles, carried away into these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into

one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way" (1-31).

Think about this; try to fit it to yourself. You are not the whole body of Christ; you are an individual, a member in particular. And if another part of His body should suffer, you suffer with it. If another part is honored, you rejoice with it. That is what it says. The next thing I am going to say, you may not see a real need for just yet. But, because of the strength with which it has been impressed on my mind, I am sure that shortly you will know that there is a need for it to be said.

There is a particular type of cell that occurs in the body now and then; we have been studying it a little bit in school. Right now the church seems to be involved in a little time of growth. But I feel that some of us have the mistaken idea that the rapidity and size of our growth is the important thing. It is not! It is the direction of our growth. This particular cell in the body happens to be one of the fastest growing in existence; its distinction is that it is really self-suffic-

ient. If it needs something, it takes what it needs from other cells, which it destroys. It has no regard for the other cells in the body. Needless to say, it is not a very good example of what is said here. The important thing is that there can be such among us if we don't keep consideration for each other. You can grow; you can gain power, but you can destroy, just like that cancerous cell. If you remember anything I have said tonight, remember this: keep our consideration going in the next few weeks. Conference is coming up. Let's be careful, and watch very closely how we treat one another, that we don't go about tearing each other down, or destroying each other in any way.

Let me go on to Colossians now. This is kind of an answer; it sets up an attitude. It describes a way of going about things that **should be**. It is not a thing just to check up on every so often. It is your **life**; it should possess you.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your own wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is

well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" (3:1-25).

I think this chapter is pretty well summarized in the 17th and 23rd verses. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto man." Life is not so fast that we do not have time before we do anything to think first, "Will the Lord accompany me in it? Would it be something that I can do heartily as unto the Lord?" This is something to think about; it strikes me because it is something I don't think about enough.

But, back to the chapter we read on the body of Christ, this is something to think about in the way we treat each other. If we did think about it first and say a little prayer, we wouldn't treat each other like we sometimes do. We need to pray, "Help me do this unto You." He told us if we would pray before we do all things, that He would accompany us.

This morning during sacrament service we had a young man called to the ministry. We should be considering this pretty seriously right now. He has to. We have to be praying about it. We have another man that was told to accept his calling. I guess it is obvious, since I stand up here, that I have been called to the ministry. I know both of these men and I know they realize that they can't stand up here without the power of God behind them. I think we should be pretty careful what we say to them. We should offer encouragement and love. But we can't push anyone head over heels into an office, when we are not sure. This is just one more thing to consider in the way we treat each other.

In the YPCL a few weeks ago we had a business meeting. We came to realize that we have to consider each other more and that we cannot be concerned quite so much about appearances.

The things I am going to say now are pretty obvious, something we all know, though we don't talk about them a lot. In any group like ours, where people are close as in a family, everyone seems to know what everyone else is doing. We younger people are afraid to show affection towards each other, especially if it is a member of the opposite sex. We talked it over that night and we realized just how stupid we were being. We blame it on the fact that rumors may go around, but those too are our responsibility. That is the point I want to make. The things we do are definitely influenced by others, but they are still our re-

sponsibility. No matter what kind of rumors may go about, we are responsible for the way we treat each other. It doesn't matter what others are saying. I like the attitude of one of our sisters who lives down south. She came up here with her family and stayed with our family during conference, several years ago. During that stay, she was matched up with both of my brothers and me at different times. I thought it was really disgusting and I kind of avoided her. Then we talked to her about it. She said something I have never heard before. She just said, "I'm honored." I am talking to us young people. We have blamed it on others too long. We are still responsible for what we do. But I would ask all you people to consider your rumors before you spread them around, because they can destroy too. Getting back to a cancer cell: we all know how a rumor grows. It grows out of control and without regard for those it seems to destroy.

I am going to turn to Alma now, the 16th chapter. This is an example of what we can do in our lives. We tend to rely on the word of others too much. I think there are a couple of brothers here that realize that right now; they have something they are alone in, something between them and God. This is a pattern of how to pray and learn and communicate with God. It concerns us all.

"Now if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; And when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves, It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding; yea, and it beginneth to be delicious to me. Now behold, would this not increase your faith? I say unto you, Yea, nevertheless it hath now grown up to a perfect knowledge. But behold, as the seed swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow, then ye must needs say, that the seed is good; for behold it swelleth, and sprouteth and beginneth to grow. And now behold, are ye sure that this is a good seed? I say unto you, Yea; for every seed bringeth forth unto its own likeness; therefore, if a seed groweth, it is good, but if it groweth not, behold, it is not good; therefore it is cast away. And now, behold, because ye have tried the experiment, and planted the seed, and it swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow, ye must needs know that the seed is good. And now behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing, and your faith is dormant; And this is because you know; for ye know that the word hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be enlightened, and your mind doth begin to expand. O then, is not this real? I say unto you, Yea; because it is

light; and whatsoever is light, is good, because it is discernable; therefore ye must know that it is good. And now behold, after ye have tasted this light, is your knowledge perfect? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither must ye lay aside your faith, for ye have only exercised your faith to plant the seed, that ye might try the experiment, to know if the seed was good. And behold, as the tree beginneth to grow, ye will say, Let us nourish it with great care, that it may get root, that it may grow up and bring forth fruit unto us. And now behold, if ye nourish it with much care, it will get root, and grow up, and bring forth fruit. But if ye neglect the tree, and take no thought for its nourishment, behold, it will not get any root; and when the heat of the sun cometh and scorseth it, because it hath no root, it withers away, and ye pluck it up and cast it out. Now this is not because the seed was not good, neither is it because the fruit thereof would not be desirable. But it is because your ground is barren, and ye will not nourish the tree; therefore ye can not have the fruit thereof. And thus it is if ye will not nourish the word, looking forward with an eye of faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life. But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold, it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life; And because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure; And ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst" (153-172).

I know this is possible from my own experience. This is something that pertains to all of us. We plant this seed in our hearts and we start to work on it and we pray. And, as it says in Colossians, we center our minds on the things which are above. We ask God to accompany us in all we do. We pray for answers and understanding, and as we work at it, suddenly this faith, this seed, begins to grow. It does turn into some knowledge. The thing is, knowledge can be discouraged if you let it. Once you take on this greater knowledge, you see just where you stood before and you can't understand how you could be so blind. I have had this happen a good many times. I was ordained and went through a lot of changes. God helped me and gave me a larger understanding, so that I could see just where I had stood and how blind I had been. Somehow, I expected that when I was ordained suddenly knowledge would come into my mind and I would be so intelligent and understanding. I did not realize what understanding was. When it rested on me and

understanding did come I could see myself as I was. I wasn't very pretty. You don't have to be bad to hold within yourself a great deal of blindness. This understanding is a gift from God. It's wisdom; it was something that Solomon understood. He was going to be a king, so he prayed for wisdom. He knew it was not in him. He knew what the source was. The thing is, each time you progress you can see behind you. You can see how blind you have been. Each new time it becomes more and more convincing that there is a lot further to go.

About three years ago I decided to pray for a little knowledge. There were some things I didn't understand. I was inspired by reading in the Book of Mormon that Lehi had a vision and Nephi prayed for understanding and to see it too. He was given that and more. For the first time I understood that Nephi was a man. As a little boy I saw people in the Bible and Book of Mormon as almost supernatural, doing more than we could achieve. I'm not saying I have achieved it, but God **does** answer our prayers. I prayed about this for a long time and I was shown some things. The fact is, we really do have a long way to go. It is reflected in the way we treat each other. We need to study more too; we talk without knowledge sometimes. You can have a good heart and still be led astray. So, study and plant that seed. We need wisdom too. We have a way of going out and "saving souls"; we pound it in and we hurt people; the wall goes up. Progress stays with you only when **you** decide to make it. When you would like to convince someone of something you know, they must make the progress; we can only help.

I am going to read in the 7th chapter of Moroni: faith, hope and charity are the three virtues we should strive for. Repentance is not necessarily involved only with hellfire and damnation; it is a hope, a way of coming back.

"Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope; for without faith there can not be any hope. And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed

of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen" (48-53).

You will find almost the same thing back in the second chapter of Corinthians. The 15th chapter of John pertains to this too.

"I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my

Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning" (1-27).

I hope that the things I have said have been plain and understandable. We should love each other! We should treat each other right! As He said, loving one another is one of the greatest parts of loving Him. We **must** love Him. To love Him, we must keep His commandments. It's a job and I don't want you to get the idea that it's easy. It wasn't easy for Him. If you feel satisfied with yourself, your heart is wrong. But keep hope. There is a great knowledge; you will see how far you have to go. So plant that seed and cultivate it. We will all work together.

I ask for your prayers, because life is not easy for any of us. And I will pray for you.

GENERAL CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

Because of the passing of Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton, the missionary appointment he received at the April 1977 Ministers Conference has been assumed by the Council of Apostles. This missionary field includes Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and eastern Canada, east of a line between Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Any correspondence relative to the work in these

areas should come to the Council secretary, Apostle William A. Sheldon.

Due to the resignation of Elder Ray Hunholz as General Church Recorder, the Council of Apostles has appointed Elder Tony Grzincic to this office for the remainder of 1977-78 conference year.

MISSOURI YOUTH CAMP OUT

October 8 & 9, 1977

The world was covered in a foggy mist in the early morning of October the 8th as many of us headed for Preston, Missouri. We felt a call in our hearts from an old house badly worn; it pleaded for a roof and a fresh coat of paint. We also felt a call in our hearts and an excitement in our souls to get together once again and share in the joyful fellowship of love. As our Brother Gregg Kelley calls it, "A battery recharge."

The excitement began for many on Friday the seventh, though some of us arrived on Saturday the eighth. Saturday morning, after an early breakfast, we had a short meeting before going to work on the old farm house. Our Brother Gary Housknecht read to us some words which encouraged us to lead our fellow men in the right path and not to be a stumbling block to any. We also had a short season of prayer during this service.

After the service we hopped into trucks and took off for work. Only the men were allowed to work on the roof, which was fine with everyone, though I think a few wives would have liked to have been up there just to keep an eye on their husbands. The old porch at the front of the house was torn away, peeling paint was scraped off, the inside of the house was cleaned. It was now time for brushes to go to work. Men and women and kids joined in on this. It was fun because we were all together. I don't know who was playing, but every now and then someone would yell up to the roof the score of a baseball game being played.

Lunch was brought down to the scene of action by the women from Kelley's house and everyone took a break and ate. For lunch we had sandwiches and chili, the chili being especially good because the weather was a little chilly. (Get it) After lunch many started work again and quit as supper time rolled around and paint ran out.

With faces rosy from the sun and wind, we all gathered again at the Kelley's house for supper. Spirits were high and conversation and laughter filled the air. After supper we put on warm clothes and headed off into the wild Ozark hills on a wagon filled with hay, and crammed with people. Occasional singing and much conversation went on as we went deeper and deeper into the night. Shadows would jump off the wagon and hide behind trees, we but always discovered them before they could scare us; besides, we had Jack, Ronnie Sheldon's faithful dog, to protect us.

Stars covered the ceiling of God's cathedral and little girls like Trisha Pennington were head to ask: "Why do stars stay in the sky? Everytime I jump, I come back down. God must have glued them up there."

After the hayride, we picked up those who had stayed behind at the Kelley's and gathered around a

pile of wood. Our Brother Randy Sheldon, with the help of some others, gave a dramatic skit in which Elijah asked God to send down fire from heaven, and the pile was lit.

Sister Neva Housknecht and Randy Sheldon led us in campfire songs and games and Jane Ann Stancil and chums gave us a skit. Neva and Gary sang the beautiful song, "I want to be like Jesus".

Some beautiful testimonies were given by: Scott Harris, Gerry Case, Benny Case, Gregg Kelley, Kim Stancil, Susan Leighton-Floyd, Randy Sheldon and many others. We closed the service by joining hands and singing "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love". Kim Stancil gave the closing prayer. Good-nights were said and people drifted their separate ways off to bed and blissful sleep.

Sunday morning dawned and everyone drew to the Kelley's great fireplace and hospitable table. When we were filled, we gathered in the living room filling the stairs and balcony. We opened our Sunday morning service with the song "Safely Through Another Week, and a prayer by Brother Gerry Case.

Benny and Gerry Case, Gary Housknecht and Joe Yates were ministers in charge of the meetings. Gregg Kelley asked how we should keep the Sabbath and many people gave their opinions and ideas; many of them were very inspiring and beautiful with many references from the Bible and the Book of Mormon given. A list of questions asked at the last campout was presented for discussion.

The next service was a preaching service by Brother Joe Yates. He spoke to us on self discipline; I give you my testimony that I felt the Holy Spirit, and I know many others did.

After the preaching service Sisters Catherine and Susan Leighton-Floyd sang "Sing Hallelujah" and testimonies were born by many. The closing song was, "I Know Whom I Have Believed", and the closing prayer was given by Brother Randy Sheldon.

Lunch was served and people settled down to eat and visit with one another. Songs were sung, walks were taken, and a football was thrown in the front yard. As people began to take off for home, there was much hugging and well-wishing.

As I was leaving, Sharon Kelley walked me to my car and I thanked her for letting us use her home. She said something very beautiful that I think all of us have felt before. She said that it was a blessing to have everyone over and that after everyone left the house felt empty.

Thank you Kelleys, again.

May God's Spirit be with you all.

Your Sister through Christ,
Susan M. Leighton-Floyd

FROM AVA, MISSOURI

Glad are we to welcome the visitors who help increase our numbers attending services, and from whom we gain encouragement; more recent visitors have been Brother and Sister Eugene Gould, Apostle and Sister Archie Bell, Brother and Sister Tony Grzincic, Brother and Sister Bill Nast, Brother and Sister Robert Oldham and family, and Brother and Sister Larry Beem and family.

A picnic dinner had been planned for October 2 at the Ava Roadside Park for after services, but due to a cool breeze blowing caused by the lovely plentiful rains we have been receiving lately, it was thought best to have our dinner inside in the basement where we hold services.

Besides the good sermon we've heard and the many wonderful testimonies, we have had our Sunday School study times, many of which have been most profitable as each member is made welcome to enter into the discussions, bringing forth the thoughts that have been presented to their minds as we read the Scriptures. How we value these insights of others, and joy when the Spirit has opened our understanding to further truth in God's word.

Gleaned thought —

In putting God first and wholly in our lives, we are amazed to find all whom we love and are concerned about moved into a deeper, wider dimension, a richer encompassing-of-love; it isn't a neglect of these loved ones. "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting" (Luke 18:29, 30) It is leaving them in God's care, left in this wider, richer dimension of encompassing love. This is a blest truth for us of whom our work is held by God within local and home-circle.

Gleaned thought —

By the preaching of the words of Christ, we are

brought unto faith, repentance and baptism, unto the realization of the need of keeping God's commandments. If we fail we are in the category or way of perishing; we walk in darkness (Book of Mormon, page 158:76). Are we, have we been ashamed of Christ? Who of us can say we never have been guilty of this? How needful is continual repentance. As we grow in depth of understanding, much is opened up within us for further need of repentance. How often we don't want to blame ourselves in our stumblings; we want to lay the blame on someone else. But look, each into oneself. Book of Mormon page 360:22-33: Alma is preparing the people for Christ's coming, preaching against lyings, deceivings, etc. We must realize that the way of "perishing", of "darkness", or the way of dishonesty includes all these unlovely things in verse 29. Who is the father of lies? John 8:44 in the Bible tells us who this is. He is the father of the way of "perishing" and of darkness.

Gleaned thought —

Eph. 6:10-18: We are told to put on the whole armour of God; thus strengthened by God the ministry may make "known the mystery of the Gospel" (verse 19).

John 14:26: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

Rejoice ye saints of Latter Days,
Lift up your heads and sing!
With one accord units to praise
Your everlasting King.

(page 258 in Zion's Hymnal
Ava Reporter

FROM A CHURCH BULLETIN

One of our greatest faults today in America seems to be that we equate the American Way of Life with God's will. We think our prosperity is due to our finding favor in God's eyes. He likes us, and hence we can do no wrong. But who are we kidding?

When a man says he can't keep awake through a 20 minute sermon and stays home with his 700 column newspaper, who is he kidding? When he says Sunday is a day of rest and gets up at 4:30 to go fishing or spends the day on a golf course, who is he kidding? When he says the church seats are too uncomfortable, then goes some Sunday to sit on a bleacher for hours

in a drizzle watching 22 men push each other all over a muddy field, who is he kidding?

When he says he can't afford to tithe but lives in a comfortable home, drives a new car, eats well, clothes his family comfortably and stylish, who is he kidding? When a man says he doesn't have time for Christ and his church, then spends evenings shopping, TVing, at clubs or out with the family, who is he kidding? Certainly not God!

Let's get back to basics. Worship is vital and critical to our spiritual health. Don't let petty things interfere with worship.

PRAYER

by Edna Smith

God has given us a wonderful means by which we can talk with Him. We can converse with Him just as we do with our friends and loved ones here on earth through this means, which is earnest, heartfelt prayer.

If everyone of us becomes fully converted to this glorious Latter Day Gospel, our moments of deep thought and desire for a fuller knowledge of it will be a prayer unto God. We don't need to be on our knees to pray, though it is far better to humble ourselves in this manner so that we show proper reverence to our Heavenly Father.

The hymns we sing with reverence and thoughtfulness, are prayers unto God. Many a wayfarer has been brought up from the lower conditions of life by hymns such as "Nearer My God To Thee," "Jesus, Lover Of My Soul," and "Abide With Me" when they sang them with the Spirit of God.

Prayer in any form brings us closer to God, and each time we do earnestly pray, it lifts us up one more round of the ladder which leads towards God, happiness and success. In speaking of success and happiness, I am reminded of a wish expressed to me by a teacher of mine near graduation day in High School. He said: "Edna, here are my sincerest good wishes for your happiness and success — rather, just happiness, for happiness is itself success." I have thought of this philosophy of life and life's happiness or success many times, and I have come to the conclusion that he was right.

True happiness is only attained through a diligent keeping of God's commandments and if we do this, we not only live a happier life, but we ARE a success. We must keep our lives attuned with God through prayer, because the Satanic forces will seek to overthrow us. We must have God's Holy Spirit to guide us every hour, every day, and every year of our lives.

We express to God our willingness for Him to govern our lives through prayer and by keeping His laws. In times of joy we pray to thank God for that joy, and in our darkest hour or trial we pray for comfort, for understanding and to seek to know God's will concerning us.

The Bible tells us we must be obedient to God's will, and in speaking of Jesus Christ, it says that "Though

he were a Son yet learned he obedience by the things that he suffered." He, Jesus Christ, prayed to God the Father to know His will, and to keep the contact between he and his Father unbroken. The Bible also states that God chastens those whom He loves, and scourges those whom He receives; though we have trials and heartaches we can thank God for each lesson we have to learn, for we know He loves His creatures.

In the short span of my life, I have always looked upon prayer as a wonderful comforter. When I have had things happen that have caused me joy, I have felt that I could go to God and pour out my heart, and in times of sorrow, I have found equal comfort from a talk with God through prayer.

Experiences of the last few years of my life have made me realize more than ever our utter dependence upon God. The arm of flesh will fail oftentimes when you most feel the need of aid, but God never fails. Lots of times our prayers are answered far differently from what we had expected, but as time passed we realized that God knew best. Had we been answered in our own way, it might have been harmful to us.

I have come to look upon God and Jesus Christ as my friends and to feel free to pour out my heart to them in prayer, knowing full well that those prayers will be answered. Sometimes it is hard to wait God's time, and I realize further, that in union there is strength, so I desire to be remembered in the prayers of others, that I, with my little family, may measure up.

I want to live a life acceptable to Him who reigns on high, and to teach my children to love Him and keep His commandments because of that love and not because circumstances might force them to.

My earnest prayer shall ever be for God's people generally, that we shall in the very near future receive that spiritual rebirth, so necessary, in order that we may be fully united in deed and in truth.

Pray without ceasing for the onward and upward going forth of the Church of Christ here upon the earth today. This is God's work and we can only do His will when He reveals it to us. Through prayer He shows us the way.

Woman was created from the rib of man. She was not made from his head — to top him, nor from his feet — to be trampled on. She was made from his side — to be equal to him, from under his arm — to be protected by him, from near his heart to be loved by him.

Author Unknown

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

Pope

The water that has no taste is purest; the air that has no odor is freshest; and of all the modifications of manner, the most generally pleasing is simplicity.

GLEANINGS

Are there difficulties in your pathway? Those who have gone before have left these thoughts on the purpose of difficulty, for our benefit.

"Difficulty is the nurse of greatness - a harsh nurse, who rocks her foster children roughly, but rocks them into strength and athletic proportions; the mind grappling with great aims and wrestling with mighty impediments, grows by a certain necessity to the stature of greatness". Bryant

"Sorrow is our John the Baptist, clad in grim garments, with rough arms, a son of the wilderness, baptizing us with bitter tears, preaching repentance; and behind him comes the gracious, healing Lord, speaking peace and joy to the soul" Huntington.

"Out of great tribulation; no words can express how much the world owes to sorrow. Most of the Psalms

were born in the wilderness. Most of the Epistles were written in prison. The greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers have all passed through fire. The greatest poets have, "learned in suffering what they have taught in song". In bonds Bunyan lived the allegory that he afterwards indited, we may thank Bedford jail for the "Pilgrim's Progress". Take comfort afflicted christians! When God is about to make preeminent use of a man, He put him in the fire". McDonald.

"Tears are often the telescope through which men see far into heaven". Beecher.

In the night of spiritual battle, there I will give unto thee fresh revelations of Myself, and thou shalt see Me more clearly than thou couldst in the sunlight of ease and pleasure" Roberts.

A RESPONSE

In the June issue of Zion's Advocate the editorial writer requested people to share marital experiences that might be of benefit to others. I haven't been married very long, but I'd like to share something I've learned.

In the everyday lives of married couples moments come when one feels a special tenderness for his mate. For some reason the daily cares of distractions are cleared away, and we see the one we love in a special light. Perhaps these moments are the touch of the Spirit. I

believe it is more important than we can ever realize, for building communication between a husband and wife, to seize these moments while they are with us. Say what you feel! It might be something as small as "You have such a nice smile.", or as deep as, "I'm so glad I married you." If one just feels love he or she will be uplifted. If he expresses it to his life's partner he is laying a building block for a stronger marriage.

Marlene Hoare

A LETTER TO THE CHURCH

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Church of Christ:

My heart is filled to overflowing because of the blessings I have received by the way of all your wonderful prayers for me while I was under the care of the doctors at Ellis Fischel Cancer Hospital, Columbia, Missouri.

My last report from my doctors was that I am free of malignancy now, and whether I am free for awhile or for years, I am truly thankful for your prayers and what they have meant in my life. I have endured such pain and burning that only God could relieve me. He

never let me have more than I could endure. At times I prayed for relief of the awful agony and the Dear Lord was merciful, but I needed to keep a prayer on my lips constantly in thanksgiving, praise and love to My God and Savior.

I had a very bad depression; the Evil One was very determined for me to take my own life. I can see how one can so easily take their own life if they haven't strong ties to a marvelous God in Heaven and Savior. My prayers had to be constant as Christ said, "Pray without ceasing." I am so thankful for a God who hears and answers prayers.

At one time at the hospital the doctors were concerned about a procedure of operation for me to get rid of 95% of the pain and now I am able to sit and enjoy the church services. At the recent Rally at Collins, I was able to enjoy the two days services.

Praise God! Our God has heard our prayers again and performed a blessing. I feel so unworthy but

I have such a desire to serve the Lord to my utmost. I know that I'll have much opposition from the Evil One so I may need your prayers to assist me that I may not falter. Pray for me as I pray so often for you Dear Ones. Thank you and may God's blessings be yours.

A Sister in Christ,
Leora A. (Martin) Goans

OPEN LETTER

(Oct. 26, 1977)

My dear, dear loved ones — both friends and brethren,

I'm sure my children have sent thank-you notes. They made lists for me, but I haven't had time to read them all, nor many of the cards and letters. Such a host of friends and loved ones! I didn't know Clarence was loved by so many people, nor me neither. It overwhelms me.

Whether you sent flowers or money or words of sympathy or just offered a simple prayer, I'd like you to know how deeply I appreciate it. If any of you were missed, I want you to accept this as a personal thank you.

A number of times this past month as I have sat in the solitude of our home (where I came as a bride more than 62 years ago and lived in a tent till it almost got too cold) pondering over the wonderful times we've had together, as well as apart — some joyous, some sad — I could just feel the strength and the power of the

volume of your prayers going up to our Heavenly Father in my behalf and that of our family. We have a wonderful family. I'm proud of every one of them and so was Clarence. I don't think I could have made it without them and without you. It was so sudden. One minute we were in each other's arms and the next minute he was almost running the three or four feet to reach the bed — with a massive heart attack. The doctor's report said he lived four minutes, but I don't think it was that long. He always said he wanted to die with his boots on, but he didn't quite get them on. I was going to put his socks and shoes on after he lay down. I'm glad he didn't suffer long. It was always very hard on him to endure the inactivity of sickness.

I will need your prayers, for I want to finish the projects which Clarence had started, as nearly as I can, the way he would want it.

With deepest gratitude,
Angela Wheaton

OBITUARIES

PAUL ARTHUR WHEATON

Paul Arthur Wheaton was born June 25, 1910 in Mt. Washington, Missouri and passed from this life on August 5, 1977 at the age of 67 years as the result of a fire.

He was the 10th child and the 5th son (2 sons and 1 daughter died in infancy) of William and Etta Belle Haldeman Wheaton. He had four brothers and two sisters who lived to adulthood. Paul was survived by two brothers, Clarence L. Wheaton of Independence, Missouri and Riley W. Wheaton of Lee's Summit, Missouri and a host of relatives and friends.

Paul's parents died when he was just 9 years old. He then spent the remainder of his growing years with older sisters and sisters-in-law, who lovingly cared for him.

Paul was baptized into the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot on October 3, 1920 by his brother, Apostle

Clarence L. Wheaton, in Independence, Missouri.

On August 4, 1944 Paul was married to his dear wife, Alice who preceded him in death on October 30, 1959. They had no family, but they spent their years together happily. They made Omaha, Nebraska their home.

In latter years, Paul had many serious physical problems. He spent long periods in the Douglas County Hospital and the Nebraska University Hospital, making many friends in both facilities. He had a sweet personality and was liked by everyone.

In the days when the family was taking care of his personal effects, it was a source of great comfort when friends and neighbors stopped by his apartment to tell them of their high regard for Paul. They expressed gratitude for the friendship he had given them, for his consideration, and admiration for his constant neatness

and cleanness of appearance. It was a reminder of the old saying: 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness'.

Paul will be greatly missed by his many relatives (especially the sisters-in-law who helped raise him and his many nieces and nephews who thought of him as a loivng 'big brother') and friends.

The funeral services were on August 8, 1977 in charge of Apostle Robert H. Jensen in the Johnson and Sons Mortuary and he was buried next to his wife, Alice, in Westlawn Cemetery in Omaha, Nebraska.

The family would like to thank Apostle Robert Jensen and his wife, Doris, for their many kindnesses and considerations to them during this trying time as well as the many others who sent expressions of sympathy in calls, cards and flowers.

NINA MAY BURKHARDT FRISBEY

Nina May Frisbey, daughter of Charles G. and Rose Burkhardt was born November 23, 1888 in Holt County, Missouri and passed from this life February 4, 1977 at Fort Meyers, Florida while visiting her daughter, Mrs. Helen Smith.

She lived eighty years in the Independence area. In her childhood she moved with her family to Nebraska, returning in April of 1896, the trip being made in a coverd wagon.

She was married April 14, 1908 to Roy A. Frisbey who preceeded her in death.

She was baptized on February 9, 1919 into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). She was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Two sons preceeded Nina in death, Ray and George.

Besides her daughter, Helen, she is survived by three sons: Charles C. Frisbey, Humansville, Mo.; Ralph A. Frisbey, Great Falls, Mont.; and John Frisbey, 15310 Mayes Rd., Independence, Mo.; and four other daughters, Mrs. Mabel Hines, 2701 S. Northern, Independence, Mo.; Mrs. Vera Kramer, La Cygne, Kansas; Mrs. Georgia Hutcheson, of the home! and Mrs. Leona Thompson, 15300 Mayes Rd., Independence. She leaves a brother, Ted Burkhardt, and two sisters, Mrs. Pearl Browning and Mrs. Bessie Boulger, all of Independence; 25 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral Service was conducted from the Carson Independence Chapel and burial was in Mound Grove Cemetery.

APOLOGIES

Due to the transition of personnel in the General Church Recorder's office at the time of Sister Nina Frisbey's death, this obituary did not get published in the Zion's Advocate as was intended. Because Sister Nina Frisbey had so many friends and relatives throughout the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) we want to print her obituary for their information, and apologize for the delay in doing so.

NOTICE OF CORRECTION

In the article "Whispers From The Dust" in the November issue, three names were inadvertently left out; Gary Matthews, Jim Wheaton and Duane Wheaton should have been included in the list of pall bearers and the grandsons of Apostle Clarence Wheaton.

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