

# 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

Vol. 56

Independence, Missouri, September, 1979

No. 9

## What Would I Say?

If He should come today  
And find my hands so full  
Of future plans, however fair,  
Of which my Savior has no share,  
What would He say?

If He should come today  
And find my love so cold,  
My faith so very weak and dim  
I had not even looked for Him  
What would He say?

If He should come today  
And find I had not told  
One soul about my Heavenly Friend  
Whose blessings all my way attend,  
What would He say?

If He should come today  
Would I be glad - quite glad?  
Remembering He had died for all  
And none through me had heard His call,  
What would I say?

Anonymous

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ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 699-300)

Official publication of The Church of Christ  
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Temple Lot) 200 S. River Blvd., P. O. Box 472, Independence,  
Missouri 64051

Second Class Postage Paid At Independence, Missouri

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Subscription rates to members paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Non-member rates one year \$1.50. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for The Advocate to:

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### Editorial . . .

### " . . . AS A HEN GATHERETH HER CHICKENS"

Christ confronted an unbelieving throng of Jews at the temple with strong words of admonition and he concluded with these statements of regret: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Matt. 23:37-39)

We might think of the illustration of a hen gathering her chickens under her wings as being just one of many that Christ used, but the simple importance of it has a profound effect that might be missed except we give it a more full study. His usage of this illustration was not just to the Jews, for he also exemplified himself in this way to the people on this continent just after the crucifixion catastrophe. Four times he gave this illustration while those who were saved from the disaster sat in thick darkness. His fourth usage of this illustration was in the future tense: "O ye house of Israel, whom I have spared, how oft will I gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if ye repent and return unto me with full purpose of heart." (3N 4:58) This invitation is still in effect and is still directed toward the house of Israel.

The sophisticated reasoning of man often misses a simple truth by trying to look beyond the lesson that is given. Christ knew this and his parables, being simple enough for a child to understand, became mysteries to the Jews. In this case the lesson is in the thought that he would gather the children of Israel together as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings.

Just how does a hen gather her chickens? Not many people today have witnessed a mother hen with a brood of chickens; modern ways of raising chickens have done away with the need of the hen. Those of us who can date back to the old ways can remember that a mother hen gathers her chickens by calling them. When she takes them on various excursions in search of food, etc., she keeps them close to her by clucking. Each chick knows the sound of its mother's voice. When she senses danger or when she beds down at night, she calls them in a special voice which they immediately obey by gathering under her wings and body. I can personally attest to the fact that a mother hen's ability to protect her chickens surpasses the inquisitiveness of dogs, cats, little boys and many other farm creatures.

The mother hen's command is unquestionably obeyed by the chicks even when they are just newly hatched. Her concern for each chick is noticeable as she often circles round her brood gathering the strag-

glers as she takes them from one place to another. When one of the weaker chicks is unable to get over an obstacle such a stick or log that happens to be in their path, he is coaxed by the clucking hen until by some unexplainable strength the chick is able to overcome it.

All this typifies the parental guidance and counseling of the Lord as he has mercifully sought to gather the children of Israel unto himself and how yet he will gather them in the near future. With stern yet compassionate words, the Lord has reached down to his erring children coaxing them to overcome the many obstacles of life. The quality of his voice contains a

strength unexplainable to the intellect of man.

He does not compel any to come unto him, even as a hen does not physically force her chickens to come to her. Rather, he continually calls his children to him as the hen calls her chicks to stay near to her.

Those who are awakened from their incubation to the sound of the Lord's gentle voice will be gathered into the security of his true gospel if they will obey him, while those who are stillborn will remain deaf to his call. If we have heard his call, let us quickly respond lest we be left behind and we be devoured by the enemy.

RLS

## GET READY FOR THE REALITY OF ZION

Sermon by Tony Grizincic

I believe that the day and time has arrived when our minds and our directions are going to have to change. I hope to bring to our attention, where we are at; why we're here; where we are going; and if we continue in the direction we're going, where we will end up. I speak mainly to those who are of the church, not neglecting those who are not. We all need the bread of life, and the bread of life is the word, and the word is Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ we go on unto perfection.

In John 6:35th verse, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst;" Now who is it that comes to Jesus Christ? Each and every man is eligible to come unto Christ, but there is a certain condition. In verse 44, "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." And the 45th, "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." So there is a drawing power with you toward God. We all have a beginning somewhere; receiving the bread of life which is Jesus Christ.

Now what does the word of Christ grant unto each and every one of us if we endure unto the end? In verse 47 it says, "Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life." And most of us believe on the word of Christ and most of us believe that we're going to receive this ultimate gift of everlasting life. We're sitting here this morning quite content that we're going to receive everlasting life. But are you absolutely sure? Are you perfectly satisfied with your life? and your conduct? as examples you're supposed to be setting for Jesus Christ that others might see, that others might question, what do you have that I don't have? That others might see this light that's supposed to shine on the countenance of each and every one of us.

I don't know how many think of Independence as the land of Zion. But I do, and the land of Zion is important to me as it should be to you, because we're living in a day and time when Zion is going to come to be! It's not going to be something we're just talking about but it's going to become a reality. Just as Noah's ark became a reality; for a hundred and twenty years Noah preached the word, and they didn't listen. Well, I believe that we're in the same condition here. I believe that we have to be brought to a state of perfection. Are you perfect? Are you satisfied, would any of us say that we are perfect? That we are as good as we could possibly be?

Now we have a job; the ministry of the Church of Christ has a very important job. Now what is our job? Turn to Ephesians 4:11, "And he gave some Apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" Now he didn't do that just to be doing something, he did that for a reason, and that reason effects you and I. Now the reason he gave these is, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Now that's the job of the ministry. We have teachers, we have prophets, we have pastors, evangelists and apostles and these are called out of the world for the perfecting of you and I. And it becomes a great responsibility because we don't all have itching ears to hear the word of God. But in order to be able to stay in the land of Zion, brothers and sisters, we're going to have to begin to change, and we're going to have to whether we want to or not, because all of us that have come down here, and all of us that have been here prior to this moving in era that we've been in this last two-three years, we might not be invited to stay. We might not all have that polish it takes to stay in the presence of Jesus Christ, and we all might just have to exit for awhile until we become shining a little bit. Have you ever thought of that? Just because we're members of the Church of Christ doesn't

guarantee us one thing. Oh yes, faith has to increase, we have to endure to the end but also he admonishes us to be perfect before him. We're going to find out why.

Now if Zion is anywhere close to heaven it's going to have to be a condition where perfection is there; and the job of the ministry is to perfect the people, and for the edifying of the body of Christ, in other words, building it up; giving it that quality that it takes to be perfect. And how long is this to take place? "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Now, do we have a job? We all have a responsibility in this perfection, it's important. If you believe in this as the land of Zion and if you believe that you're going to see Jesus Christ; then we can't stand before him in the condition that we are in today, I don't believe.

In Matthew 13:24 Jesus Christ speaking in a parable says this, "The Kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field; But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servant of the household came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, an enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn." Now none of us consider ourselves a tare. Yet if we take the kingdom here on earth as the church or the body of Christ then that means that the tares and wheat are growing together. Now which are we? One is going to be bundled up and burned and the other is to be gathered into his barn. Now if we are going in the direction of perfection then we don't have to worry about being bundled up and burned, we're going to be able to stand up in front of Jesus Christ. And there's a reason why we must be perfected; it isn't just because you believe in Zion, it's because Zion has to become a reality in this day in which we live.

I look at Zion no differently than at Noah's ark. God then spared only eight out of the multitudes of people that perished, because of indifference; and do you dare say that you're not indifferent at times? Are you a true Christian every day of your life? Every moment of your life? We have a long way to go and it's about time we get to the job. A sermon should effect your life someway. Someway, somehow something that is said within the hour, or two however long it takes, some words are going to come back to you. I

have a fuse about yea long; I did have, and sometimes it still shows. But I remembered a sermon that was given by a brother came to mind, Be still and know that I am God. I could have said a lot, I would have liked to, really. That's our humanness.

So we have to start to consider the day in which we live and what condition we are in; if we're half way to perfection, we've got the other half to go. If we're not started then we have to start, because it's very, very important.

One of the greatest things that brought me into the church was Zion. I wanted to have a part in Zion. And the only way, I find, I can is to change a few things, I'm going to have to stand perfect before God. Personally, brothers and sisters, I don't want to have to exit, do you? I want to be able to stay when Zion becomes a reality. But first we're going to have to believe that there's going to be a Zion and it begins within here; and then when it begins within, it begins to show to your brothers and sisters in love and kindness.

Perhaps we ought to give the definition of perfection. I'll bet that not all of us will agree what the definition of perfection is. But are we going to agree with God, when He says you've got to go on unto perfection? Let me give you the dictionary's definition. Perfect - complete in all respects; without defects, or omissions; sound; flawless. Perfection - the act or process of perfecting, such as something taking time to accomplish; now this can be proven out of the Bible, taking time to accomplish your perfection; and the idea this morning is to get us conscious of the need of this perfection. To continue, A person or thing that is the perfect embodiment of some quality. Now quality - that which makes something what it is. And if we're going to have this quality of perfection about us, then Zion isn't that far off.

Let's go to Hebrews 6. It contains the six principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the very first verse says, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." It takes a little time to accomplish but this is the direction we have to go, unto perfection. Not that we enter the waters of baptism and we stop right there, but we go on to perfection.

Page 163 in the Book of Mormon verse 29, "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting," it says feasting, "upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father; ye shall have eternal life." Page 656, Book of Mormon, now going unto perfection does something for us, and I would start at verse 27, "And Jesus said unto them, Pray on; nevertheless they did not cease to pray. And he turned from them again, and went a

little ways off, and bowed himself to the earth; and he prayed again unto the Father, I thank thee that thou hast purified these whom I have chosen, because of their faith, And I pray for them, and also for them who shall believe on their words, that they may be purified in me, through faith on their words, even as they are purified in me. Father I pray not for the world, but for those whom thou hast given me out of the world." And you and I are out of the world, or at least we're supposed to be out of the world, "because of their faith, that they may be purified in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one, that I may be glorified in them." And we're supposed to be perfected to such a degree that there would be no stumbling and falling along the way.

How many believe aht Zion is just for the protection from the tribulation that we are to have? Jesus Christ said here in the 24th chapter of Matthew, verse 20, "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day; For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Now some will point to times which have been terrible, and there indeed have been terrible times, but Jesus has said, and don't forget that Jesus Christ is true; Jesus Christ is the absolute; and here he is giving an absolute truth in saying, "no, nor ever shall be." This time is going to come, "And except those days should be shortened, there should be no flesh saved; but for the elects' sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." I've asked different ones, what would you do if someone of the brethren or sisters, good honest people, came up to you saying, Jesus Christ is down on the corner of Noland and 23rd and he's performing miracles, What would you do? Some have said, I would go. Why would they go because someone said It's Jesus Christ out there? Somebody didn't understand what Jesus said here, "if any man say, Lo, here is Christ or there, believe it not."

Jesus said he is going to come as a thief in the night. Now just think of what that means. If you're going to have a thief come into your home he is going to come at a time when you least expect. Are you ready? Are you standing in perfection? Jesus continues and says "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." You know we don't sit down and study out and reason within our minds about if we are in condition that we can stand before Christ. And I reiterate, we don't think of ourselves as tares. We think of ourselves as those who are going to be gathered into his barn. And we feel pretty secure in that. But we shouldn't, because when you begin to feel secure, you're letting your guard down.

There's so much more to say, and I really didn't know where to begin and I don't know if I'm really

begun yet. Now if Zion is anywhere near like the kingdom of heaven, then I think we're in trouble. The Book of Mormon brings out this, page 47, verse 58, "But behold, I say unto you, the kingdom of God is not filthy, and there cannot any unclean thing enter into the kingdom of God;" that's saying it like it is. There cannot be any unclean thing enter into the kingdom of heaven. We find then on page 325, and I'd like to bring out here that God isn't going to change His mind, so you can't get up there an plea bargain with Him. Now in verse 35, "Neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; neither hath he a shadow of turning from the right to the left," he doesn't vary, "or from that which is right to that which is wrong;" Have people gone that route? From the right to the wrong? Yes, they have; just bring your mind to the day in which we live; right has become wrong and wrong has become right. You may not have noticed it, you may not have cared. "Therefore, his course is one eternal round. And he doth not dwell in unholy temples, neither can filthiness, or anything which is unclean be received into the kingdom of God;"

Here is another verse, page 341, verse 91, "And I say unto you again, that he cannot save them in their sins; for I cannot deny His words, and he hath said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven." Page 674, 31st verse, "And for this cause he fulfilleth the words which He hath given, and He lieth not, but fulfilleth all his words; and no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom." Now remember, if Zion is like the kingdom of heaven, where do we stand? We need to stand in perfection. Now all of us that have come to Christ, all of you that are coming to Christ, all of you that are beginning to know Jesus Christ, and we've all gone that route because none of us was born with the thought of Jesus Christ in our hearts or that we were going to follow after Him; we all have to make that choice. And if we are going to stand perfected, if we want to stand perfect before God; if we are going to become worthy to dwell in Zion, I believe this is our purpose in being here because we want to live in the land of Zion. On page 777 in the Book of Mormon, I'm pleading with everyone, verse 29, "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye be perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God."

"What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed, for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:21-23)

## THE WHOLE GOSPEL – NOT PART

I have been deeply concerned when I see and realize that our young people today do not seem to have grasped what was restored back in 1820-1830. It was no creed, but a plan or pattern by which to mold our lives. Through this means, we can come back into the presence of our Lord and Master.

There were certain principles that God set forth as the beginning of this pattern or map for shaping of our lives. The first was faith, for without faith it is impossible to please Him; so faith is the first rung up the ladder. After faith comes repentance. What is true repentance? I have to smile when I recall what one man told my father years ago when asked what repentance was. He said, "Why Brother Flint, that means quit you meanness." That's true, but it goes far deeper than that. We are told in the Bible that true repentance is a Godly sorrow for sin and if that be true then our best efforts must be put forth to keep us from repeating sin. Second, God said after we had faith enough and repentance was a reality, we were able to climb up a little farther or to the next round which is baptism.

Now we have three steps up the gospel ladder — faith, repentance and baptism. Some think a few drops of water sprinkled on a baby's head is baptism. We have to know and understand what baptism is for and what babe knows that? Christ gave a very definite way that this ordinance must be performed. He called baptism a burial, a burial of the old man of sin so that the new man might come forth. We are buried in water that our sins can be washed away. The water is a mode or form and doesn't cleanse us from sin but our obedience to God's law in going forth in the waters of baptism lets God know we are willing for Him to wash away our sins. Baptism is two-fold, for not only are we baptized of water but also with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost comes and abides with us leading us into all truth.

You ask how does one receive this Holy Ghost? We are told in the Scriptures that it is by the laying on of hands by those having authority from God on high to administer this function in the church or body of Christ. Not everyone can perform this rite; only those whom God calls can perform it so we can receive this wonderful gift.

Now we come to one of the most wonderful rounds up the ladder, that of the resurrection of the dead. What a glorious thing to look forward to. We are told that the righteous shall rise again and reign a thousand years with Christ. That is the most glorious time of all and one we are working for while on God's foot stool. If our days here on this world were all we had to look forward to, what a bleak thing our existence would be, but no, we are to rise again in a perfect state and dwell with God. This is the first resurrection, that of the righteous, when after a thousand years all the

dead shall rise to be judged by a just, loving Father. Every man, woman and child shall then be judged as to the good or evil they have done in this life. There will be no favoritism shown; all will receive their just reward. This is the top round in the ladder known as "Eternal Judgment." I like to think of this as the wonderful award service of God.

The gospel ladder is only the beginning of the gospel plan for we are told, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Remember that Paul also said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." In other words, it is the only plan whereby our souls can be saved and where we can return to the divine presence of God. In another place it says, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection." Perfection of what? Why, our souls as God intends for us to do.

The gospel of Christ isn't something that stands still. It is like a garden where seed is planted and nurtured, grows and produces a goodly crop. So must our lives grow and flourish in the gospel bringing forth a perfected being. Once we are baptized, that isn't all that is required of us. We must add the fruits of the gospel to our lives and the Bible tells us what these fruits are — love, joy, peace, long suffering, etc. Charity is the greatest of these for it is the pure love of Christ. When we possess that pure love of Christ, we are learning what we must do to become perfect as He is perfect.

Today we hear a lot about love and that is about all, but I'd hate to make a dress and use only a part of the pattern. It would be a mighty funny looking garment if, say only a sleeve portion be used; so will our lives be warped if we use only one piece or part of the pattern that God has given as His way for the gospel to function in our lives. What a beautiful, complete garment our lives will be to present to our Master if we diligently use His whole pattern as He has given for our use. At the final day of judgment, we can stand before the Judgment Bar of God with all the pieces rightly fit together, a perfected life as He has willed for us.

Let us then strive as a people, and with God's help, use all the pieces of His pattern and not lay some of it on the shelf as not being necessary or no longer needed. Let us uphold our spiritual teachers in prayer to God that they might be given the words and thoughts to feed the family of God here on earth, that the whole body of Christ might be nourished and fed a full satisfying meal by which we can grow in knowledge of our Lord and Master. The preacher can not do this alone — we as listeners have a duty also to perform and that is earnest prayer for all our ministry. God will

hear and answer united prayer and will pour out such blessings that we will be richly fed and nourished in the whole gospel of Christ. We aren't like birdlings that open their beaks and expect food to be dropped in. We must work prayerfully and then God will inspire our ministers so that the food they feed us will help us grow that the full gospel of Christ can and

will flourish and bloom like the rose in our lives. In this way we all together will become the body of Christ fitly joined together as one. We can not run off on tangents but must stay with the map or guide if we would obtain eternal life. What a great and marvelous thing to work for, a prize worthy of our best efforts.

Edna R. Smith

## TITHING, IS IT A LAW TO BE OBSERVED NOW?

There has been considerable controversy over the question of tithing, and some have withheld their monies because they were of the opinion that it could not be substantiated under the gospel, and that it belonged to the Mosaic dispensation alone.

There has been no age or dispensation when the Lord was with the people but what the tithe was the means used by which to raise money for the carrying on of the Lord's work, except in times when the people of the Lord were in strict harmony with the full gospel law and all things common was observed.

I wonder if it is possible for us as a people to put into operation the law of equality or all things common at the present time? Is it not a fact that in our scattered condition, and our failure to observe the gospel law as it has been laid down that we are not ready for the above named law, therefore as a school master to help us, the law of tithing is enjoined upon us, and I am rather of the opinion that one who refuses to pay tithing would not at any time be willing to consecrate of their all for the work of the Lord.

Turning to Proverbs 3:9 we read, "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." It seems that it was a means of honoring the Lord in those days, and if God is unchangeable then we could honor him the same way in this age.

We find Abraham paid tithes of all, and if we are to believe the record they were then in a gospel dispensation, for Melchisedec was a priest after the order of the Son of God, and we are of necessity compelled to admit that the Melchisedec priesthood existed only under the gospel dispensations. Abraham paid tithes on his increase up till that time. (Genesis 14:20.)

Jacob on one occasion laid down to sleep, and he had a dream in which he saw a ladder that reached from earth to heaven. He saw angels ascending and descending, and he was caused to exclaim, "this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28:16-22) There he made a promise that if the Lord would prosper him on his errand he would surely give a tenth to him. It is needless to dwell on the success of Jacob.

Jacob asked that he might have food and raiment, and in return he would pay a tenth; surely God will grant to us food and raiment, and if we will be as willing to give the tenth of our increase surely the

Lord will bless us in what we do. The trouble with us mortals is, we are afraid to put the Lord to the test by doing our bit. Let us suppose the church has a membership of a thousand, and there is coming into the hands of members an average of two dollars per day and a tenth of that was paid for the carrying on of the Lord's work; just figure what we would have in a year. It would be over fifty thousand dollars a year, and just think of the missionaries that could be kept in the field on that! Surely the Lord has not asked too much, and a tithe would not work a hardship on anyone. Why, the average family wastes more than that. (I mean the tenth.)

Turn now and read the statement of the Lord through Malachi in the third chapter, verses 8 to 11, and there the Lord calls on the people to give of their tithes or first fruits. The tithe should come first. Thus the Lord appealed to the people through Malachi. I wonder what would be the result if we were to try the Lord once.

"Will a man rob God?" I wonder if we have not "robbed God" and sought to excuse ourselves on the pretext that we did not believe in tithing. We notice further in the prophecy that tithing is coupled with the promise of the coming of the Lord in his second advent to earth, to sit as a refiner and a purifier, which brings it down to our day.

We will bring it just a little closer by asking you to turn to 3rd Nephi 11:1-15, where Christ visited this continent and expounded to them the scriptures, giving to them the prophecy of Malachi, saying that the Father had commanded him to give it to them, including that part referring to tithing, and he commanded them to write it for it was wisdom that they be had by future generations. Surely we are future from that time. Christ then in establishing the church here on this continent gave to them as a part of the gospel the system of tithing.

"I will rebuke the devourer for your sake," was the promise to both Jew and Nephite, and I wonder if the Lord kept that promise, especially to the people on this land. Just read about it.

"It is wisdom in him that they should be given unto future generations." Why? Just for them to look at, that they might know that the Jew and Nephite were asked to pay tithing, and that when they did the

"devourer" would be rebuked for their sakes, or was it to govern those future generations in their giving, till they should become perfected to the extent that they could say, Lord, all that I have is thine; I consecrate it to thee?

Christ did not discourage or in any way condemn the paying of tithes when he rebuked the Pharisees as found in Luke 11:42. The paying of tithes will not give us entrance into the presence of Christ unless we are willing to abide by the other principles of the gospel by living pure, clean lives. Tithing is one part, and it is enjoined on us as is other principles of the gospel, so when we live true to all the requirements of the gospel then shall the blessing come, and the devourer be rebuked for our sakes, and surely we need the devourer to be rebuked.

Paul calls attention to tithing in his letter to the Hebrew church. (Hebrews 7:1-10. Also read Alma 10:1-17.)

The work of the Lord can not be carried on without means, and there must be some way provided to secure that means, and me thinks the Lord has given us the solution to the matter.

Missionaries must be sent out if we expect to get the gospel before the people, and carry to the nations the warning that the coming of the Lord is near at

hand, and if we withhold our tithes, a small part of our income, how will the bishop be able to provide for the families of those who are called and willing to go out and do that work? Dear saint, are you unwilling to make that small sacrifice that the Lord's work might be accomplished, unwilling to try the Lord? Did you ever think that the Lord would bless the nine tenths so that it would go farther than if you kept the whole?

Surely the families of the missionaries are making a much greater sacrifice than the giving of the tenth. Are you looking for them to make all the sacrifice? "Gather my saints unto me, those who have made a covenant by sacrifice." Are you going to be among the gathered?

A stupendous task lies before us, and if it is ever accomplished it will be by sacrifice. The preaching of the gospel and warning of the nations of the near approach of Christ is not the least in that task allotted to us.

We are not ye ready for all things common. How many are willing to turn all their monies and properties over to the bishop and go on the basis of equality where there would be no rich and no poor?

A Missionary

(Zion's Advocate, Vol. 7, No. 12, August 1, 1930)

## THE VALUE OF CHURCH REUNIONS

By Apostle Marvin E. Ely

We should not underestimate the value of Church Reunions for they give people from many areas the opportunity to meet together in order that they may worship and fellowship one with another. Reunions quite often set people to thinking more fully of their responsibility and as a result install within many a desire of a greater commitment to the Lord, Jesus Christ. If there ever was a time that we should be committed it is today for many things prophesied by the prophets of old are unfolding before our eyes. We need to be prepared for the events of our day and this can be done by righteous living and a greater dedication to the Lord as well as a love of God and our fellow man.

This great dedication to God and Christ is necessary in order that we may more fully serve them and accomplish the tasks they desire of us. Lest we forget the devil is ever alert trying to deceive man in the subtlest of ways. He can even be transformed into an angel of light as part of his deception. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Rev. 12:12) The devil knows his time is short, therefore, he is using a multitude of devices to deceive. It is well that we heed the advice of Peter in the two following ver-

ses: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (I Peter 5:8-9)

For years many have looked forward to the various reunions known by past experiences the Spiritual uplift that they have gotten from reunions that have already become history. Because of this anticipation and more especially because of the preparation that is made for them, we can become of a receptive mind to the working of the Spirit; but in all this we never want to forget to pray for the Spirit of Discernment for there is a counterfeit to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must "try the spirits whether they are of God." (1 John 4:1) Jesus Christ is the light of the world and those that believe in him shall not abide in darkness.

Reunions not only give local churches a greater opportunity to reach out to others but also give isolated members an opportunity to worship and fellowship with their brothers and sisters. Often times non-members have been touched by the various services. Actually a reunion has many multi-fold purposes. Among these are Spiritual uplifts that we so often receive.

The remainder of this article will be mostly about the June 1979 Colorado Reunion. In carefully analyz-



ing this reunion we find there are many things worthy of further consideration. It might be well to not only dwell briefly with the sermons but also with some of the testimonies that were offered during the prayer services. In testimonies each one has the opportunity to express their Spiritual experiences and tell of God's goodness in their lives. Also we can express our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father and His Son for all they have done for us.

In one testimony a brother told of his greatest joy and that was in reaching out unto isolated people. He further stated we need to have a closer contact with people and also tell how God has enriched our lives. One sister stated it was difficult for her to testify but expressed her thankfulness for being in the Church of Christ. She also stated "Don't wait to testify of God's goodness." Quite a number did testify of God's goodness in their lives as well as their thankfulness to him for what He had done. There are a number of scriptures that admonish us to be a thankful people.

Several testified of the importance of prayer in their individual lives in helping work out a number of varied problems that arise. One testified that we are torn every day by the things of the world including our jobs. Another stated that her daughter called her from work seeking advice concerning a serious problem that had just arisen. The Mother gave the advice that was requested, but she did not stop there for after the telephone call was completed she prayed over the problem. God heard that prayer! For the Mother testified that there was no further implications.

Not only has prayer helped to work out problems of life but has been instrumental in petitioning God in the name of Christ for his watchcare over us in our activities of life. A number testified of their thankfulness for the watchcare that had been bestowed upon them. Some of these included narrow escapes in automobile accidents that were narrowly averted.

Some requested prayers over their seeking jobs. One young man said it would help also to get a job that would give him time for the Lord's work. Another has been waiting to do missionary work among students and asked for our prayers for him. He also said he was going to try to help people and further stated there are a lot of isolated people some of which are in your own town.

There were others who wondered why prayers are not always immediately answered. Another stated it takes much more faith to hold on when our prayers are not immediately answered, for trials are necessary. We are reminded of the following scripture: "Knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James 1:3)

The final prayer and sacrament service of the Colorado Reunion was a very touching service. There were many testimonies of which the majority involved the young people including young married couples. It

was moving to hear those who seldom testify or those who testified for the first time tell of God's goodness in their lives. For a number it was not easy for them to arise and bear their testimony but I can testify that the Spirit of God was there and touched the hearts of those gathered there that day as well as the other days of the reunion. It was also encouraging to hear those who have grown old in years bear their stirring testimonies of Spiritual experiences and God's goodness in their lives. It was brought out during the final prayer and sacrament service how careful we must be dealing with the forces of evil. Some told of frightening experiences with the devil in their lives and how God had interceded in their behalf. Another said that the devil did not always appear as a frightening experience but could lead one away by what appears to be good. The devil has many devices of deception including appearing as an angel of light so we must be very careful and try the spirits whether they are of God. We can more fully stand against the forces of evil by uniting our forces in greater righteousness, by increasing our love for one another, by increasing our service to God and by placing our trust in him.

During our prayer services we also remembered many who had special need of prayer, including two who lay unconscious in hospitals because of accidents. It was good to hear these many earnest prayers and the concern for those in need. Lest we forget we also must thank God for these many prayers as well as the testimonies that were offered, but not only for them, but for the beautiful hymns that were sung. Often times our hearts were touched deeply by the hymns. It seems that the Spirit of thankfulness carried over into the Wednesday night prayer service following reunion for the theme of that prayer service was thankfulness for the reunion that we had just completed.

It is well that the sermons that were preached also be touches upon for in them there was considerable food for thought which if applied to our lives could inspire people to a greater dedication of service to God and what he expects of us. In one sermon it was brought out that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1) It was further stated that we do live in a time of great trouble as well as a time of tribulation, but even though these things exist we can still be supported in our trials, troubles and afflictions if we will but put our trust in God. (See Alma 17:3-4.) It was further brought out from Nahum 1:3-7 that the Lord is "a stronghold in the day of trouble." Among the troublesome things of the last days is the thing called deception wherein the devil is working with all his might to deceive people by many devious ways. Even though these things exist God will still support His people for He will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. (See 1 Nephi 7:21-37.) Also in this day God shall bare His arm for great and marvelous things shall shortly take place including the covenants He has

made to the house of Israel and their accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as their return to the land of their inheritance.

In another sermon Jeremiah 6:16 was stressed and applied to our day. It is as follows: "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the old ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." The importance of following the old path was stressed several times in this sermon. It was also brought out that past achievements are not enough for there is a great work yet to be done. The importance of returning to the Lord was stressed so that He would return to us. (See Malachi 3:7.)

Another stated that the whole duty of man was to fear God and keep his commandments. It was further stressed that the ministry are to be as a light unto the people as well as the salt of the earth. (See 3 Nephi 5:60-63.) It was further stressed from 3 Nephi 8:47-57 that not only were the twelve disciples commanded to watch and pray always, but the multitude were to "watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; For Satan desireth to have you." In John 10:22-29 he brought out that Christ's sheep will know his voice. In closing remarks he stressed, what is required of me in these last days?

The next sermon brought out, "Blessed is he that is found faithful in my name at the last day." The abundant life of John 10:10 was also stressed. He further brought out the importance of giving thanks (See Psalm 30:4-5) and that we should be a happy people. He stated that we are selling Christ to the world and should have enthusiasm for it. In Romans 5:1-5 it was brought out that we are justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ. I Peter 5:6-7 indicates "he careth for you."

The final sermon stressed this verse of scripture

during the opening remarks: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14.) It was brought out that all that God has is ours if we are ready to suffer with Christ and to serve with him. We were admonished to search our lives through fasting and prayer for His purpose in us. It was stated that we have a labor to perform while in this tabernacle of clay and He has commanded his people to persuade all men to repentance. One of the great duties of our day is to carry the gospel to Israel including the Indian people on this land. I Peter 5:8 was stressed wherein the adversary like a roaring lion is seeking whom he may destroy. One of the great plagues mentioned in Revelations 6 is the spirit of deception of the day in which we live. It was stressed that the laborers are few and the time is short. It was further brought out that God does not expect the same service from each of us, but he does expect a reasonable service. We should each determine what is our reasonable service to God.

In closing I would like to make special note that several commented on the peace they felt during the services at reunion. This peace even touched the little children for there was very little disturbance even from them. This could have been much different for there were ten under six years old, several of which were babes in arms. At one time when some of them became restless, one said he offered a silent prayer that the peace of God would rest upon that congregation from the oldest to the youngest. Without a doubt that prayer was answered as well as any others which may have been offered. Truly, "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7.) Jesus Christ said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27.)

## THE GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO LOCAL AND REUNION REPORT

We've had several good sermons since I last wrote, so I can't write on them all, but here is a little on a couple we had. Bro. Marvin Ely preached to us on "Love" in which he read a poem. It goes like this: Hate is like acid, it can damage the vessel in which it is stored. As well as destroy the object on which it is poured . . . Author unknown. This poem would be good for us to remember when we feel hate, anger, or just bad feelings toward another person. Because such feelings don't do us any good or any good for the person that we have the feelings for.

Bro. John Bell gave us a sermon which seemed to answer the questions several people had been wondering about. He reminded us that God has promised to help the believer. He also said the time would come

when we could not buy things we need, work for a living, sell our produce without the mark of the beast, as found in Rev. 14. John also told us that there is hope for this time, for God can take care of us, even if we are among those who must die for believing as we do. There is a beautiful eternity waiting for us. John said that we shouldn't despair when we don't know what to do in time of trial because God will help us through, no matter what happens. (II Corinthians 4:8, 9).

I plan to spend most of my time writing about the reunion, for it was such a rewarding reunion this year. It seemed that the spirit of the Lord began with us on Friday morning and stayed until Sunday night. The services were very refreshing.

We began our reunion on a cool Friday, June 8, 1979. Our high temperature was 53° because of storms we had been having. The first service was a prayer service. In charge of the service was Bro. John Bell and Bro. Bill Malone. The scripture reading was Alma 12:1-6. We began with prayer. Among those prayed for were: Marshall York, Emily Wallace, Verna Jones, Hubert Yates, Nicholas Denham, Mrs. Olsen who lives next door to the church, Vieva Shaw, Randy Shaw, Larry and Pam Jenkins, Bro. Vicente and Son, Berneice Ely, Tom Maley, David Larsen, Kathy Woodley, Bro. Leon Yates, Bro. Frank, Velma Culp, Bro. Placido, Sister Angela Wheaton. We will continue to remember these people in our prayers along with others.

Sister Debbie Hill was administered to during the prayer service. I hope and pray that she received the blessing she needed.

The ministry present were: Bro. Don McIndoo, Bro. Don Housknecht, Bro. Marvin Ely, Bro. Lawrence Beem, Bro. Frank Fann, Bro. Joy Moser, Bro. Norman Warfield, Bro. Bill Malone, Bro. Jim Shaw, Bro. Benny Case, Bro. Gerry Case, Bro. Harvey Bell, Bro. John Bell, Bro. Bob Ely, Bro. Marvin Carroll.

The total number of people were 97. We had quite a few young people this year. The visitors came from Arizona, Nebraska, Missouri, Wyoming, Idaho, and other towns and cities in Colorado. Everyone young and old, enjoyed the services and visiting with loved ones.

After the fulfilling prayer service in which we heard many beautiful prayers, testimonies and songs, we went to the Clifton Hall to receive food for our physical bodies. The ladies of the local had prepared homemade chicken and noodles, salads, vegetables, relishes and fruit cobblers, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Then we returned to the church to receive a sermon by Bro. Marvin Ely. In charge of the service was Bro. Harvey Bell. We had a beautiful special sung by Sister Karen Malone, Bro. Bill Malone, and Sister Rhea Housknecht. The scriptures Bro. Ely gave us were: Psalms 46:1-3, Alma 17:3-4, Nahum 1:3-7, Mark 13:, Matt. 24:21-22 and 24, Luke 21:25-26, Rev. 13:13-17, Rev. 17: Nahum 1:7, Psalms 13:18, Isaiah 33:5-8, Isaiah 29:14, Nahum 2:1-5, I Nephi 3:229-237, II Nephi 2:78-90, I Nephi 7:21-37, Jeremiah 16:14-17, Malachi 3:1-18, Jeremiah 23:, Malachi 4:1, and I Nephi 7:55-64.

After preaching we returned to Clifton Hall to eat and then back to church for song service followed by preaching by Bro. Don Housknecht. In charge of the service was Bro. Gerry Case. We also had a beautiful special sung by some of the young people. They were Jane and Russell Bell, Jeanie and Joanie Larsen, Margie and Beth Sarratt, Benny and Gerry Case.

Bro. Housknecht preached for us to Return to the Old Paths. The scriptures were: Malachi 3:5-7, Jeremiah 6:1, Isaiah 2:7-17, Malachi 3:7, Isaiah 3:7-14, Isaiah 28:18-20. He said that everyone in the church should go

out and let people know about our gospel and let them know they are welcome. We need to practice the old ways and get back to God. Bro. Housknecht said that several years ago parents were advised to guide their children and young people into the types of educations and livelihoods which will help the church as well as their children (such as doctors, nurses, and ect.) He said it would be well for us to do this today, to prepare for the future of our children and church.

Saturday, June 9, 1979 was not quite so cool, but it was comfortable for our prayer service. In charge of the meeting was Bro. Bob Ely and Bro. Benny Case. The scripture reading was Psalms 100. We had a season of sincere prayer to our Lord God over the people and affairs that needed praying for. After we arose, Mary Toone had her baby daughter, Crystal Dawn Toone, blessed by Bro. Marvin Ely and Bro. Don McIndoo. Little Jennifer Bentz was administered to. Our service continued with many beautiful and touching prayers, testimonies,, and songs. I wish I had room to write about each testimony that was given of God's goodness. They consisted of God's help during illness, accidents, job finding and in other times of need. God is truly good to us and seems to be there when we need Him. We only need to do His will and trust in Him.

After the enjoyable service we went to the Hall in Clifton to dine on Roast Beef, salads, vegetables, and pies. Each ate their fill of the the good food. As soon as the Hall was cleaned up we returned to the church.

Bro. Jim Shaw was in charge of the service and Bro. Jay Moser gave a wonderful sermon. He said not to be ashamed of the testimony we have of our Lord. He said that a chain is only as good as the weakest link. The minister is only a spokesman, but people must see in the members' lives the gospel displayed. So we must each do our part to make the church strong. His scriptures were: Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, II Nephi 14:1, Nephi 5:44, Nephi 5:60, Moroni 9:1-19, II Timothy 1:6, Nephi 8:47-55, Matt. 10:14, John 10:22-29, and Jeremiah 3:12.

After the sermon we had a special sung by Sister Chris Moser and Bro. Don McIndoo. When we closed the service we went to the Hall for supper. When we had eaten we returned to the church for song service. The Bill Malone family sang us a lovely special.

In charge of the preaching service was Bro. Norman Warfield and the sermon was given by Bro. Frank Fann. Before he preached we had a special song by the Larsen and Bell young people. Bro. Fann preached that we are selling Christ to the world and we should also have enthusiasm for it. His scriptures were: Mosiah 3:8-12, John 3:14-17, John 10:10, Psalms 30:4-5, Psalms 5:, Psalms 146:, Rev. 3:15-22, Heb. 6:12, Mosiah 8:51, Psalms 119:165, Romans 5:1, Psalms 7:1, I Corinthians 15:19, and I Peter 5:6.

Sunday, June 10, 1979 was sacrament service. In

charge of the service was Bro. Marvin Ely and Bro. Lawrence Beem. The Bread and Wine was served by Bro. Bob Ely and Bro. John Bell. The scripture readings were: John 12:46-50, John 6:53-58, Micah 6:3-6, Micah 4:4, and III Nephi 8:32.

After our season of prayer, administration was given to Bro. David Larsen, Sister Sybil Ely, young Daniel and Kenneth Carroll and Sister Edith Arden. I hope each person receives the blessing they stand in need of. I know I received a blessing in which I am very thankful for.

It seemed that the testimonies this day ran along the line of experiences various individuals have had with the devil and the ways they called on God to help them and to rebuke the evil one. The help they needed they received. Also it seems there are many ways the devil can come in contact with our lives. Some we may not be aware of him being there and the experience may not be quite so frightening, but we need to always be on our guard against the evil one that we won't be lead astray. It seems testimonies of God's goodness and help can touch each of us, even though some people don't have a lot of words to say.

After the service we went to the Hall to eat lunch. We had baked ham, vegetables, salads, garlic bread, cake and fruit. After lunch we didn't have an afternoon service. We spent the afternoon visiting and the young people played volley ball at the church.

We had song service at the usual time. We also had some lovely specials at this time by Sister Karen Malone, Sister Chris Moser, Bro. Don McIndoo, Sister Darla Warfield, and Sister Kathy Ely played the piano.

We had a sweet little special by Jennifer Bentz and Daniel Malone. They did a wonderful job. Bro. Don McIndoo and Sister Chris Moser gave us another beautiful special.

Next we had the preaching service. Bro. John Bell was in charge of the service. We had a wonderful special by Bro. Joel Yates, Sister Rhea Housknecht, Bro. Dennis Malone, Sister Darla Warfield and Bro. Gerry Case. Don McIndoo gave us the sermon. He said that Christian men and women have been called out of the world for a purpose in God, not because we are so great but because of His love for us. He said to search in our lives through fasting and prayer for His purpose in us. God doesn't expect the same from each of us, but He does expect a fair service. God can help us to be strong and to do the service that we should do. His scriptures were: Romans 8:14-17, Romans 8:28, II Nephi 11:102-103, I Peter 5:, Rev. 6:, Romans 12:1-2, and Nephi 9:1-3.

At the end of the reunion we sang our usual closing song, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." After the service we went to the Hall to eat. We said good bye to our new and old friends. It was like saying good by to a dear family member. It seemed the reunion went by very quickly, even the small children didn't get too restless during the long services.

I'm already looking forward to next year's reunion and hopefully seeing all of you there with us.

Sincerely,

Your Sister in Christ,  
Edith Arden

## HOUSTON, MISSOURI LOCAL REPORT

At the sacrament service on the first Sunday in June, our pastor told us to remember in our prayers: to give thanks for the blessings we have received, those who have asked us to pray for them, the ministry, our children and other family members. He also told us to remember: that Christ is our Lord and Master, that he gave his life for us, that God is our Heavenly Father and that He loves us. He told us to renew these memories from time to time.

We were asked to continue to remember Sister Verna Jones that she might continue to be blessed and that she might be healed. She testified that she received a wonderful blessing in answer to the many prayers offered for her. She received much comfort and peace of mind during this trial. God can relieve the heavy heart from the burden completely if we trust in Him.

Another gave testimony that it would be small of him not to give consideration to the Lord after all He had given us. The Lord didn't say it would be easy so we must do the best we can by helping each other and being with each other.

He said that he was thankful for the car that they had been provided. By one means or another they had all the necessities of life provided for them. He said that he hoped to continue to grow in the gospel.

Sister Anna Keeney told of her fear when one of her daughters needed a tonsillectomy. She said she felt a deep compulsion to stay where the child could see her to lessen the child's fears and she watched the operation. During the operating something went wrong and blood spurted up all over the doctor. She said she was so scared that she almost passed out, but she remembered to depend upon God. "I never prayed so hard in my life as then and I felt that God heard and answered that prayer."

In later years her daughter again needed surgery and Sister Keeney went to be with her. The daughter was delayed in returning from surgery and Sister Keeney just knew something was wrong. She tried to get information and walked the floor sending up her prayers to God. After a long wait and many prayers she received word from the doctors that her daughter

was allergic to the anesthetic and had to bear the pain without any medication. They didn't think that she was going to make it, but by some means she survived the operation.

When you see those you love suffering it's great to know we have brothers and sisters in the church to help with their prayers, to share our sorrows as well as joys. We need to remember our promise to pray for someone — don't let the world crowd it out.

On Sunday evening Brother Jones spoke on the Restoration. He referred to the several factions that are teaching the Bible and the Book of Mormon and to the different teachings of man that have crept in. Which church is the closest to the teachings of our Lord and Master? We believe that we are, the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

Prophecies in the Bible tell of the Book of Mormon as the Stick of Joseph which was to be joined with the Stick of Judah, the Bible and be as one. (Ezek. 37:16-20) We have the right name, Church of Christ. In the Book of Mormon, page 672, verses 15-21, Christ explains very clearly that His church here on earth shall be called the Church of Christ and nothing else. We are organized as Christ first organized the church, with himself as head, then his twelve apostles, ". . . and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors, and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-12)

We have the right doctrines which are the teachings of Christ. We believe in an unchangeable God, the same yesterday, today and forever. (To me, your reporter, this knocks quite a few of the world's theories out of the ring, so to speak.)

On Sunday, June 10, Brother Marvin Case was our speaker. He told us that he learned some good things from our Sunday School class. For the last several months we have been studying the doctrines of Christ and on that particular day we were studying the resurrection.

A clear explanation is given in the Book of Mormon, page 447, verses 32-58. Verses 44 through 46 states: "And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil; for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord: for behold they choose evil works, rather than good: therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house; And these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil."

We need to remember that we are living in a day when the Holy Spirit of the Lord is not only needed, but is mandatory in our lives. Our hearts need that touch to receive the messages that God has for us. We will have to have the Spirit with us as trying days come. Christ prayed to the Father that we might have the Comforter with us, knowing the weaknesses of man, and knowing how much we needed that guiding Spirit if we were to follow that narrow path that leads to eternal life. We need to let the Holy Spirit have a greater influence in our lives today. How much we need the Lord in our lives! How much our nation needs the Lord, also!

The Bible and the Book of Mormon tell us to pray constantly ". . . that ye enter not into temptation." Christ was a man of few words, but his words were so important and they had worlds of meaning. He has reached out to us with great understanding to help us partake of that plan of redemption. We must exercise faith and be a partaker of His mercies to be resurrected to a state of happiness.

We each need to live our lives so everyone we contact can feel a warmth about us, something to set aside their worldly thoughts. We can, by our life styles and testimonies, bring out the good in others.

The decline in the prestige of our nation can be directly linked to the decline of the spiritual aspect of the citizens. Iniquities in our nation can only be helped by becoming closer to God and by relying once more on His power of protection. Pray that happiness and joy may be received beyond the horizon of death.

On the 17th of June our Pastor, John Jones, rehearsed to us the story of Joseph Smith, the vision, the finding of the plates of brass, which were then interpreted with God's direction and now known as the Book of Mormon, and also much of the early history and problems of the church. We all feel fortunate that they had that Godly fortitude and that we still have this wonderful gospel to lead and direct us with the Holy Spirit's help.

Mary Addie

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The aim and purpose of all right religious activity must be high aim, and a holy purpose. All human activity elevated by such an aim and devoted to such a purpose becomes in some sense hallowed and sanctified.

A high and holy purpose in the soul of any man establishes a certain cooperation between his own soul and the very God of Heaven. It is by such relationships between God and men that human experiences become sacred, and even places and things may become holy to them.

—James E. Yates

## 1979 ANNUAL MICHIGAN REUNION

Following is a brief report on the 1979 Annual Michigan Reunion held at Maple City the week-end of June 16 and 17.

### Saturday, June 16

Regretfully, this reporter was not able to attend any of the meetings or services on Saturday; therefore, my report will be brief. There were 53 in attendance during this day's services.

#### Morning

A warm welcome was extended to all by Brother Conley Addington, followed by a preaching service under the direction of Brother Harold Polack, who was assisted by Brother Max Lee.

Opening song - Praise Ye The Lord!

Prayer by Brother Max Lee.

Second song - Pass Me Not

Brother Polack chose for his sermon, "The Reason for Creation." The following texts (and you are urged to read them) were used to point out that God's reasons for the creation were, to glorify him and to give him joy and pleasure: Jacob 2:28; Isaiah 43:7; Romans 15:6; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Mosiah 1:52-61; 1 Nephi 5:126-131; 1 Nephi 6:14; 2 Nephi 1:111-115; Jacob 3:12-13.

Closing song - Lift Your Glad Voices. Closing prayer by Brother Max Lee.

Following the morning preaching service was the usual spiritual song service under the direction of Brother LaVerne Lussenden.

#### Afternoon

The annual business meeting was chaired by Brother Conley Addington. The meeting was convened with the singing of "The Haven of Rest," followed by prayer by Brother Addington. Following are items of interest from the business meeting:

Jay Lee was elected to the Reunion Committee for a 3-year term, replacing Emery Pinder whose term expired this year.

June Haines was reelected as Secretary-Reporter for 1979-1980.

No site for the 1980 reunion was decided upon at the business meeting. The Bradley local volunteered to host the reunion next year, but no final decision was made. It was announced later that Maple City would be the site for 1980.

Closing song - Praise God, followed by prayer by Brother Addington.

Bernie Ritesma gets a vote of thanks for loading up the "kids" and taking them over to the sand dunes during the business meeting. I understand quite a few adults wanted to go, but decided to stay to make sure they didn't get elected to an office while not there

to defend themselves.

### Sunday, June 17

#### Morning

The third week end of June seems to be the monsoon season in the Maple City area. Although the rains subdued by Sunday morning, the day dawned cold and windy. This did not dampen the spirits of the Saints, however, as we gathered once again on the shore of beautiful Glen Lake to witness the baptism of Randy and Mary Lee, the ordinance being performed by Elder LaVerne Lussenden.

Following the baptism, we returned to the church for the confirmation by Elders LaVerne Lussenden and George Brantner and extending of the hand of fellowship by all in attendance. This is a beautiful young couple, and we warmly welcome them into the family of the Church of Christ.

Brother George Brantner then read from the 90th Psalm, the prayer of Moses, and related some of the many spiritual experiences he has had since first coming into contact with the Church of Christ. He admonished us to begin preparing ourselves for Zion and warned us to beware of the nations who are slowly defeating us, not necessarily militarily but by destroying our morality, and that we should be concerned about our souls and our church.

Communion was then served, followed by a season of prayer and testimony. Anyone who has never attended a prayer and testimony meeting in that little basement church at Maple City just can't possibly imagine what an experience it is and the spirit that prevails. Continuous, non-stop participation by young and old alike sends you home with the feeling that you just can't wait until next year.

This was another outstanding reunion, with about 64 in attendance for the Sunday services. We were so happy to have Brother and Sister Brantner with us, it seems we just don't see enough of them. We truly missed Brother and Sister Bell, our prayers are with them both. There were many others we are used to seeing and we want them to know that they are really missed. Noticeably among the missing for the past several years are the folks from the Flint local, and we would like to urge them to fill up their cars and make it 100% next year. With world conditions what they are, and getting worse each day, WE NEED EACH OTHER!

Again, our heartfelt thanks to the Maple City Branch and the Reunion Committee for all the work they put into making this another outstanding event.

Reported by

June Haines

1979-80 Secretary & Reporter

## A TESTIMONY

Over the years so many have held up our two youngest sons, Martin and James Addie, to the Lord in prayer asking for their healing. I'd like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your love and concern. Please continue to pray for them that our gracious Father will continue to bless them in the future as He has in the past. We all believe that God can heal them completely and that He will in His own due time.

Someone recently asked Martin, the older youth (Whoops, there Mom; he is a young man now), if he ever got depressed (He is pretty good natured, nowadays.) He replied, "Oh, yes, I sure do sometimes, but then I think how it used to be and I'm just thankful I can walk."

I can remember when he couldn't walk for weeks. For two years he had to wear a full length leg brace and used a wheel chair most of the time. The doctors had corrected a contracture of his muscles and ligaments surrounding his left knee which they told him afterwards would make it stiff permanently. Now he can bend that knee 30-35 degrees and he walks with only a hint of a limp when tired.

It's made all of us more thoughtful of others, more aware of our blessings in other areas and especially thankful for all the Home Care Benefits I feel God has provided. Possibly these have been in lieu of healing them as individuals as this now enables literally thousands of other suffering Hemophiliacs aid, comfort, and surcease from the agonizing discomfort and pain of "joint bleeds." Thank you, Lord.

We all feel let out of jail, for we can go about our work, go to school, church or other planned activities with out that old sword over our heads of a possible "bleed" occurring. Now, they can take their "shot" at the onset of discomfort and continue their or our plans and not have to stay home in agony over the loss of a planned outing.

For example: Mart wrangled a weekend off after nine months as night dispatcher (his nites off were always scheduled midweek) and planned to go to Silver Dollar City, tour Branson and Springfield areas. As this was a rare occurrence, he prayed for good health, endurance and weather. As a preventative, he took a "shot" which was something his doctors had advised him when planning more walking and/or activity than usual. His weekend was great; he had a "ball" as the young say. He walked at least 15 miles which was a miracle in itself and something unthought of when he was sitting in a wheel chair a few short years ago. The weather was delightful. He returned home floating on a cloud, thanking God for answering his prayers so fully and so beautifully, and planning for a repeat. Thank you, Lord.

Next time I'll tell you about Jamie, our youngest son. Please continue your prayers on their behalf, is

our prayer.

Sincerely, your Sister in Christ,  
Mary Addie

## A LETTER OF THANKS

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You are dear to me. I could never answer all the cards and letters individually, so am taking this means of doing so.

As I was sitting one evening asking the Lord's help in being able to express my thankfulness for the many prayers that have been sent up to the Master on my behalf (to that great Physician, the Giver of life, or on the other hand, the One who can release us from it), the thought came to me about our body — if any part be taken it is no longer whole, and so I am without you, my Brothers and Sisters in the gospel, for I could never make it alone.

We need each other so much; I'm thankful that it did not take this sickness to make me realize this. Together we are made stronger. That is why we are told to gather together often. With your prayers of faith, love and concern, I'm feeling much better.

I found a poem that expresses a little of what your cards and letters did for me.

### KIND WORDS

Like sun on winter water,  
Words of kindness warm the heart,  
Smoothing out the tide of worry  
Drying tears before they start.  
Putting smiles where frowns had gathered  
Lifting spirits that were low,  
Bringing joy and cheer and comfort  
Meaning more than we can know.  
Only words, and yet their power  
Like an ever surging sea,  
Make us feel the world around us  
Is a lovely place to be.

To each of you we send our love. Thanks again for your prayers and concern.

Love,

John and Verna Jones

## APPOINTMENT NOTICE

The Council of Apostles has received the resignation of Apostle Archie F. Bell as General Church Historian, and has regretfully accepted it. As an interim appointment, until the April 1980 Ministers' Conference, we have appointed Apostle Robert H. Jensen to this position, beginning June 30, 1979.

William A. Sheldon, Secy.  
For the Apostles

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES**

The 1980 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 6, 1980. The business sessions will start at 10:00 A. M. Monday, April 7. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 4 and 5, 1980.

The 1980 Minister's Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 20th, 21st and 22nd at the Independence, Missouri, East Local Church.

**WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR "ZION'S ADVOCATE"**

Articles, sermons, poems, news items, letters, notices, etc. which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible they should be typewritten on one side of sheet only, double spaced and grammatically corrected. If this is not possible, please send your material anyway. Send all material to one of the members of the editorial staff or to the general church (see title page). The deadline for each month is the 7th of the previous month.

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Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051. Specify cassette tape or reel-to-reel. Slide projectors and recorders will not be provided.

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