

# 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, December, 1979

No. 12

## If

If I should tell the truth to you  
In words of soberness and true,  
And if the message I declare  
Does with God's holy word compare;  
And if you learn by what I say  
That you have left the narrow way;  
That by mistake you stepped aside  
And now in error you abide;  
And if the old, old path you find,  
Where those who walk are good and kind;  
And though your friends should scoff and chide,  
And your integrity deride —  
Would you retrace your steps with me  
And walk where Christ hath made us free?

E. E. Long

## CONTENTS

The Overripened Fruit .....	178	Local News Reports .....	182
A Thank Wou Note .....	179	The Church Needs Perfecting .....	187
"For Unto You Is Born" .....	180	No Forked Tongues .....	189
A Dream Is Born .....	181	Testimonies From A Letter .....	190
Mini-Lightings .....	182	To Your Knees, Oh Israel .....	191

# Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 699-300)

Official publication of The Church of Christ  
Headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd.  
Independence, Missouri 64050  
Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Elder Kenneth J. Smith, 2908 Claremont Ave., 64052, 461-6208  
Doris Ratterree, 926 S. Logan, Independence, Mo. 64050, Ph. 461-3779

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

C. LeRoy Wheaton, P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051

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:

Church of Christ (Temple Lot)  
200 S. River Blvd.

P. O. Box 472

Independence, Missouri 64051

Att.: C. LeRoy Wheaton, Business Manager, General Church

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

Secretary, Council of Bishops, Nicholas F. Denham, 4116 South Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Representative in the Office, James M. Case, 1106 E. Guggell, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Secretary, Robert W. Oldham, 13113 E. 44th, Independence, Missouri 64055.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

All individual articles published in this paper are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the Editorial Staff.

All authorized declarations and notices coming from the General Conference, the Council of Apostles or the General Bishopric reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

### Editorial . . .

## THE OVERRIPENED FRUIT

The destiny of this nation was predicted in a statement of threat by Lenin, the leader of the Communist movement in Russia, when he said that they would encircle the United States and it would fall into the hands of the Communists like an overripened fruit. To give credence to such a statement so boldly declared in a time when our military might was strong was inconceivable, but as the decaying elements of conspiracy and immorality have swept this nation from coast to coast and border to border, we find ourselves standing on the brink of that very happening.

As we have negotiated peace with the enemy over the years, we have unwittingly played right into their hands disarming ourselves according to their demands. At this point, our willingness, much less our ability to untangle ourselves from the commitments already made, is about nil. Our government leaders have not the discernment nor the righteous stamina to guide this nation out of its dilemma. Of necessity, it will come down to an individual matter as each citizen will have to search his own soul for that quality of true righteousness to save himself from the enemy's trap.

This nation stood among the victors of World Wars One and Two, defeating the would be world tyrants, Considering its past reputation, we can't help but ask the question, how could such a strong nation — a lead-

er of free nations — become so weak and blind to let such an obvious enemy outmaneuver it so quickly? Can we lay the blame on the enemy entirely?

The Communist nations have dealt treacherously with us proving consistently that they are not worthy of our trust. In reality, however, they have only proved their devotion to their own cause. It is not necessarily their fault that we are so gullible to continue to seek peace with them.

The Communists, though paranoid with an ideology that is atheistic and absolutely false, are so religiously devoted to their cause that there is no sense of guilt, not even a twinge of conscience, when they lie or kill for the furtherance of communism. To expose their ideology for what it is would be simple — or should be simple. Just bring forth the everlasting truth and all the falseness of their ideology will fall to the ground casting shame upon all who would be so blind as to accept it.

Now the question is, what religion, or church, or people shall we elect to do this great work of bringing forth the everlasting truth? Can we as a nation pick one religion above all others which we recognize as having the everlasting truth? We haven't thus far; it's against our Bill of Rights to do so. Then how can we combat the atheist if we are divided among ourselves?

Yes, this dilemma is our own doing. The enemy has merely taken advantage of the situation.

Where did this nation go wrong? Did we get a little too self confident or proud over our past victories? Yes, but it dates back farther than the World Wars. It dates back to the time when this people first rejected the fulness of the gospel of Christ.

When the gospel was restored in 1830 through Joseph Smith, it was met with great opposition. The devil launched his campaign against the truth utilizing all his powers both physical and spiritual. His attacks were countless and came from many quarters. He worked from without and from within seeking to destroy the truth. What he could not utterly destroy, he sought to discolor by adding to or taking from the true gospel. Consequently the great majority were bedazzled by his deceptive powers.

The gospel, when restored to the earth, was to come to the Gentiles first. This nation, being a Gentile nation, was favored of the Lord with an abundance of blessings. But the consequence of its continual rejection of the true gospel has caused that these blessings have been turned into cursings. Because man has thought himself wiser than God and has not heeded the simple truth, he has fallen into the snares of the devil.

The overall picture is that God has given opportunity to the Gentiles to receive His kingdom here on earth the same as He gave opportunity to the House of Israel. His hand of mercy has been extended to them for a given period of time. That time, the time of the Gentiles, has expired and they have continued to reject His gospel.

As the time of the heathen is ushered in, this nation, along with other Gentile nations, has suffered the withdrawal of God's hand. They are lost in the maze that Satan has designed for them.

The freedom of religion, along with the other freedoms granted to the citizens of this nation, was adopted for the purpose that this people would have op-

portunity to seek out the truth and live by it without interference from their government. Insofar as this people endeavored to do that, they were blessed. But as already stated, a blessing can turn into a cursing when it is misused. Instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide them to the full truth, they have multiplied their religions and their doctrines have strayed farther and farther from the truth.

Opening the door to the variety of beliefs that have flooded this nation has also given way to the infidel. Although this nation was established by God-fearing men with the original purpose that this people would worship God, we now find that the godless have an equal voice with those who believe in God and are striving to become dominant. It is evident that many have chosen the godless doctrine of the enemy in preference to the gospel of Christ.

If the majority had accepted the full truth as contained in the scriptures, this people would never have fallen victim to any enemy no matter how deceptive he might be. All that which would fortify this people against the modern day powers and principalities, whether they be physical or spiritual, is contained in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. The plain and precious truths are still available to them if they would but recognize it.

The die is cast — the course chosen seems unalterable. This nation is ripening in iniquity and it is fast becoming the overripened fruit.

But are we, as a nation, beyond help? No. Although it seems that most of the people are too saturated with the things of this world to be saved, the final assault of the enemy will be that which will bring to the surface the true quality of each individual. There is still hope, that when it becomes obvious to this people that they are going to lose their God-given rights of freedom, that they will turn and fight for the right. In the meantime, you and I must continue our efforts in bringing forth the truth. May God bless us in this work is my prayer.

RLS

#### A THANK YOU NOTE

Sister Verna Jones wishes to thank everyone for the cards, letters and acts of kindness you all have done for her and her family while she has been ill. She states she feels bad that she isn't able to write each of you individually to tell you of the heartwarming appreciation she feels in the love thus expressed. She wants you to know she loves you and how much your prayers in her behalf have helped her, and asks that you continue to remember her and her family in your prayers. Thank you, one and all.

Mary Addie, for Verna Jones

People do not lack strength, they lack will.  
—Victor Hugo

Consider how few things are worthy of anger, and thou wilt wonder that any fool should be wroth.

—Robert Dodsley

There is no moment like the present. The man who will not execute resolutions when they are fresh upon him, can have no hope from them afterwards: they will be dissipated, and lost, and perish in the hurry and scurry of the world, or sunk in the slough of indolence.  
—Marie Edgewood

## "FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN . . ."

"And it came to pass in those days that, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria). And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the Inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things, that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." (Luke 2:1-20).

Such is the enchanting revelation of the Saviour's birth we observe at this time. Christmas: the stirring carols sound the glad tidings of great joy; friendly voices cheer us with warm greetings; cherished hours of reunion with loved ones; refreshment, fellowship, relaxation, spiritual enrichment.

A time of reflection, reminiscences of days that are gone — other Christmases with dear ones who have left us. A time to gain perspective, to re-evaluate our lives and stewardship.

Christmas again. A reminder of the great hope for the future. As in Bethlehem, souls in despair are quickened, transformed and enraptured by hope. In Christ is the secret of life, joy, victory, peace. Only with Christ can man face his future.

Consider the miracles of time and place relating to the birth of Christ at Bethlehem.

At the time when the angel announced the birth of Christ, it was humanly inconceivable that He would be born at Bethlehem of Judea.

Mary lived far to the north at Nazareth, in Galilee. It was particularly unusual for a woman to travel near the time of childbirth. And yet it was at that time that Mary made the difficult trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

God had decreed that Mary should marry Joseph, and that Joseph was to be the foster parent and the custodian of a sacred trust, the Child Jesus. And it was because of her marriage to Joseph that it became necessary for Mary to make the journey at that particular time to Bethlehem. Joseph was compelled under the stern decree of Augustus Caesar to go to Bethlehem, the city of his birth, to register as a subject of Caesar.

What if Joseph had not been a native of Bethlehem?

What if the strange decree by Caesar, that each citizen of the Roman world should be taxed in the city of his birth, had not been made? Such a decree was unprecedented.

What if the time element with reference to that decree had been shifted one way or the other? If the time for the registration had been later, Mary would not have been in Bethlehem.

What if either Joseph or Mary had been in such condition of health that they could not have made the trip to Bethlehem? What if? What if? What if?

But there are no "what ifs" in God's plan and timetable. That which seemed impossible occurred through divine appointment to become a reality, an incontestable, historical fact.

God had said through His prophet Micah 700 years before the blessed event occurred, that Christ should be born in Bethlehem:

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of these shall He come forth unto Me that is to be the ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2).

One remembers that when King Herod inquired of the Scribes of Israel concerning the place where their promised Messiah should be born, they replied without hesitation, that He would be born in Bethlehem.

On the strength of that information, King Herod issued that black, inhumane decree that every male child under two years of age should be killed. Except by the warning of the angel, Joseph and Mary would have been in Bethlehem when that ghastly slaughter of infants took place.

That which was most unlikely from every human standpoint became a glorious fact; Christ was born at Bethlehem, as the prophet had foretold. "With God all things are possible."

It is wonderful to observe that God has a timetable. He causes men and nations, emperors and peasants to move and act in accordance with His sovereign will. Before the emperor at Rome even dreamed of taxing the world, God had sent His angel to Mary with the blessed announcement that she was to become the mother of the Son of God. He gave Joseph faith and the grace to know that the Child was One begotten of the Holy Ghost. Many many years before the time that Joseph had established residence at Nazareth, God had directed that his parents should live at Bethlehem where Joseph was born; otherwise he would not have returned there to pay taxes.

How wonderful that all these events, conditions and circumstances coincided when the hour hand of God's clock struck the appointed hour.

Our redeemer came into this world at God's appointed time. He fulfilled God's appointments during His short sojourn on this earth. He lived in poverty and was raised in obscurity.

He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; during His exile in childhood. He possessed neither wealth nor influence.

His relatives were inconspicuous, uninfluential, and

had neither training nor education.

In infancy He startled a King. In childhood He puzzled the doctors. In manhood He ruled the course of nature, walking upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the seas to sleep. He healed multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book and yet no library could hold the book that have been written about or which mentioned Him.

He never wrote a song, and yet He furnished the theme for thousands of songs. He never founded a college, but all the schools together cannot boast as having as many students. He never practiced medicine, yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors, far and near.

He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, and yet no leader ever had more volunteers. Every seventh day the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worship Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone, but the name of this man abounds more and more. Though time has spread almost 2000 years between the people of this generation and those who watched His crucifixion, He still lives. Herod could not kill Him, Satan could not seduce Him, death could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Dave Crowley from Life Lines

(Reprinted from Zion's Advocate, December, 1965)

## A DREAM IS BORN

One warm Sunday afternoon this past spring half a dozen people were sitting around our family room eager to do something for the Lord. We had seen many of our loved ones fail in health in recent months. The thought was expressed how much we would miss their witness when they were gone yet how fortunate we have been to have known them and seen their love of God. We spoke of the many marvelous testimonies that have been lost to us due to the passing of time.

We had a desire that the testimonies of our people be recorded that future generations may know of the blessings of our Father. We have a hope that we ourselves may be lifted up in faith through the sharing of each others experiences with the Lord. We considered the potential a volume of testimonies might have in the missionary field. Our sharing of testi-

monies would bring us closer together though we be miles apart. What a comfort a book of testimonies would be in a time of sickness.

We determined that compiling a book of testimonies would be a worthwhile effort. We drafted a letter that was published in the Hand of Fellowship and in The Zion's Advocate. We appointed a representative to whom the testimonies should be sent. I am the one upon whom that honor was bestowed. I took it upon myself to notify all pastors and Apostles of our intentions.

Our hope is that each one of you will make this dream a reality to the benefit of all. Please, send volumes of testimonies.

Karen Malone  
18840 N. 30 St.  
Phoenix, Az. 85024

## MINI-LIGHTINGS

It was the Christmas season. The teeming city was alive with preparations for celebrations and my being yearned to find, to come face to face with the reality of the Christ. Not the babe in the manger but the risen, living, loving Christ.

I looked at the tall cathedral spires and thought perhaps in the depths of their silent interiors, in the presence of such things man has ascribed holy; shadowy altars, candles and stained glass I might feel his presence also. But no, all which peeled from their belfry towers spoke of a time, of a happening of long ago. These enclaves of worship now only harked back to what was instead of to what is.

I searched my mind and heart for all and aught that I have learned of him, and surely I began to know, to realize if I would find him, see him, I must go out into the milling masses of the city's streets. If he were to show himself that is where he would be found, among and ministering to those who whom he died.

One might see him ladling from the kettle in some soup kitchen for the destitute: or delivering baskets to the doors of the aged, the widow, the orphan and the poverty-stricken, for whom without these there would be no Christmas.

Or he might be found in the hospital wards, beside beds of suffering and death; or catch a glimpse of him disappearing behind some prison door. Perhaps, yes, even perhaps he would be seen assisting some forlorn, broken, forsaken inebriate from the place he had fallen to a place of safety.

And how would one know him, how could one recognize him? By the look in the eyes. Only by the look of loving compassion in the eyes, for he would wear many faces.

But I was a coward, I dared not venture alone out onto the streets of the wicked city. And so I did not see him, nor join him on his rounds and share his ministrations. And that year I lost Christmas.

It is not now Christmas, nor yet even Easter as reason to speak of these things, but this lesson has no season. If we would see Jesus we must go where he went; where he would go. We must do what he did; what he would do. We must go and do in the spirit of love in which he went and did; in which he would still go and do. And eventually, through someone's eyes he will turn and look upon us. And if, when we have continued diligently, faithfully and humbly long enough, perhaps someone, someday, will catch a glimpse of him looking at them through our eyes.

---

## NEWS FROM THE COLLINS LOCAL

Greetings to members throughout the Church from our Local at Collins.

This time of year here in the Ozarks is breath taking. I awoke this morning to the rumble of thunder and as I went to the window to look out, there was a world of wonder! Like a panorama, I was seeing all the multicolors of the giant sycamore, the oaks, maples and hickory with the even brighter hues of the smaller sassafras, dogwood and sumac, all washed clean by the rain and enveloped in the mysterious eerie morning light of a cloudy day! I was so thankful to be living in this beauty spot of nature. The poetic words of Paul kept running through my mind:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

"Nay, For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." For surely this beauty speaks to us of the love of God.

We recently enjoyed the fellowship of friends we don't see every Sunday. On October 7, we had an all day meeting and had visitors from Independence, Ava, and Houston. As is quite usual in meetings like this, the theme of the day both through the Sacrament Service and the two sermons was on the same subject. We were reminded that one small stick is easy to break, but many small sticks around a rod of iron is not easily broken. In our meeting together we gain: courage, strength, incentive, enthusiasm, faith and endurance. Certainly these are awards well worth working for.

The importance of the family to the Church and to the nation was dramatically brought to our attention. The Church or the Nation will stand or fall on the religious strength of its families. We should teach our children by our own actions as well as by our words. Sometimes what we are, speaks so loud that folks can't hear what we say. The home should be a haven of comfort to a child with troubles or pain. Scriptures should be read in the home and the family should pray together. We can't leave the training of our children to the school or to the church — the

home is the molding pot for the young child. The two speakers for this occasion were Apostle E. L. Yates and Elder Eugene Gould.

We here in Collins have certainly enjoyed our guest speakers who come once a month. They have inspired us and I'm sure we are more spiritually alive because of them. We take this opportunity to say "thank you" to them once again for taking time, effort, thought and study to bring these messages to us.

Since I have failed to send in notices of baptisms for some time, I want to briefly report the following:

Robert Speer, July 16, 1978 by Elder Oren Caviness  
 Vicky Edwards, June 23, 1978 by Elder Joe Yates  
 Renaye Livingston, June 23, 1978 by Elder Joe Yates  
 Brian Coberly, Nov. 5, 1978 by Elder Oren Caviness  
 Millie Spilman, Nov. 5, 1978 by Elder Oren Caviness  
 Karan Spilman, Dec. 24, 1978 by Elder Oren Caviness  
 Sharyl Cobb, Dec. 24, 1978 by Elder Oren Caviness  
 Brenda Cook, April 22, 1979 by Elder Gary Housknecht

Lola Haygood, May 20, 1979 by Apostle E. L. Yates

Robert Speer is the son of Jerry and Jim Speer of Blue Springs. Ranaye Livingston is Joe Yate's grand daughter and Vicky Edwards is her friend, they were both baptized outdoors in a small stream at Al-

mon Valley. Brian Coberly is the son of Czerna and Allen Kaufman of Collins. Millie Spilman and her daughter, Karan, formerly of Buffalo now live in Lebanon and since that is a 150 mile round trip to church in Collins we don't have them every Sunday as we used to, we do miss them. Sharyl Cobb is the wife of Marlene Cobb's son, Rodney, who is in the service. They are now living in New York and he is stationed at West Point. Brenda Cook is the wife of Terry Cook of Collins, Mo. Lola Haygood is Bruce Cobb's mother and she is now living in Tucson, Arizona.

At our last business meeting, the officers selected were as follows: Pastor, Oren Caviness; Assistant Pastor, Gary Housknecht; Secretary, Louise McIndoo; Treasurer, Neva Housknecht; Sunday School Superintendent, Allen Kauffman; Teacher Adult Class, Marlene Cobb; Teacher of the Young Adults, Larry Shaw; Teacher Primary, Norma Cox.

At this writing Irene and Rhondal Shaw are in Colorado where they go every year to visit friends and relatives. We are expecting them home in a few weeks now and we are anxiously waiting for their return.

Esther Caviness

Editors Note: Rhondal and Irene Shaw are in special need of prayer at this time as they have met with a terrible auto accident in Kansas while returning home from Colorado.

## HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

August 5th: Brother John Jones was speaker in the evening. He used I John 4:16-21: "God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him . . . There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us . . . That he who loveth God loveth his brother also."

Looking about you, you cannot help but see the beauty and thought God put into creating our earth for us, from the Grand Canyon to a dainty wild flower, to all the things above and below the ground, all put here, created by our loving God for us to use, refine perhaps, and to enjoy.

Sure we feel unworthy, but thankful for every piece of clothing, for every bite of food, for the ability to work, earn and purchase the same. We are thankful that He listens to and answers our prayers, and that He draws nearer when we ask for help through prayer. We must try harder to fulfill the plans He has made for us. Have we been obedient to our heavenly Father? Or do our hearts beat in revolt? Examine your rebellious nature in private; see what you find. In spite of all our shortcomings, God still loves and cares for us.

Each of us can ask for and receive His Spirit to

carry us through troublesome times, though there is no reason why we can't have this Spirit each and every day.

God is love. He wants us to be conscious of this fact. How can we help but love Him in return if we stop and think of all He has done for us. Every heartbeat, every breath, every child, in fact, all we have come from Him through His grace (love).

Why do we hesitate to serve Him? Are we keeping our end of the bargain?

Psalms 84:11, 12: "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of Hosts; blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

Psalms 55:22: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Also see Luke 11:9-13; John 14:12, 13; James 1:5; I Kings 18:36-38; John 5:14 and John 3:22)

To find rest for your souls and claim all the promises God made to His people through the ages, you must hearken to His voice, do His bidding. Don't go dashing after worldly pursuits. Your duty is to do God's work.

Jesus Christ said, "If a man love men, he will

keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

It was good to have DeAnna Medders improved enough in health to worship with us after her recent auto accident. On the 12th of the month Tony Grzincic of Independence was our guest speaker telling us to "open your hearts to the words of Jesus Christ. Listen, that ye may truly be His people."

Spiritual health is our primary concern and duty. Christ atoned for us, whether we want it or not. We pay the consequences if we choose wrongly. Christ is a loving saviour, let's take Him at His word. (II Tim. 3:14-17; I John 2:1-3)

We can serve one, Jesus Christ, or the other, the Devil. We must needs rely on God, use His Spirit to help us, not rely upon ourselves. The evidence of the word of God must abide in us if the world is to see the love of God in our countenances and in our deeds. Are we going to trust the Holy Ghost to lead us, to guide us away from the things of the world?

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."

His words, alive in our lives, in our actions towards others, are viewed by the world which is watching for us to falter and err. We must uphold each other, follow the counsel of the Holy Ghost, not follow after the evil spirit with bad thoughts, actions and deeds.

All things are possible. Peter walked on the water to Jesus until he doubted. He became afraid and started to sink, crying to Jesus, "Save me."

Jesus stretched forth his hand, saying, "Oh, thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" If we trust Him we can be partakers of the promises and have that eternal life.

In the evening of that same Sunday, Brother Bill Malone spoke to us. He told us if we made a promise to God, we had better keep it. He told us of his desire to serve God and of his recent call to serve in the ministry, and some prior experiences. "I prayed for knowledge, to become closer to God and the church. God was concerned with me and my life and is with each of us."

The scriptures tell us that God loves us. He sent His only Son to die for us on the cross. Brother Hubert Yates once stated, "All the pain and torment that Christ endured on the cross was probably insignificant compared to the pain in his heart because of his love of mankind."

The men of God need the Holy Ghost to guide them in learning, in strength, in courage—or they will have a hard time delivering God's message. It's good to come to the Lord humbled by troubles, etc., but oh, so much better to be humble voluntarily.

The gospel tells what to do, what not to do, the commandments to keep, to tell about the gospel and

to witness to others. Are Church of Christ people satisfied knowing and accepting? Don't keep it hidden—tell it.

If we are to be judged by our works, as we are told, I hope we rely on the Holy Ghost to teach us, to open our minds to the person sermonizing and to our books when we study. Pray that we might humble ourselves and that God's spirit won't ever leave us. If we live as God commands, His Spirit won't leave us.

(Please keep in mind these are just the thoughts that I picked up listening to these sermons, and do not blame the speakers if I don't get it as they meant it. I'm trying, and, I hope, improving with the Lord's guidance. M. A.)

Apostle Marvin Ely was with us for two sermons this month. He spoke to us about "Sweet Peace, the Gift of God's Love," telling us how he'd recently been deeply moved by the words of that song. We must avail ourselves of this peace which surpasseth all understanding. Definition of peace: freedom from war; freedom from fear; harmony in personal relations.

We need to be aware of the time and situations and be lifted up with God's help and spirit. He told us of times when God had saved His people in time of war and troubles. We must learn to trust completely in God and His Son, Jesus. Count your blessings today; we have a God that we can trust even in a time of great tribulation.

Utilize each day fully that we might be prepared to meet our maker. Trust Jesus; you have nothing to fear.

Luke 21:36: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Love is dwindling in families; often the pure love of Christ is not present enough. Children are disobedient to parents. The parents are lax to allow this. So-called new moral codes are not good. All codes need to be founded on Christ's doctrine.

People are seeking peace in the wrong places, having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof.

Isaiah 59:7 and 8: "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings; they have made crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace."

John 14:27: Jesus speaking says, "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." Let us unite our efforts to seek this peace in our troubled world.

In the evening Brother Ely spoke to us about God



providing means to communicate with him through prayer and fasting. (John 14:12-15)

3rd Nephi 8:47: "Ye must watch and pray always, lest you are tempted by the devil, and ye are led away captive by him." Problems of life start here. The devil makes us think little wrong deeds are right. Pray among yourselves. Pray in private. We'll be blessed much by using this important tool in our lives.

We need to let our lights (actions and deeds) shine into the world. Be courteous, do acts of kindness, say "thank you" often, spread a word of cheer, give away some smiles.

Sometimes we need to fast along with our prayers, as to heal the sick. Our faith can move mountains, we're told. It (our faith) is being tried, it needs nurturing to grow.

We are told that when we fast we need to leave off frivolous things, such as radio, T. V., newspapers; leave off strife and debate; do only the necessary things. Study, pray in secret and in your heart as you do your daily tasks. Don't condemn others or point your finger. Pray to loose the bands of wickedness, to break every yoke that binds you.

Matthew 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give thee rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Love from all here at Houston, Missouri.

Your reporter,

Sister Mary Addie

## FROM AVA, MISSOURI

By the vote of the members, we changed our annual business meetings to the second Sunday of September. This year we held our business meeting on the 9th of September after a three weeks notice. This change will prevent us from having delays due to icy roads, etc. that we are subject to in January. A list of all local officers may be had by contacting the secretary, Sister Ella Engle, or the pastor, Brother Arthur Smith.

We feel to thank our Heavenly Father for His sustaining hand through these years, He being that by which any progress has been made; still looking to Him we face forward to another year's efforts.

Other speakers more recently have been Brother Roland Sarratt, Brother Eugene Gould, Brother Arthur Smith, Brother Alex. Smith and Brother Marvin Case.

Here are some thoughts resulting from recent sermons, study classes etc.

James 1:26; "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

There is a difference between realizing we have an uncontrolled tongue and suffering much therewith and the unawakened who believe he is highly religious but sees no need to bridle his/her tongue, or is unaware even, that he/she is not controlling it and thus "deceives" their own hearts. This is part of the "pure religion" we are to practice, a Spirit controlled tongue.

The "bridle" or bit in our mouths, or the controlling factor is the Holy Ghost, — let us pray for this bit that that it abide in our mouths ever controlling our wayward tongues.

Eph. 4:22 to 32 explains much of the work this "bit" does, "That ye put off concerning the former

conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your minds; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (verses 22, 23, & 24). Verses 29 & 30 of 4th. Eph. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

How very much we do "grieve" the Holy Ghost is apparent; let us haste to repentance and heed this "bit" for our mouths God has provided.

The natural man or fallen man does offend often; yet we still must watch continually that we offend not even as we strive to put on the "new man" character, that we be not overbearing, truth breakers, arrogant, or obnoxious in our behavior and words.

We know Truth, the teachings of Christ, often does offend, for His teachings cut like a knife into our guilt, but by committing our lives to Him and asking forgiveness will ease this piercing sting. And we must take the warning we heard, that we do not "love darkness rather than light" (John 3:19); for then we would be offended at Truth's exposing of our faults, failings, weaknesses, wrong acts, acts we have failed to do that we should have done, etc.

Pure religion is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep ourselves unspotted from worldliness (James 1:27). And let Christ's Light shine in our daily lives (3rd. Nephi 8:55).

Isaiah 65:22 speaks of the time His elect are to enjoy the works of their hands; we know that even now we may have a foretaste of that "joy" in the "works

of faith" that He guides us in doing, as we submit our wills and tongues to Him that the "waters", i. e. words, flowing from our mouths will be always "sweet", i. e. Truth.

Phil. 2:13: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

This is wonderful! He not only entices us to good, to His will, but He enables us and strengthens us "to do" His good pleasure; we are not left in just our own puny strength alone to live His Will and to do His Will.

In James 5:7 through 11, we read that the Lord is pitiful and of tender mercy, and patient waiting long for precious "fruits"; He warns us also to have Christ-like patience in waiting for precious fruits to develop in lives of His followers, in all those whose welfare rests upon our hearts.

John 13:34: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Can we do this? Can we so love as Christ did? He who gave His life for us in our sins. Do this and thus keep this new covenant Christ made with His followers.

Reading in Gal. 3:8-9, tells us that in Christ all nations shall be blessed. If nations could only keep this new commandment as well as individuals, what a blessing it would be!

In Gal. 5:13, we are told that we have been "called unto liberty . . . by love serve one another." Here we find this love of God defined as "liberty". O! that His love abide in us by power of the Holy Ghost, by which this love is spread abroad in our hearts.

Then we find in John 4:19 that we love Him because He first loved us; this new commandment of "love" is from God. It is His love and it is this, His love abiding in us, that makes verse 18 true: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear."

O! draw near, draw near! It is His love that casteth out fear, may His love dwell in us.

Dan. 2:47: "God is a revealer of secrets." The secrets and mysteries of God are given that man may grow Christlike characters and that mankind may be warned of things to come, etc.

Amos 3:7: "Surely the Lord will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

Is. 40:5: "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:"

Is. 5:9 to 22 was read; verse 14 records that God reveals in the ear. He speaks in the ear as a voice, as we read in 1 Sam. chapter 3 where God spoke and Samuel's ear did hear.

He does speak to the hearing ear and He also speaks in the depths of one's soul, a speaking which is not in words. These are vital dealings of The Spirit; heed them.

Matt. 10:26-27 we are told that there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, etc. and what He tells us in darkness, "speak ye in light". "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops." This is admonition to us that we pay heed to His promptings, that which is impressed upon our souls, i. e. in darkness or in our secret selves, we must speak "in light". This light is His and He will give conviction by The Spirit to the hearers of it's Truth.

And what we hear in the ear is to be preached from the housetops; these are given to be made known. Words given verbatim are to be given verbatim by The Spirit's power.

Matt. 11:25: we discover how thankful Christ was that God has revealed His Truths "unto babes", i. e. unto the unlearned, the innocent, they who are babes in Christ. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). There is a deepened growth of the new man in which the heavenly treasures or kingdom of God become very visible.

Great is the danger, we were warned, of becoming stiff-necked, and resistant to truth, to God, to The Spirit. The natural man, and who of us are struggling with this fallen nature, instantly rises up in rebellion as truths are brought to light that burn our conscience, for we be yet guilty of many faults.

The question was asked, are we a people who have become more dependent on the voice of others, than we are dependent on the voice of God, the voice of the Holy Spirit? In fact, we are so unacquainted with the Spirit's voice or inner workings in our souls, we fail to recognize it.

1 Cor. 2:9-10: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

We all need to search more diligently and be more exercised in faith, and feast upon the words of Christ; let us read 2 Nephi 14:4 and 13:30.

Eph. 6:6-7: "Notwith eyeservice, as menpleasures; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."

As disciples this applies to all of us as we strive to follow Christ.

We need to give ourselves to much private fasting and prayer as Alma fasted and prayed that he might "know"; this can be our way, this should be our way as followers of Christ. From this knowing one can verily witness for God's Truth.

Alma 12:5: "But this is not all: they had given

themselves to much prayer and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with power and authority of God."

Jarom 1:9: "And as many as are not stiff-necked, and have faith, have communion with the Holy Spirit, which maketh manifest unto the children of men, according to their faith."

3 Nephi 8:53: "And behold, ye shall meet together oft, and ye shall not forbid any man from coming unto you when ye shall meet together, but suffer them that they may come unto you, and forbid them not; But ye shall pray for them."

O! yes, meet together oft in the "unity of the Spirit" as recorded in Ept. 4:3: "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

To meet in this "unity" and in "peace" is the condition we are to "meet oft". These are the conditions that will feed the soul, that will be edifying. Getting together in the warmth of fellowship (if peaceful) is pleasant, yet these verses signify a much deeper and higher quality of meeting together. And this takes preparation in each person, a reaching and yielding commitment to The Spirit of Truth. Then when we do meet together we will be ready inwardly to meet Him there, then we may be edified by the Spirit of God.

Ept. 3:16: "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man."

Eph. 4:23 and 30: "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Something to think about

3rd. Nephi 13:55: "And ye may know that the words of the Lord, which have been spoken by the holy prophets, shall all be fulfilled; and ye need not say that the Lord delays his coming unto the children of Israel." Verse 62 says, "Therefore ye need not suppose that ye can turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left, that he may not execute judgment unto fulfilling on the covenant which he hath made unto the house of Israel."

Can man "delay his coming" or "turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left?" This says we are not even to say that man can thus "delay" Him.

A thought

Christ has the "keys of death and hell." Rev. 1:18: "I am he that liveth, and was dead! and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

And He still has them, as He is the "stronger" One who has overcome "the strong man" and has taken away his armour wherein he trusted, i. e. his "keys". (Luke 11:20 to 23)

He, Christ passed through death to gain the key of death; He entered hell and gained the key of hell. "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." (Acts 2:31)

"By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison." ((1 Pet. 3:19)

By His resurrection are the bands of hell broken.

Ava, Missouri Local Reporter  
Darleen Smith

## THE CHURCH NEEDS PERFECTING

by Stephen Sarratt

Unfortunately as the world goes on many people are hurt because of others actions. Most people get their share of woes and leave it at that. They seem to feel that this is only natural and necessary. It is not so. It has been preached that for the world to come to perfection all that is needed is for all peoples to come to perfection. This although true does not seem possible. If within the Church itself there is no perfection how can there be any perfection outside?

This is the look that the outside world sees. Can there be any wonder at why the missionary work does not appear to be a success? Could you join a church that told you they were not right? Before the Church can go out to the world with any hope of success things inside the Church that are known to be wrong must

be cleansed.

There are also things outside the Church that must be changed. When you tell someone that you believe in the Book of Mormon they either haven't heard of it or what they have heard is wrong. We must erase this false image of our church. There are many things wrong with our Church and all of these must be put away if the missionary work is to go forward. Although only a small amount of the population of the world is to be saved we cannot act on this assumption. We must bring the Gospel to all mankind no matter how many or how few are saved. Even as this is being read someone somewhere is dying maybe never knowing the bliss of the restored Gospel. Yet someone is also being born; let us bring the Word to them.

## OKLAHOMA

Today is November 4, 1979, and it is a very special day for The Church of Christ members in this area. We had our first Sacrament Service and Preaching Service. After living in Oklahoma over 26 years, this is a momentous occasion for me.

As I drove home this afternoon, I said to myself, "Alzada, I appoint you reporter!" So, that is also a "first" — the first self appointed reporter for Oklahoma.

The leadership of our beloved Brother Bell was evident today. It was through his leadership that it all began. When Brother Bell became ill, Brother Marvin Case began to put into action what had been planned. He called all of us and after our "in put" it was decided we'd meet in Laura Mae (Martin) Elwell's home in Del City on the first Sunday in November. (Del City is a suburb of Oklahoma City.) So, at 10 o'clock this morning, Laura Mae's living room was full of people who love God. I couldn't help but notice the school age children writing on a note pad "I love God." Laura Mae's brother, Mike Martin and his nice family drove up from Norman, which is about 20 miles south of Oklahoma City. I drove from Weatherford, which is about 75 miles west of Oklahoma City. Then, the Larry Beems and Frank Fanns arrived from Independence. They looked like angels from heaven to us as we have been isolated for so long. One other church

family was unable to attend because of sickness, so we are looking forward to them joining us next time. This little family is the family of Barbara Housknecht Kimble. They live about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City.

First, we very humbly accepted the bread and wine and renewed our covenant. Then, we listened to the beautiful prayers and testimonies. This was followed by a very inspiring sermon by Brother Frank Fann. His sermon on prayer was especially applicable to isolated members. I hasten to say that any of God's children can benefit from Brother Fann's sermon on prayer. He reminded us to give praise to God when we pray. He went on to remind us of other characteristics of a prayer pleasing to God.

Laura Mae served a delicious Sunday dinner. We all enjoyed getting better acquainted. We also decided to accept the invitation to meet the first Sunday in December with Barbara Kimble.

It was a beautiful autumn day in Oklahoma. We give praise to our God for the gift of life, for His safe keeping, for all our family and friends, for our good jobs, and most of all, on this beautiful sabbath day. We here in Oklahoma give thanks for the opportunity to meet together and worship the God we love. May God bless all of you!

Alzada Keeney Massey

---

## FOUNDER HILL NEWS

It's been quite a while since any news from The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Whitlock, Tenn. has been sent to the Advocate. So I'm glad that we are back in business. I know God will bear with me as this is my first try at reporting for the church, and I pray that you also will bear with me.

On Sunday, October 14th., we elected new people to different jobs at the church which needs help and jobs that had no people working at them at all. I think we all should be a part of the goings on of the church, which will put us somewhat closer to our Lord and Master in lots of ways.

We kept our Sunday School teacher, Sister Elizabeth Paschall for she can teach and really put forth some good lessons. We elected a new secretary, Sister Bryna Grooms, and she does a real good job, but if she is ever absent, we have an assistant secretary, Sister Sue Ray; she is like me, inexperienced and will have to be taught. We have a new song selector, Sister Nell Paschall and an assistant, Sister Hester Paschall. I do thank them and I know God thanks them, and that He will guide and direct us the way

He wants us to go.

On Sunday, October 21st, we had three visitors at church, Everett Tucker, his wife, Jean, and their son, Chris. We enjoyed having them with us. And hope they will return soon. I must say that I was Sunday School teacher to Chris and he was very enthused about the word of God and showed much interest for learning. I wish all our children would have this much interest. It would rub off on the older people of the world, which is much needed.

For our sermon Brother T. W. Paschall preached, and his subject was, why Jesus always taught in parables. He said it was; "That it might open ears that refused to hear and listen and to open the eyes that they might see." This would surely be so, for even now there are still many that need to open their ears to hear all there is about God and his son, Jesus, and his coming. We need to see what we have in store for ourselves when, and if we follow the commandments God has put before us. It was truly a beautiful sermon.

Sunday, the 28th, Sister Nell Paschall was ill from

something which made her have chills, and we pray that she will be better. We missed her at the church and we hope you will all pray for her that she might not have the sickness again. Brother T. W. Paschall is doing fine after being in the hospital about a month ago. He says that the men at work won't let him do very much, so he must take it pretty easy.

Well I do believe that is all that has happened at our church here in Tennessee and I do pray that we become bigger and better for our Lord and that we do right in every way. Until next time may God bless you and be with you though each day good or bad.

Robin Cox, Reporter

## NO FORKED TONGUES

I want to share with the readers of *Zion's Advocate* a speech made by an American Indian, Chief Washakie, in the summer of 1855.

I have heard it said that it never did any good to do missionary work among the Indians for all they ever wanted was material goods. But we never know when some of the seeds we scatter will fall on fertile soil. And if even one person is effected, it is worth the cost.

This Chief of the Shoshones had been visited by Mormon missionaries and when his tribe became hesitant to accept the religious teachings of these men and wanted food, tools and ammunition which could be used immediately, he made the following speech to them.

"You are all fools, you are blind, and cannot see; you have no ears, for you do not hear; you are fools for you do not understand. These men are our friends. The great Mormon captain has talked with our Father above the clouds, and He told the Mormon captain to send these men here to tell us the truth, and not a lie.

"They have not got forked tongues. They talk straight, with one tongue, and tell us that after a few more snows the buffalo will be gone, and if we do not learn some other way to get something to eat, we will starve to death.

"Now, we know that is the truth, for this country was once covered with buffalo, elk, deer and antelope, and we had plenty to eat, and also robes for bedding, and to make lodges. But now, since the white man has made a road across our land, and has killed off our game, we are hungry, and there is nothing for us to eat. Our women and children cry for food and we have no food to give them.

"The time was when our Father, who lives above the clouds, loved our fathers, who lived long ago, and His face was bright, and He talked with our fathers. His face shone upon them, and their skins were white like the white man's. Then they were wise and wrote books, and the Great Father talked good to them; but after a while our people would not hear Him, and they quarreled and stole and fought, until the Great Father got mad, because His children would not hear Him talk.

"Then He turned His face away from them, and

His back to them, and that caused a shade to come over them, and that is why our skin is black and our minds dark. That darkness came because the Great Father's back was toward us, and now we cannot see as the white man sees. We can make a bow and arrow, but the white man's mind is strong and light.

"The white man can make this (picking up a Colt's revolver), and a little thing that he carries in his pocket, so that he can tell where the sun is on a dark day, and when it is night he can tell when it will come daylight. This is because the face of the Father is towards him, and His back is towards us. But after a while the Great Father will quit being mad, and will turn His face towards us. Then our skin will be light." (Virginia Cole Trenhom & Maurine Carley. *The Shoshones: Sentinels of the Rockies*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1964.)

You readers may be interested in knowing that when Dick and I visited our family living in Ft. Washakie, Wyoming ( a town on the Wind River Reservation named in honor of this great chief), we were told that there were some Indians working in their restaurant. When I asked to meet them, I was introduced to a light haired, light skinned and hazed eyed young man. Later when I commented on how surprised I was that this young man was so light, I was informed that it is quite common among the Shoshones to be light complected and light eyed.

"And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

"And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

"And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God;

"And their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes: and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and delightful people." (2 Nephi 12:81-84)

Submitted by Velma Wheaton

## TESTIMONIES FROM A LETTER

" . . . I've started a new program suggested at reunion by a Seventy. It's called the 60 day experiment. You make a point of consciously, firmly dedicating the day to the Lord every morning and give Him abundant praise and thanks all day long no matter what happens. Sort of like a positive way of trusting God - just deciding to and then standing firm as a rock on that trust no matter how satan tries to make us doubt or worry or fear. You also write down what you want the Lord to do for you and others and then let it all happen for 60 days.

So far I've only been doing it for about two weeks but with some highly interesting results already. I write on a memo pad every morning the date and a very positive statement of dedication and trust; then I put prayers for the day down, and pray them. Probably the over-riding effect that I have seen is the abiding good mood and enthusiasm that has grown as I do this. And for someone like me who gets thrown on my ear at the first hint of trouble that's pretty important. I've also seen some interesting attitude changes, witnessing opportunities, and helpful hints at work, come up. What a difference it makes when I can really believe that God has more good planned for me than I can even imagine.

A very interesting thing came up at prayer service a few weeks ago. We were talking about forgiveness and how when we feel secure, it is easy to forgive, but when we feel insecure things that we thought we had forgiven come back with bitterness and resentment. I know that is true for me and on a broader scope my whole ability to reach out to people in any way at all is very dependent on how secure I am feeling. When I am so aware of God's love and goodwill toward me that I know I'm a beautiful person, a person of worth to and beloved of God, I could just take the whole world in my arms I'm so full of love. It's so easy to love then and to reach out. But let me feel the least bit persecuted and I withdraw.

Hopefully the 60 day experiment will help me stay secure. We don't understand everything now, there are questions, there are problems, but so what? Let's just go ahead and do what the Books say and we'll work out the questions as we go. Let's start acting like we believe God is the victor and the victory is already won, and we're just waiting for the final act.

Anyway, I find it helpful to give myself these daily pep talks. I always felt like a hypocrite before, trying to thank God when I didn't really feel like it. Harold Hill (How to Live Like a King's Kid) gave me a loop-hole. Now I just honestly say, "I don't feel like thanking and praising you in the least. This looks awful to me, I don't understand it at all, but I

will thank you and praise you and do my best to rejoice anyway, because you said to do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Things are better and better here, even though circumstances go up and down and get hectic and then relax and then hectic again. There is a sweet and vital spirit through it all. The other day as I gulped some supper before racing off to plan Sunday School I said a hasty prayer, that said more than I realized. As I was ending I said, "Thank you for the joy of living; in Jesus name. amen"; but I was rushed so it came out all one sentence, and I stopped and realized how much more appropriate it was, and repeated it, "Thank you for the joy of living in Jesus name."

I have learned some important things this summer from a bunch of Seventh Day Adventist lectures, . . . mostly from a little book they gave us . . . Too often I get down on myself for all the stupid things I continue to do. As I was reading that book it really dawned on me that I've got to stop trying to change my own heart. I must strive always to obey the commandments and follow God and this opens the door for Him to change my heart. I can't change my innermost attitudes and get reactions by an act of will. I can put myself in obedience to God by an act of will, then He can do the housecleaning. Funny how He can make it easy to repent, easy to apologize, easy to forgive from the inside out.

Satan has been trying to frazzle me this week because I'm trying to prepare for a retreat this weekend. However I have seen his deception and therefore I refuse to be frazzled. And the Lord has sent me your letter to strengthen me, your letter and poem came at a very good time as I have had two completely frazzled and hectic days this week.

A program of morning and evening prayers, and daily dedicating the day to the Lord in the morning and scripture study every day is what is keeping my head in balance, I think. Experience after experience shines out in day after day, from finding parking places right where the Lord told me they were to finding money I didn't think I had but the Lord knew that I did.

Who would have ever dreamed that life could be so exciting and so rich? How is it that this high privilege and great adventure has come to me? How can it be that all the old cliches that seemed so lifeless and dull, about being reborn, are really true? I'm still just a baby knock-kneed lamb that's always falling in holes and getting lost; but every time when I feel Him take hold of me and carry me home I know I will do better next time. I'm so glad God made us

so we can learn and grow. My future becomes bright with hope.

You may certainly use any thoughts of mine wherever and whenever you feel led, but please be careful and prayerful about their use as I would not want to mislead anyone due to my own ignorance

and lack of spiritual maturity. For that reason I feel it would be best to state the source so that whoever hears the message will realize this is from a 'baby christian' and will judge it's value accordingly."

Written by  
Terry Gould

## TO YOUR KNEES, OH ISRAEL

by Joseph Luff

Nov. 1931

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, and that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

(Revelation 3:15-20)

A vision was given to a prominent Elder in the Reorganized Church a number of years ago. A scene was shown him as of a tier of shelves and from the things that were loaded on the lower one the saints seemed to be helping themselves and feeling delighted. The upper shelves seemed to be loaded with richer treasures, increasing in excellence and value to the top one. While dwelling in thought upon this picture his mind was enlightened by what he took to be the Good Spirit and the import of the following language was fed into his soul.

"The treasury of my grace is replete with blessings richer than they have known: provided by me and intended for the enrichment and sanctification of the estate of my people, but they cannot be reached by them from the ground which they now occupy.

"If therefore, ye desire these things that they may make for my glory in the building up and establishing of my Kingdom on earth, and to this end would lengthen the arms of your faith for acquirement, stand ye in high and holy places, remembering that the high places are those unto which I sought to lift you when

ye were chosen out of the world, and they cannot remain holy if invaded by those pleasures which belong to the estate from whence ye were chosen, nor by the indulgence of those things not commended by me and that do not minister to holiness. In the cheerful separation of yourselves from these things, for my sake, and in your obedience to my law is revealed the sincerity and the degree of the love you profess for me, for love hath within itself all the persuasion to obedience and sacrifice.

"It has again and again been declared unto you that the set time to hasten my work is at hand, but my adversary, whose mission is to destroy, hath given greater heed to this than have ye in that he has greatly multiplied his emissaries of service and to the extent of his power had given them angelic habiliments insomuch that my people, by reason of this transformation have been deceived and have invited into their lives and their homes and their assemblies, many things which before they had disallowed and decried. These invocations have rendered less holy the places where it has been my purpose to walk in communion with my disciples, yea, they have crowded the resorts of my heritage till they have made the places too narrow for my feet and there is small room for me to walk in their midst.

"If ye love these more than me, then be content with the fruit they yield; but if ye will be strong in my strength and share in my triumph, and if ye account my wisdom sufficient unto the mission given me of my Father, which purposes your final redemption, then be advised of me and love as I have loved, and feed ye alone at the table my hand hath spread, and consider it your glory to deny yourselves even to the uttermost, even as I have done that my Father might be glorified and ye might have joy. Remember that with God change is not known and his pleasure is still in those things alone which have given him delight from the beginning."

### 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 Independence, Missouri.

### 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.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051 Price Each

Book of Mormon — Missionary Edition .....	\$2.25
Outline History of The Church of Christ .....	\$3.15
Book of Commandments (Hard Bound) .....	\$2.75
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound) .....	\$2.15
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed .....	\$2.20
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder .....	\$1.75
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God .....	\$1.90
Zion's Hymnal .....	\$3.65
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot .....	\$1.00
Temple Lot Deed .....	\$ .20
Changing of the Revelations .....	\$ .35
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	\$1.00
A Brief History of the Church of Christ .....	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance .....	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands .....	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism .....	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration .....	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which? .....	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract) .....	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ .....	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish) .....	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice, No. 1, 9, 20 .....	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus .....	N/C
What the Church Teaches in Respect to Matrimony (Spanish)	N/C
Does It Make A Difference? .....	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish) .....	N/C
What About Israel? .....	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority .....	N/C
"Is Any Sick Among You?" .....	N/C
"Why" .....	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices .....	N/C
The Sealed Book of Isaiah 29 .....	N/C
Are You Satisfied? .....	N/C
Gentiles - Weighed and Wanting .....	N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles .....	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity? .....	N/C
Baptism For The Dead? .....	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord .....	N/C

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are: In packs of 6, 30c; 100, \$4.50

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "ADVOCATE" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to:

ZION'S ADVOCATE  
(USPS 699-300)  
P. O. Box 472  
Independence, Mo. 64051

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 25 cents. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than its return to us.

ZION'S ADVOCATE  
(USPS 699-300)  
P. O. Box 472  
Independence, Mo. 64051

Second Class Postage Paid  
Independence, Mo. 64051

### AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan from the Audio, Video, Visual Aids and Archeological Committee:

"Light at Evening" — A 35 minute slide-tape narration of the restoration of the gospel.

"A Lamp Unto My Feet" — A 35 minute slide-tape narration about the Book of Mormon, directed toward Indian viewers.

"We Sing and We Talk About Jesus" — A series of Sunday School lessons, each with a teaching outline, an illustration and a taped song to be learned by primary or intermediate children.

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.

The following taped sermons are available on loan for \$1.00 for postage or to keep as priced (use above address for ordering):

In the Service of God by Apostle Marvin Ely .....	\$3.75
Do the Will of God by Apostle Robert Jensen .....	\$3.75
The Sword of Justice by Elder Albert Leighton-Floyd .....	\$3.75
Reaching Out With the Gospel by Apostle Donald McIndoo .....	\$3.75
(This tape includes his ordination)	
Stewardship, Our Reasonable Service by Elder James Lacy .....	\$3.75
Music (Specials and congregation singing) .....	\$2.75

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Send all orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

	Price Each
Primary, Volume 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus .....	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry (Out of Print)	
Primary, Volume 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't. ....	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus .....	N/C
Church History for Juniors (34 pages) plus separate	
Teacher's Guide by Donna Moser .....	N/C
The Book in the Stone Box (7 pages) by Viola Henning .....	N/C
The Bible Game, "Who Am I?" by Doris Housknecht .....	\$1.50
(No charge for single box to a Local Sunday School)	