

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. 57

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No. 4

My First Born

I only have to close my eyes
To see that tiny rosebud hand,
To feel it clutch my finger; warm
Sweet mem'ries I can still command.
My firstborn son.

He was a beautiful little boy!
Those eyes, long-lashed, could melt my heart.
He loved to hear my stories told
Of God come down to take man's part.
My firstborn son.

He grew so fast, was wise and strong.
I was so proud of this tall son
When He turned water into wine,
Made blind to see and lame to run!
My son! My son!

And then — almost — I wished to die.
He was condemned — a dreadful death,
Then laid behind a monstrous stone.
But — hear me! — He came out, drew breath.
My son! My son!

And then He went away again.
I lost Him twice. But—do you know?
He's mine again — in different form
I can't quite see, but ah, the glow!
My Lord . . . my son.

Donna Moser

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EDITORIAL...

One Hundred And Fifty Years Without Compromise

The simple fact that there is no compromise possible between right and wrong marks the Church of Christ, (Temple Lot) as a solid anchor and beacon of hope to the peoples of the Restoration Gospel, who have heard and held dear the wonderful story of the consummation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this last hour, just prior to His second coming to the earth and the setting up of the millennial reign of a thousand years.

Added to our own understanding and calculation, we find others who also believe the millennium is due about 2000 A. D. Gregory, the learned man of Oxford, said, "Because God was six days about the creation, and a thousand years with him is but one day, therefore after six days, or after six thousand years duration of the world, there shall be a seventh, or millenary Sabbath rest."

We live in one of the greatest periods of time that ever transpired since the beginning of time. Jesus himself speaking of conditions that should prevail on earth said, "For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days shall be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matt. 24:21-22)

Not unlike the necessity of meeting certain prescribed conditions or qualifications in the society in

which we find ourselves and under governments of the earth, so also under the confines of the Gospel of Christ we must qualify in order to be able to receive the blessings that are sorely needed to sustain our position and spiritual wellbeing as individuals and organizations in the period spoken of by the Master of men. We cannot qualify either as individuals or organizations as the "elect" spoken of if we compromise in any respect with the charismatic movements of the day. True, they attract great numbers with their glitter and their silver tongued oratory. Even some of our own are attracted by their demonstrations and their change. But we cannot have change (compromise) and believe in the old Jerusalem gospel delivered to the young man, Joseph Smith one hundred and fifty years ago. We believe in an unchangeable God, who is the same today as yesterday and will be the same tomorrow. We live in the last hour of time and will not compromise the original doctrines established at the beginning of the Restoration movement whether the movement come from within or without.

The mighty ecumenical movement of the day may finally join together all religious movements, fulfilling that statement in the Book of Mormon. "And he said unto me, Behold, there are save two churches only: The one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; Wherefore, whoso

belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church which is the mother of abominations;" (I Nephi 3:220-222) The Church of the devil teaches for doctrine the doctrines of men, while the church of the Lamb of God, teaches the better way of life. When we go down into the waters of baptism and are baptized into Christ, we come forth not in full stature but, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" (1 Peter 2:2) And further, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**" (II Peter 1:4) (Emph. mine KJS) Yes this is a better way of life, healthier, happier, and with no place for compromise.

The Satanic forces are continually trying to move in upon us with compromise. They know their time is short and the hour is nigh even at the door when Jesus will return to earth to claim his own. Will you and I have oil (spiritual knowledge) in our lamps

when the great midnight cry goeth forth, ". . . behold, the bridegroom cometh; . . ."? (Matt. 25:6)

Yes, verily the press of the times are upon us. There is continued development of the signs that the last days are all around us. These developments are on the increase from within as well as without, seeking to compromise the very "elect". The Apostle Peter warned of this in third chapter of II Peter, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." (III Peter 3:3-4)

We have made a definite compromise of the Gospel of Jesus Christ if we fail to promote the missionary work by not carrying the Gospel to a sin-sick nation and world. We must be about our Father's business! We must send Laborers into the field if we are to qualify as the "elect"! May God bless their work in the year ahead is my prayer,

KJS

Sermon by Brother William Morris

January 13, 1980

(condensed)

I will begin with Psalm 26; "Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity; I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy loving kindness is before mine eyes; and I have walked in thy truth. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregations of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell all thy wondrous works. Lord I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity; redeem me and be merciful unto me. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord." I would that, that could be the credo of every one here, of every one we know. If we could say to God, "I have walked in my integrity, I hate the congregations of evil doers, I will not sit with the wicked," what a fine statement of principle for everyone involved. And I'd like you to keep that in mind as we proceed.

I've had occasion to reflect on the fact that we are in a new decade. I have reflected that it may be the most significant decade of our lives. Possibly the most significant since the crucifixion of Christ. I have

said maybe and possibly because I don't know. God has not seen fit to give me the gift of prophesy . . . I have been given gifts. One of them I would characterize as the ability to study the past, we call it history, and to relate what has occurred there to what occurs now and to what is likely to occur. This is not prophecy. I recall a conversation I had with Brother Vance Harris about two years before he died. We were discussing events of the world, and I said, "The Russians will soon move into the middle east," and he said, "When and where? and I said, "I don't know, but I know they will." I knew they would because I have studied history. This is not to be confused with prophesy.

Much of what Brother Alvin Harris said this morning relates to this and I would like to begin at a point where he asked a rhetorical question, "Where are we going to fit? are we spectators or are we going to be in the arena?" He was talking about the latter-days, what is to occur; and he made some statements, like, "Will it happen in spite of us?" and the answer is, "Yes, if that's the way God has to do it!" He told us how there is a parallel all the way back to Genesis, to what will occur.

I want to begin with this question, where do we fit? Will we be spectators or will we be in the arena? Turning to the third book of Nephi, page 663, verses 98-99, "Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause him to bring

forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant; And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver." On the basis of that alone, I want to ask you a question. Do you think it possible to be a spectator? Do you think it possible to just sit it out?

Right from the beginning we are given a choice between two kinds of forces; in Second Nephi it says, an evil spirit teaches a man not to pray; to pray or not to pray? We're also told that to pray is taught by the Spirit of God. Christ made a clear cut distinction between two spirits; you cannot serve God and mammon. In John the 12th chapter and 25th verse, "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." I am asking, is it possible to be a spectator and not in the arena?

In chapter 12 of the 2nd book of Nephi verses 19-20, "Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of nought, and revile against that which is good, and say it is of no worth: For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity, they shall perish." We have a choice to believe or not to believe that the Lord will again visit the earth, and at that day those who are fully ripe in iniquity shall perish. Can we sit on the side lines? but continue the reading down through verse 29 and, "Therefore, wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion. Wo be unto him that crieth, All is well; yea, wo be unto him that hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Yea, wo be unto him that saith, We have received and we need no more." (verses 30-32) Can we be spectators? There are those who say, "I'm not going to worry about all that, God will take care of it . . ." There is no doubt about it, God will take care of it; exactly the way God has taken care of everything since the beginning of time. And to the person who says, "I'm not going to worry about it, I have faith, God will take care of it," I say, congratulations, and blessings upon you, I also say, I don't know the testing of your faith. Few of us are tested. It is easy to say I have faith in God when your stomach is full and when you are warm and dry, and when you feel good. It is easy to say, but how real do you mean it? It is not easy to say but we are more likely to mean it, when the pain is so intense that we cannot stand it; or the cold is so severe that fingers snap like twigs as they did in Stalingrad in 1942; or when hunger gnaws away and the mother feeds her children dirt as they did in China in 1945; or when they die by millions as

they have in Cambodia. Then if you say it, you mean it. We have an obligation to have faith in God.

In the 12th chapter of Daniel, 12th verse, there's a prophecy about a man who waits, but let us not be deceived by it, that blessed is he who waits and does nothing; that is not it's meaning. Blessed is he who waits upon the Lord in that period of time; blessed is he who does not run ahead of the Lord in that period of time; blessed is he who has faith in the Lord, of this there's no doubt.

I want to draw attention to the fact that as we slept, just prior to Christmas, the Russians moved their massive troops into Afghanistan. It came, if I may borrow from the scriptures, as a thief in the night. We the people had no warning of it; whether the government did or not, the information was not given to the people. Christ said that he would come that way, as a thief in the night while we sleep.

The events of the world which could make the Eighties the most significant decade of our lives, will come that way. They will not come with blazing warning. We will not be told because the people instigating them are not going to tell us. We won't be given opportunity in advance to know very much about it, it will happen suddenly. I'm going to ask you to pretend with me just for a moment; the Russians moved into Afghanistan, and they are there to stay, they will build massive airfields, they will build massive missile bases, and then they'll make preparation for the next move; suppose that instead of this move that is so far from us that it seems almost impossible to believe that it occurred, suppose instead that in the night this had been an attack on the United States; What would you do? Well, you say, I'd go to the phone, but no, there aren't any phones. Well, I'd get in my car; no, you won't even get in a car and drive because you'd have to drive through radio-active dust, and the gasoline in your tank will be all the gasoline you'll ever see. The question that comes to mind is whether or not we ought to go into this kind of thing, but we've been warned again and again and I think we need to be warned specifically, and we ought to think in terms of what we will do. I don't know when it's going to happen, but make no mistake, it is going to happen! Suppose you woke up and heard on your T. V. that Washington, New York, Kansas City, Cleveland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, no longer existed? What would we do? Can we answer the question now? Can we be spectators?

Read the teachings of King Benjamin, the 2nd chapter of the Book of Mosiah; noting, "And also, ye yourselves will succor them that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; And ye shall not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish. Perhaps you will say, the man has brought upon himself his misery . . . but I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this, the same hath great

cause to repent . . ." and he says, "And now if ye believe all these things, see that ye do them."

Let us hope that when the time comes there will be a place that is protected; that there will be a place that is sanctified; that there will be a place where people can go, let us hope that this is the place, and

then let us ask ourselves, will we heed the words of King Benjamin and succor those that need it, or will we turn away those who come to us who knew not the truth? There's only a few of us here, of those who represent the Church of Christ, but I ask of everyone, Are we ready to do it?

SAVED?

By Ronald W. Temple

We may have occasion to talk to those who believe that all one has to do to be saved is to believe in Christ and accept him as their personal savior. Is this true? Are they born again as they claim? Let's look at the evidence.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12). We should not be too sure then that we are saved. If a man fell into a river and is pulled out, he is saved from drowning — but if he falls in again he has to be saved again. He was not saved forever the first time.

The Apostle Peter says in II Peter 1:5-7, and 10, ". . . add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. . . . give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." Here Peter was talking to those who are members and he told them that there were things they must do, like, "add to your faith . . ." etc. in order to "make their calling and election sure . . ." so that they would have entrance into that everlasting kingdom. To gain that entrance then, something is required. If we were saved forever upon belief, there would be no need to do anything else to gain that entrance.

Now let's go to the words of Christ. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21). So we find that not everyone who calls on the Lord, that is, believes in him will be saved. We must do the will of the Father. Works are necessary because it is the Father's will that we do these works. For further evidence, look at the following four verses. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." (Matt. 7:24). "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." (John 14:21). "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." (1 John 2:3). We must keep his commandments, that is, do the works he requires of us.

We read in John 8:31, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word,

then are ye my disciples indeed." Christ is telling those who believe on him that they must do those things he commanded. In Philippians 2:12 we read, ". . . work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

All this seems to indicate that more than just believing in and accepting Jesus as our personal savior is required. Christ, in Matthew 24:13 says we must endure to the end to be saved. James 2:19 tells us that just to believe is not enough — the devils also believe, and tremble. Let's quote parts from James 2:14-24. "What doth it profit, my brethern, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? . . . Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone . . . shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by thy works . . . Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." We read in 1 Corinthians 3:8, "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." Continuing on in verses 9-15 we are told about the need for works and in verse 15 it says we are still saved if our works are not enough, but we will suffer loss. Christ says, "And, behold, I come quickly: and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev. 22:12).

John 3:16 tells us, ". . . whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. It does not say "shall." They should have everlasting life if they do those things they know to do, those things Christ has told us through the scriptures to do. "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." (II John 6).

Now let's read from Romans 13:11. ". . . for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Paul is talking to believers and he tells them that salvation is nearer for them now than when they first believed. In other words, they still did not have that salvation even though they were believers.

I Peter 4:18 says, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?" Then, the righteous are just scarcely saved. The Book of Mormon tells us we are saved by grace after all that we can do. (II Nephi 11:44). We are saved by grace if

we do all the works we can and live the best we can. We can't do enough to earn salvation so it is a gift.

In 1 Cor. 12:7, we find that the Spirit is given to every man, but there are requirements to be saved. Baptism is one. Read John 3:3, 5, 6, where Jesus is talking to Nicodemus saying, ". . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit." There are two baptisms mentioned here, one of water and the second of the spirit. And this spirit is not just the spirit mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:7, but it is the Holy Ghost as an abiding comforter as mentioned in John 14:16-17. There it says, ". . . he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John the Baptist could do the first baptism only (see Matt. 3:11), but Christ had to

come before the second baptism could be given. Christ gave authority to his Apostles and Elders to confer this gift by the laying on of hands as explained in Acts 8:14-17. The Holy Ghost had not fallen on any except those who were baptized. Also see Acts 19:5-6.

Why is baptism necessary? Read Rom. 6:1-11) By baptism, we are born again, washed free of sin. When we are first born into this earthly life, we must be cared for and nourished by our parents. When we are born again, we are as a baby. We need to be nourished by spiritual food (see 1 Cor. 2:9-16), with help from the Holy Ghost, on to maturity in the gospel. Conversion (coming to know and accept Christ), rebirth (baptism by the Holy Ghost after baptism by water), and being saved are all lumped into one by most Christian denominations. But it is actually three different things. A growth is required after baptism. Only then can we hope to be saved in the end. So, in light of all this evidence, are you going to let some church tell you how to be saved, or are you going to let the Bible (God's word) tell you?

Sermon Excerpts

Roland Sarratt

You and I have an appointment to meet Jesus Christ. The hour and the place we do not know; but we know the way because he has given us that way by which we might be ready to meet him. This is a time of preparation. We are to make ourselves ready to meet Jesus Christ, and it is even more urgent now than ever before. Prophecy tells us of certain circumstances that will be during the time that Christ is here. On the one hand those circumstances are very wonderful, and on the other hand a fearful thing. It all depends upon the condition of the individual; what our attitude is, what our feelings are, what we really feel toward Jesus Christ, himself. I would speak concerning those conditions.

Isaiah, chapter 33, verse 13, "Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and ye that are near acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; . . ." How could sinners be in Zion? they would be occupying a place that they would be unworthy to be in except they repent. The next reading clarifies that fact, "fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites." Suddenly Christ comes and those who are sinners, those who are hypocrites will be overcome with fear. It behooves us not to be among them. We must prepare ourselves that we are neither. We must search out ourselves so that the truth might shine through us.

"Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" Paul brings out the fact that our works will have to endure fire. If they are precious stones or metals they will endure but if they are hay, wood, stubble,

they will be destroyed. We cannot endure the presence of Jesus Christ if we are sinners.

Who shall endure the devouring fire? "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly;" Walketh, indicates a way of life; the way that Jesus Christ outlined for us; following him. And speaking uprightly brings to mind the fact that Christ says, "Out of the treasure of the heart the mouth speaketh." The things that we say actually indicate the kind of person that we are. If our tongues are saying these things that are wrong we have to start looking at ourselves and see exactly what is in our hearts, continuing to identify those that will endure.

"He that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hand from the holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from the hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;" That's quite a requirement.

James chapter 3, 13th verse, "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you?" We might ask that question, who among us are wise? "Let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." There is a special lesson in that particular verse, it says that your works must be right with your conversation. He goes on to say, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts glory not and lie not against the truth." If you find that you have that in your heart, you want to do something about it. Don't lie against the truth, otherwise you become a hypocrite. You've got to set something straight right away, get that envying and strife out.

That includes all animosities and ill will that we might have.

He goes on, speaking of having envy and strife in our hearts, "this wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish, where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." If you listen to the news and you read what is going on in the world you find that there is much confusion. People are looking for true principles, and it's really frustrating because we really would want to impart to them what we have found, but the fault is that we have not made ourselves worthy to be in the position where we might be able to openly counsel the world.

He continues, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure . . ." I thought that was very remarkable; the wisdom that is from above is first pure; and what did I just say? If we are true, the truth can shine through us, that wisdom that is first pure, "then, peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." We might ask who among us is actually that kind of person?

Well, we are going to meet that kind of person. He is the one we have an appointment with. To meet one who is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated. All the righteousness that is in Him, if we don't

have that same righteousness, we are going to be very much afraid, and I don't wish to deter you from having that true hope and faith that would bring you into the presence of Jesus Christ. "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Christ said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness . . ." what a wonderful promise. But he didn't stop there, "but shall have the light of life." Is that light going to shine through you and I? We have to be in a condition if that light does shine through us. What we do in showing forth light must ultimately glorify our heavenly Father. We have to have a single purpose in mind at all times; by getting our eye, our full attention upon the standard of truth that is in Jesus Christ, and keep it there. We have to think in terms of obeying our Heavenly Father totally and completely and sticking with it.

Now here is the fact that Jesus Christ will be in the midst of such a people. Isaiah 33:17. "Thine eyes shall see the King in his beauty . . ." There is nothing I can say that will describe that beauty. Yet I know as I read the scripture that it is absolutely true. The beauty of Christ is something we will have to see for ourselves. This is the burden of my desire, that each one of us make that appointment, and keep it; that we do meet Jesus Christ.

PHOENIX LOCAL NEWS

Greetings from Arizona! The news may be a bit sketchy this time as I've lost my notes. So here goes - wish me luck. We've been blessed with the addition of two new members out our way! Margaret Owen and Michelle Yates entered the waters of baptism within a short time of each other. Their zeal and warm personalities are a blessing to our local.

Our young people's group is now under the co-leadership of: Hubert Yates, jr., Bill Malone, Jay Moser, and Ken Oar. The young people divide their meeting time between study and recreational activities. Every other Saturday we have a general church activity. Recently our church activity was roller skating. We had a fantastic time, A TERRIFYING time for some of the beginners, but a great time anyway for everybody.

Some of our BRAVER members have embarked on a program of going door to door to witness about the restored gospel. I personally was amazed at the positive reception they have been receiving. I expected a lot of slammed doors! Please pray for us in this endeavor. I believe that each small step we take will strengthen the Church of Christ. and lay the foundation for a greater effort to share the gospel.

We're continuing our missionary trips to isolated church members. I'm not sure who is uplifted more - the visited or the visitors!

Dave and Charlette Hinkle of Colorado have announced their plans to make Phoenix their permanent home. And once again we are happy to see the beautiful countenances of Ed and Louise McIndoo in our midst. Ed and Louise will be staying until church conference in April.

Our sister, Lorraine Patterson, was recently involved in a serious car accident in which a car came through her living room window pinning she and her husband, Bert. Lorraine was not expected to live, but she has made a remarkable recovery in a short time. I believe it is the power of prayer that saved Lorraine and caused her rapid healing.

On to the sermons. This is where I'm ashamed to have lost my notes because I'm bound to leave something out. One sermon stands out vividly in my mind. That sermon was about having a genuine desire to help all people. The brother spoke of driving along with some men from work and seeing an especially grubby and unhealthy looking derelict beside the road. One

of the men in the car remarked, "Wow, I can't handle that"! Our brother's reaction was an overwhelming flood of compassion for the man beside the road. He testified that the spirit touched his heart with the knowledge that even such as these were precious to God. The brother asked us simply - "Can you handle that"?

I recall a strong emphasis on prayer and fasting in our sermons this quarter. We have been admonished to follow the counsel of Isaiah 58:6 in our fasting.

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" We were told that if we fast and pray in this manner there will be those among us who reach the stature of Isaiah. "Then shall thy light rise in obscurity and thy darkness shall be as the noonday: And the lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought . . . and thou shall be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." (verses 10-12)

In another powerful sermon the speaker expounded many of the prophecies of calamity coming upon the world. Then he asked us, "Are you afraid?" He went on to say that it was not necessary for him to tell

us our specific sins. "You know within yourself what you are doing wrong. But if you're afraid, don't give up!" He closed with the thought that if we are afraid it means the spirit is still striving with us, trying to prepare us for the tribulation ahead and to face God with joy.

I would like to conclude this report with some thoughts from the two sermons we heard today. The morning speaker told us how it troubled him when people asked him what we have done with the gospel. He said he had to admit that for 150 years we have done very little. Why he asked? Because we have been sidetracked fighting among ourselves. The brother warned us that as long as righteousness is idle, evil is in control.

The evening speaker asked us, "When we pray do we say as the ancient prophet, 'Here am I send me'?" Or do we say, "There HE is, send HIM"? The brother told us, NOW is the time, the time to prepare for the opportunities that will be here SOON.

Brothers and sisters, please remember the coming conference in your prayers. Until next time I leave you with this thought, NOW IS THE TIME.

Marlene Oar

NEWS FROM THE Y. P. C. L. OF INDEPENDENCE

On February 23rd the Y. P. C. L. had their semi-annual election. The following people were elected to these offices and committees:

- Leader Bruce Kidd
- Asst. Leader Bob Hedrick
- Secretary Marie Case
- Treasurer Patricia Bruner
- Reporter/Recorder Becky Sheldon
- Chorister Marie Case
- Parliamentarian George Adams
- Planning Committee Robert Bruner,
Scott Hatcher, Becky Fann
- Crossroads Committee Becky Fann,
Becky Sheldon, Gerry Case
- Auditing Committee Scott Hatcher,
Robert Bruner, Dennis Bruner
- Social Committee Representative Paula Case

The Young People met at Bruce's house on March 1st for an "Open Discussion and Planning Session." They had a good size crowd with 17 people attending.

The meeting opened with the song "Blest Be The Tie That Binds," and then silent prayers followed. Attendance and a collection were taken. Bruce passed out some paper and the group filled out a list of educational, studies, fund raisers, service projects and outings they would like to be involved in. They also discussed how to involve those who have not been coming and recalled those who stand in need of prayer.

The group was informed that an educational on Parliamentary Procedure was planned for next Saturday, and the kids were urged to read the **Roberts Rules of Order** in preparation for the meeting. The meeting was closed with song "This God Is The God We Adore." George Adams offered the closing prayer and refreshments were served afterward.

If you have any questions or suggestions concerning the Y. P. C. L. please write or call:

Bruce Kidd # 833-0473
923 S. Hocker
Independence, Mo. 64055

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

By

Lovita G. Seibel

The purpose of life, in all its multiplicity and variety, for all living and created beings, cannot be encompassed in a moment of the present, nor alone in the here and now. Nor can one learn who one is nor one's destiny by taking mind changing drugs.

I knew who I was as a child, that I had parents to obey, and a God to serve, with life eternal with God as a hope, and as a reality to strive for.

So, the purpose of life can only be encompassed within the full circle of the past, the present and the future. Not the past as historically recorded, which records are often faulty or false. But, rather that of the significant truth which springs from the mind of God as His century unfolding and enveloping purposes are worked out in full detail for the ultimate good and lasting joy of His created beings.

He has provided us with extensive clues in the Bible, in the Book of Mormon, and latter day revelation. Thus we may enlighten our minds with His understanding, truth, and light from which we can gain wisdom for our activities, and for His service during the short span of time allotted us here for our own brief mortal life.

Because of this Godly wisdom, more profound than we can comprehend (without the gift of His Holy Spirit), we can gain hope in a hopeless world, faith though we are in a faithless generation, and charity for the frailties of man, with deep compassion for the vast multitudes around us of the hopeless, the faithless, and the frail creatures (of whom we are a part) who stumble through this earth life never seeing above the broken clod, nor the quagmire, which entangling their feet drags them down, defeating their efforts to reach self-appointed goals.

When all about us seems to lie in almost certain ruin, and man's ceaseless efforts seem sure to end in his own complete annihilation, then may one read something of the purpose of life in the scriptures and take hope and comfort from the words of Job who

suffered multitudinous losses, and physical duress, even nigh unto death; but who, for other's comfort and assurance longed to preserve a permanent record of the "truth", which was made manifest to him in his sufferings. It is a cry of a soul who had gone through great torment, but who learned that the purpose of life could be found only within the total plan of God.

For humanity he desired, "Oh that my word were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:23-27).

Within this short paragraph is encompassed an outline of life's purpose. For this life, though often beset by trials, turmoil, death and dissolution, is not the end for mankind. God's creatures can look forward to a glorious resurrection, and in our own flesh, with our own eyes, we will behold and stand before Him who is our Redeemer, our Creator, and our God.

He has promised that the faithful, those who overcome, shall obtain great joy with Him, even to sitting on His throne with Him (Rev. 3:21). In the parable of the vineyard is also found a statement to His servants "... ye shall have joy with me, because of the fruits of my vineyard" (Jacob 3:147).

While in another place in the Book of Mormon is learned that, "Men are that they might have joy" (2 Nephi 1:115).

The purpose of life is that one may have "joy" that is unspeakable, for the Scriptures give many references to those who serve God having this great joy. We quote one, "... they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory." (Helaman 2:110).

Mini-Lightings

It was observed by the Astronauts as they went deeper into space, that the light of the moon and stars, plus the color of the earth are only visible as the reflection of the sun. A lesson comes to mind from this statement, one well known to 'rock hounds'. It is remarkable the color to be found within what appears, on the outside to be a dull gray rock, when it is split and opened to light. Further, shine a bright light upon

this inner surface and there appear colors and beauty of a depth, dimension and vividness not seen under plain daylight. Is it thus with humanity, that the beauty created into the inner-man cannot be seen until the heart is broken? Or, from another view, is it that we cannot see this beauty in our fellow-man except we look through the light of God's love in it's reflection from each?

WHICH IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22:36, 40).

I have been shown in dreams three times what it would be like if the Church of Christ obeyed the commandments. We would enjoy spiritual blessings that we can't even imagine at this time. I have thought a lot about this and wondered just what it means to obey God's commandments.

To love God with all our heart, soul and mind, would mean that we would put God first in our lives in every way. That is a large undertaking, but there have been a few men achieved that goal and so it is not impossible. Christ told us to go on to perfection and he doesn't ask us to do anything that is impossible.

How about the next commandment. It is easy to love people who love us, but it isn't easy to love someone who means little to us or someone who has done something we think is wrong or don't believe just like we do.

I had an experience not long ago that gave me a lot of food for thought. We have a neighbor boy who hasn't been honest and we were quite vocal about it. Then all of a sudden I realized that I should pray for that boy and when I did, I found that I do love him, though I don't approve of what he has done.

Conference will soon be here and there may be some controversy that will not make us happy, but if we go to God before conference with fasting and prayer, we can know what is right and what is wrong. If we have enough love for each other, we can solve our differences peacefully and leave conference with a deep love for one another.

We need discernment and I hope everyone coming to conference will petition our Heavenly Father for it with much earnestness, before they come.

I came home last year with an unhappy feeling that we had accomplished so little. There were wonderful sermons and there was such an urgency. I hope we all profited from hearing them.

Do we realize that if we had enough love for God

and for each other, any differences we have among us wouldn't bother us because God could straighten us out. If we need to give up some of our established beliefs, we can if we know it is God's will.

In Matthew 5:44, 46 we are told to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you; That ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven: for he maketh the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and unjust."

"For if ye love only them which love you, what reward have ye?"

First Corinthians 13:2 tells us that if we don't have charity we are as nothing. Verse 13 tells us that charity is greater than faith and hope. The Book of Mormon says that charity is the pure love of Christ.

There are so many places in the Book of Mormon and Bible that tell us what is required of us to obey the commandments, I know that we are not enjoying the number of spiritual experiences and blessings that we could if we would all examine ourselves and try harder to obey the commandments that Christ gave us. Those two commandments cover all the ten commandments given under the Mosaic law and are more perfect.

Sometimes when I walk into God's house and hear the confusion, it troubles me. Before services it is good to greet our brothers and sisters, but I wonder if we couldn't be more quiet about it and show respect for God's house. We need to be very careful not to offend the Holy Spirit at any time and it seems to me that it is very important to respect the house that has been dedicated to God.

I wonder how many people remember wren sports would not be broadcast on Sunday? Or when the stores were closed on Sunday?

The changes have been so gradual that I fear we have hardly noticed them or wondered why. It is something else to think about and wonder if we ARE putting God first in our lives. Do we love God enough to give Him that one day of the week without thinking of worldly activities?

May God's Holy Spirit abide with each of us and give us wisdom and understanding, and fill our hearts with love.

Sister Irene Shaw

You cannot repent too soon, because you do not know how soon it may be too late. - Fuller.

If you do business with the devil you will become a devil yourself.

Run a Good Race in 1980

How bizarre that the New Year, pictured as a bright eyed, innocent baby, and coming just a week after the celebration of the birth of Christ, should be welcomed in with widespread, wild partying! The blase' partying world would have us believe that little old ladies in funny hats are the only people who speak out against consumption of alcohol; and are to be hooted with ridicule and for humor.

It isn't, however, all that funny when we read the statistics concerning alcohol and other drug abuse. When we observe the suffering and mental anguish caused, we do not laugh. Employers (nor families) of those with "a drinking problem" do not laugh. The people who manage to break the chains of slavery to alcohol, and begin to enjoy life, do not laugh as they recognize the frustrations of educating people about the perils lurking inside highly advertised alcohol, which has made losers out of so many people. It is a problem that isn't diminishing with our fine increase in knowledge, as we begin the year 1980.

On the Sports page of the Waterloo Courier on New Year's Day, in letters which stood out from all else on the page, we found "ADVICE". We called the Courier office and were told, "Yes, you may clip it and use it."

ADVICE: Players don't drink
Because drinkers can't play

SEATTLE (AP) - Linebackers and liquor don't mix. Neither do slam dunks and drunks, baseballs and highballs, soccer and saki, says 47-year-old ex-jock, Dick Paynter, director of treatment for Riverton Hospital's Care Unit, an alcohol treatment center in Seattle.

Sports and spirits are a losing team, he says.

"I drank myself out of college twice - out of basketball and out of crew. As a matter of fact, back at Roosevelt High School in the 50's, a couple of buddies and I quit varsity ball because we could play ball and drink, too, if we joined the YWCA. So we did." Paynter recalls.

For the athlete, even occasional alcohol use can climax in a game loss or a career shattering injury.

"I'm always appalled that guys with immense amounts

of talent so often blow it away, blow big-dollar careers, blow championships, or even playoff berths, because they don't understand what the problem is," he says.

"A couple beers swigged after a game will pour enough toxins into an athlete's system to impair future performance, Paynter says. And drinking with the tavern crowd over a long summer can cripple a football player's game when fall rolls around.

"The sad part is so few coaches — particularly in professional sports but in college and high school, too — seem to understand why their teams have hit the skids or run out of gas.

"Sure, they see their guys out there trying, but no way can the body do what's being asked of it . . . and I swear, I don't think I've ever met a coach who didn't drink. Oh, I'm sure they're out there, but I've never met one."

Paynter says alcohol can stay with an athlete for seven days and it takes from 20 to 100 days to get rid of all the toxins.

"The pattern, if repeated week after week through, say, a football season, never gives his cells a chance to recover for the next weekend's game," Paynter says. "It just doesn't work that way and the specialists will tell you this, time after time.

"So here you have an athlete who believes himself to be, and looks like he is, in top shape. But all through his body he's got these little triglycerides, tiny globes of fat, stuck between every cell because the oxygen needed to burn them away has been off burning away of inches."

He adds, "Coaches are always telling us 'it's a game of inches'."

"So here's a case, maybe, where a basketball player goes up for a jump shot and he's off just an inch; or some guy misses a tackle, by an inch; or a race car driver wonders why he can't corner like he could before that big party three weeks ago."

"There it is, sound advice whether or not one is an athlete. And remember please, it was written by a director of a major alcohol treatment center, not by a little, old lady in a funny hat!

Irene Maley

Happiness Cake

1 cup good thoughts
1 cup kind deeds
1 cup of consideration for others
2 cups sacrifice
2 cups well beaten faults
3 cups forgiveness

Mix thoroughly, add tears of joy, sorrow and sympathy, flavor with love and kindly service. Fold in 4 cups of prayer blended with faith; spread through daily life. Bake well with the warmth of the Spirit and serve with a smile anytime. Guaranteed to satisfy the hunger of famishing souls.

JESUS IS MIGHTY TO SAVE

Some years ago, in the late fifties or early sixties, I became so very concerned over people, the many, many hundreds of people throughout the world and all down through the ages, those who never have had the opportunity to hear and know of Jesus and his saving grace.

For many months my heart and mind was so troubled over this and I prayed so much over it, and cried out in my heart to God, "Oh Lord, what about all these people?"

Christian churches have all been so divided over doctrines, etc. and the Restoration has become so divided also. So the cry of my heart was, "How can people hear and know the truth, Lord, when we are so divided?"

Then also I asked in my heart and in my prayers, "What about the period of the dark ages, when the light of Christ's gospel was not on the earth?"

These questions went around and around in my mind and in my heart, as I prayed and cried out unto the Lord over all these people. I believe that Jesus is love, and He created all mankind for His great love. He created them in His great love. He is the Savior of all mankind. He came and died upon the cruel cross for all mankind, and all people will have a chance to hear and see and know Jesus and His saving grace, so they can choose whom they will serve. They cannot choose between the Light and the darkness unless they have an opportunity to see that Light! an opportunity to hear and know the hope that is only in Jesus the Savior of men. He is the hope of all ages. He is the Light and the Life of the world. He is the Resurrection and the Life Everlasting. He only can save our souls from sin and death and hell. But how were all those people going to hear and be saved?

Then one day some music of a hymn came to my mind, I was familiar with the music, but could not recall any of the words, so I dismissed it from my mind. But on occasions the music would return, and because I could not recall any of the words I would dismiss it from my mind.

Finally one Sunday afternoon as I was doing the dinner dishes the music of this hymn came to my mind again, only even more forcibly than before, so I thought I must go and look this song up, and find out what the words are. I knew we had sung this song when I was a child and growing up, so I got out my old black bound hymnal. Some of you older people will remember it, called the Saints Hymnal. As I could not recall any words of the hymn, I started leafing through the book one page at a time. I knew if I

saw the music I would know it was the hymn I was looking for, and on page 212 I found it. These are the words.

"Oh thou to whom, in ancient time,
The Psalmists's sacred harp was strung,
Whom kings adored in songs sublime,
And prophets praised with glowing tongue.

Not, now, on Zion's height alone
The favored worshiper may dwell;
Nor where, at sultry noon, thy Son,
Sat, weary, by the patriarch's well.

From every place below the skies,
The grateful song, the fervent prayer,
The incense of the heart may rise
To heaven and find acceptance there.

How beautiful these words are, what a wonderful answer to my hearts cry, over all the people down through the ages of time. I had no thought that on looking up this hymn, I would find the answer and the comfort and peace of heart that I needed at that time.

The hope of ages, Jesus Christ our Savior, is the hope for each and every soul, all down through the ages of time, from Adam's day until now and forever. Not just for the time that Jesus was on the earth, nor just for these latter days, when He has Restored the fullness of His gospel, and set up His Church again as He set it up when He was here, but for all time and for all people, from every place below the skies. All people are His creation, and He came and died to save all, if, they will come unto Him, and call upon His Name, repenting of every sin, for He cannot save us in our sins. We must repent and turn away from sinning, for He has already died for the sins of the whole world and has promised to forgive our sins when we repent and give our lives to Him.

Yes, Jesus is Mighty to Save! He alone can bring us Salvation! by His spilled blood which was spilled for us when He died upon that Old Rugged Cross, the Cross of Calvary!

He has prepared the gift of Eternal Life by the shedding of His own Blood, and this gift of eternal life is for each and everyone whom He has created and put upon this earth, if, we will come unto Him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, repenting of all our sins, and accept this most precious gift, ETERNAL LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST! FOREVER AND EVER! AMEN AND AMEN.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,
Stella Winegar

Dear Z. A.,

You are dear to me, you know; I feel like a relative, having lived and worked in your "household" for a few years, a short while back. Oh, yes, I **do** read you! I read you in both senses of that clever little double-entendre. Your entire letter, indeed, shows a wonderful spirit and a talent for words almost unsuspected.

I've just finished reading your monthly effort, also the epistles from a couple of daughters of yours: Hand of Fellowship and Plain and Precious Things. They show undeniable evidences of your good influence, as well as some very fine traits of their own.

Don't feel badly about your age; your useful life shows in every line of your face. And furthermore, you're beautiful to all of us; your "plainness" has a lovely simplicity. I am made sad to hear of your ailment, the dreadful "lookemia". I have heard of a wonderful cure, however, called combined prayer. I am enclosing a very small portion of black corpuscles in this letter. I am praying that others will be able to do the same.

I enjoyed the article "I am Grateful", but wish to add a postscript.

"I am grateful that people very dear to me and to all of their church family have made such a sustained effort through the years to keep our mutual friend "Zion's Advocate" alive. I am grateful for the many times that I have opened its pages and come to words that have answered special needs at the moment. I am grateful to these people, their prayers, and the dear Father who created us all and hears these prayers. I am grateful."

Donna Moser

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

By A. Janicke

I studied mainly from the King James Bible for forty years. I became firmly convinced that every one of the Ten Commandments was repeated in the New Testament for Christian observance, except the command to observe the Sabbath. However, I was in for the shock of my life when I read Hebrews 4:9 in other selective versions.

In the 1901 American Standard Version, I read: "There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God." But the clincher appears in the Sacred Name Version, as follows: "There remaineth therefore the keeping of the Sabbath to the people of Elohim."

After finding the above Scriptural reference, I realized that a study of the Greek was in order. According to Mark 15:42, Jesus was crucified on Friday, the day previous to the Jewish Sabbath. His body was in the tomb throughout the Jewish Sabbath, and He arose on the newly established Christian Sabbath. This was apparent from Matthew 28:1 which translated from the Greek reads: "Now after the Sabbath to the dawn-

ing of the First Sabbath came Mary Magdalene . . ." The word "first" in the Greek is MIAN used seven times in the New Testament with the word SABBATON, the Greek word for Sabbath. (In this verse the word DAY in the King James version is in italics, indicating an uncertainty of its use. However, it is the same word as SABBATON translated Sabbath in the first part of the verse.) Thus we find a termination of the Old Jewish Sabbath after the resurrection of Christ and an establishment of the new Christian Sabbath on the first day of the week.

God has been honoring the first Sabbath (Sunday) for over 1900 years, and He continues to do so. According to Colossians 2:14-17, the old seventh day Sabbath was taken out of the way.

In conclusion, read Ezekiel 43:7 pointing forward to when the eighth day (or first Sabbath, Sunday) would be the acceptable day. Thus the seventh day Sabbath, the day of sacrifice, was changed to the eighth day or Sunday, pointing to the acceptable day.

Mini-Lightings

"Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel."

Is there not a metaphor to be found of what God will do for His people, in the example of the pattern of existence He has given the worm? A worm as a worm may have no perception whatever of the future that awaits it, may know nothing of the creature it will become, the beauty of the life to be, nor of the freedom it will have from being earth-bound. It lives out its life as a worm, spins its shroud and enters its night of transition. When the time of awakening comes it emerges from its tomb not as the worm that was interred there, but as a creature of winged and delicate beauty. The worm must die that the butterfly might be. It all seems so simple and without travail, but what do we know of the feelings of a worm as it enters its dark encasement, or of the struggles of the emerging butterfly?

This has often been used as simile of life, death and the resurrection; but I see a more subtle parable, that of the death of the carnal self that the "new man" of scripture might become. Within each of us earth-bound humans there is a beautiful being which God created in His image to be set free to live in His likeness. Believing this to be true, we should begin now to identify ourselves, our true self as the yet unborn, ungrown angel within us, living accordingly in the spirit of that beauty and freedom promised to those who are ransomed by the blood of Christ; and who knows but that we may find that death isn't, after all, the only door to transition, and to participation in Eternal Life. Maybe we can right here change from worms to butterflies, and death become simply a winging across an unmarked boundary.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

The powerful operations of God's Spirit, quickening or reviving the heart toward Him, are compared to the blowing of the wind. We don't know where it comes from or where it goes, and with all our knowledge and power, we can not restrain it. So is the spiritual change wrought in our souls - freely, where, in whom, when and in what measure the Spirit pleases, and so powerfully as to make an evident change, though the manner be incomprehensible.

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

There was a time in our lives, about seven years ago, when we were going through very severe trials. We had been praying about them continuously, but there had been no solution to them.

One night after everyone had retired for the night, I lay awake still talking to the Lord and "human-like" going over the problems searching for a solution I might have over-looked. There was none! I cried out in anguish to the Lord, admitting my defeat and my

nothingness and begging for His help.

There was a sudden sound, as a great rushing wind, came into our bedroom, filling it with such a feeling of POWER! ALMIGHTY, limitless power! I heard no words spoken, I saw no vision, but the **knowledge** that the Lord knew of our problems and was taking care of them, was put into my mind. With that knowledge came a great peace.

I never doubted, fretted nor lost that sense of peace after this experience. But looked instead with anticipation and wonder at how He was going to accomplish this miracle. The Lord opened doors that were not even there before, He showed us answers and solutions that were impossible before and the problems which were unsolvable, were solved - simply and quickly - by His power which came to me one night as a great rushing wind.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:2)

Submitted by
Velma J. Wheaton

THANK YOU, LORD

Almost thirty years ago a loving wife and mother of two daughters was expecting her third child. She wrote a poem praying to the Lord that she could give her husband a son.

The Lord blessed this lady for she bore a son. The father beamed with pride as he had for his daughters. Now he had a son to carry on the family name. This was not to be the only son of this union. God blessed them with four more.

With seven children they raised a family, not that the mere appearance of children make a family. It takes love, understanding and the presence of God in the home. Truly this is the family.

Thank you, Lord, for the parents I have. My father and mother beamed at my birth with the pride they had for me. With my travels with the Air Force, I've met many people from varied backgrounds, and heard many stories of other's families, some good and some terrible. In this I have been blessed with great parents. I'm very proud of them. They know who they are.

Lord thank you,
A loving son.

THE FEELING OF GOD

The feeling of God fills you in a funny kind of way. It lifts you off your feet when you feel there's nothing left. It make you happy and gay.

It shows a different person to other people that "thought they knew you," but now they seem to see a difference.

It makes you happy when you thought yourself sad. And it ALWAYS puts a SMILE on your face, then you want to sing . . . and you usually do.

When you're alone and lonely, He always makes you see, "there's somebody out there that needs YOU," so you search, and find there really is.

It's like the title of a movie that came out, except it's God that will . . . "Turn You Every Way But Loose," not Clint Eastwood.

Robin Cox

HELPING EACH OTHER

March, 1980

The Lord has recently reminded me of a blessing I sometimes take for granted. I'd like to share this with you in hopes that you too will be blessed, as I was.

Our last church outing was to the roller rink. There were quite a number in attendance, ranging in age from 4 to 74. Roller skating was something I had never attempted before and as I put on skates and tried to stand up, I knew why! I was so scared, I clung to the rail for dear life. I watched as others skated without a care or worry. I wanted to join the other skaters but I just couldn't. Then two teenage boys in our group decided I must skate. With one on one side of me and one on the other, I got the courage to leave the rail. If someone hadn't offered their support, I would never have tried it alone. As we went around the rink others in our group would pass with a smile, a wink, or a pat on my shoulder. Coming around the last corner and approaching the rail, I was cheered on by some very special people.

Now the occasion is past but I keep going back to it in my mind. There was something more significant than skating going on in the roller rink that night. The Lord used those events to remind me that I'm surrounded by people who love me and want me to make it; not only around the rink but into God's kingdom. They want me to make it so much they'll support me when I'm weak or inexperienced. They're not embarrassed or annoyed by my faltering but willing to reach out and share their strength and experience with me.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the love You give to us and for the "specialness" of the brotherhood of Your Son. Thanks for daily reminders of Your blessings. Help us to reach out with Your strength to those who are weak. Continue to bless us all as we seek to follow after Your ways.

In Jesus name, Amen.
Jackie Lacy

TESTIMONY

On the wall in our hallway is a very tiny plaque. It bears the imprint of a thumb along with the words, He touched me. His touch has added a whole new dimension to my life. He has given my life quality, a degree of value. Since I've met Him I've found the reason for my being . . . Him!

Religion has been a part of my life from the time of my birth. Many religions, in fact, all lacking that personal relationship between me and the Lord. What a wonderful change in my life since I let Jesus come into my heart; If it keeps getting better and better, oh Lord, I don't know what I'm gonna do!

Karin Malone

Dear Brothers and Sisters
in the Church of Christ,

We are approaching the eleventh hour! The deadline for sending in your testimonies is right around the corner.

We talk about the importance of keeping a history of our people. What greater history can there be than a spiritual biography of God's blessings to us?

We stand in awe of the spiritual revelations and visions given and feel insignificant beside them. Allow me to make a comparison. The revelations and visions are as bricks in our spiritual house. Our day to day experiences with the Lord exemplify the mortar that holds those bricks together. Either would be weak without the other. Let's build a testimonial together. Lay members and priesthood alike, I encourage you to participate in this project.

God bless you.
Let me hear about it

Karin Malone
18840 North 30th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

COLORADO REUNION NOTICE

Please set aside the weekend of June 13, 14 and 15, 1980 to attend the Colorado Reunion. It will be held at the Orchard Mesa Local Church, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

If you should choose to come this year by public transportation, let us know your time of arrival so we can arrange to pick you up. We have no local buses, and we live several miles from Grand Junction.

The cost of a phone call to us is minimal, and we certainly would appreciate to know you are coming, so we can plan for your housing and food supplies.

John E. Bell, Pastor
572 - 34 Road
Clifton, CO 81520 303-434-7100

Marvin E. Ely
236 - 32 Road 303-434-8149
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Ron W. Church
497 - 30 3/4 Road 303-434-5846
Grand Junction, CO 81501

We welcome all who will be able to come and worship with us.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

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
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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
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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
Apostacy 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
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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

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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)	N/C
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)	