

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

Independence, Missouri, July, 1980

No. 7

"The Land Shadowing With Wings"

"Woe to the land shadowing with wings,"
When its freedom man no longer sings;
God has decreed concerning this land;
His promises will forever stand.

Those who possess it shall remain free
If they obey His holy decree;
O, ye Gentiles, repent of your sins;
Your day is ending; God's wrath begins.

If you continue your sinful ways,
God's wrath you'll see before many days;
The fullness of your iniquity
Will bring His vengeance in full degree.

God has granted you sufficient grace
That you might behold the blessed face
Of He who is the God of this land,
And His gospel you might understand.

Now, humble yourselves before the Lord;
A further delay you can't afford;
Seek the Father in Jesus Christ's name;
His promises to you are the same.

Roland Sarratt

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Zion's Advocate

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Editorial . . .

"SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY"

"My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride, From every mountain side, Let freedom ring!"

This month of July, we have a great many things to be thankful for. Besides the warm weather and the bright sunshine, this is the time to think and give thanks for this great land of ours.

July 4, 1776 was the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted for this great land of ours. That was 204 years ago and our freedom is still going strong.

It may not seem that important or vital, but we have many freedoms that other countries have never heard of. One of our most important freedoms is religion. We have the right to choose who we worship, where we worship, when we worship, and how. We, as Christians, should cherish this freedom!

The Book of Mormon tells of the people of the land of Mosiah and how they set up a democracy.

King Mosiah speaking:

"But I desire that this land be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike, so long as the Lord sees fit, that we may live and inherit the land; Yea, even as long as any of our posterity remain upon the face of the land (Mosiah 13:45-6)

King Mosiah could have been talking back in 1776. Let's pray that posterity always remains on the face of this land, along with the guiding hand of the Lord!

B. L. F.

NOTICE

We regret that the cost of printing and mailing "Zion's Advocate" has increased so much we must raise the price for non members to \$4.00 per year, and Canadian and all foreign rates to \$4.50 per year.

While there is no charge for members, we urgently request you support the Advocate with special offerings.

We still send a six month complimentary subscription for missionary purposes and to the Libraries on request without charge.

Thank you,
C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr.
Business Manager of
Zion's Advocate

WHERE SHALL I WORK?

Father, where shall I work today?

And my blood flowed warm and free.
Then He pointed me out a humble spot,
And said, "Tend that for me."

I answered quickly, "Oh, no, not that,
Why no one would ever see

No matter how well my work was done,
Not that little place for me."

And the word He spoke, it was not stern,
He answered me tenderly,

"Ah! little one, search that heart of thine,
Art thou working for them or me.

Nazareth was a little place
And so was Galilee."

NEIGHBORS - GOD'S CHILDREN

Robert H. Jensen
General Church Historian

Neighbors have graced this earth's geography for a long time. Though they probably first existed when Adam and Eve's children left their parents to form their own families, the first Scriptural mention of neighbors was about the year 1571 BC (Exodus 3:22). The first general commandment concerning neighbors was given by God about the year 1491 BC (Exodus 20:16-17).

The following article first appeared in the "Minneapolis Branch Church of Christ Reporter":

At the 1979 Tri-State Reunion sponsored by the Minneapolis, Minnesota Local Church, the subject of neighbors was discussed. This article is in response to the Editor's request from the Local's periodic newsletter for some written comments in reference to the subject. The limited space can only accommodate a brief coverage.

While the present-day application of the term "neighbor" is usually in reference to someone living nearby, the Lord's definition is not necessarily limited to geographical bounds.

The importance placed upon our relationship with those who may be our neighbors, is akin to the greatest of all relationships. Jesus said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matt. 22:37-38) From that statement, we understand that the first priorities for our conduct are set for us in the Gospel of Christ.

Continuing with Jesus' words: And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Mat. 22:29) The commandment to love our neighbor is so close to the commandment to love God, that it is truly "like unto it."

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22:40) The conceptual grandeur is so majestic as to require our total devotion to the keeping of these two commandments, so shortly and so simply stated.

It has been revealed through divine revelation that: ". . . God is love . . ." (I John 4:16) If, then, our Heavenly Father is love in character, how great the need that His earthly children strive to be filled with that same divinely instituted quality of life.

A Scriptural question is asked of each of us which requires an earnest search of our soul: "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." (I John 4:20-21) When we consider the fact that: "We love Him (God), because

He first loved us." (I John 4:19); we must demonstrate our ability and willingness to love God through keeping His commandments and loving His earthly children who are our neighbors.

Within the context of the Scriptures, it appears that a neighbor could possibly be anyone with whom we come in contact. When we come in contact with anyone and have anything to do with him, though he be a total stranger at the time, he becomes our neighbor. If we avoid an opportunity to do good to him, then we have refused to be a neighbor to him. This understanding is illustrated to us by the story related by Jesus concerning the good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

Considering again the second commandment, what is the love we are to have for **ourselves**? Is it a love for our physical features of beauty, handsomeness, strength, grace, knowledge, or skills? No - far from it. There have appeared but seemingly few persons who reflect on what specific love is which we are commanded to have for ourselves. The pure love we are to have for ourselves, is a love for that life which God has given us - the divine gift of life itself, a spiritual life that shall never cease through obedience to the Great Creator of all mankind. If we love God, we then must have a love for that divine gift of life which He has given us. If we have a love for the gift given us, then we must also have a love for the very same gift given to all. It requires a great effort oft-times to look beyond the deeds a person performs in their life and into their soul - it being a creature of God from His divine work.

It is, of course, possible for a person to separate himself from God through disobedience even after once having come unto Him. It is likewise possible for some to have never come unto God by reason of remaining under the fall of sin and never having complied with the Gospel commandments.

To those who have entered into that everlasting covenant through the waters of baptism, we then are a neighbor. To those who have not yet entered, we must strive to be a neighbor. (Some may not allow us to be a neighbor to them because of their rejection of offered assistance or teaching.) To become a neighbor to those who have not entered into a sacred covenant with God, we must stand as a witness of that truth which He caused to be preached through His Only Begotten Son and all the prophets of former millenia.

It is often spoken in these "latter days" of the Gospel of Christ, that the Church should be missionary in function. It is the privilege and responsibility of each and every one of us to be "missionary" in our activities - to be a "neighbor". To be missionary in activity is to reach out to others with the story of the Gospel, hereby standing as a witness of the divine truth.

Missionary work can more often be accomplished by reaching out to one's nearest neighbors. Missionary work can also be accomplished by a local church or by a group of members not yet organized into a local church. When an organized group desires to be missionary in effort, it is always advisable for them to coordinate their efforts with their Pastor. In other instances, individuals should endeavor to coordinate their efforts with others in the same local and the missionary-in-charge. There may also be instances where just an individual personal contact with a person is considered advisable for a period of time, before bringing them into an acquaintance with other members of a local church; no two contacts will be identical.

To be effective in a missionary endeavor, there are certain requirements. First of all: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15). The Lord, Himself, said "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39). Also: "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbor hath put thee to shame." (Proverbs 25:8) In this particular instance, we would make the application of striving for the truth.

As in the Lord's mortal life, there is an extreme urgency for us to make the most of each day wherein possibilities may lie: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 5:4) Alma also instructed his people on this wise: "Therefore this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state, which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead." (Alma 9:41) We are amply warned against not laboring with the effort and opportunity given us: "But wo unto him that has the law given; yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth* the days of his probation; for awful is his state!" (II Nephi 6:56)

When propounding the divine truth of the Almighty God, be very particular to put first things first. Remember, no one can believe in God unless they DESIRE to believe in Him. It is His "security system." He will prevent the truth from being manifested to any person's understanding if they do not approach Him with a totally honest and sincere heart. Following the requirement to first believe in God and His Only Begotten Son (faith), the beginning of the Lord's message to the world was: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17) He told His disciples: "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-47) Then, following repentance

comes baptism, the laying on of hands by the ministry for the gift of the Holy Ghost, and belief in the resurrection and the eternal judgment.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews, gave instruction that people in the beginning must be taught the basics of faith and repentance and baptism first (which he likens to "milk"), then weightier things of the Gospel (which he likens to "meat"). (Heb. 5:-) I have observed the people being taught when the teacher was so eager to share everything with the learner all at once, that it totally swamped the learner's ship of understanding. As a result, the learner unfortunately was not able to tread the deep waters of divine knowledge, and turned away in fright or disbelief, being washed back to the shores of the tangible, polluted and shifting sands of humanity, afraid to embark and sail out through the waters of baptism and upon the sea of knowledge and truth and understanding.

What then, might be an appropriate sequence of teaching? Here is a suggestion:

Belief in God.

Belief in Christ, the Only Begotten Son.

Belief in the Holy Ghost.

Acceptance of the Bible as the divinely inspired word of God.

The Gospel of Christ.

The Church that Christ built (Matt. 16:18), its prophesied falling away into apostacy, and its restoration in the latter-times.

The Book of Mormon (Ezek. 37:15-20, with its history of the ancient inhabitants of the America's, and its conveying of the Gospel of Christ in its purity and entirety through a direct translation from the original language of recording.

Individual circumstances of a contact may suggest a revision of the above listing of sequence.

The continuing example for our endeavor seems to be clearly set forth in the manner in which the Apostles of the Lord continued in their ministry following His ascension: "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, **and in every house***, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." (Matt. 5:41-42) To "preach Jesus" is to tell of His existence, His divine commission from God the Father, and His Gospel given Him by the Father.

Paul records in particular his labor as this: "And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the laying in wait of the Jews; and how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, **and from house to house***, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the

Greek, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:18-21)

While the Scriptural examples given directly reference the work of the ministry they furnish a pattern for all in being a neighbor unto all who will accept of our neighborliness.

Before anyone undertakes anything, one of the greatest admonitions of all time must be followed: "But behold I say unto you, that ye must pray always,

and not faint; that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul." (II Nephi 14:12; also see Alma 17:67-70) Without heeding that wisdom, a mortal shall surely fail to accomplish a full measure of service before the Lord.

(Underscoring added for emphasis - rj)

LETTERS OF OLIVER COWDERY

NO. 3

First published in the "Messenger and Advocate"
1834-1835

TO: W. W. Phelps: Dear Brother:

After a silence of another month, agreeably to my promise, I proceed upon the subject I proposed in the first number of the "Advocate." Perhaps an apology for brevity may not be improper here, as many important incidents consequently transpiring in the organization and establishing of a society like the one whose history I am about to give to the world, are overlooked or lost, and soon buried with those who were the actors, will prevent my giving those minute and particular reflections which I have so often wished might have characterized the "Acts of the apostles," and the ancient saints.

Upon the propriety, then, of a narrative of this kind, I have briefly to remark: It is known to you, that this church has suffered reproach and persecution, from a majority of mankind who have heard but a rumor, since its first organization. And further, you are also conversant with the fact, that no sooner had the messengers of the gospel began to proclaim its heavenly precepts and call upon men to embrace the same, than they were villified and slandered by thousands who never saw their faces, and much less knew aught derogatory of their characters — moral or religious.

Since then, our opposers have been thus kind to introduce our cause before the public, it is no more than just that a correct account should be given; and since they have invariably sought to cast a shade over the truth, and hinder its influence from gaining ascendancy, it is also proper that it should be vindicated, by laying before the world a correct statement of events as they have transpired from time to time.

You will recollect that I informed you, in my letter published in the first number of the "Messenger and Advocate" that this history would necessarily embrace the life and character of our esteemed friend and brother, Joseph Smith, Jun., one of the presidents of this church, and for further information on that part of the subject, I refer you to his communication of the same, published in this paper. I shall therefore

pass over that till I come to the fifteenth (seventeenth) year of his life.

It is necessary to premise this account by relating the situation of the public mind relative to religion, at this time. One Mr. Lane, a presiding Elder of the Methodist church, visited Palmyra and vicinity. There was a great awakening, or excitement raised on the subject of religion, and much enquiry for the word of life. Large additions were made to the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches, Mr. Lane's manner of communication was peculiarly calculated to awaken the intellect of the hearer, and arouse the sinner to look about him for safety — much good instruction was always drawn from his discourses on the scriptures, and in common with others, our brother's mind became awakened.

For a length of time, the reformation seemed to move in a harmonious manner; but, as the excitement ceased, or those who had expressed anxieties, had professed a belief in the pardoning influence and condescension of the Savior, a general struggle was made by the leading characters of the different sects, for proselytes. The strife seemed to take the place of that apparent union and harmony which had previously characterized the moves and exhortations of the old professors, and a cry: I am right, You are wrong, was introduced in their stead.

In this general strife for followers, his mother, one sister and two of his natural brothers, were persuaded to unite with the Presbyterians.

After strong solicitations to unite with one of those different societies, and seeing the apparent proselyting disposition manifested with equal warmth from each his mind was led to more seriously contemplate the importance of a move of this kind. To profess godliness without its benign-influence upon the heart, was a thing so foreign from his feelings, that his spirit was not at rest day nor night. To unite with a society professing to be built upon the only sure foundation, and that profession be a vain one, was calculated, in its very nature, the more it was contemplated, the more to arouse the mind to the serious consequences of moving hastily in a course fraught with eternal realities.

To say he was right, and still be wrong, could not profit; and amid so many, some must be built upon the sand.

In this situation where could he go? If he went to one he was told they were right and all others were wrong. If to another, the same was heard from them. All professed to be the true church.

If one professed a degree of authority or preference in consequence of age or right, and that superiority was without evidence, it was insufficient to convince a mind once aroused to that degree of determination which at that time operated upon him. And upon further reflecting, that the Savior had said

that the gate was straight and the way narrow that lead to life eternal, and that few entered there; and that the way was broad, and the gate wide which lead to destruction, and that many crowded its current, a proof from some source was wanting to settle the mind and give peace to the agitated bosom. It is not frequent that the minds of men are exercised with proper determination relative to obtaining a certainty of the things of God. They are too apt to rest short of that assurance which the Lord Jesus has so freely offered in his word to man, and which so beautifully characterizes his whole plan of salvation, as revealed to us.

OLIVER COWDERY

TO SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Once more we are called by the special nature of the lesson before us to examine what was to be the kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God. That such a thing was to come to pass is not a secret to the earnest student of the Bible, and it was made clear to the disciples by our Lord that it was "at hand." In another reference it was "not of this world," and yet again it was said to be "within you."

It is then apparent that it was of a spiritual nature and would be visible to the discerning and thoughtful person. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus made this clearly understood to be the primary goal of every believer. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33)

Again we need to remind ourselves that every kingdom will have a king, a supreme ruler and law-giver. There must be an area to rule, a defined place of existing territory. Any such government must have a people to populate the kingdom. In order that the kingdom shall function, it follows that a law or set of laws will be a guide to the behavior of such people within the jurisdiction of the king. We always find a delegation of authority to the officers of the king to see that the laws are taught and kept; this is reasonable and proper.

Of the five elements of a kingdom, how many of them can you identify as part of the kingdom of God? Who is the king? Where are the laws? Where is the domain or area of rule? Whom do you think are the people who are to be part of this kingdom? How did Jesus expect the people to find the kingdom? Who were the officers who had authority to represent the king? Did they have specified duties? Were they called by special identifying names? How were they appointed, elected or chosen?

Many questions come crowding into our minds as we contemplate the problem of doing what Jesus said we should do "first." Now we are challenged to find the true answer, because all else becomes part of what will be added to us as we have need. That these considerations are of everlasting importance we can see by the story told in the book of Daniel.

In about 604 B. C. we find a great king named Nebuchadnezzar taking the throne of a fabulous land. Babylon was to become one of the richest and most dazzling kingdoms ever to exist on the earth. It was an example of wealth and power that kings and kingdoms have compared with since it existed, but it was so utterly wiped from the earth that the exact site of Babylon is no known to this day. There are mounds of old ruins that cannot be clearly identified, which are thought to be located on both sides of the Euphrates River.

It will be interesting to read the account of this great king and what happened to him. Daniel was a young man who was among the captives of his people now in the hands of this man, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Daniel was far from his home in what we now call Palestine. He was close to his God in spite of this, since he was a man of prayer and of great faith. The story is most interesting because it points to the time of the end, even our time, for its fulfillment of a great promise in regard to the kingdom of God.

It is too lengthy to quote here and I hope that this letter will arouse your curiosity to read the story for yourselves. It is found in the book of Daniel, chapter two. Read the whole chapter and then re-read it as you underline verses 33, 34, 35, and also verses 44 and 45.

God is not to be mocked or have the scriptures lightly set aside. He will perform that which He has declared is to be done. May God bless each with a desire to so live and honor our Lord that we may have a part in the greatest government that will ever be, and that we will be blessed to have as our King, Jesus the Christ forever and ever.

God bless each one and may it be pleasing to Him that we shall seek Him early for the "end time" is here and fast will come God's judgment upon a wicked world. It is time to repent and humble ourselves before Him and seek forgiveness of our sins.

Your brother in Christ,
Elder Arthur G. Smith

A VISIT TO THE VALLEY

As I go about my daily routine in my Oklahoma home, I look back with fond memories of my brief visit with my church friends in "The Valley." When you can spend two days with people you have never seen before and feel as if you have always known them, that is a very nice experience. When you see friends you haven't seen in years, that is just wonderful. When you sense the great love all these people have for each other, for me, and the rest of mankind, it is just a little bit of "heaven on earth."

In my teaching, I attend an out-of-state conference each year and this year it happened to be held in Phoenix. I was joyous indeed when I learned I'd finally get to go to Phoenix. I decided I'd go on Friday night so I could spend the week end with church folk.

When I began my journey, I knew I would have to trust in the Lord for his help and guidance, but little did I know how soon I would ask the Lord to help me. I arrived at the airport to learn that my reservations, which were made a month ago, were not updated when the flight had been terminated. At 8 o'clock at night, there were no direct flights to Phoenix. While the agent punched the computer and frowned at its response, I prayed. I tried hard to trust the Lord, and I just knew I would get to Phoenix on Friday night so I could spend Saturday with Bonnie (Sanders) and Jackie (Lacy). While the computer was "spinning out" the information we needed to know, my husband, Harold, was trying to persuade me to take a Saturday morning flight, but I said no for I still believed I'd get to Phoenix on Friday night. Finally, it was possible to go by the way of Albuquerque with a transfer to Eastern Airlines to be done in twenty minutes. I said, "I can do it!" So, all the way to Albuquerque I tried hard to keep up my trust and faith. I knew I would need to have more than twenty minutes. Our plane landed on time. In about 3 or 4 minutes, I had directions to the proper boarding gate. I didn't know how far I had so I walked as fast as I could. I met a kind man who surmised my dilemma and said, "You have plenty of time." Later I learned the plane had been late. I scurried on the plane, sat down with a sigh, and told the Lord "thank you."

Saturday was a beautiful day — both the weather and the companionship. My sisters Bonnie and Jackie were so nice, thoughtful, and interesting. Even though we had never seen each other before, it didn't seem to matter. Bonnie picked me up at the hotel and neither of us had remembered to describe ourselves to each other. When the appointed hour came, I saw this attractive lady and I asked, "Are you Bonnie?" Her eyes were shining and smiling when she replied, "Yes, are you Alzada?" So began an interesting day of sight seeing in beautiful sprawling Phoenix.

When I read names of our Phoenix people in our church paper, they will not only be names now, but faces, too! Now, when I pray for little Darin, I will remember a little boy who needs all our prayers. Now, when I think of the Church of Christ in Phoenix, I will see a beautiful little church and the homes of our brothers and sisters nearby. I will fondly remember the pretty and attractive home of Clem and Evalena Sills and my brief visit with them. But, most of all, I'll remember the church services on Sunday.

It seemed to me that most all of us spoke and answered prayers and how the Holy Spirit has brought comfort in time of great need. For me, two of the most touching testimonies were given by our sisters Evalena and Ruth. With all their years, we all feel they have had many opportunities to rejoice and to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. Evalena told of never feeling alone in her home since she has had to live without her husband. The knowledge of a presence there is so strong, she feels she wishes to speak. Her "cross" has been easier and she has more courage and strength because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the greatest blessing that any human can have.

Ruth (Willard) expressed, with a convincing voice, the power of prayer. She believes prayer to be stronger than any king's army. She proclaimed to us and she'd like to proclaim to the world, that many, many of her prayers have been answered.

Apostle Don McIndoo told about one of our Elders in Yucatan and of how he was dragged through the streets by the hair of the head when he was a young man. He urged us to especially remember this fine man as well as all the other church folk in Yucatan.

There were other inspirational and touching prayers and testimonies all of which were preceded by serving the sacrament, one of the most beautiful and touching of all the church ordinances.

We all enjoyed eating Sunday dinner together in the kitchen/dining room at which time we got caught up with our visiting. After this, for those who could stay, we had Book of Mormon study. Before evening services began, the snacks were brought out.

Brother Jay Moser was the speaker at the evening service. The core of his sermon was "follow the priesthood." God has called these men so they should have more insight and knowledge. Brother Jay is young, talented, and dedicated. We shall be hearing more about him as the years go by. There are "a bunch" of fine young men in this local. It warms your heart to see such a youthful congregation.

My day ended too quickly. I shall always cherish my beautiful memories of Phoenix. Perhaps I can go again someday.

Alzada Massey

WAIT UPON THE LORD

by Verda Malone

Seems for years I have prayed for patience. But I really haven't been patient about it. You remember the old adage: "Lord give me patience and give me it right now!" Well, patience is something I had to learn and earn. And if I pray for it, I am just asking for trials. For trials make us strong, and patience is a real strength.

When we first moved to our mountain home, I knew things would change. One thing I really didn't want to change did change. I had a favorite radio station. It was a very low key religious station. There was very pretty music almost continually, and so many really good teachers and commentators. The thing that was most important was the peace and quiet it gave me. And also I can't discount the fact that it kept me close to God. In our new home I couldn't get the station.

You know for two years it has really bothered me. After awhile, I gave up even trying to zero in on it because I would get so frustrated when it wasn't clear.

Last week I was listening to the station in my car and they announced that they had just built a transmitting tower that was the tallest in Colorado. Then it dawned on me that I was almost home and still receiving it on my car radio. When I got home, I ran into the house and tried it on my stereo. It came in clear as a bell.

Every spring the station took pledges for the running and improving of the facilities. The Western Bible Institute uses it as a training program for Christian disc jockeys. There are no commercial messages because they rely strictly on donations from the listeners. And the only time they ask for donations is during this one week in the spring.

Each year I told myself that for the amount of enjoyment I derived, I should contribute. But I let it slip by without even giving them a measley dollar.

This station was taken away from me for two years and those two years held a lot of misery for me. I lacked the peace and soothing spirit that meant so much to my daily activities.

To make a long story a little shorter, I waited for the Lord and prayed for two years and now I appreciate this blessing so much more than I could tell you.

I praise the Lord that He saw fit to enable me to get that station at my home, that even though I was so selfish about contributing to the station, He blessed me anyway.

I realize now that to appreciate something you may have to lose it for awhile. And if I have patience with the Lord, He'll do what's best, even if it's not right away. After all, He knows best.

P. S. I'm sending my contribution this spring for sure! !

A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Many of you already know the story of my "Miracle Child" because you were actively involved in this miracle through your prayers. But I want to re-tell it for you a year later in praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father.

My son, Marshall, was very seriously injured in a motorcycle accident on June 6, 1979, in Gillette, Wyo. where he had been living and working for several months. He sustained a severe head injury and his fiancée, Echo, was told by the emergency room doctor in Gillette that he didn't expect Marshall to live through the night. He was flown immediately to Casper, Wyo. where the hospital has most of the latest equipment to care for these types of injuries.

I flew to Casper from my home in Columbia Falls, Montana the following day and began what turned out to be a very long stay. My uncle, Apostle Robert Jensen, came to administer to Marshall the following day. For several days Marshall just held his own and then there was some improvement, then a couple of times he suffered a setback. He was in the Intensive Care unit for 17 days. Echo was with me the entire time, and I spent as much time as we were allowed with Marshall talking to him, giving him messages of love and hope from family and friends, and reminding him of Jesus' love; even though he didn't respond except an occasional squeeze of the hand.

I can not even begin to put into adequate words my thanks to the many people for their letters, phone calls, and financial support which we received during this time and continuing throughout Marshall's recovery. And for many, many prayer groups of every church denomination and the many individuals all over this country who prayed on Marshall's behalf, I can only say, "Praise the Lord."

Finally Marshall was moved to a ward in the neurological wing and it was here that he fully regained consciousness and started getting some physical therapy. Echo and I could spend the entire day with him and the others in the ward who were also ill.

The doctors and nurses, and aids who cared for Marshall were wonderful, but they could only give him those things his body needed for nutrition and comfort and exercise while we waited on the Lord to heal him. These wonderful people always talked to him and told him what they were doing and why even when he couldn't respond and didn't seem to know they were there.

I was able to make arrangements to bring Marshall home by plane on the 24th of July where he was in the hospital for an additional 2½ weeks. It was during this time that he began talking and his Doctor here really pushed the re-habilitation. In the many, many weeks to follow, Marshall had to learn to do **everything** all over again; had, in fact, to grow up again.

Marshall went back to Gillette to go to work on April 8, 1980. He will be 21 years old in October. Truly, anyone who was around him these last months can see the miracle that our Heavenly Father worked. No matter what the future holds for Marshall, he was given life for a second time, and as I've told him, "The Lord must have something special planned for you, and you could do nothing better with your life than to find out what that is." For that matter, could any of us?

Evelyn York

AN OKLAHOMA MOTHER'S DAY

As we drove along Interstate 40 on our way to Oklahoma City, I thanked the Lord for my beautiful family and the joy that comes with motherhood. I know that my son and daughter love and appreciate me and that brings untold joy to a mother's heart. I know, too, that my mother knows I love her and appreciate her. Earlier, we had had a short visit on the telephone. Even though we were miles apart, it didn't seem to make any difference for we both knew we were loved. This will be a glorious Mother's Day.

When we arrived at Laura Mae and M. G.'s house, the living room was full of people ready to worship together. This Mother's Day had brought together six different families. We had come from Wichita, Kansas, from Independence, from Norman, Shawnee, and from Weatherford. How blessed we were to be able to worship together, I doubt if you who have a regular place to worship can comprehend just how happy we are to meet together. After twenty-six years in Oklahoma, I now have a place to worship once a month after driving about three hours (round-trip). I say these things to encourage others in isolation. Oh yes, I say them to those of you who have a church home because I know how easy it is to not fully appreciate and be thankful for what is so easily available.

Another special reason for me being especially happy this beautiful Mother's Day is that my daughter, Marilyn, went with me. This was the first time she had gone to church with me at these monthly meetings. She hadn't seen Laura Mae since she was a little girl. She hadn't seen Benny for about 4 years. They enjoyed getting reacquainted. Then, too, she enjoyed making new friendships, especially with June Sarratt. June remembered her when she was a preschooler with bad church manners.

The spirit of love that prevailed in our church services on this special sabbath day warmed our hearts and souls. It was an especially good worship service. Each time we meet together, the services seem to be more spiritually enjoyable. Elder Benny Case, from Wichita and Elder Roland Sarratt from Independence, were in charge of our worship service. Brother Benny opened the meeting with some very good thoughts, one of which was: We must be strong and have faith so

we will be able to "stand up and be counted." He went on to say, "I was so lucky to be born with a mother like my mom!"

Our sacrament service was a very meaningful experience. The prayers for the bread and wine are just beautiful and I, and others, never cease to be touched and humbled. During the prayer and testimony part of our service, the thoughts seemed mostly about prayers that had been answered, love, trust, and other gospel truths. Various names were presented to the Lord for a special blessing. We all realized, once again, that there is so much help needed for so many and it goes far beyond the help of man. We must depend on God's help and His blessings.

Brother Roland Sarratt continued the service by reading and expounding on the 55th chapter of Isaiah. He reminded us that the world has nothing to offer in comparison to what our Lord has to offer. He went on to counsel us with statements such as this: "Allow the spirit to guide you and help you. Recognize and give true respect to God. When we pray for guidance, we are the one who has to make the decision for the Lord won't make it for us. But, He will bless us as we make the decision. He wants us to prove ourselves to Him and this becomes spiritual growth. Recognize truth and rejoice. Pray for the honest in heart. He delights in that we have asked an interest in our prayers for those mentioned here today." The service closed with a beautiful hymn.

We finished our worship with a table blessing for the Sunday dinner waiting for us in the dining room. Sharing a meal together is very good indeed. We all enjoy Sunday dinners, but most of all we enjoy each other.

As we left to return to our homes, we are looking forward to our second Sunday in June. We are already making some tentative plans to attend Missouri Reunion. Some plan to go to the Colorado Reunion. Mention was made of plans to go to the Phoenix Reunion, so you see, we are not standing still, but looking ahead. With this kind a "looking ahead" we will have more growing and worthwhile worshipping experiences to look forward to.

We welcome any of you who are passing our way to worship with us. May God bless all of you is our hope and prayer for you from us in Oklahoma.

Aizada Keeney Massey

Make yourself an honest man and then you may be sure there is one less rascal in the world. —Carlyle

Where law ends, tyranny begins. —William Pitt

Joy is not in things, it is in us. —Wagner

The ladder of life is full of splinters, but they always prick the hardest when we are sliding down.

—William L. Brownell

FROM THESE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS



SISTER ORA DERRY'S GARAGE

It was from a humble beginning that Christ came, but through His plan of salvation, He became the Saviour of all mankind. His was not a creed, as man reasons a creed, but a way of life to lead us into all truth. It was for that very reason He told the young Seer of Palmyra, "their creeds were an abomination in His sight and to join none of them.

It was for the purpose of furthering the Gospel of Christs' work here in the center place that the little East Independence Local Church came into existence and no other.

It was during the 1958 spring General Conference of The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) that the idea for another local church had its start. Two brethren in conversation over the fact that there were more "Indian Chiefs than Indians" and a great need was paramount for the priesthood ALL to be active and be about their Father's business that the thought of approaching the Missionary in Charge of Missouri, who was Apostle Archie F. Bell, to organize another local here so that the men of the priesthood could fulfill their duty as God's ministers and do the work unto which He had called them.

Brother Archie F. Bell was favorable to their idea and suggested how these brethren should proceed. And when the saints from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Arkansas and outlying locals of Missouri heard of the move they were delighted and sent letters of good will to us. On May 21, 1958 the local was organized under

the direction of Apostle Archie F. Bell with twenty-one charter members.

Our organization meeting was called in our temporary meeting place located at 2020 Vermont in the basement of Alexander H. Smith's home. Bro. Kenneth J. Smith opened the meeting and then introduced Apostle Archie F. Bell who made a few remarks then requested we all kneel in prayer for God's guidance. A season of prayer was held and after we arose Apostle B. C. Flint made a motion authorizing Brother Bell to affect such an organization in compliance with church law governing such a move, which was seconded by Elder L. V. Aldridge. The officers needful for us to function as a local church were then chosen, Elder Kenneth J. Smith pastor, with power to choose his assistant: Secretary, Sister Orlea Premo; Treasurer, Bro. Wm. F. Anderson Jr.; Chorister, Sister Metta Anderson; Organist, Sister Ora Derry; Librarian, Brother Jimmy Smith and reporter to the Advocate, Sister Edna R. Smith. We were now fully organized and ready to go to work.

A Board of Trustees was chosen looking forward to a permanent building and meeting place. That board consisted of Apostle Wm. F. Anderson, Louis P. Caldwell and Apostle B. C. Flint. A building committee of three was also chosen for we now must move ahead in the task we had started to accomplish. These were Sister Freda Flint, Sister Metta Rupe, and Brother Wm. F. Anderson Jr. They were instructed to

find a lot we could purchase for our church building.

At the very beginning we were known as the West Independence Local Church, (Temple Lot) due to the location of our temporary meeting place at 2020 Vermont. When we moved into Sister Ora Derry's double garage where we held services for about five years, we changed to "The East Independence Local" because we were then on the east side of town and east of the Temple Lot headquarters; thus we have remained.

The Sunday following our organization meeting we met at 2020 Vermont for Sunday School at the 9:45 a. m. hour. Although our quarters were crowded and the children were taken outside in the back yard for their class, God met with us and we felt His blessing on our efforts in thus organizing this group to further His work here in Independence. It wasn't all smooth sailing, but right from the start it seemed to have God's approval for He showered so many blessings on us, opening up the way when obstacles were raised in our path.

The building fund was started by pledges and setting aside 10% of all collections for that purpose. Our chairs came from Brother Spiller down in Texas and Brother Aldridge brought them to us. Brother and Sister Aldridge gave us our first piano, the present one we have was given by Brother and Sister Clyde Babcock. The platform for the pulpit in the garage was built by Brother L. V. Aldridge and B. C. Frint. Brother Flint built our first pulpit out of the sliding doors that had been in his home; I have that pulpit yet. Monies came from so many locals, the Keeney families of Houston, Mo., Sister Ballyntine of Lamoni, Iowa, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Sunday School, Apostle and Sister Anderson, Apostle and Sister A. M. Smith of Ava, Missouri, Brother Spiller of Texas, Brother and Sister Charles Rice of Michigan, Apostle and Sister Wm. A. Sheldon, Sister Orlea Premo, Sister Ora Derry, Apostle and Sister B. C. Flint, Brother and Sister Larry Shaw of Buffalo, Missouri, Sister Betty Dunning and Elder and Sister Kenneth J. Smith, and so the list goes on.

We began to grow from the start through baptism and our numbers also grew through transfers of those moving to Independence wishing to add their names to ours.

After several years of meeting in the double garage on Sister Derry's place, a lot was purchased at 78 Hwy. and Holke Road for the sum of \$900.00 and the ground was broken for the commencement of the little church at the Cross Roads. How hard the men worked, every minute that could be spared from their jobs by which they earned a lively-hood for their families was given to the cause. Brother Curtis Yates and his sons, Sam Kidd, Wm. A. Sheldon, Archie F. Bell, Clarence Wheaton, Orval Rupe, Alexander and Verl L. Smith, Robert McCubbin, Alexander H. Smith put in hours and hours of hard manual labour. The Plans Committee had worked many hours to draw the plans

to be used and they were Orval Rupe, Alexander H. Smith, and Wm. A. Sheldon.

When the basement of the church became useable we moved from the garage and held services in it. The work of the Gospel went on, also the construction of the upper auditorium. We were in our building, but I'm sure our thoughts often strayed back to the humble garage on Holke Road where we first saw the work start to grow and flourish. That has been almost 25 years ago that we began.

The very first service held in the upper sanctuary was the wedding of our daughter, June Carol to Roland L. Sarratt. How hard the men worked that it would be ready at 7:30 p. m. January 25, 1964, the carpet given by Brother and Sister Wm. F. Anderson Sr. and the placing of the folding chairs (we had no pews) took place almost minutes before the ceremony itself. How beautiful it looked and how very sacred was the service.

Even before the building was done so we could meet in it an Indian Chief visited our home and requested permission to go out to the unfinished structure and there offer a prayer of dedication for its use in furthering God's work here in the Center-pplace.

The actual hard work that went into the building as you see it today is quite a story, the endless bake sales and bazaars we so very few women held to help raise money to purchase building materials, the financial aid sent us from our brethren and sisters in distant locals, the hardwood flooring bought and paid for by individual members in Ava, Missouri and shipped in here by them, the hours our dear Brother Rollo Addie gave toward the finishing work in the upper sanctuary, the children who helped in so many ways, bringing tools and supplies to the laborers and actually driving a few nails so they too might say they had a part in constructing God's house. The first Pastor gave the front doors. Brother Elbert Luff installed the furnace at cost. Now we see with humbleness in our hearts the beautiful little church standing so invitingly at the cross-roads. There is not one cent of indebtedness on our little church for which we give God the praise and our humble heartfelt thanks. Only He could make it possible we know.

So that the Restored Gospel of Christ could go forth, the building was dedicated on May 12, 1968. The Chapel was full and we also felt a great degree of God's Holy Spirit filling the room. We felt He was adding His approval in our efforts and that if we remain humble He will continue to bless us. The struggles and sacrifices made, we feel, were all worthwhile, and, although they are not forgotten, they could now be laid aside with the other memories of those days.

Many, many times as I sit quietly in service and look about me I'm made to marvel at what through God's mercy and help, we so few in number were able to accomplish. I feel so humble and so very thankful to God for the rich blessings so bestowed on us, a



EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL CHURCH

house in which to worship Him. I being one of the "old timers" would hate to see it change in anyway for it is at this place God has deemed it well to meet with us on numerous times.

So many of those instrumental in the beginning of our local and who worked so hard that we might have such a building have been called home to their Maker. Brother and Sister L. V. Aldridge, Brother and Sister Wm. F. Anderson, Brother and Sister B. C. Flint, Brother Louis P. Caldwell, Sister Ora Derry. Some others have become discouraged and fallen away, not meeting with us any more, they are all deeply missed.

As I look back, I'm made to realize how deeply our personal lives have been woven into it all. The formulating of the local, the actual building itself. We do not mean to imply that we worship the building, but rather the Spirit of God of which it all symbolizes for us. Here we have felt His guiding Spirit, here too our children and grandchildren have embarked on life's sea through their weddings held here.

So it has been that from very humble beginnings that we can now worship in the beautiful little white church at the cross roads. Here to please God, only the Restored Gospel shall be preached and studied; all else which God said was not pleasing to Him shall be kept out. May we grow spiritually and in grace before our God; He placed His approval when it was dedicated to Him. God bless our efforts to do His bidding and may the praise and glory be His.

Through the kindness of Brother James Pennington we are able to have these pictures of our first

church home where we started and also of our little chapel in which we now meet showing God's mercy toward us in permitting us to erect an edifice to His High and Holy name.

TRI-STATE REUNION

The Minneapolis Branch is again hosting the Tri-State Reunion. The Whitewater Camp is not available to us this year and we have reserved a similar facility at Lake Shetek, about three miles west of Currie, Minnesota. Again it is on the Labor Day week end, August 29, 30, and 31.

We will be able to shelter 78 people in group cabins, and there are facilities available in the area for tents and campers. Service facilities for campers and trailers are also at hand. The shelters will have cots but no blankets etc.

For other needed information address your inquiry to:

Merlin Eddy
5725 - W. 150th,
Apple Valley, MN. 55124

Jon Gould
17295 Chippendale Ave.
Farmington, MN. 55024

Thos. S. Maley
615 Sheridan N.
Minneapolis, MN. 55411

AVA REPORT

On May 11th the Ava Local had their Tri-Local Rally Day with many visitors from not only Collins and Houston Locals but others driving from Anderson, Long Lane and from both Locals in Independence.

Services began at 8:30 a. m. with Prayer Meeting, earnest prayers being offered for the sick, the troubled. We feel grave concern for these and also over the Lord's work pressing upon us.

We then enjoyed a sermonette by Bro. Don Hitt; the eleven o'clock sermon was by Bro. Frank Fann commemorating Mother's Day.

The noon hour and a half was spent in enjoying the good dinner and visiting these friends we hadn't seen for a long time.

Afterwards we had a musical offering by Bro. and Sis. Shaw; we have enjoyed their singing many times. Other music specials were a duet by Sis. Barbara Burgin and her daughter, Cathy Jones, two lovely solos by Sis. Ruth Smith and a solo by Bro. Arthur Smith.

We were given another sermonette, this time by Bro. Marvin Case, after which we had a period of group singing of the many beautiful hymns we all love so much. The afternoon sermon was by Bro. David Jones which we enjoyed too as we have not had the privilege of hearing him recently.

There were a variety of good thoughts presented, food for deep consideration as we take up our usual daily duties again. Have we even begun to realize the vital importance that praising God has in our lives?

"Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of the saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zoin be joyful in their King." (Ps. 149:1 & 2)

Is not praises a seldom used offering in our prayer times? Do we not enter more readily into supplication, intreating and pleading, which is very needful as we are to turn to the Lord in every condition of trial, sickness or trouble? Then after deeply conversing with Him over these things, let us enter into praising the Lord; He is most worthy of our praises always.

"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord." (Ps. 40:3)

Can we realize that "praises" may be the "new song"? Praises open avenues for His blessings to descend on all we are concerned over. It opens avenues in us for His blessing of peace to come into our souls. "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." (Ps. 22:3) Isn't this wonderful to contemplate? He inhabits His peoples praises.

God must be a live, quickened force within our lives by first being allowed full sway in our hearts. Are we listening with quickened hearing to God's truth or are we prone to have dull ears?

Let us watch carefully that the testimony of our lips and that of our actions harmonize, else we darken

His truths, preventing others from gaining "trust in the Lord."

We should be praising God and being mindful to give an honest word of praise and thanks to our fellow-man.

Prov. 31:10 to the end of the chapter was read, too. Oh to be able to qualify for this paean of praise.

Much of the fourth chapter of 1 John was read to us, how Christ-like is our love? Do we have Christ's sacrificial love toward all? Can we minister in this world as He did? Do we allow the the Holy Ghost to shine through us to the glory of God?

Let us watch ourselves to judge ourselves, that we be not brought down in shame; honest judging of self brings shame, yes, but a healing shame unto repentance unto spiritual growth.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us." (verse 16) Do we hear His voice in our soul, but then back-off from doing His bidding? Let us learn to follow instantly else human reasoning will bring a flood of doubts, fears, etc. and we start 'a-heming and a-hawing' in procrastination.

A portion of verse 17 reads thus "because as he is, so are we in this world." Can this be? Can we be as Christ was in this world? This takes some earnest pondering.

Often feeling alone in this our faith-walk with Christ, and the times when our jobs, etc. do isolate us, we ask ourselves how did Christ brace, strengthen and uphold His disciples? Turning to John 14:14 to 17, we read that if we ask in Christ's name, He will pray the Father. How wonderful this is; He will intercede for us at the Father's throne. In verse 18, He says He will not leave us comfortless. This we've learned by experience; how tender is His comforting! Let us make valiant efforts to be steady in His commandments even though isolated and facing deriding scorn, and very unharmonious working conditions, etc. Many were the Scripture instances brought to us of outstanding persons who were very alone and the record of how God did protect and strengthen them. Those Scripture facts of others sustained while going through severe trials do give us courage and strengthen our faith for as God sustained these outstanding individuals so is He as deeply mindful of all we little-folks who worship Him.

Darleen Smith

"Tis the mind that makes the body rich.

—Shakespeare

The worst sorrows in life are not its losses and misfortunes, but its fears.

A. C. Benson

Our whole social life is in essence but a long slow striving for the victory of justice over force.

FLINT LOCAL REPORT

Our annual business meeting opened with prayer and a devotional hymn. In addition to the routine business matters the following officers were elected:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Pastor | Brother Edward J. Toulouse |
| Clerk | Sister Chris M. Toulouse |
| Treasurer | Sister Grace Eddy |
| Chorister | Sister Velma Porter |
| Advocate Reporter | Janice Pinder |
| Librarian | Brother Todd J. Toulouse |
| Young Peoples Sponsors | Brother Todd J. Toulouse and Sister Chris M. Toulouse |
| Trustees | Brother Earl Eddy Brother Emery Pinder Brother Orville Eddy |
| Sunday School Superintendent | Brother Charles Pinder |
| Assistant Superintendent | Brother Todd J. Toulouse |
| Sunday School Secretary | Sister Chris M. Aoulouse |
| Sunday School Treasurer | Sister Audrey Ex |
| Sunday School Chorister | Sister Velma J. Porter |
| Florist | Sister Velma J. Porter |
| Teachers | Class #1 Sister Mary Pinder Class #2 Brother Emery Pinder Class #3 Sister Juanita L. Opper |

The position of librarian is a new office for our local and the librarian has requested suggestions from interested members, particularly the librarians at other locals.

Several of the officers were re-elected and are commended for their previous years service. Their efforts are appreciated by all.

The suggestion was made for the need of a Young Peoples Group, thus creating the position of Young Peoples Sponsors. They would love to have suggestions and newsletters from other locals to keep things new and interesting.

The congregation as a whole has expressed the need for more communication with all the locals. We encourage all members to write us even if its just to say hello, at the following address:

Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
Flint Local
1802 Utah Street
Flint, Michigan 48506

It was decided that (6) six "An Outlined History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)" be donated as part of our missionary effort to the local public libraries and that Brother Todd Toulouse would perform the service. At a later date the circulation of these books will be checked and we will consider donating other materials. We will keep other locals informed on the success of this effort.

The meeting was closed with a hymn, a prayer and the desire that God would bless everyone.

Submitted by,
Sister Chris M. Toulouse

EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL NEWS

The officers for the coming year are as follows:

Pastor: Elder Isaac B. Brockman
Assistant Pastor: Elder Roland Sarratt
Secretary: Sister Carolyn Fann
Treasurer: Elder Ray Hunholz
Auditor: Sister June Sarratt
Inside Custodian: Sister Kim Oldham
Outside Custodian: Bro. John Davies
Kitchen Committee: (Dinner Sunday's) Darl Hunholz, Darl Temple, Jennifer Oldham
State Reunion Kitchen Committee: Sister Gladys Nast and Sister Jewell Beem
Advocate Reporter: Sister Edna R. Smith
Social Committee: Brothers; Mike Smith, Buzz Brickhouse, and James Pennington
Chorister: Darl Temple
Pianist: Jennifer Oldham
Sunchine Committee: Jane Ann Stancil
Flower Arranger: Sharon Liekness
Librarian: Scottie Brickhouse
Maintenance Committee: Paul Liekness, John Davies, Ray Hunholz, Ron Temple and Mike Smith
Jr. Young Peoples Leader: Ron Temple
Our Sunday School Officers for the coming year are as follows:

Superintendent: Smith Brickhouse
Assistant Superintendent: Stephen Sarratt
Secretary: Belinda Smith
Pianist: Darl Temple

Special Program Committee: Becky Fann, Melissa McGhee, Connie Grzincic

Thus another year has begun for the East Independence Local church and we pray God will rule and over rule so that at its close, progress has been made in spreading the old Jerusalem Gospel as restored to that young Seer of Palmyra so many years ago.

We were organized for that purpose that the light of the Gospel could and would shine forth in all its beauty. It is so very, very precious and more needful today in these troublesome times we are passing through.

Pray for us here in the little white church at the Cross Roads that we remain true to the covenant made in the waters of Baptism.

Advocate Reporter
Edna R. Smith

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

—Thomas Jefferson

A thought is an idea in transit.

—Pythagoras

Adversity is the path of truth.

—Byron

HOUSTON LOCAL REPORT

It has been a busy time here lately with church activities and the workaday life. I don't seem to get entirely caught up, but I will make an attempt to fill in with things here.

April, being conference time, most of the local here attended Solemn Assembly and portions, or all of conference itself at Independence. We heard many beautiful prayers and testimonies of God's love and goodness. We personally enjoyed the abundance of the Lord's sweet spirit and were uplifted spiritually, receiving much "soul food", going home afterwards literally drunken in the spirit." Taking a goodly portion home with us, we traveled well after dark and could find no gas station open to refuel our car. We went at least 40 miles on "empty." Thank you, Lord.

Apostle Marvin Ely came to Houston after conference and we heard him on two occasions telling us, firstly, of the importance of humility in our individual lives. James 4:10: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."

We need to humble ourselves, call on the Lord in prayer daily, retain the remission of sin, follow him, keep his commandments and place all our trust in the Lord. Our very life, our very breath, depends on God. Pray and give thanks. "Perfect love casteth out all fear."

Second sermon's text: Jer. 6:16: "Ask for the old paths where is the good, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." We must become Christ oriented in our way of life, let our lives show what "light" we have and draw others to Christ by our example by inviting others to worship with us. The fringe benefits of serving God are much greater than any worldly work benefit program. Eternal life is promised to all who follow Him and His commandments to the end.

If we want that peace in our life, we must walk in that straight and narrow way, the old paths.

Our twelve year old granddaughter, Sabrina who was visiting us, surprised us with a special singing, "His Name Is Wonderful, Jesus, My Lord."

Brother Truman Medders gave us many good thoughts and scriptures about fear, and its effect on our lives. Text: II Tim. 1:7: "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind." Fear might be said to be faith in something we don't want to happen. We should try to eliminate fear and doubts from our minds. Use faith and prayer. The great power for good is in our prayers; it helps in solving life's problems. John 16:23-24: "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name he will give it to you." Put your trust in God, we need to have faith, hope and charity; that pure love of Christ can cure of all ills. Love is the greatest gift God can give us, and it is the greatest gift we can give God.

Brother Virgil Addie gave us a sermon on salvation, quoting many scriptures pertaining to it and the plan

God laid out. We must have much faith and plant the words of Christ in our hearts. Alma 16:215: "... and that great and last sacrifice will be the Son of God: yea, infinite and eternal, and thus he shall bring salvation to all those who shall believe on his name." (You really need to read through verse 238 to get it all.) You must repent and know the mysteries of God if you are to keep an open heart. Put your trust in God and follow his footsteps.

Jennifer and Janna Medders are proud to tell you about their new little brother, Jared Paul, born May 10. Terri and John Medders are the happy parents. Jared was blessed by Brother Oren Caviness at the Houston Rally, May 25th. The grandparents are Ike and Mary Medders, the great-grandparents, Ern and Anna Keeney.

Your Houston Reporter,
Mary Addie

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL BISHOPRIC OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Quarterly financial Status of General Church Congregation as of 3/31/80

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Total Income to Date This Year | \$24,099.78 |
| Total Expense to Date This Year | 23,935.26 |
| Difference between receipts and expenses ... | + 164.52 |
| Approved Budget For Year | \$158,000.00 |
| % of Budget Raised | 15.25% |
| Should Have Raised | 25% |
| Total of Tithing Families Filed | 92 |
| Approximate Number of Families | 720 |
| Percentage of Families That Tithe | 12.77% |

The above is a copy of the quarterly report which the Bishops have prepared.

By way of explanation of this report, we show the total income for the first quarter of the year and the total expenses which leaves a net balance of \$164.52 income over expenses. Of course we have the balances that were left over in all the accounts carried over from the previous year end balance as shown in the audit. The next compilation is the approved budget for the year not including the proposed future projects and showing that we have raised 15.25% of our budget plan. By the end of the quarter we should have raised 25%. Then the total families that send in tithing for this quarter were 92. We have approximately 720 church families as near as we can tell which means that families are tithing into the general funds 12.77%. We realize that many people tithe into their local churches and we have no accounting of this. We felt like this would begin to get some idea across to you of the type of participation which we have of the membership at large in the financial operation of the church.

C. LeRoy Wheaton, Jr.
Business Manager

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1981 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 5, 1981. The business sessions will start at 10:00 A. M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 3 and 4, 1981.

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.

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

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

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