

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

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Joseph's First Prayer

O, how lovely was the morning,
Radiant beamed the sun above,
Bees were humming, sweet birds singing,
Music ringing through the grove;
When within the shady woodland
Joseph sought the God of love.
He was seeking light and wisdom
As with him God's spirit strove.

Humbly kneeling, sweet appealing,
'Twas the boy's first uttered prayer
When the powers of sin assailing
Filled his soul with deep despair;
Yet undaunted still he trusted
In his heavenly father's care
For it was with a faith unwavering
Joseph knelt, secluded there.

Suddenly a light descended
Brighter far than noon-day sun
And a shining glorious pillar
O'er him fell; around him shone.
When appeared two heavenly beings
God, the Father, and the Son.
O, how glorious was their presence
As he knelt there all alone.

Joseph, this is my beloved,
Hear him, O, how sweet the words!
Joseph's humble prayer was answered
As he listened to the Lord.
O, what rapture filled his bosom
For he saw the living God.
What a wave of sweet rejoicing
Filled him as he saw our Lord!

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Editorial . . .

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

A one-time Master of Arts at an English University; son of a minister; and who had for years been the beloved and honored minister of one of the great churches of his city, was sent to New Zealand in hopes he could recover his failing health. But it developed that only out in the New Zealand Bush could he sustain any semblance of his former health and so he spent the remainder of his days pastoring the scattered people to be found there. On reminiscing about his first sermon he recalled that he had had great difficulty choosing a text. He had appealed to his minister father, who at that time was bedridden and shortly passed over, and the elder gentleman seemed surprised at the question and replied, "Why, my boy, there is only one. Preach about the **unsearchable riches** of Christ." And the old gentleman was not wrong, for what principle of the gospel of salvation does not have its root and take its very life from those unsearchable riches?

Just for amplification Dr. Moffat translates the text as the, '**unfathomable riches**'; Weymouth as the '**exhaustless riches**'; and Webster defines unsearchable, in part, as being inscrutable, meaning - beyond being comprehended by means of study and inquiry. Applied to our topic as is said in Romans 11:33, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" and as is also said in Psalms 145:3, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

and his greatness is unsearchable."

That all the riches of God are Christ's is made clear in his own statement in John 16:15, "All things that the Father hath are mine . . ." and in John 5:26 he has made this comment, "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself." What more is there? What could be added to that?

David extols these unsearchable riches as follows: "Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth to the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep; O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures." Psalms 36:5-8. And again, "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." (Psalms 36:5-8)

Isaiah also knew about those "unsearchable riches": "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him." (Isaiah 64:4)

And Paul was continually rehearsing about them: in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, he affirms Isaiah's statement: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear

heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, the deep things of God."

And in Ephesians 1:7-9 speaking of the Father's choosing before the foundation of the world through Christ by which and, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself."

And continuing in the same chapter, verses 17-23, he prays, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave to him to be the head over all things to the Church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." We can easily see that having a knowledge of these things does not necessarily mean having a full understanding of them.

And Paul adds in chapter 2:7, "That in ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness towards us through Christ Jesus." And in chapter 3:16-19, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Should not the desire of all true seekers of salvation be as is expressed by Paul here, for themselves and all their fellow-Christians? to be able by the grace of God's spirit to vision that breadth, length, depth and height of the love of Jesus, in which increase of knowing comes also the awareness of the immensity of that which is beyond knowing by the finite mind?

To the Philippians Paul writes, "And the peace of God, which passeth understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Chapter 4:7 Who has not at some time experienced that peace given from outside themselves when circumstances would admit of no peace whatever? In the 19th verse

he adds, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." And to Timothy he writes, "And without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness . . ." (I Timothy 3:16)

With all this testimony given by those who have gone before, that the greatness of Godliness is far beyond the reaches of the human mind, until or unless the vision is enlarged by such revealments as God chooses to make of himself as he is, it is a sad circumstance that the human mind tends to create within itself an image of God which fits within the confines of its own limitations. God's love, his power, his justice, his mercy, his wisdom and his purposes all often suffer severe reduction to the quality or quantity of the capacity of the human thought and desire. It is indeed a pity that so many of God's children seem to fear lest they think God better than he is! They expect so little of him, in many cases much less than they would expect of a good earthly parent.

Rather than judge God as we are prone to judge others (by ourselves) let us do as David did when he encourages himself in the Lord, 1 Samuel 30:6, trusting in all that he has caused to be written and has promised to do out of those unsearchable riches. What greater hope is given than that given in the statement that, He is able . . . ?

He is able to . . .

" . . . make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:" (2 Corinthians 9:8)

" . . . do exceedingly abundantly (here Paul needs two superlatives to try to express the inexpressible) above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us." (Ephesians 3:20)

" . . . change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Philippians 3:21)

" . . . to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

" . . . succour them that are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18)

" . . . also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25)

The unsearchable riches of Jesus are as a great purse to which there is no bottom; or as that ceaseless fountain of which we sometimes sing, as it were a great treasury, the vastness of which, containing all that anyone of his beloved creatures could ever need and made available to the faith to receive, was given to one in fleeting awareness. It is as God promised to the children of Israel in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, read it, if they would, " . . . hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments . . ." Oh yes, there are requirements as he said through the prophet Micah

6:8, "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" and in John 15:7, Jesus makes this stipulation, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Oh, unsearchable riches of Christ, available to his obedient children! What a pity that so many of his professed disciples are content to go on as it were, picking up the crumbs such as have fallen from off the banquet table!

Amy Schrader

ANOTHER LOOK AT THINGS

"THE SURVEY"

In the February issue of the Zion's Advocate, there was an article entitled "A Look At Things," wherein I posed a question and asked any who desired to respond. I promised to compile a "survey" of sorts to reflect the answers that I received, in an effort to show the lack of unity of purpose in the Church. I do not say we, as a church, are lacking in desire or hope, nor would I imply a lack of sincerity. I do say we are lacking in awareness and in concern, perhaps because we fail to make our "religion" a reality in our lives.

All the responses were very good, in fact they revealed there are some who are deeply concerned about our condition as a Church (some, but not enough). It might be of interest to you to know a few facts concerning those responses. Out of twenty (yes 20) responses, only two were from ministry, three were from male members, some gave two answers, of which I used the more predominate ones. And I was very grateful for all who took the time to respond. Thank You.

The answers given were sometimes similar in nature, however different enough to be separate from each other, so I did not combine them. I tried to condense the answers of some to save space, several I reworded so as to give their meaning, yet in a more general term. The question asked was: What is the goal or the purpose we should be striving for in the church today? The responses were as follows:

That our light would shine so others might see and glorify God	1
Strive for perfection	6
To improve the administrative body of the Church	1
To present the Gospel to the Lamanites	1
Protect Gospel from false teachings	3
Seek to establish Zion	2
Spread the Gospel	2
Save souls	1
Prepare a people and place for Christ's coming	2
Form a closer bond between man and God	1

All of these answers are necessary goals for us as individuals and as a Church. As you can see they are all related to each other in one way or another. The diversity of opinions seems to show (in my opinion) a lack of organized effort.

To have any hope of success in any field of en-

deavor there must be unity. This is true in government, business, education, sports, or whatever type of movement one might think of. Unity of purpose, unity of action, unity of desire, unity of planning, and in our case, unity of belief. It would be idle thinking to believe otherwise.

If there are differences in our beliefs, what are they? Do we disagree on the basic principles of the Gospel of Christ? Do the things we disagree on pertain to the salvation of mankind? Is there any hope that the lack of unity will change for the better? Are we a live and fruitful vine? Or have we become dormant and unfruitful? If you stop the onward flow of water in a stream, then it becomes stagnant. Are we stalled? These are questions that haunt my mind. Perhaps the biggest question I would like to ask is, What will we do?

I would like, at this point to express my opinion on what is the goal or the purpose of the Church today. Perhaps it's possible for some to think that the restoration of the Church, and the return of authority of the priesthood to the earth in these last days is just pure happenstance, but if one researches the scriptures you will find this occurrence is in full accord with the plan of God. The knowledge that a restoration of the Church, like unto the Church which Christ established in Jerusalem, with all its authority, was necessary and due to come forth, was enjoyed by many students of the Bible many years before the 1830 period. In fact it was this knowledge that inspired men like Luther to bring about a reformation.

It is of course my views that the restoration of the Church and priesthood in 1830 was a definite part of God's plans for the last days. In researching the revelations of that period, I find a definite plan of action laid out for the Church to follow. If we trace that plan of action, which was laid out in those early revelations from 1828-1833, to their logical conclusions, we will invariably come to one common objective: That is to prepare mankind for the coming of Christ, and especially prepare a people who might be called the Bride, the Lamb's wife, who would be prepared for His coming.

Early on in the Church, a revelation designating Independence, Mo., as the site of Zion, the gathering

place of the saints, was received. Preparations were made and the work began. The Church began to move into Jackson County, purchasing land and building a settlement of the Church people. What happened is history well known to us all. In the year of 1833, due to the destruction wrought by the action of the mob, the work of the Lord was brought to a halt. While the reclamation of that sacred piece of land has been accomplished, that work that was stopped in 1833, has never been taken up again. The movement to establish Zion is still dormant.

While it may be true that the history of that period of time is well known, perhaps the reasons why are not so obvious. The fact that something went wrong is quite apparent. It would be impossible to enumerate all the errors which crept into the Church during this period of time in so small a space as this article, even if we knew ALL the errors, but research discloses some information which sheds some light on the question.

I will quote a revelation from the Doctrine and Covenants, although I know many do not accept this book: I ask only that you consider this revelation on its own merits. If the events following this revelation prove its value (and I believe it does) then we must consider the possibilities of its divinity. The following is from the Doctrine and Covenants (Lamoni edition), section 83, paragraph 8.

"And your minds in time past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon, and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's Kingdom. Otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay."

There are three important facts I would like to point out in the above quotation. #1. Darkness had come upon the minds of the children of Zion, because they had treated lightly the things they had received, namely the "Book of Mormon, AND THE FORMER COMMANDMENTS" (emphasis mine JFS) #2. Condemnation upon the whole Church followed and would remain until the Church repented and REMEMBERED those former Commandments, not only to say but "TO DO." #3. In the event that the Church failed to repent, a judgment was to be poured out upon the children of Zion.

History will verify that the Church did not repent, regardless of the claim by some that it did. The judgment came; The saints were driven out of the land

of Zion. Because of the darkness of their minds, many false doctrines came into the Church. Joseph Smith, the spiritual leader was killed and the church broke into many fragments. The effects of that condemnation still remain with us today.

While it is true that God has worked with the Church of Christ to some degree since the 1844-46 break up, at no time have we enjoyed the spiritual leadership, and the blessings that was had when the gospel was first restored. There is no reason we cannot enjoy those blessings, if we are willing to meet God's conditions in fact if we hope to establish Zion we must have that same closeness to God that was had in those early years.

Perhaps in the past we have put our hopes in our society, our nation, hope that we can continue on until its time for Christ to come and He will come and set his Church in order. That hope is dying now, as is our nation, for it has begun to decline. We as a nation have reached a highpoint in our way of life, our economy, our society. No more will we enjoy the ease of life we have enjoyed the past thirty years. Wickedness is running rampant in our nation, sin is on the increase. The Book of Mormon tells us that no people will be allowed to remain on this land that does not worship God and have liberty for their people. Slowly the United States is losing its right to own this land. If then we are to survive, we MUST correct the things that stand between us and our Lord, and remove that curtain of darkness that turns His light away.

Oh Israel, Israel, how long will you sleep? How long will you wander in darkness? Our Lord and Master awaits our return. Awaken now, put on the cloak of righteousness. Come let us reason together, let us pray together, that we might walk again in the light of God's blessings.

I'm so very sorry it has taken me so long to put this little "survey" together, the press of work and the inconvenience of circumstance has hindered me. God bless each one of you is my prayer.

Your Brother in the Family of God,

Joseph F. Smith

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PRESUMPTION

A grain of sand that fain would stay
 Resistless ocean's power;
 A drop of rain that dares to say,
 "I am alone the shower;"
 A fire-fly claiming through the world
 The source of light to be;
 A little mind that seeks to hold
 And guage Infinity.

TO SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

To you who have followed the preceding articles, I hope the Spirit of God will help you understand what my words cannot accomplish. May your desire to comprehend the Word of God cause you to pray that He will supply your need. He has promised to do so if we pray with faith, believing on Him.

The subject of baptism as one of the principles of the doctrine of Christ cannot be adequately set forth without calling to attention the dual nature of the ordinance. You will have noticed that many references to baptism make the gift of the Holy Ghost a companion to water baptism; in fact, a most necessary part of baptism is the spiritual renewal or rebirth. As Christ said, ". . . Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5) It is evident that to be a "born again Christian," as many profess today, one must be (born) baptized by water and the Spirit, the Holy Ghost.

While water baptism is accomplished by immersion, the baptism of the Holy Ghost is not always evident in the action of the one baptized. It is a submission of the spirit within the heart and frequently not discernable by others. It will give expression in the life pattern that follows — a changed person, a holiness of personality that is unmistakable, and on occasion, one of the spiritual gifts may be exhibited by the power of God. The fruits of such a baptism may be mostly appreciated by the believer himself.

The scriptures have a wealth of examples of the Spirit baptism. Almost invariably, the practice of laying on of the hands by the ministry is indicated as required to accomplish the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Paul, when writing of these principle doctrines of Christ spoke of "baptisms," in the plural form, meaning that he understood what Christ taught His disciples of being "born of the water and of the spirit." Read carefully the reference of Hebrew 6:2.

Christ, speaking of an entrance to the kingdom of God, refers to baptisms as the "door into the sheepfold." (John 10:1-5) Jesus recognized the entry to the "door" Himself when He told John the Baptist, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:15)

Some might think that the indwelling of the Holy Ghost is sufficient to salvation. Consider the circumstances that Peter encountered. In Acts 10:44-48, a number of persons were worthy to have the Holy Ghost fall upon them. After a powerful exhibition of the Holy Ghost Peter commanded them to be baptized in water in the name of the Lord. Thus it became them to fulfill all righteousness.

Acts 8:14-19 is an example of the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Some believers in Samaria had been baptized in water unto repentance, but when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard of them, they sent Peter and John. "Then laid they their hands on

them, and they received the Holy Ghost." The power of the Spirit was so openly displayed that a man named Simon offered them money for the power to exercise the act of the laying on of hands. This chapter (chapter 8) is an excellent reading for the month.

Another example for consideration is Acts chapter nineteen. There were a number of persons who had been baptized by water unto repentance; when Paul questioned them, they had not heard of the Holy Ghost. They did not know of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul preached to them and baptized them properly. "And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:6) In the early church, baptism was not completed until the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit was exercised, and most often after the water baptism.

The scriptures for the doctrine of baptism have not been exhausted. I have set forth the principles as simply as possible, praying that God will supply the Spirit to enlighten your hearts, to confirm your faith, and to establish His Word as truth.

The doctrine of baptisms may be presented as a double door such as is found in the structure of a church on earth. A doorway provides both an entrance and protection from unwanted entry. To tear out a door and cast it aside would detract from the beauty of the entire structure; to deny the need for either or both would make the structure without entrance and defective as a place of sanctuary. As a doctrine of baptism, one door is water baptism; the other is baptism of the Holy Ghost or the Spirit. They are equally available, and the doors to the kingdom of God are not complete without them.

All about us we see the moral decay and breakdown of basic spiritual teachings that protect our freedom and stability of society. As people become more wicked more liberties are lost, our lives and homes are threatened, and we fear one another. Instead of love for our neighbor, there is hatred; our entire existence is threatened and our faith in the future vanishes in the night of gross darkness. Sin has no redeeming quality; the scriptures read, "The wages of sin is death."

The gospel of Jesus Christ promises hope for all who will hear and obey. We can believe, have faith in God, obey the commandments and live! We can live today and have the supreme promise that we shall live tomorrow and forever. By His Spirit we are called to repent, be baptized for the remission of sins, washed by the water, and are then cleansed by the Holy Ghost and presented to our Lord as part of His church. The door is open to us - we need only to take the steps required to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Your brother in Christ,
Elder Arthur G. Smith

CONFERENCE - 1981

On the morning of April 3, we again gathered at the little white church on the Temple Lot for our designated Solemn Assembly; the two days of prayer and supplication to our Heavenly Father, prior to the Conference. Our brethren of the Council of Apostles were, in turn, in charge of the services of these two days, each bringing us words of admonition and direction on the purpose of this occasion and the preparation that we as a people should be making to guard against the evil day in which we live; that we might be able to move forward in the work of the Lord that is before us.

We were reminded of the need to seek the Lord while he may be found, and to recognize that our ways are not God's ways; but as the heavens are higher than the earth so are God's ways higher than our ways and his thoughts than our thoughts. Thus it behooves us to seek his ways with greater intent. We should grow in faith realizing that God's Spirit is extended to us according to the degree of our adoration and devotion to him. This is a time of sacrifice with increasing responsibilities for each one, and there is growing need that we direct all the energies of our souls to the cause of Christ, our God; and he alone is our stronghold in these troublesome times and only in him is security and hope. Ever we should approach him in humility, offering up a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

On Sunday we assembled at the baptismal font for the early baptism of our dear brother, Dan Lawrence, as he took upon him the name of Christ. This was a joyous occasion, followed by a prayer and sacrament service which continued until early afternoon with many uplifting prayers and testimonies offered. What a joy it was to have been present at this meeting and to have felt that Spirit of love which flowed in our midst.

Our conference business days were prefaced with an early morning prayer meeting also, where again the sweet peaceful Spirit drew us closer together in worship and praise to God above.

Sermons throughout the conference were given by Apostles Marvin Ely, E. Leon Yates, Don McIndoo and William Sheldon. In their own way each brought us a message of the day and time in which we are living and of the importance and necessity of ruling out of our lives those things hindering a close and personal relationship with God, that we might merit his guidance and direction in the great work ahead; and his protection from the destruction shortly coming upon the earth.

The caption of Brother Ely's discourse was, The Righteous Need Not Fear. Within the scripture there is much to give us courage and hope if we will apply ourselves to the study of God's word. His promises are sure and will not pass away. This is a day of deception

and we must ever be alert, but if we take Christ into our lives he will be our stay and buckler and sure defense.

Brother Yates assured us that God directs the message for his people, and warned that this is the most dangerous period of all time for the souls of men; with deception and evil on every hand. We should make haste to spread the word of God that all peoples might come to the knowledge of the truth. The day of the Lord is near, a day of wrath and darkness, but through faith in God we can have his peace in our hearts. To abide that day we must be armed with righteousness.

In Brother McIndoo's sermon he cautioned us against allowing the desire to serve God to grow dim in our hearts. We have been called to have a part in this great work; and he reminded us that the prophets of old, looking down the stream of time, wished they could have lived in our day. We should improve our gifts and talents, that we may become fruitful in the Lord's work; stripping ourselves of our own desires and ambitions and coming to God in submission and meekness that he may use us as he will.

Brother Sheldon spoke to us of the need to become a peculiar people with a strong "spiritual pulse", and warned against falling into the paths of Israel of old, who in spite of the marvelous ways in which the Lord blessed and protected them, they many times fell away in disobedience to his commandments. We are called to be witnesses of Christ; a standard, an ensign to the world; a light that is set upon a hill which cannot be hid. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment and except we are founded upon truth and righteousness we will not be able to stand. God has given us many evidences of his goodness. Let us not fail to let our light shine, testifying of our belief and hope in him.

Prior to each evening's preaching service a song service was held which is always an enjoyable time together as we blend our voices in the singing of the many loved and meaningful hymns of praise. At this time also, as well as for the preaching services a number of 'specials' were offered, beautifully done, and I know they were enjoyed by all. Two of the songs, in particular, were composed by our dear Sister Lois Helseth.

We were especially happy to have with us at this conference, our dear Brother Mason from far away Wales. It was a pleasure to have had this opportunity to meet him, and to note his enthusiasm and charm. He is quite alone now with no family members nor church family in his native land; so let us remember him in our prayers.

May God's blessings be with each one, to draw us closer to Him and to one-another, is my prayer.

Helen Taubert
Conference Reporter

"... A MORE EXCELLENT WAY"

(Sermon in Phoenix, Arizona in May 1960)

Reading: Rom. 12:1 and 2. These words of Paul are good advice and admonition for us, that we may strive to do those things acceptable to the Lord and that we might develop our minds that we might know the proper and right thing to do at all times.

This being the Spring time of the year, many of us leave our work whenever we can to go out on the desert to see what new flowers are out or just to enjoy the beauty of God's green earth. But, sorry to say, many also seem to think it is their duty to help nature decorate the scene with scattered plates, cans and rubbish. And many of us do the same thing with our own lives and minds, we scatter debris through our life and mind which mars the beauty of an abundant life.

To those of us who seek real beauty, the miracle of life that surrounds us confirms the hope we have in a new life as Christ taught. It is a beautiful time of year, a time in which we may observe nature renewing its covenant with God. I believe that God in the beginning knew that we as His children would have need of this constant renewing in our minds as the pattern of nature unfolds before us and gives us a renewal of faith in the life to come. For how can we observe such beauty and yet restrain ourselves from worshipping the God who created all these things? Each year we see and hear the miracle of Spring and yet we stubbornly resist its meaning.

God said: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." And we exemplify this love when we love and serve one another. God sent His Son into this world to manifest His love for us. Christ could never have endured the hardships He did, had not this Love for us been complete.

Christ was co-creator with God in the creation of this earth with all its beauty, He is the artist who paints the sunsets in the Grand Canyon, the talented hands of the surgeon, the tender love of mother and the spirit of eternal love which dwells in the hearts of all those who believe in God.

He didn't enter the world as a conquering hero, but instead He was born in a stable. As a man He did not choose to live in the crowded city but He loved the out-doors, and He chose to work with His hands; He was not afraid of hard labor. As a minister, He ministered to the poor and the needy and by the authority of God, He said: "I will build my church."

At the feast of the Passover, He made this remark: "Verily I say unto you that one of you shall betray me." He could divine the thoughts of another when no words were spoken. And we can be sure that He is able to know our every thought today whether it be evil or good. He knew that He would be crucified and

who it was who would betray Him. So He went to the garden to pray that He would be given strength to face the trial before Him. And He admonished His disciples to "watch and pray, that ye may not enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Do we today have the intuition to recognize the things in our life that may betray us into a life of misery and regret? Are we sensitive to those things which threaten our spiritual welfare? We too could be betrayed, as was He, and not recognize the betrayer as Christ had the power to do. We could be betrayed by a frantic zeal to get security, gain popularity and not recognize the danger to our spiritual welfare. We are betrayed because we are led to believe that the gaining of wealth, position, popularity etc. will bring us happiness and when the goal is achieved, we have unhappiness instead.

Some may ask: "What is wrong with working for security?" Nothing. Everyone wants to have a measure of security, but there are many people who stop at nothing to gain it. They exclude everything else and have a false idea of what true security consists of. Many people say they can't give anything to the church because they must save for security in old age. They put aside the most important service in their search for security. They are betrayed by their attitude and their mind.

There are many moral issues that come before us, and the way we meet them may make us unpopular with our friends, so we listen to small voices within ourselves, saying; "be careful what you say, it may not be popular with the people you are associating with." If we listen to this voice we are betraying ourselves. Many of us choose the easy way and are betrayed because of our silence when we should express our convictions for right.

We cannot rationalize indulgence by saying we are strong characters and certain things do not affect us. We know people who drink and say; "I can either drink or let it alone, I know just when I've had enough." We know people who think they know just how fast they can drive a car and still be in complete control when an emergency arrives, but thousands of those so-called strong characters are today dope addicts, alcoholics and criminals because they betrayed themselves by thinking they were too strong to yield to temptation. We should become aware of this possibility.

We can become betrayed by ambition for success regardless of who it hurts. Some people sacrifice their family, friends and everything to obtain what they think is success.

Worldly pleasures betray many people, pleasures legitimate in themselves but indulged in to extremes. In playing golf or bridge, the games are not harmful

in themselves; but the harm comes in spending too much time in them to the exclusion of everything else. We find that worldly pleasures is an easy trap to fall into and over indulgence brings false happiness. Christ's admonition is our greatest ally. He said: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."

And from Paul we read: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (Zion's Advocate, June, 1964)

E. J. M.

PHOENIX NEWS

Hello again, from your Phoenix Local. We have three more months activities to report.

The last Sunday in January, Jay Moser spoke on the stress and strain of modern-day living. We were admonished to simplify, cleave to basics and let the power of God sustain us. In the same line of counsel, Gary Housknecht spoke to us about enduring to the end — and how to do it. Basically, the answer is found in the words of that favorite old hymn, "Come Ye Apart."

On the first Sunday of February, we had our usual beautiful sacrament service. It was a very spiritual and loving service.

During February, Hubert Yates reminded us of a 1971 revelation which was addressed "To my people, keep my sabbath holy." Tom Karas reminded us to pray for the ministry. Bill Malone spoke to us about changing times and an unchangeable God. Jim Lacey's February sermon reminded us: "These things I command you, that ye love one another." Thoughts presented: By small means the Lord can bring about great things; our calling is to help each other; love shall never fail. Our Apostle Don McIndoo talked to us about the power of the gifts God has given us through the Holy Ghost.

On February 15, 1981, we thrilled once again as we witnessed the blessing of little Holly Kristine McIndoo, in the arms of her grandfather, Don McIndoo, assisted by her mother's cousin, Elder Jay Moser. It was a lovely Arizona afternoon, February 22nd, when two brothers joined the Church of Christ in the waters of baptism at the church here in Phoenix. We joyfully welcomed Ronald V. Rupp and Donald Ray Grim. Gary and Neva Housknecht's beautiful voices joined to invite, "Come Holy Spirit."

In March, Jay Moser spoke to us about "doing our own thing." On March 8, the choir presented a beautiful arrangement of "My Father's Angels", after which were blessed two more of God's little gifts to us: Timothy Joseph Oar and his cousin, Erica Lynn Moser. Ken Oar presented the sermon, explaining the blessing of our little ones and how our guardian angels minister to us throughout our lives. Later that same

day, our loving arms and hearts opened to Patricia C. Vick, as she joined us through baptism. The sermon that evening was given by Norman Warfield. He urged us to "Seek the Lord." When we have problems, Tom Karas advises us to "read the instructions." His sermon urged us to heed the words of some of our beloved hymns: "Is Your All On The Altar Of Sacrifice Laid?", "Trust And Obey", "Never Be Discouraged", "'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus", "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", "Count Your Blessings", "Let Us Pray For One Another."

Bill Malone instructed us to "Tune In" . . . to worship, for spiritual strength, to give thanks, to learn His will. We should call on the Lord in everything, always, then wait for the answer. Also during March, Don Bentz spoke to us about "Loving each other." We are given the tools and instructions to edify, give love and comfort. Hubert Yates reminded us to go to the scriptures for wisdom and knowledge, and advised us to never refuse to alter our course if the Spirit leads in a different direction. Banford Hoare spoke to us of Christ's words, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you."

During April, Gary Housknecht admonished, "Love as I have loved you", and stated again the importance of the "Keys" of power and authority. Bob Ely, visiting from Grand Junction, Colorado, told us we have a hidden wealth, the Books of the gospel. We must claim and possess this wealth. On Easter morning, Karin Malone and Chris Moser sang a lovely special, "Redeeming Love." Don McIndoo questioned if we fully comprehend the magnitude of the gift that God gave us, His Son, for our redemption. On Easter Sunday evening we enjoyed a program of music and a reading, presented by various members. On April 26, we again witnessed the blessing of a new little one, Chad Benjamin Berquist. His grandfather, Jim Yates, blessed him and great-uncle, Hubert Yates, assisted.

I've been out of town several times this past few months, so I have missed some of our sermons and can't report on them.

You'll be hearing from us again in three more months. Until then, go with God!

Meredyth Baskett

LAST PRAYER

When the day returns
Call us up with morning faces
And with morning hearts,
Eager to labor.

Happy - if happiness be our portion,
And if the day be marked for sorrow,
Strong to endure.

Robert Louis Stevenson

AN OKLAHOMA JUBILEE

April 12, 1981, was destined to be a very jubilant day for us in Oklahoma. It was to be a day of rejoicing for all in our Church of Christ. On this very special day the Oklahoma City Local was organized. We are a very unique local, for you see, our newly elected pastor lives in Texas.

This special sabbath day dawned bright and brilliant. The splendor and beauty of an April day fills one's heart with joy and thanksgiving. The leaves on the trees were various shades of green. A few early spring flowers were sprinkled here and there. What a beautiful season to organize a local! As a local, we hope we may grow, mature, and be as beautiful as the plants we saw this day.

Our special day was led by Elder Frank Fann. After singing some beautiful hymns, Apostle Ely led our class in reading and discussing the 17th chapter of St. John, after which Apostles Ely and Housknecht ordained Brother Fann into the Bishopric. We were honored to have had this ordination to take place in our presence. "Bless him with wisdom and understanding," were some of the prayerful words spoken in the ordination.

Apostle McIndoo spoke to us about promises the Lord has made to us if we obey his teachings. God will give us strength and power to overcome the adversary. He has promised us courage and He will be by our side as we go forth and labor. We must be careful and not let the cares of the world "choke out" the commitment we have made to the gospel. It isn't easy, for the cares of this world are very real, very demanding, but we can allow the "fruits of the spirit" to be alive in our lives. Exercise your faith and lay hold on the promises of the Lord. God hasn't given us the spirit of fear, but the spirit of commitment. Jesus told us, "No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62) "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my zion in that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost." (I Nephi 3:187) Those are beautiful promises to the believers of Jesus Christ. Brother McIndoo, with the help of the Holy Spirit, gave us courage and strength as we set forth in this new chapter in the life of the Church of Christ in Oklahoma.

When we made a big circle, held hands and bowed our heads, we asked a blessing on the food of our noon-day meal; we felt the love and closeness of the brothers and sisters of the gospel. This, too, was part of our beautiful day. After our meal, our local was organized, with Apostle Ely in charge. As we sang "Take Time to be Holy," we withdrew ourselves from the cares of the world so we could conduct a business meeting of utmost importance. After reading Psalms 34:7-19, Apostle Housknecht offered the opening prayer. The following people were elected to various responsibilities:

Bishop Frank Fann: Pastor
Barbara Kimball: Secretary-Treasurer
Alzada Massey: Reporter
Laura Mae Elwell: Pianist-Chorister

We closed this part of our sabbath day by singing, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," after which Brother Housknecht gave the closing prayer.

The following were present for this great day: Apostle and Mrs. Don Housknecht, Apostle and Mrs. Don McIndoo, Apostle Marvin Ely, Bishop and Mrs. Frank Fann, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Elwell and son, Mike Martin, Alzada Massey, and our host family, the Mike Kimballs.

For the past few months, there has been services twice each month. Since our little group met for the first time in the fall of 1979, we are very happy with our progress. Brother and Sister Fann drive up from Dallas twice each month to conduct these cottage meetings. On the second Sundays, Independence priesthood members continue to visit us. On March 8, we were happy to have Elder and Mrs. Tony Grzincic. Our faith is always strengthened and our happiness increased by having Tony and Louise worship with us.

May God bless all of you and we ask you to pray for us that our local may continue to be successful. Pray, also, for the protection of Brother Frank Fann and Sister Carol as they travel to minister to us.

Alzada Massey

HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

Brother Virgil Addie was our speaker the first Sunday evening of the month of March. He told us our God is a God of love and justice, that He seeks our love and devotion. He doesn't command it; the choice is ours to make. We need to arrange our lives and set our priorities in such a manner that we always put God first. As we step toward Christ and the Father, they will take two steps toward us.

Brother Marvin Case was our speaker next, telling us of God's love. The gift of love is from God. It comes through dedication to him, and holding fast to the rod of iron, His holy word. Listen to it, hold it close, obey it and the devil won't be able to get near you. We should love the Lord, and each other; joy should fill our hearts and light up our faces for the world to see. Let the Son shine out.

In my words (mla), we need to clean up our acts for the Spirit of God cannot dwell in unclean temples. Did you ever think about that? It gets to me, I regret to say. Did you ever have one of those bad days where everything went wrong. Maybe we forgot to pray that morning and the Devil took over for a bit, or perhaps the good spirit wasn't with us as usual. God, who loves us, pours out His Spirit on us who love Him. Your ability to pray from the heart is linked to your love and need.

Brother Truman Medders spoke to us of inner peace, defined as freedom from disturbance, a state of tranquility. Those who trust in God can have this spiritual or inner peace.

The opposite of peace is stress, generally caused by problems of everyday living in our changing world of pressures. How we are able to handle this stress can effect our mental and physical wellbeing. We can find and have that inner peace thru God's promises; no need to seek it from outside sources, for it won't be found there.

Brother Ern Keeney was a patient in St. John's Hospital in Springfield for about two weeks. Love showed through in special prayers for him. He is home now and we're all glad to have his smiling personality back with us. Sister Annie stayed in Springfield near him, as did his daughter, Florence Kommers, from Tennessee. Many other family members visited him also.

Brother Don McIndoo gave us two beautiful sermons on Sunday this month. Some thoughts gleaned were: we need to question our life styles, put on the attributes and characteristic of Christ. We must make decisions every day, a choice between life and death, between the blessings of God and the light of Christ, or the cursings of darkness. This is a most vital and important decision and should be made early in life.

Our adversary, the devil, seeks whom he may devour. He knows his time is short, and he has great power. We need spiritual discernment in choosing our entertainment, in the way we spent our leisure time, the friends we make, indeed, in our whole way of life.

Cry unto the Lord for support and discernment. The Holy Spirit will warn us and help us. If we listen to it and heed it, it becomes a stronger influence; ignore it, it becomes weaker. Commit your ways unto the Lord and he will give you power, freedom, strength and grace to overcome the obstacles. Stand free and unbowed. Reach outward and upward. Share Christ's love with friends and neighbors. Focus your heart on the treasures of God. Allow nothing to come between you and God's open door. Let no other power keep you out.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Addie

GOD'S CARE

As a Father pitieth. Ps. 103:13
As a Mother comforteth. Isa. 66:13
As a hen gathereth. Matt. 23:37
As a bridegroom rejoiceth. Isa. 62:5
As a refiner sitteth. Mal. 3:3
As an eagle fluttereth. Duet. 32:11
As a shepherd seeketh. Ezek. 34:12

FOUNDRY HILL NEWS

Puryear, Tennessee

We have had another blessing of a child in the church. Sister Bryna Grooms' daughter and her husband, Teri and Ricky Dowdy, had little Tiffney Ann Dowdy blessed. She is a very fine girl with very fine lungs. Tiffney, with long black hair, even now as a child will have God's love with her and I know He will be with her always.

With the giving of a new born child, God takes a life. Sister Nell Paschall's mother, Estell McKinney, passed away. We all share in her sadness, for most of us have lost a loved one. But she is better now than she was before; she has no more suffering, only peace and rest. Our love be with you, Nell.

On Easter Sunday, we had a full house. Brother and Sister, Glen and Margaret Gill, their sons, David, Steve and Donald, were here. Also with us has been Noble and Iva Tyler with their daughter, Christy. Their church burned and while in the process of rebuilding, they have been coming here.

Easter Sunday is a special day remembering the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Brother Gill and his wife, Margaret, gave us two very special songs. Along with Margaret's beautiful voice, Glen sang and played his guitar. The songs they sang were very much enjoyed by everyone. Also Margaret played the piano, which is never played until her hands move the keys. Along with the Gills was Glen's mother, who also had a wonderful voice to be heard.

Brother Gill gave a wonderful sermon on the resurrection. We are always happy to have them with us and we hope they come again soon.

Last Sunday we had Sue Ray and her husband and their son, Jeff, with us. I also hope they will come back soon. I brought a visitor, Freddie McBride, with me to church. He seemed to enjoy it. I hope he will be returning a lot more.

The sermon that Brother T. W. Paschall delivered, which was about the difference of hell and the lake of fire and brimstone, seemed to set us all on the edge of our seats. We were really pleased in such a sermon, and hope to hear many more like it.

I'll say goodbye for now. May God keep you until next time.

Robin Cox

Telling a lie increases a man's peril, in whatever danger he finds himself. So long as a child of God speaks the truth, he can leave the responsibility of his truth-telling with God. But when he departs from the truth, he becomes responsible for all the consequences of his unauthorized course. His only hope then is in the "father of lies," and the Devil is not to be trusted in an emergency.

BE STILL MY SOUL

Although this experience has already been shared with many, it is being sent in the hope that it may comfort, strengthen and encourage others as it has done for me.

Not long after returning from the hospital in Aug. 1978, I was wakened from my sleep, feeling very ill. I prayed and the words of the song, "Blessed Be the Name", came so vividly to my mind, I could almost hear them. Though short of breath I tried to sing along with them. I soon felt better and went to sleep.

Sometime later, I again wakened from sleep, feeling even worse than I had before. Again I prayed. The words of the song "Be Still My Soul" came to my mind. The Spirit that accompanied them was indescribably beautiful. I had not heard this song in many years and we do not have it in our hymn books. Again my affliction lifted. I went to sleep and slept well.

I related the experience at a meeting in Flint. Sister Pinder spoke to me after the meeting and said she had been looking for the words to this song for some time and would like to have a copy.

Since then I have copied the song and shared it with many others. Many have told me they kept it and it had been of comfort and strength to them in times of trial. God has promised to be with us always. Matt. 28:20 and He is faithful who has promised. (Heb. 10:23)

BE STILL MY SOUL

From Psalm 46

Finlandia

Katherine von Schegel

Jean Sibellus 1865

Be still my soul: the Lord is on your side:
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain:
Leave to thy God to order and provide:
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: thy best thy heavenly friend
Thro' thorny ways lead to a joyful end.

Be still my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope thy confidence let nothing shake,
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

It is interesting to read some of the references to songs in the Bible. Some are as follows: Ex. 15:2, Job 35:10, Ps. 28:7, 38:7, 77:6, 118:14, Isa. 12:2, 30:29, 35:10, 1 Cor. 14:26, Ephes. 5:19, Col. 3:16, Rev. 15:13.

Vida Filley

FOUR STEPS

I watch a youngster's groping ways . . .
The mighty efforts to "be me",
And through the telescope of faith
I see the adult yet to be.

I grow annoyed, yet have to laugh.
A lump of love down in my chest
Seems it will burst my very heart.
God gives me mem'ries and I rest.
You see, I used to be a child.

I watch an oldster — he forgets
The urgencies of this day's chores,
Remembers well that which is gone.
His barque sails back to early shores.

The past — to him alive and bright —
If it should seem mist-pale to me,
I'll turn the telescope around.
I love him so. God, help me see!
I see. I'm going to be old.

At last I understand — enough.
This is what our Lord has planned
And it is good, for He loves us.
We place our lives at His command.

Child,
adult,
oldster —
Heaven's joy!

(Footnote: to my grandchildren, etc., you wouldn't believe how young I used to be! And, to my parents and aunts, and uncles, etc., you don't seem nearly as old as you did forty years ago!)

Donna Moser

OBITUARY

Arthur Marion Deewall

The infant son of Scott A. and Dorothy Darlington Deewall was stillborn on April 24, 1981. Dorothy is the daughter of Bro. and Sr. Earl Darlington of Ava, Missouri and the granddaughter of Sr. Minnie Smith, also of Ava, Missouri. Scott is the son of Dorothy Sherman of Halstead, Kansas, and father Stanley Deewall of Chetopa, Kansas. The Deewall home is in Welch, Oklahoma.

The graveside service was held at Ava, Missouri on April 25, 1981 with Elder Arthur G. Smith officiating. Ruth Smith sang "The Old, Old Path," a favorite of the family as the beautiful spring day was coming to a close.

With many friends and the family to share their loss the prayers of all were that Dorothy and Scott shall be comforted. They expressed their faith and hope in the gospel that such little ones rest in the paradise of God.

MINI-LIGHTING

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:5-7, 9-11).

Nowdays the word chastening seems to be almost wholly taken to mean punishment. The root of the word comes from the Latin, - agere - to lead, drive, direct or restrain plus - castus - pure; which leaves the term including, in our present consideration, all that which the Lord does to purify us; as he says, that we might partake of his holiness; his guiding and persuading as well as punishment when needed. The ministrations of his Spirit upon us in this perfecting though not punishment may not always be comfortable, may even seem grievous.

There is a remarkable allegory to the matter to be found in the processing of leather: the tanning of it. So close is this to the subject in consideration that the term tanning has been adopted to one method of punishment, and yet in the tanning of leather there is no punishment, as such, involved. The animal hide has not erred. The whole process of soaking, scraping and kneading is for the purpose of transforming a stiff, hard, useless product into something of pliability, beauty and amenable to many uses.

Is it not thus between the Father and us? Our God is a loving parent, and all his ministrations are for the purpose of transforming us and conforming us to His will for our benefit. He will direct, if we will listen . . . He will lead if we will follow . . . He will restrain if we will yield . . . He will cannel if we do not resist . . . but then, He will use the pressure of pain; when all else fails rather than to lose us. No good earthly parent punishes arbitrarily, much less does our heavenly One.

In men who men condemn as ill,
I find so much goodness still,
In men whom men pronounce divine,
I find so much of sin and blot,
I hesitate to draw the line,
When God does not.

Fifteen years have passed since Jennie inspired the poem "Candies and Toys" published in the Dec. '80 Zion's Advocate. She has, since then, experienced some sad, even tragic events in her young life. Her Mother died four years ago. Through everything she has continued to look to God to "Supply all her needs." She has written some poems of her own and says I may send this one to you.

Jennie's Grandma

I UNDERSTAND

I understand when you want to cry
And don't know what to say.
I understand and love you more.
I'll be there night and day.

I understand how you feel
When the pain will not go away.
I understand, but remember,
I too hurt that day.

I understand how it feels
To want to cry but you can't.
But in your deepest, darkest hour
A little prayer just chant.

When you feel weak and weary
And have nothing to hang on to
Remember that I'm your friend
And I will help you through.

When you think that no one cares or knows
The Hell that you've been through
Remember that when I was here,
I went through it too.

Don't hang your head in defeat
And say that I don't care.
You know that in the hardest times
I was always there.

But stand your ground, tall and straight
Your battle station, man
For I am God, I'm always with you
And I understand.

Jennifer (Jennie) Thompson

The past gives us our heritage — the future our hope. We can set our course for the future by what we have learned in the past. But we can't live either in the past or in the future — we can only live in the present. Now is the time for action. We can't do anything to the past, but we have to act now to make the future worth while.

Life is the soul's nursery - its training place for the destinies of eternity.

Thackeray

THINK ABOUT IT

Christ lived and died, not for himself but for others; the life of his body was spent out on the cross for others . . . us.

The Church . . . and we as members of his body of which He is the head, does not exist primarily for the sake of itself; for the sake of it's own body . . . membership, but that it's spiritual life might be spent for the sake of the welfare of the souls of those not yet of the body.

The power of God manifest in and through Christ during his life was bestowed upon all who came to him, not just on his disciples.

Of course Christ nourished his own body, and he nourished his own spirit by communing with God in solitude that he might have to give to the world that which would fulfill the Father's purpose. That same nourishment is needed in the body of Christ . . . the Church . . . for the same purpose, and of the same process.

At present it seems evident that Christ's body . . . the Church . . . is in need of deep spiritual nourishing before it can offer spiritual life to the world. Whence is it to come save those appointed and anointed to this privilege and responsibility go as their head, Christ, did, and commune much in mighty prayer with their God?

If there is one failing from which all others stem it must be a failing in mighty prayer, a failing in waiting on God to be given that by and through which the purpose of his love for the world can only be accomplished; prayer so deep, so continual, so all engrossing that all desire becomes a consuming fire and all living in itself becomes prayer that the life of the love of the Spirit of Christ possess the whole of the person to the working the purposes of God through it.

To this we are called, and for this and this alone we are a part of the body of Christ on the earth; to be filled and to be spent for love of those who do not yet know Christ.

WHAT NOT TO LOSE

WHAT NOT TO LOSE

Don't lose courage; spirit brave
Carry with you to the grave.
Don't lose time in vain distress:
Work, not worry, brings success.
Don't lose hope: who lets her stray
Goes forlornly all the way.
Don't lose patience: come what will
Patience oftentimes outruns skill.
Don't lose gladness: every hour
Blooms for you some happy flower.
Though be foiled your dearest plan,
Don't lose faith in God and man

THE GOD OF COMFORT

I have been through the valley of weeping,
The valley of sorrow and pain;
But the God of all comfort was with me,
At hand to uphold and sustain.

As the earth needs the clouds and the sunshine
Our souls need both sorrow and joy,
So He places us oft in the furnace,
The dross from the Gold to destroy.

When He leads through some valley of trouble
His omnipotent Hand we can trace;
For the trials and sorrows He send us
Are part of His lessons of Grace.

Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,
Forgetting the Husbandman knows
That the deeper the cutting and paring
The richer the cluster that grows.

We know that affliction is needed,
He has a wise purpose in view;
And in the dark valley He whispers,
"Hereafter thou shalt know what I do."

As we travel through life's shadowed valley,
Fresh spring of His love ever rise,
And we learn that our sorrows and losses
Are blessings just sent in disguise.

So we'll follow wherever He leads us,
Let the path be dreary or bright,
For we've proved that our God can give comfort,
Our God can give songs in the night.

From Far East Broadcasting Company
Submitted by Vida Filley

POETIC GEMS

POETIC GEMS

When I compare

What I have lost with what I have gained,
What I have missed with what attained,
Little room do I find for pride.

I am aware

How many days have been idly spent:
How like an arrow the good intent
Has fallen short or been turned aside.

But who shall dare

To measure loss and gain in this wise?
Defeat may be victory in disguise;
The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide.

—Longfellow

CHRISTIAN PARADOX

It is in loving - not in being loved. -
The heart is blest;
It is in giving - not in seeking gifts. -
We find our quest.

If thou art hungry, lacking heavenly food, -
Give hope and cheer.
If thou art sad and wouldst be comforted, -
Stay sorrow's tear.

Whatever be thy longing and thy need, -
That do thou give;
So shall thy soul be fed, and thou indeed.
Shall truly live.

Author Unknown

ONE STEP MORE

What though before me it is dark,
Too dark for me to see,
I ask but light for one step more,
'Tis quite enough for me.

Each little humble step I take,
The gloom clears from the next;
But though 'tis very dark beyond,
I never am perplexed.

God draws a cloud over each gleaming morn —
Would you ask why?
It is because all noblest things are born
In agony.
Only upon some cross of pain and woe
God's son may lie;
Each soul redeemed from self and sin must know
Its Calvary.

Frances Cobb

There is no name like Jesus,
None that's so dear to me;
For I do know he blesses
The bondmen and the free;
I know that he will keep me
Safe from the wily foe,
And that he will protect me,
Wherever I may go.

A flint and a genius that will not strike fire are
no better than wet punkwood. R. W. Emerson

Which takes more faith, to have a prayer granted
or continue in unquestioning, unflinching discipleship
when the answer is no?

NOTICE

Plans are being made for the Missouri Reunion to
be held sometime during the month of September this
year. A more detailed notice will be given later.

COLORADO REUNION NOTICE

On June 12, 13 and 14, 1981, we will once again
gather at the Orchard Mesa Local Church, 3233 B½
Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, for reunion services.

We are very happy to provide sleeping quarters for
all that we can accommodate. Last year, however, we
found ourselves "bursting at the seams," so we are
requesting those who can to bring campers or camping
gear so that we can provide for all who care to come.

We are eager to hear from you so we can arrange
to provide for your meals, also, so please phone or drop
a card to our committee.

John E. Bell, Pastor

572 - 34 Road
Clifton, CO 81520

303-434-7100

Marvin E. Ely

236 - 32 Road

Grand Junction, CO 81503 303-434-8149

Ron W. Church

497 - 30 ¾ Road

Grand Junction, CO 81501 303-434-5846

If you cannot attend this reunion or others that are
planned, be sure to petition God on behalf of those
meetings that His Spirit will be there in abundance.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

MICHIGAN REUNION NOTICE

The Michigan Reunion will be held the week end of
June 20-21, 1981, at Maple City.

Camping facilities are available at the Lime Lake
Campground. If housing is needed, please contact:

Conley Addington

Rt. #2, Box 45

Maple City, MI 49664

Phone: 616/334-4922

Come and worship with us.

Reunion Committee:

Norman Trudgen

Jeff Butts

Jay Lee

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 1981 Minister's Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19th, 20th and 21st 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

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

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Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	\$1.30
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The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
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Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice, No. 9, 20	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
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"Why"	N/C
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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, 50c; 100, \$5.85

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS

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

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Independence, Mo. 64051

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ZION'S ADVOCATE
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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" — A 50 minute slide program with taped narration about how archeology supports the Book of Mormon.
"Out of the Dust" — A 55 minute slide program with taped narration about the story told within the Book of Mormon.
"A Lamp Unto My Feet" — A 35 minute slide program with taped narration about the story within the Book of Mormon (directed toward Indian viewers).

"Light at Evening" — A 35 minute slide program with taped narration about the bringing forth of Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the Church of Christ.

"We Sing and We Talk About Jesus" — A series of Sunday School lessons, each with a teaching outline, and illustration and a taped song to be learned by primary or intermediate age 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 ("We Sing and We Talk . . ." is available only on cassette). Slide projectors and tape players are not provided.

We also provide a Sermon-by-Tape service. There is no charge for the issuing of a cassette tape on a loan basis. Please refer to the January 1981 issue of the Zion's Advocate for a complete listing, or write to Harold Gill, 18848 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Az. 85024.

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 (Out or Print)	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)