

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. 50

Independence, Missouri, July, 1982

No. 7

Blessed Assurance

Oh, Lord!
How I long to be like You!
Rising to heights of righteousness and love;
Never wavering in my walk and service;
Living every moment in Your presence;
Yet, I CAN NOT.

My child!
How well I understand!
I walked this way of grief and pain before you,
Dying, that I might rise again triumphant,
Drawing all men to me; giving salvation
And LIFE ABUNDANT.

Come then,
Walk closely by My side;
I shall lift you up at that last day;
Conqueror o'er death, Hell, sin, the grave;
Living, reigning with me, forever
VICTORIOUS!

Vida Filley

CONTENTS

Can We Expand Our Outreach?	98	Lucy Smith Milliken	106
Men and Brethren What Shall We Do?	100	Let Me Live in Your Glory	107
To Our Scattered Members and Friends	101	Independence YPCL News	107
Doubters: Within and Without	102	Flight Homeward	107
Yucatan	104	Easter Song Contata	107
Professed to be Given by the Spirit of God	105	Golgotha	108
His Image	105	Reunion Notices	109
Face to Face	106	Local News Items	109

Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 699-300)

Official publication of The Church of Christ
Headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd.
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472
Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Doris Ratterree, 926 S. Logan, Independence, Mo. 64050, 461-3779
Amy Schrader, 5625 Logan Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64136, 356-6159

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

Alvin L. Harris, 3405 South Leslie, Independence, Missouri 64055

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Temple Lot) 200 S. River Blvd., P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates to members paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$2.00. Non-member rates one year \$4.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$4.50.

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

Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
200 S. River Blvd.
P. O. Box 472

Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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

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

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

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

General Church Secretary, Robert W. Oldham, 5709 Logan Rd., Kansas City, Missouri 64136.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

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

Editorial . . .

CAN WE EXPAND OUR OUTREACH?

From time to time, the "Zion's Advocate" has been referred to as a "missionary arm of the church." Just how missionary this paper is might be questioned by some, but it is our hope that the efforts and good intentions that keep it going are worth while.

Reflecting upon the missionary work of the Church of Christ today, we are caused to feel concern over our lack of success. In a competitive sense, we are not even in the same race with other Christian churches at least as far as gaining members is concerned. Moreover our ability to present the gospel of Christ as we know it is poor even at our best. We need more missionary spirit and dedication not patterned after other churches of today but more like the missionaries of old.

The purpose of the church as given in the scriptures and throughout the early revelations, is to preach the gospel to the world. What we have, or rather what we know, is not to be kept within a select few people - - it is a message of truth that would correct and heal a sin sick world. The real sense of purpose and strength of will among this people seems to have diminished to a dangerous low in recent years.

During the past two decades when the free world needed repentance taught the most, we were the least

prepared to do it. Satan seemed to draw our attention away from the great increase of immorality and helplessness of the multitudes of the earth by the internal conflicts in the church itself. By the time we were able to see what was happening, the opportunity to warn the various peoples, whom we might have effected through our ministry, was past.

Now, as in the mists of confusion and ill wills begin to dissipate in the church we find a new strength within our ranks. We have begun to reacquaint ourselves with our original mission, to muster courage in rededicating ourselves and to move forward with a determination not to lose sight of our goal.

"Wake up!" is the cry. Shake off the chains that have bound us to foolish reasoning and preoccupying situations. See ourselves in the light of the Lord's call and commission. His work must come first in our lives or we will not be a part of it.

We have, by the will and advice of some, maintained a low profile. This has been done to keep from attracting the attention of the opposition, whether it be other churches or various world powers. We have been told that their possible attacks upon such a weak organization as this church could be disastrous.

The pros and cons of such reasoning can be debated - - and has been debated - - at length, but while we are so engaged, the enemy keeps on ensnaring the unwarned and unprepared souls of the world in great numbers. Our hesitance adds to his success.

A major part of our problem is that we don't understand our real commission. We don't have enough faith in what we are doing, and we minimize the importance of this work and the potential it can effect upon the lives of mankind.

We don't have to attract the attention of the various powers that be, if we will only let the gospel show its own merit without trying to defend its worthiness and prove its truthfulness by the strength of argument. Too often we are motivated by the wrongs of other religions rather than the truth of the gospel as we know it (or should know it). We cannot build our righteousness upon another's wrongs, neither are we right because somebody else is wrong. We are right only because we are righteous. Unless we are righteous, we have no way of projecting right. No matter how many wrongs we see in others, we cannot effectively expose those wrongs unless we are right. Right, of course, means that we are living righteously.

How about it? Are you right? Do you have something to tell to the world? Do you have the answers to their problems? Does your life project a righteousness that is Christlike? If your answer to any one of these questions is no, then you had better get to studying the gospel because you haven't learned it yet.

"But", you say, "they won't pay any attention to me. They refuse to hear my testimony." Is that any reason not to give it? Are we responsible for only those who will hear us? Read chapters 33 and 34 of Ezekiel and find out when we are to warn the people and to whom we are responsible.

We often fail to realize the real value and power of Christ's commission here on earth. If we are truly on the side of right, right will prevail. God is more powerful than Satan; good will overcome evil. We must put full trust in God's word if we are to prove it to be true. We are the bearers of His infallible truth - - we are the vessels by which His love is exemplified in the world.

Can you be comfortable and conscience free while thousands of souls are being intercepted through false precepts and doctrines? Don't sell God short. Whole nations of people have been warned by a few prophets chosen of God. A single person can effect the lives of many when he is guided by the Spirit of God. Though we be few, God's purpose in us can be fulfilled if we are willing to let Him do the directing.

For far too long, we have been church oriented; everything is done for the sake of the church. The

purpose of the church - - preaching the gospel to the world - - has come last. Our thoughts and motives have turned selfishly inward to our own causes and campaigns.

The race to try to establish and control doctrine has been a major cause of confusion and conflict in years past. That, as well as many other similar diversions, has monopolized the work and the attention of the ministry to the extent of almost totally curtailing the few efforts of missionary activities that have been made. Consequently, the ministerial outreach of this church has been extremely limited.

It is time we expand our outreach. It is time we cleanse our minds of prejudices and defensive reasoning. It is time to school ourselves in the fundamentals of the gospel in a positive presentation. Although our ills are many, we will never heal ourself as a church if we continue the route we have been following in the recent past. We can only correct the problems within the church by yielding ourselves to the Lord's expressed will, and His will is that we preach repentance to the world.

Which is more important, gaining members for the church, or converting souls to Christ? Maybe our motives are tainted somewhat with the influence of modern evangelism. Maybe our sense of purpose and priorities need some correcting.

Church organization is important, but it is not number one. Bringing souls into the Kingdom of Heaven is number one, and this is proven by Christ's own words throughout the New Testament and in the Book of Mormon. If we would fulfill this part of the work, not only bringing souls into the kingdom but also feeding them through the word of God and keeping them steadfast in the faith, then all the other work of the church would surely be accomplished successfully.

Let's get first things first. Whether or not we gain many members, the cry of repentance must be made to the peoples of the world. We know that we can't do it on our own; we can't effectively program such a campaign. But we can make ourselves available. We can pray and fast for guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If we are aware of the various evils of the world, we can sense the needs of the many lost souls therein. This alone should motivate us to desire to counter the progress of the evil one. There are many who have less knowledge of the gospel than we do who are doing great things in teaching what they know. Their efforts put us to shame. Therefore let us rededicate ourselves to this work. Let us take the initiative to affirmatively declare WHAT WE KNOW! We have no reason to be timid or ashamed of the truth. The truth will stand when all else fails.

RLS

MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

(Acts 2:37)

by William A. Sheldon
(continued)

The Doctrine of Christ

The teachings of Jesus Christ are the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and therefore, that which is taught as gospel must conform to those teachings. Jesus spoke of a broad way, leading to destruction, and said: "Many there be which go in thereat" (Mt. 7:13). Then, He said:

" . . . Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Ibid. 14.

The word, "strait" as used above, means small, or narrow. Both the door (gate) and the path (way) are designed of God so that only a few will find it: the few who are really seeking the Kingdom. Those who enter as little children, in complete trust and willingness to do their Father's will, find no difficulty. It is not hidden, except to those whose eyes are fastened upon the fantasies of men, and with ears listening to the musical tinkling of their doctrine. Jesus said:

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mt. 15:8,9.

And further:

"Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." *ibid.* 13.

Therefore, how important it is that we receive the doctrine of Christ, lest it be found necessary that He uproot the evil and perhaps in great sorrow to those thus torn, and this because many choose darkness rather than light.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew: and great was the fall of it." Mt. 7:24-27.

"And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little

child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare **more or less than this**, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them." 3 Ne. 5:40-42.

In the above, we are plainly told by Christ what we must do to inherit the Kingdom of God: repent and be baptized in His name. This is fully supported by the Bible, as we expect to show later. Yet some will have the audacity to discredit the principle of baptism as a saving ordinance. Even repentance is scarcely touched. They say: "Just believe; accept Christ and turn your life to Him to take charge." Obedience is a forgotten term, because we are told that works have nothing to do with salvation; that we are saved simply by the grace of God. Yet, this is fully repudiated by the teachings of Jesus.

Many of the churches of men declare less than the doctrine of Christ, as noted: and some of "latter day saint" persuasion teach **more** than His doctrine. "The same cometh of evil", and "the gates of hell standeth open to receive them."

Consider the doctrine of baptism for the dead; a proxy baptism. Can the baptism (yes, without repentance) of a living person suffice for one who has died? Christ said: "YE must repent, and be baptized." Who? Why, the one who hears the gospel proclamation, of course. And ye must "become as a little child"; the same one who hears, repents and is baptized. Again, we are informed by the Master:

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Mt. 24:13.

Endure what? Endure means, to hold out against something. In this case, it signifies perseverance; to continue faithful to one's commitment to Christ, in opposition to a carnal or evil life until the end of his earthly existence: to hold firmly to the rod of iron, which is the word of God.

"Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen." 2 Ne. 13:30-32.

Will any deny this as the true doctrine of Christ? If so, he is ready to fall, or has fallen. Then, how can a departed soul fulfill this, the law of God, being now in the world of spirits? Neither is there provision in the whole economy of God for a proxy or substitutionary obedience to the divine requirements, save that accomplished by His Son, the Lamb of God!

(To be continued)

TO OUR SCATTERED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

In the minds of those who cherish the scriptures, the name Zion immediately gives rise to thoughts of a place of peace and security. That we should be concerned is most understandable in this day of nuclear weaponry in the hands of the great military powers of the world.

Mankind has now learned to fashion the weapons of utter and total destruction from the elements of the earth created by God. The marvels of chemistry and military science are bringing terror and fear to the hearts of men throughout the world in every nation under the sun.

The promise and hope of Zion is the bright star to mankind in these latter days. When will it become a reality? Who will qualify for the blessing of safety in Zion? These are questions that turn us to the words of the prophets in an anxious desire to know the truth.

Christ spoke to the people of this continent about Zion. "And verily, I say unto you, I give you a sign, that ye may know the times these things shall be about to take place, that I shall gather in from their long dispersion my people, O house of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion." (3rd Nephi 9:86)

Note the time is spoken as "about to take place" following a time of gathering. The establishment of Zion is to be understood as following the completed gathering for all the house of Israel. Nephi, quoting the prophet Isaiah, wrote, "What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the Lord hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it." (Isaiah 14:32 and 2nd Nephi 10:54).

Who is to qualify for participation in Zion? It might be simply stated that the love of God and our fellow beings will be the measurement applied to every one counted to be worthy. To love is to serve. In consideration of the righteousness that must prevail in Zion, the law of Love must be supreme. Labor will be required and the product of our labors will provide the means that love can be expressed.

"Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing (priestcrafts A. G. S.), wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity,

which is love, and except they should have charity, they were nothing; wherefore if they should have charity, they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish, but the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish." (2nd Nephi 11:107-109)

It is erroneous to think of Zion as a "super social security system" that requires no effort or contribution of labor on our part. To have all things common among a people is a very different thing than having all things in common. The equal sharing of all wealth is not equal to the provision for the needy and poor by those who labor to produce goods and services. Selfish desires and covetousness will not be rewarded or served by the abundance in Zion. A young man once told me he was poor, had nothing, and this made him humble. This will not justify anyone; it takes more than kind words and sympathy to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Zion is first of all a spiritual state of the heart of man before it becomes a place of peace and plenty. No force or coercion is used in the application of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The will of God compels no one to be righteous or holy, but invites all to partake of the gentle spirit of love.

"Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; commanded his people that they should persuade all commanded his people that they should persuade all but he hath given it free for all men: and he hath men to repentance." (2nd Nephi 11:102-103)

I recently met a dear lovely lady who told me she had been invited to write about Zion. In considering the subject she discovered that she was unable to write without much study and research. Like many of us she had heard much preaching about Zion yet was unable to put her thoughts on paper. So we find many different views expressed as to how and when Zion will become known to us and what we can expect our part to be.

Since it is a promised future development under the direction of the Holy Ghost, we are truly unprepared to give specific details of all the spiritual and material benefits to come. Like Paul, by faith we can accept the promise of Zion though "for now we see through a glass darkly". Apostle Paul also wrote, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them who love him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

Zion is to be sought for and hoped for with faith in God. The labors of love will bring the blessings of God as promised.

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth Zion in that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost." (1st Nephi 3:187)

Elder Arthur G. Smith

DOUBTERS: WITHIN AND WITHOUT

DOUBT: Hesitate to accept; hold as uncertain; distrust (Funk and Wagnall Dictionary)

Woe be unto me, my heart is overcome with sorrow, for I am compassed about with doubters. To which heart can I turn and find no doubt? On the street I find those who doubt the very existence of God, who doubt the reality of God. In most churches, while they practice a form of religion, yet they doubt the power of God. In our own church, the Church of Christ, I find doubt. There are those who doubt the work of establishing Zion, doubt the work done by those early Saints, doubt the prophecies God gave in these last days. Doubt, Doubt, Doubt.

I hear from the churches of the world a multitude of theories about what will happen in these last days. Each prominent leader having his own version of what will transpire and when. There is no wonder there is so much confusion, with so many "wise" men having interpreted the scriptures "correctly", having the ultimate answer. According to their claims, each can guarantee your salvation. If the churches of the world had the answers, then the Lord would not have need for the following.

"Wherefore the Lord said, for as much as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men: Therefore, behold I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." Isaiah 29:13 and 14.

By referring back to the 10th verse of this same chapter, we see that the prophet was speaking about a people who were to be in spiritual darkness. A people who would have no prophets or seers, for their eyes had been closed. They would have no access to divine light, other than the written word which they had among them. To many today the Bible is thought to be enough, but history has proven that without men inspired of God to teach them, such as Prophets, Apostles, Elders, etc., they were blind to the full contents of the scriptures. Therefore their "fear toward me is taught by the precepts of man." (See Romans 10:14 and 15)

It was amongst a people such as this that God proceeded to do a "Marvellous work", yes "a marvellous work and a wonder". It was the mass of confusion that existed in the churches of his time that caused Joseph Smith to seek the truth by asking directly of God for enlightenment. Those of us who are acquainted with the restoration movement know well the story of what followed Joseph's plea to God for that enlight-

enment. Out of that simple country boy's prayer of faith grew that "marvellous work and a wonder". That work brought to the world, not only the Book of Mormon, but also the restored Church of Christ. Along with them came also many revelations, which were to be used to direct the followers of Christ in these last days.

It must not be supposed that during this time in which the Lord was proceeding to perform his work, that Satan was asleep or that he was sitting idle. On the contrary, he was wide awake and very busy. He tried to interfere with the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon, to discredit it if possible, by distorting the message contained in the pages of manuscript Martin Harris lost. God foresaw his plan and foiled it. Satan then set about to destroy not only the Book of Mormon but also the restored Church. The history of the Church since 1830 shows that Satan has won many battles, but he has not won the war. His future success depends upon our actions during these last few years remaining in the dispensation known as the "last days"

In a discussion recently with a Non-Restorationist, I thought I could pinpoint the time and incident where the Church first began to go astray, but I found it very hard to do. Was their first big mistake not calling the twelve apostles when they were told to?, or was it in calling the Elders to the unscriptural office of high priests? Perhaps it was their faith in the arm of flesh that first caused their trouble, or even their election of Joseph to the again unscriptural office of President, thus escalating his pride. While all of these things were contributing factors to the fall of the Restoration, I cannot pinpoint any one thing as being the beginning of the trouble the Church was so quickly plunged into, unless it was their failure to follow the directions received in the early revelations.

As we step into the function of the Church today we are beset with many problems which had their beginning in those early days. We must pit ourselves against the fortifications Satan has established within the organization, if we desire to fight in the army of the Lord, and if we tender a hope of victory. Some may be content to shout about the victories already won, but the war is not over. There are battles to be fought, for Satan must not be allowed to continue to hold territory belonging to God's people, nor can his fortifications be allowed to stand between God and his children.

There is little disagreement between our brothers and sisters as to the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, or the Church of Christ; however when we get into the revelations given by Joseph Smith we run into much doubt. I am not surprised, as from some of those revelations have come damnable doctrines that have brought condemnation on the Church. The teaching of those false doctrines have so contaminated the minds

of the people of this nation that they won't even read the Book of Mormon. This is one of the victories Satan has won, for the time being.

Perhaps herein lies our problem, the revelations! Are they all wrong? They are definitely not all right. Some are clean and pure from error, others are totally false, while some are a mixture of truth and error. Who is the author of the false revelations? "Well," you say, "Satan, of course." Who is the author of the true revelations? "God is the author," you reply. What happened to those revelations that contain both truth and error? Perhaps that can best be explained in this manner: God gave a revelation of truth into which Satan inserted some false information.

What then can we do about these revelations? Some have refused all of the revelations. This would tend to give Satan his victory, for this is exactly what he purposed. By inserting false information into the revelations, he could not only lead many astray which he was successful in doing, but he would also cause many a true and honest heart to reject the word of God along with the false information. Some have accepted all the revelations, which has led them into false doctrines and an outright rebellion against God. This too gives Satan his victory.

We are at WAR with Satan. He is our adversary, he desires our soul. Are we willing to surrender to his desires? "No, you cry, yet you hesitate when faced with his strategy. "Well," some might say, "Christ will set things in order when he comes." Well He may! But we are called to service in these last days. Shall the private leave the battle to be fought by the General??? Can we sit back and wait for Christ to do the work he has called us to do, and which calling we have accepted when we entered the waters of baptism?

We are not left defenseless; we have all the necessary weapons to defeat Satan in this strategem. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of WISDOM; to another the word of KNOWLEDGE by the same Spirit; to another FAITH by the same Spirit . . . to another PROPHECY; to another DISCERNING of spirits . . . etc." (emphasis mine JFS) 1st Cor. 12:8 through 10 I have heard these things preached many times over the past years. DO YOU BELIEVE THEM??? I do. I believe if we put our faith in that Spirit, with our eyes single to the Glory of God and not our own pet theory, he will give us the necessary WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND DISCERNMENT, to extract from the muddle of truth and error in the commandments, the true will of God for us in these last days.

In the 29th Chapter of Isaiah quoted earlier note well what the prophet is saying. Because this people of whom the prophet was speaking, knew not God except by the teachings of man, because they came to know about God only what blind teachers could teach them, because their hearts were far removed from

God because of a lack of understanding Him, because they were lost on a sea of confusion, He would proceed to do a marvelous work in their midst. And what about that work? Is it also destined to end in a mass of confusion?? We have perhaps 18 years to reclaim that work. Is there any who will take up the sword of truth and fight?

Christ said to his disciples in Matt. 5:13 and 14, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? . . . ye are the light of the world." Here then is the calling of any who become His disciples, to be an example unto the world, that the world might see and learn. Is our example forever to be division and confusion? Take notice in this same chapter and verse what is to be done with the salt that has lost its savor, "it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of man." This is a tremendous warning to us today, a warning we dare not ignore.

Directed more pointedly at us is the following from the Book of Mormon, page 647, verses 38 through 41: "But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel; and I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father. But if they will not turn unto me and HEARKEN UNTO MY VOICE, (emphasis mine JFS) I will suffer them, yea I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them and shall tread them down. And they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel."

Can you turn from this warning? God is speaking to us; these scriptures found in the Book of Mormon are a direct revelation pertaining to us today. Read through your book of Commandments and notice how often you find the same words that I have emphasized above. "HEARKEN UNTO MY VOICE," or "HEARKEN, O YE PEOPLE OF MY CHURCH." God is pleading for you to listen to his voice.

I would like to insert here an interpretation of tongues given through Apostle T. E. Barton, Sr. at the Colorado Reunion, August 7, 1964, in Grand Junction, "Open your eyes that you may see. Unstop your ears that you may hear, for thus saith the spirit. I have already begun to bring to pass a fulfillment of prophecy already given showing forth my power in the disasters that are coming upon the peoples of the earth. They shall come from the heavens above and the earth beneath. The elements will be loosed, even all the elements that I have created. Come ye out of Babylon that ye be not a partaker of her plagues."

Notice he says "a fulfillment of prophecy ALREADY

given. (Emphasis mine) In my next article I want to bring to light some of the prophecies already given; prophecies which pertain to the disasters that are coming upon us. These are prophecies which came through Joseph Smith, and I'm sure they will be of interest to us all. (To be continued.)

Your Brother
in the Family of God

Joseph F. Smith
Rt. 1, Box 100 A
Horseshoe Bend, Idaho 83629

YUCATAN (THE QUESTION)

Yucatan, a jungle land where sisal fields are grown,
And yet a land of mystery entombed in graven stone.
Time was her wise men read the stars and knew the
moon and sun
And builded altars to their gods as every race has done.
Now come the students to the tombs, the tourists to
the gate.
They seek the long lost vaults of time to break and
penetrate.
But tongueless stands the sullen stone amid the temples
fair.
They see no more the worshippers who once assembled
there.
Time was that Yucatan was rich with wisdom art and
skill.
But now her halls are desolate, her temples strangely
still.
The scorpion and the coral snake in man-made grottoes
dwell
And slither quickly o'er the spot where culture rose
and fell.
What happened at the height of pride and luxury and
power,
Where billions hurried to their death in one terrific
hour?
Did plague and pestilence destroy a people grown so
great?
The answer hidden lies in time where man can't pene-
trate.

YUCATAN (THE ANSWER)

The mystery is solved! How sad - - the poet never
knew.
In whispers rising from the dust came truth - - for me
- - for you.
Once her wise men watched the stars and knew one
God was there.
Then the people turned away . . . and never breathed
a prayer.
A man named Mormon walked this land - - leader with-
out a cause.

His people (how he loved them!) broke his heart, and
all God's laws.
He wrote to tell us how it was and the reason why.
Once they were true sons of God. They didn't have to
die!
These steps that lead to temple walls once held Jesus'
feet.
The people gathered and He taught. The listening was
sweet.
They lived in love with God and man; and they were
richly blessed.
They prospered and they filled this land from eastern
shore to west.
Then pride came in and love went out. The end came
into sight.
Their own strength their glory now, they fought to live
and lived to fight.
The enemy came and he was used to bring to pass God's
will.
As they were warned it came about. Fierce fighting
hands were still.
But Mormon knew - - and so do we - - the story hasn't
ended.
Christ will come back - - and Mormon too! - - and all
our lives be blended.

YUCATAN, NOW

Yes, and even now, in that far off and ancient land
Where ruins crumble and jungle covered temples stand.
Within the hearts and souls of Lamanite native son
Truth's light has dawned and there has once again be-
gun
To rise and serve in Jesus name where forebears slum-
ber,
Men of God, filled with his Spirit, though few in num-
ber.
They've heard that cry, their ancestor's cry - from out
the dust -
And turned from folly's fables, to learn in God to trust.
And o'er those tombs of yesterday, His glorious truth
is taught;
And those who would scorn and persecute are as but
nought
To these they threaten for they have heard His voice;
To follow Him whate'er may come, has been their sac-
red choice.
So Christ, once more invades the sphere where perfidy
of man
Laid desolate; And Life anew returns to Yucatan.
And Christ is faithful to his word, when men in faith
and love
And obedience turn to him, he proffers from above
The gifts: the blessings, afflictions healed, miracles
given,
All of which when man is pure will make this dark
world a heaven.

**PROFESSED TO BE GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD
THROUGH HIS SERVANT, APOSTLE D. W.
HOUSKNECHT, AUGUST 31, 1957**

Verily thus saith the Lord unto all people, especially to those of the household of faith:

Behold, the gates that hold back the floods are lifting, therefore beware the tide at the breaking forth of the destroying waters, for verily they shall devastate all nations and bring down their pride and there shall be no barrier nor hand to stay the tide for lo, I move in judgment and my word shall not fail.

As fires are kindled, beware of their flame for surely they proclaim ruin and havoc and the walls and your structures, built to defey, shall crumble and the great and wise of the earth shall be appalled at the sight. Beware of the blast of the tempests which brew, for their strength shall increase and the world will be astonished at the roaring and rushing wind and lo, there shall be woe in the wake thereof.

Beware of the nesting plague as it springs forth to spread it's wings to bring the fresh and nourishing food to mildew and none shall escape neither shall high or low estate stand on land or sea. Great shall be the commotion, and panic will remain in it's path, yea even the treasures shall be as dust in the hands of they who hold them and poverty displace the strongholds of wealth.

Instead of the fertile fields there shall be famine and the labor of man's hand shall not yield in it's season. Earthquakes shall increase and shall cause the towers and strongholds to reel to and fro ere they tumble to earth and disaster upon and within bounds of earth shall only give inheritance of disorder and fear as nations war and contend, yea, even man against his neighbor shall wage war.

As the fury and the wrath is poured forth the hearts of the ungodly shall fill with woe and despair, but there shall be no restraining because of bonds or covenants they shall make to be spared from the vengeful slaughter which comes by reason of their pillage to get gain and a selfish end. Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord!

Surely as I speak, so shall it come to pass and that shortly. But whoso will may bide the hour, vain the scoff and scorn of the millions who are heedless.

But know this, oh my people, that judgment shall begin at your very door and a cleansing shall begin at your borders. Therefore that ye may not fear the scourge, rid yourselves of selfishness and love your God and your neighbor, and as sure as I have proven my word unto you and the faithful before you, so do I promise to send forth mine angels to camp about those who give sign of being worthy saint's and they

shall guard you for in this example of life are ye mine. Thus have I spoken and my Spirit beareth witness.

Repeat then this warning to the nations, that the day is fast approaching and is near to the end when the day of preparation has ended and the Lord your redeemer shall present himself gloriously to the faithful. Wait therefore upon thy Lord but wait not in idleness as you have hitherto done.

Verily thou hast sought me, but hast my former commandments been obeyed? Nay, but thou hast been idle from faithful labor and hast rather been contentious with thy brother and some have bequeathed my people with strange doctrines and burdened their hearts beyond the endurance of many and thus are they scattered.

Broken covenants lay strewn in the path wherein ye have walked, so thus have my lips been stayed from speaking unto you until ye remember your former covenants to keep them and my former commandments to obey.

Thus has my mercy been extended unto you my people in giving this last warning. Remember then this admonition, that ye may escape my wrath and the bringing of vengeance upon the heedless, greedy and blind.

Only by your sincere fasts and prayers joined by righteous obedience shall ye inherit the security found in my Zion.

Amen.

HIS IMAGE

I am His workmanship; and oh, the joy
To passive lie beneath His hand
And know that every blow that falls
Is making just the thing He planned.

I cannot understand the piercing pain,
The hammer and the chisel bring;
But I can trust and wait and pray,
And knowing Him, rejoice and sing.

Except some friction rise and irk and smart,
The polishing cannot be done.
The little things, the thoughtless acts
That sometimes come from dearest one.

All, all beneath the Savior's guiding hand,
From glory change to glory till,
At His appearing, I shall stand
In His own image by His will.

FACE TO FACE

I had walked life's path with an easy tread,
I followed where comforts and pleasures led—
Until one day in a quiet place
I met my Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth as my goal
Much tho't for the body, but none for the soul,
I had entered to win in life's mad race
When I met my Master face to face.

I built my castles, reared them high,
Until their towers pierced the sky
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace
I met my Master face to face.

I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see
That His eyes of sorrow were fixed on me;
I faltered and fell at His feet that day
And all my castles vanished away.

They melted and vanished, and in their place
I saw naught else but Jesus' face;
I cried aloud, "O make me meet
To follow the footsteps of Thy wounded feet."

My thought is now for the souls of men
I lost my life to find it again,
E're since alone in that quiet place
I met my Master face to face.

From F.E.B.C. Submitted by Vida Filley

LUCY SMITH MILLIKIN

LUCY SMITH MILLIKIN

Lucy Smith was born July 18, 1821 and was the last of the Smith children. She was born in a log cabin on the Smith family farm near Manchester, New York. Lucy was only nine years old when the church was organized April 6, 1830. In 1840 she married Arthur Millikin in Nauvoo, the ceremony being performed by her brother, Joseph Smith. Soon after Lucy and her husband went to Maine. Their first child was born in Maine. Lucy and her husband then returned to Colchester, Illinois where her sister Sophronia and her husband lived.

Over the years four sons and five daughters were born to Lucy and Arthur, all of them growing to maturity except a son who died when two years old.

The first son, Don Carlos, died in 1932 at the age of 89. A daughter died in 1934 also at the age of 89. Eight of the Millikin children married and left numerous posterity. Arthur Millikin died, April 23, 1882 and Lucy died eight months later.

Lucy Smith Millikin and her husband are buried in the WIDOWMORE CEMETERY which is located

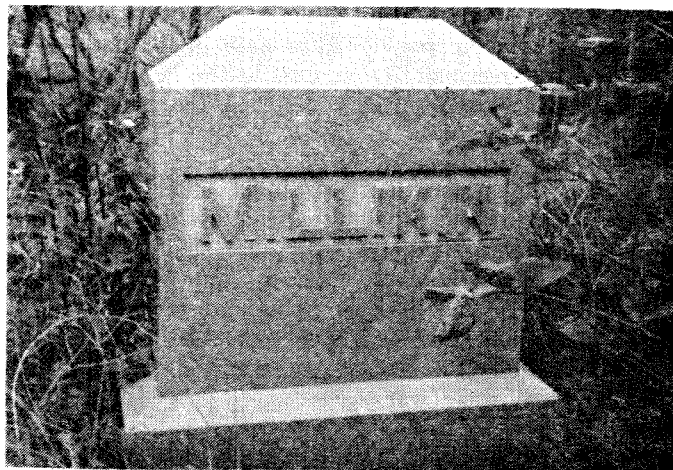
about one tenth of a mile north and west of Colchester, Illinois. This cemetery is in very poor condition (weeds, briars, etc.) and it was only by "sheer luck" and the help of Mr. John D. Myers, who has the Mount Auburn Cemetery records that I was able to locate the graves. The Millikin stone is quite prominent and is located in the approximate center of the cemetery.

NOTE: A careful check of the courthouse records in Carthage (county seat of Hancock county) and McComb (county seat of McDonough county) failed to locate a death record for Catherine, Sophronia or Lucy Smith.

Bibliography:

THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH SMITH by E. Cecil McGavin, Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, Utah 1963.
HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH by his mother Lucy Mack Smith, Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, Utah 1979.

LUCY SMITH MILLIKIN



LET ME LIVE TO YOUR GLORY

Oh Thou who are the stillness
of the deeps within the soul—
when all that is of time and substance
batters to a tattered shred
this tangle of bone and nerve and sinew
that is me;
through the calm serenity of your Spirit's grace
I would be free, from tortured sense;
from anxiety's pressure;
from sorrows chaffing tear
dripping into open wounds;
even while tempest and turmoil reign
and tragedy stalks the horizon,
I would hold me mute
from all complaining,
in the shadow of your Being;
in that stillness where alone
is known that You are God,
until the tyranny be spent
and the night of sorrows is no more.

Lord of life, I see Thee thread the minutes
of my hours on my days; make me content
that You should choose whether the tones be
somber or rainbow hued, only please God,
let the whole be a suitable jewel
in the garment of Your glory.

INDEPENDENCE YPCL NEWS

If you are between the ages of 13-30 and live near Independence, we would like you to come and be a part of the YPCL. The YPCL has begun planning their yearly summer outing. The outing will be in Clinton, Mo., and on the last weekend in July. Everyone from everywhere who is young is invited. The young people are also planning events one month in advance.

For more information concerning the YPCL, the outing ideas, or if you would like the YPCL to meet in your house, contact one of the following people.

George Adams: 1-566-2814
Dennis Bruner: 254-6213
Kim Oldham: 737-0920

Your YPCL reporter
recorder,
Nicholas G. Adams

"Whoso believeth in God, might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God." (Ether 5:4)

FLIGHT HOMEWARD

When I, spent star,
Thy worshipping satellite,
Begin my last encircling
flight to Thee—
Though dim I've grown,
through darkness shown
I'll be . . . by Thy
bright Majesty.

Lord, then assist me
in my perilous flight,
For strength depletes
and forces 'gainst me grope
To hold me back, and drag me
from Thy sight . . .
From the Sun of all my hope.

If tho' my spark seem lost
in that great dark veldt,
My God, then hear the cry
from out the abyss.

Draw Thou me past the
grievous mortal veil . . .
Where no power can resist.

Temptation past, safe held
in Thy radiant sphere;
Thy Spirit staved the dark
devouring wave,

No wandering star,
my orbit closed in Thee . . .
Moored in the high Enclave.

My Lord, Thou art the
all encompassing light,
There is no corner
from Thy beams can hide.

There is no power,
if my will standeth firm . . .
Can draw me from Thy side.

Winona (Adams) Onstott

EASTER SONG CONTATA

The "Easter Song" contata performed by the Independence Choir at the April, 1982 Church of Christ Conference is now available on cassette tape. Write to Harold Gill, 18848 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85024. Please enclose \$1.00 to cover the cost of the tape and postage.

The AVVAA Committee

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." (Isaiah 25:1)

GOLGOTHA

There is a hymn, "There is a Green Hill Far Away," which portrays the memorable site of the crucifixion of Jesus. The hymn starts like this: "There is a green hill far away, without a city wall; where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all, O dear-ly dear-ly has he loved, and we must love Him too; and trust in His redeeming blood, and try His works to do."

John 19:17-20 records the historic event in these words: "And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha: where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross, and the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city; and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin."

Like so many things, time changes some things. Other things, time or nothing can change. The hymn pictures a green hill; it's not green anymore. Today and for centuries there is a Muslim cemetery on top of Golgotha. Yet the form of a skull where the hill gets its name is evident to this day.

This sacred place is a prominent mound outside the old city wall of Jerusalem. If you would like to pass by it, come with me. I lived in Jerusalem and visited the site many times. It is near the Damascus Gate; the road that takes you by the site if we continued on it would take us down past the place where Stephen was stoned, the Church of St. Stephen, the Garden of Gethsemane, Bethany, Jericho and the Dead Sea. Below the hill or mound is situated what is called "the Garden Tomb." It is a tomb hewn out of the rock. This site was not known for many centuries.

Queen Helena, the mother of Constantine, is said to have discovered a cross inside the old city walls; she built a church on that site about 300 A. D. and since it has been demolished and rebuilt many times. It is called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The iron dome was restored by Catholics, Greeks and Turks in 1868 and since has had extensive remodeling down to the present time. So most Catholics, Roman and Greek, look upon the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as the place of Christ's crucifixion and burial, while Protestants favor the Garden Tomb at the foot of the hill of the skull outside the city walls.

My grandfather, Rolla Floyd, was a guide; he took parties through the Holy Land during the late 1800s. He was a guide for such noted figures as the Emperor of Austria and President Ulysses S. Grant. He also was a guide for the famous General "Chinese" Gordon, a British general. After retiring, General Gordon came to Jerusalem. He was convinced that the Church of

the Holy Sepulchre was not the site of Golgotha, so he excavated and found the tomb hewn out of the solid rock at the base of Golgotha. If you can't accept this discovery about a hundred years ago then visit both locations for yourself; let the Word and the Spirit be your guides. Let the words of the Angels ring in your heart. "Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

HE IS RISEN: HE IS NOT HERE. Those words were the words of the Angel to Mary Magdalene and Mary the Mother of James, and Salome. What a message to the children of men! First of all, the followers of Jesus cannot find their risen, resurrected Lord among the dead. Many great world religions so-called look to dead leaders, some look to leaders ascended to Heaven, (so they teach) but none, not a one, can point to their God as one that so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son to die for the sins of the world, to rise again and say, "Because I live ye shall live also."

No other world leader has ever been resurrected and after his resurrection be seen of over 500 men, women and children. Jesus has given the world many infallible proofs that He is the resurrection and the life. Long centuries before His birth, death and resurrection he was seen of Job, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself and not another; though my veins be consumed within me." Job 19:25-27. David said, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Ps. 17:15.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times; it is recorded in Luke 24:36-53: "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, 'Peace be unto you.' But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And He said unto them, 'Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.' And when He had thus spoken, He shewed them His hands and His feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered He said unto them, 'Have ye here any meat?' And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and an honeycomb. And he took it and did eat before them."

To John, the beloved Apostle, Jesus showed himself some 90 years A. D. He said on that occasion, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

"I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of Hell and of death." Rev. 1:8 and 18.

Golgotha is the place, but Jesus, the Messiah, is the way and the life. I love the words of Jesus. "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me. Because I live, ye shall live also." John 14:19

Howard Leighton-Floyd
Anderson, Missouri 64831

1982 MISSOURI REUNION NOTICE!

Efforts have been made for a more suitable arrangement for the Missouri Reunion in 1982. It was suggested that the reunion be held at Warrensburg, Missouri, at one of the college dormitories. After an investigation was made into the matter, it was agreed upon and the following arrangements have been made:

Date: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 13, 14 and 15, 1982. The first meeting will begin at 9:00 a. m. August 13.

Place: Warrensburg, Mo. at the East Hudson Conference Center. The building contains rooms sufficient to house all who come, as well as a kitchen and a meeting hall which is plenty large enough for our gatherings.

Location: East Anderson Street, east off Hiway 13 in Warrensburg, Mo.

Lodging: All rooms contain two twin size beds. Rooms rent for \$12.00 for one person only (one bed used) and \$16.00 for two persons (adults). It is permissible for two small children to sleep in the same room with their parents in sleeping bags on the floor. Two rooms share one bath. Bedding and linens are furnished. Lodging is available in the dormitory for Friday and Saturday nights only; you can rent for one night (either night) if you choose. Pay for lodging must be made as you enter. Each family will be responsible for the cost of their lodging. Arrangements can be made for disabled and elderly if we are notified before time.

Food: Meals will be furnished, desserts included. Noon and evening meals will be served on Friday. Breakfast, noon and evening meals will be served on Saturday and Sunday. Money donations will be accepted from those who dine with us. No food donations will be accepted as all food is catered and will be paid out of the reunion fund. Only college hired personnel will be allowed in the kitchen for food preparation, etc.

The expected result of this arrangement for the reunion will be that all the necessities - food and sleep-

ing quarters - will be taken care of in a way that we might all enjoy the time together in spiritual feasting. We can leave behind our worldly cares for a time and worship God in openness if we will. We encourage you all to attend and help make this the best Missouri Reunion ever.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA LOCAL REUNION

The annual Phoenix Local Reunion will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 26, 27 and 28, 1982. We anticipate your presence as we meet together and wait before our Lord.

If you desire to attend, please contact one of the following people prior to your arrival to make provisions for housing:

Jim Lacy, pastor 602 992 7072
18829 N. 29th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Jay Moser, asst. pastor 602 971 6697
4062 E. Danbury
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Hubert Yates 602 992 3613
18819 N. 29th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

TRI-STATE REUNION

MINNESOTA - WISCONSIN - IOWA

We have reserved the Zuya Group Camp at Lake Shetek, Currie, Minnesota for our 1982 Tri-State Reunion. The dates are July 2, 3, 4.

You are welcome and invited to come and meet with us for worship, prayer, and praise. This early notice will help you to plan.

For more information contact:

Elder Thomas S. Maley
615 Sheridan Ave. N.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411.

OKLAHOMA CITY LOCAL

Springtime in Oklahoma is a happy time for all of us. It is a time of refreshing rain, of the prevailing south wind to clear the air, of fields covered with colorful wild flowers, and a time of our reaffirmation of our faith.

Our faith, our belief in answered prayers, our love and communication among our brothers and sisters of the church were all reaffirmed when Steven Kimball survived his accident early in May. Steven, in the spring-time of his life, was made whole. His family, his church friends, and Steven, too, will not forget his great blessing.

Communication in 1982 is marvelous. Steven's accident spread like "wild fire" throughout the church. My Mother in Missouri told me about it, only a few hours after I had been told. With each of these tellings, prayers went up in his behalf. (Read Barbara's testimony in this issue.)

Mother's Day was a happy day for Barbara because of Steven's progress. It was a happy day for our other mothers when they met for church services in Mike and Barbara Martin's home. Barbara had corsages for all the mothers. The Larry Beems met with us this special day. Brother Larry spoke on "I Want to Serve God - - But!" He used his favorite scripture to help us understand more clearly what he was teaching. We can have all the blessings of God if we would only keep His commandments.

On May 24th, we gathered together in the Elwell home. We began with our scripture lesson taught by Brother Frank Fann. He used 1 Corinthians, 15th chapter. This chapter teaches us the gospel of Christ. During the lesson, Brother Frank asked the question, "Who takes care of us?"

"Jesus," replied three year old Greg Elwell.

III Nephi 5:34-41 was read to prepare us for the sacrament service. If we really believe in Christ, we will believe that it is our duty and it will be our desire to do what he wants us to do. All the commandments that are given us, if we are true believers, we will do all these things.

Repentance is the key to the gospel life. We can return to him. We must become as trusting as a little child. When we entered the waters of baptism, we promised to follow Him. One of the commandments is administered by an elder or priest, we "kneel down with the church, and pray to the Father in the name of Christ, saying. O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God the eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given him, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen. (Book of Mormon, p. 761) Each member accepted his/her portion of the blessed bread. Again we kneeled, while Brother Frank took the cup of wine and said, "O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee, in the name

of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son which was shed for them, that they may witness unto thee, O God, the eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen." (Book of Mormon p 762.) The cup was passed and partaken of by each member. This sacred service was climaxed by testimony and song. M. G. Elwell testified of a healing he received as a child. Even though he was about 10 years old at the time, he still remembers his great blessing. Barbara Kimball testified of the Lord's blessing upon Steven in his hour of need. She received great comfort just knowing the Fanns were on their way to administer to Steven. There were other testimonies of love and thanksgiving.

We all returned to our homes with grateful hearts of thanksgiving and we are looking forward to seeing and hearing Tony and Louise Grzincic at our first meeting in June.

May God bless all of you wherever you may live.

Reporter,
Alzada Massey

CHURCH OF CHRIST at Ava

There were so few in attendance at Ava on the first Sunday of May that the Sacrament service was postponed until the second Sunday. Bro. Arthur Smith was the preacher that first Sunday and took his reading from the first chapter of Psalms. His sermon was on the first law, obedience.

On the second Sunday both of our Elders were sick, so there were no meetings.

The Rally was held the third Sunday and Ava was happy to welcome brothers and sisters from the Collins, Houston and Independence congregations as well as quite a few scattered members. Brother Isaac Brockman was the first preacher that day. In speaking of the Rally, he referred to the old call of, "Rally 'round the flag, boys," when soldiers were called to regroup for strength and leadership. He suggested that for us it is a call to rally 'round the banner of the gospel. In the second sermon of the morning, Brother Roland Sarratt advised, "Hold aloft the Spirit's standard," so the flag that we should rally to has been pointed out for us.

Brother Brockman's first reading was taken from 1 Peter 2, especially verse 9. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light," . . . a peculiar people, zealous of good

works . . . "we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection" (Rom. 6).

Brother Roland continued speaking of the kingdom of heaven, reading a quotation from a song, "Wake your church to intercede . . . share and communicate the Spirit . . . purge and purify . . . Hold aloft the Spirit's standard . . . speed the gospel of the kingdom." He pointed out that we are engaged in a war that began in heaven. The kingdom today, is it alive? The future? Rejuvenated and rededicated, until His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Brother Alvin Harris was the preacher in the afternoon. He continued by reading Mosiah 9:52-55, "And he commanded them that they should preach nothing save it were the things which he had taught, and which had been spoken by the mouth of the holy prophets . . . nothing save it were repentance and faith on the Lord, . . . and that there should be no contention one with another, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love . . . and thus they became the children of God." Do we really believe what we say we believe? "And he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God, until they know them in full." Who are we? 1 Peter 2:9 (as Brother Brockman read at the beginning of the Rally.) What should we be doing? 1 Tim. 4:7, "Exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

Ella Engle, reporter

HOUSTON LOCAL REPORT

Our pastor, John H. Jones has started a series of sermons about the Kingdom of God, of which he has given three to date. God will set up the kingdom, not leave it to others. He will make the rules, laws, by which we are to abide. He will select the officers: ministers, evangelists, preachers, elders, apostles, teachers, deacons, priests, although not in that order necessarily. He calls them by revelation as Aaron was called.

Christ asked Peter, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." God had revealed that fact to Peter. Christ told him that ". . . upon this rock (revelation) will I build my church."

The nature of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven or God is like becoming citizens of a country: one must fulfill and follow the laws of the land. So to become one of God's children, one must follow God's rules or commandments. One must enter through faith, repentance, be baptized by authorized ministry, those called of God, and receive through the laying on of hands, the gift of the Holy Ghost. The promise is to all,

As many as the Lord shall call can enter His kingdom thusly.

David Jones was one of our speakers telling us that we need to return to Christ's values, seek first the Kingdom of God. We are to live a certain way, not to follow the world. There are many pressures that would draw us away from the straight and narrow way we are to travel. Our young have a struggle with peer pressures and other worldly influences that put down religion, looking to turn one away from God. We're being tested every day in every way. As Christians we may have to fight for the right to attend the church of our choice. If they pressure us, will we give up? Or have we just begun to fight?

Can you stand up and declare your beliefs in the Church of Christ doctrine? Stand up and say it! We need to realize how great the power of God is. He is more powerful than any power on earth. Is the Spirit of God established in your heart to help you in the fight against the adversary? The Lord will work with us; He doesn't want to lose one soul.

Brother Marvin Case of Independence was our guest speaker this month. He suggested that we pray to be more convinced, convicted, and converted to the power of God, the authority of God and the wisdom of God. Are we convinced? Do we acknowledge His authority in our lives, in the things that He does for us and of what He asked of us? He will bring us wisdom and understanding on any subject. People of the world don't believe you in regard to God's gift of wisdom. We need faith, strength, courage to stand firm in God's instruction and wisdom.

When we run into problems, we can search the scriptures, check out the truths to see if what we are told is correct and in line with God's word. Don't believe man, believe God. Cling to His words of truth. Remember the devil has power to lead or try to lead us astray. Plant your feet in the straight and narrow path.

We are told to love God, and also our fellow man. We need to show love and affection to each other, help to supply blessings others need in answer to prayer. The new commandment Christ gave us was to love one another, then all men would know we are His disciples.

On May 16, we all journeyed to Ava to join them on their rally day where a good time was had, both in spirit and mental stimulation. It was a delightful day.

I ask you all to remember our son, Martin, who has been having some of the old problems with his Hemophilia and is slow at recuperating at this writing. We would appreciate your prayers in his behalf. Thank you.

Mary Addie

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1983 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 3, 1983. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A. M. Monday, April 4. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 1 and 2, 1983.

The 1982 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 18th, 19th and 20th 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 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

Non-members \$4.00; Foreign \$4.50 Per Year

	Price Each
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	\$5.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	\$4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	\$2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	\$2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder	\$2.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	\$2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	\$1.30
Temple Lot Deed	\$.30
Changing of the Revelations	\$.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	\$1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostacy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice, No. 9, 20	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church Teaches in Respect to Matrimony (Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Is Any Sick Among You?"	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
Are You Satisfied?	N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are: In packs of 6, 50c; 100, \$5.85.

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE
(USPS 699-300)
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Mo. 64051-0472

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE

(USPS 699-300)
P. O. Box 472

Independence, Mo. 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid

Independence, Mo. 64051

GRANT EAMES
SAND LAKE, MI. 49343

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 the Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the Church of Christ.

"The Return" — A 12 minute slide program with taped narration about the return of the members of the Church of Christ to the "land of Zion" in 1867.

"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. 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. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, 2929 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Send all orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Price Each

Primary, Volume 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus (Out of 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

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)