

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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We Tell On Ourselves

We tell on ourselves by friends we seek,
By the very manner in which we speak,
By the way we employ our leisure time.
By the use we make of dollars and dimes.

We tell on ourselves by the things we wear.
By the Spirit in which we our burdens bear.
By the kind of things at which we laugh,
By songs we sing, if it's only a paragraph.

We tell what we are by the way we walk,
By the things of which we delight to talk,
By the manner in which we bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how we eat.

By books chosen from a well filled shelf,
In these ways we tell on ourselves.
So there is really not a particle of sense,
In an effort to keep up false pretense.

Selected

CONTENTS

Being Spiritually Handicapped	162	More Light and Truth to Break Forth	173
Oh Lord of Love and Light	163	Faith and Doubt	174
This World Will Judge You	164	Obituaries	174
Missouri Reunion 1982	167	Notices	175
Local News Items	168	God's Winds	175
Excerpts of Letters and Testimonies	173		

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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. 64138, 356-6159

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

Alvin L. Harris, 3405 South Leslie, Independence, Missouri 64055
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Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
200 S. River Blvd.
P. O. Box 472

Att.: Alvin L. Harris, Business Manager, General Church
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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

Secretary, Council of Bishops, Leslie P. Case, 8312 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139.

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

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

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Editorial . . .

BEING SPIRITUALLY HANDICAPPED

As we listen to the news or read our newspapers, we are usually caused to feel sorrow and sympathy for the various peoples who suffer from the innumerable tragedies of mishap and violence that occurs almost daily. One such thing that happened a few years ago which brought to our attention again as an update on the national news, was the progress report of the many children that were born deformed (minus arms, legs, etc.) due to expectant mothers taking a certain drug. It is somewhat horrifying to realize that with all the medical and technical knowledge this great world claims to have that such ill-advised and blunderous things could happen. Yet this kind of thing is not at all uncommon; many people are victims of experimentation and misguided efforts.

The fact that countless numbers of people have lived out their lives without all their members or with other handicaps is very real. Many are to be commended for making the best of their adverse situations. But if we were able to draw a true comparison of the physically handicapped with the spiritually handicapped, we undoubtedly would be given reason to be more concerned for the spiritually handicapped rather than the physically handicapped.

To some degree we can make a comparison. We can see that the spiritually handicapped are much like

the physically handicapped in that they both can be healed of their handicaps by the power of God. Christ and his disciples openly demonstrated the power to heal the sick, lame, blind, etc. as well as to cast out devils. But this part of Christ's mission only characterized his greater mission - - and that was to heal man of his will to sin.

Jesus was able to get the attention of the people for a time by preaching and teaching them, but many were only attracted by his miracles; when the miracles ceased, they ceased to follow him. They did not avail themselves of the thing they needed most - - spiritual health.

The natural man usually treasures good physical health, but what good is his physical health if he is spiritually sick? His physical health is of no lasting value for he usually spends his energies on things that give earthly rewards. If a person is truly converted to the gospel of Christ, his ultimate desire and hope is the eternal reward that Christ has promised him.

The foundation of our commission and the foremost of our purposes as a church is to heal the spiritually sick or handicapped. Yes, the blessings are forthcoming to all who have faith in Jesus Christ to be healed of their physical deformities, injuries, sicknesses and af-

flictions, and none are denied the hope to be healed if their faith in Christ is sufficient. But if they have faith to be healed physically, surely they will have faith to be healed spiritually.

Why should anyone need to be healed spiritually and what is a spiritual handicap or sickness? Spiritual sickness is most usually thought to only exist when one is possessed by an evil spirit - - being mentally out of control. But being spiritually handicapped is far more common. Most of us have a weakness that allows the evil one to have just a slight edge over our self-control in a certain thing. As long as there is an opening whereby Satan can enter, he will use it to the limit in gaining control over a person. The most common cause of our problems is that we have left an opening where Satan can enter. Somewhere we have overlooked or excused a fault (sin) and we have accepted it like a "withered hand" or a crippled leg, becoming resigned to live with it.

Even with all the valuable truths available to us, we have not yet been sufficiently educated to being spiritually whole - - the forsaking of our "live sins" that bind us to our condition of being spiritually handicapped. We have not literally learned that God is on our side in our becoming spiritually whole - - perfect.

To become so educated is very simple; we must want perfection. We must hate our imperfections. It is actually a matter of our own mental attitude and realistic choice.

If a person has a physical ailment he must hate that ailment and desire to rid himself of it if he is to get well. If he learns to live with it and accept it as a permanent part of himself, he will always have it and it may very well overcome him in the end.

The same is true of a weakness or sin. If he gives in to temptation and allows sin to become a general part of his disposition, it will have victory over him. He, therefore, must learn to hate his sin and seek strength to rid himself of it.

The strength of will is given to man to do with as he chooses; God will not dictate or control his wills unless he submits himself to God. Conversely, the devil seeks to have full control over man to make him his servant. For this reason man should strive to exercise his personal wills that determine his freedom of choice - - that which has to do with his spiritual well-being. If he maintains a strong will that gives him power over himself and a keen awareness of good and evil, he can meet mountains of opposition and not be overcome spiritually.

This does not mean that he would not submit to the will of God; rather it means that he will have con-

trol of himself so that he truly can, by his own choice, submit to God's will. He will not easily give way to the will of the flesh, to a weakness nor to any temptation that comes his way.

The Lord is willing to forgive man for his repented sins, but the Lord cannot take away his will to sin if he holds to it. He must develop within himself a distaste or hatred for the thing that holds him within its grip.

So as we look upon the little bodies of deformed children and our hearts become pained because of their conditions, remember that the spirits of many people that we encounter daily are often equally deformed or sick because their parents - - forefathers - - have been drugged with the precepts of man. We are the bearers of their help and cure; we can give them the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ which can make them spiritually whole.

RLS

OH LORD OF LOVE AND LIGHT

Oh Lord of Love and light, divert our eyes that they see not so much of time and space . . .

But, loosened from their mortal bonds - pierce through the mists of humanness, and catch a glimpse of Thy sweet face . . .

Open our souls to deeply sense
Of all we know is true;
To the real of the invisible -
To the joy that is You.

Oh Lord of love and light,
That faith see past what does
Appear, when darkest clouds obscure
And threaten heart with fear.

That in such night, or chasm deep
When soul would faint or fail -
We may look up - eyes touched by Thee
To see within the veil.

To see Thee constantly
E'en closer than each breath of air,
And stooping, we may kiss the hem
Of the garment Thou dost wear.

And heart, and soul, and mind rejoice; and every fiber sing of that which though unseen is true . . .

More true than all we touch and taste . . . than all that meets the eyes; and praise Thee Lord, while time gives breath . . .

To Thee our paeans rise!

"THIS WORLD WILL JUDGE YOU"

A Sermon by Apostle Marvin Ely
(Part 2 and conclusion)

I would like to turn to Romans the 14th chapter verses 10-13, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ," every one of us and I don't care who he is, "for it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Now this is something that we want to remember: when it comes right down to the final thing, I'm going to give account of myself to God and you will give account of your self to God. It isn't the way we have said things concerning our fellow man, we can't even do it for our fellow man, because we each have to do our own thing.

So how careful we must be that we do not place a stumbling block before our fellow being, but in this we must realize that in this life it is important that we must have judgment, and this judgment, I read one definition, is the ability to make a wise decision. This is part of judgment. Another part of judgment is knowing what we should do and what we should not do. Jesus said, judgment is one of the weightier matters of the law.

And if we turn to Matthew 23:23 and bring out a statement that Jesus Christ said to the Pharisees and the Scribes, "Woe, unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites," and he went on to say that they had paid tithes of mint and rue and cummin and had omitted the weightier things of the law; judgment, mercy and faith. And he said, "These ye ought to have done and not leave the others undone." Now to their credit these Scribes and Pharisees, they did impart of their substance, they paid their tithes. But they omitted the weightier things of the law which were judgment; and like I said, judgment is the ability to make wise decisions. And then he said, mercy, for we must have mercy in our lives one toward another, for Jesus Christ said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7. This is the way the judgment of God will work.

And then last was faith. They had omitted faith, and we find in Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." So we better believe this, that without faith we really can't please God. But the other beautiful statement is, that those who come to God must believe that he is; that he is a real person who can really impart unto us; who can help us in our time of need and make our lives richer and fuller, and he is a rewarder of them that diligently

seek him. And in terms of our day, there are fringe benefits that you hear about in certain jobs. Well there are fringe benefits in following Jesus Christ and God. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

And so he said to the Pharisees and the Scribes, "you've omitted the weightier things of the law. These ye ought to have done" He didn't stop there, "and not to leave the other undone." See how all these things tie together?

I turn back now to Matthew 7 and pick up our little statement concerning, why beholdest thou the mote that's in thy brother's eye and considerest not the beam in thine own eye, and now I want to read verse 5, "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." So if we really want to help our brother, and we've got that responsibility too, each one of us, to help our fellow beings. If you can but lift one person today and help them, you've done a service to God. Like King Benjamin's statement where he says, when you're in the service of your fellow beings you are only in the service of God. I really like that, he made a very wise statement.

And let's turn over to Galatians the 6th chapter and verses 1 and 2, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault," that other says remove the wrong doing from yourself first, then you can help your fellow being, and this says, "If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one," how? "in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself lest thou also be tempted." So if we don't do it in the spirit of meekness we'd better consider our own self because we might be tempted in doing this.

And Paul, in Romans 15:1, had a verse that ties very well with that, "WE then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." We find in any group of people some that are weak and some that are in between and some that are strong. Now there is the commandment, that those who are strong should bear the infirmities of the weak. Sometimes there has been people who have fallen because of the example we've set. Some who are weaker, some who may not even continue attending church or other things. They become discouraged because of the actions of their fellow beings. So we have a responsibility, those who are strong, and sometimes I really wonder who the strong are. But I do know that there are some who are stronger than others.

Verse 2 of the 6th chapter of Galatians, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

We have a commandment to bear one another's burdens, yet you go on down to verse 5 and it says, "For every man shall bear his own burden." That may seem like a conflict of statement but what this is trying to say is that each one of us has got a responsibility to share and bear one another's burdens, but when it comes right down to the final thing we each have to do our own thing in this life; we are responsible for our own soul salvation, but it does not mean that we cannot lift a brother or a sister in a time of need or impart some special strength to our fellow beings that we associate with whether in the church or without the church. We find the Book of Mormon oftentimes very plain and explicit on the duties of mankind in not only imparting to those that are within the church but also to those that are without; and we have a duty today to not just stop within a small segment of people but to reach out to peoples about us and to those of the world. We've got a very great duty, as a matter of fact.

Let's turn over to Ephesians, 4: verses 30-32, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Don't grieve the holy Spirit of God, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." This is a thing that is important; we should search into these truths more fully and completely, because I've seen bitterness where it has caused a lot of distress; I've heard people of the church say, 'I'm very bitter because of (something)' and yet very plainly here Paul in speaking to the Ephesians says, "let all bitterness be put away. Is that plain or is it not? Maybe it isn't all that easy but it is not impossible to put it away from in the midst of us.

"And wrath and anger," these things should not be numbered among the children of men. We've got a responsibility to love even those that despitefully use us and persecute us; to pray for those of such like. And malice is to be put away, and that is ill-will. We shouldn't feel ill-will one toward another. "And be ye kind one to another." (kindness, a thing that doesn't cost any of us one nickel to display), "tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." And so be ye kind, tender hearted, forgiving one another. How important it is that we learn to do this.

Let's turn to Colossians, 3:12-14, "Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies." It's important to have mercy, "kindness" and little acts of kindness don't cost anything and you can really lift somebody in distress by being kind to them. You can even receive a lift yourself, and even toward people not in distress, it doesn't cost anything to be kind. Just to smile at somebody upon the street doesn't cost you anything. These little acts of kindness are important. "Humbledness of mind," how important it is that we humble ourselves more completely, and that

we pray for the spirit of discernment. It is vital that we humble ourselves; that we're not a haughty, or a proud people. But if we come down into the depths of humility we will find that God and Jesus Christ can work with us more fully and we will be more blessed.

And also "meekness" is one of the traits that we should have numbered among us. We think of Jesus Christ; he was the greatest person that ever walked the face of the earth, who ever lived, and yet he says "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." Learn of me, he said, and this is what I really wanted to gather out of this, "for I am meek and lowly in heart." Now if you really want to receive the fullness of the things contained in the scripture, and we spoke of the gifts of the spirit in the Sunday school class, if you want to be fully recipient of these wonderful gifts, this is the way. Learn of Jesus Christ and become meek and lowly of heart. And so it is important that we have meekness as a part of our makeup. And "longsuffering," this is not the natural attitude of man to be longsuffering; to be patient. But there is a scripture that says, "the trying of your faith worketh patience," and patience is a great attribute. Man by nature is kind of impatient, all too often. Maybe this is why there are so many trials. The trying of your faith works patience.

And then it says, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another." I looked up forbearing, and sometimes the definitions of our day don't seem to fit but there was one listed under the title of obsolete, and to forbear means to bear with, and another meaning is to endure. And I enlarge upon this, that we find within peoples different character attributes; there are things in in my character that I'm sure can irritate people. Some of the things I know about and may be working on to get rid of; others I may be unaware that they even exist, but some of you no doubt do. If you'll just bear with me and kind of endure me, we might all get along it bit better.

We find man and wife don't always agree, and if some say, we've never had an argument or never had a word that wasn't in agreement, they're just kidding themselves, because a man and wife are two different people. But just bear with one another, it works, the scripture says it will. And the same way in families, children to fathers, and fathers to sons and daughters. There has to be some giving and there has to be some forgiving. The scripture says, forgive one another. When we deal with our fellow beings, when we deal with brothers and sisters in the church, and I know this is true, there are some people you just love to be in their company, you just enjoy being around them, and there are other people that, to be right truthful, you'd just as soon be with someone else. Isn't that true? There are people you prefer and there are oth-

ers, that really it takes an effort. But this says, "endure one another" and maybe these little traits that irriate can be overcome and we can have peace and joy.

"Forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." And we see how these truths unfold. And then comes the great thing; the great attribute of all. "And above all things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." And there is the clue; the great answer is this thing called charity." The love and concern that we should have one for another, "It is the pure love of Jesus Christ and whosoever is found possessed of it at the last day it shall be well with them." The same person in the Book of Moroni, says to "pray with all the energy of your heart that you might be filled with that love." I tell you this day you'd better believe that is true, and you'd better be doing it, and there is the answer to all the problems that exist, right there. If we have sufficient love, beautiful things can be unfolded before our eyes.

I find in Romans 13:10-14, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." And I see I've read in the wrong chapter but how good it was. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, "it's later than we think, "the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness," which is part of the day in which we live, "not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." Strife and envying should not be a part of the household of faith, or of anybody else, "But put on ye the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." So the important thing is to put on Jesus Christ this day. In verse 12 it says "the night is far spent, let us cast off the works of darkness."

Over in 2 Nephi 11 beginning with verse 95, "For behold, my beloved brethern, I say unto you, that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him." How beautiful that is; he desires to draw all men unto him. "Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation. Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying, depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith, Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price." This thing called salvation is free, and it cannot be purchased with money. It is free to those who follow the proper procedures to receive it. These great gifts are free unto the children of men. And this goes on: has

he commanded any that they shall not worship him in his houses of worship or partake of his salvation? And the answer is nay; his thing is to persuade all men unto repentance. "Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness?" He wants all to partake of it but it's up to you and I how much we want to partake of the goodness of Jesus Christ and of God. "Behold, I say unto you, Nay, but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden." We turn to verse 113 through 115 and find other scriptures that tie with this, "And he invited them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; And he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; And he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile." That indeed is beautiful.

I have another scripture in John 8:12. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." So I hope this day that I have imparted some truths to you that help you to have a greater desire to walk in them and to have the light of life and not this darkness that is ever about in the world.

I have a poem with which to close by Bonnie Sanders entitled:

WHAT WOULD I GIVE

What gift would I wish to send you
If I had the power to give -
I'd send you the gift of sunshine
For every day that you live.

I'd send you the gift of peace of mind,
Freedom from want and fear,
I'd send you a beautiful sunrise
For every day of the year.

I'd send you dew drops to glisten
Like diamonds on a new budding rose;
I'd send you dancing sunbeams,
A cup that overflows.

I'd send you joy and happiness,
And everything that is good
All of these things I'd send you
If 'twas in my power I could.

But such gifts were already given
When God sent his Son from above;
No greater can you ever receive
Than His precious gift of God's love.

Words should be employed as the means, not as the end; language is the instrument, conviction is the work.

Sir J. Reynolds

MISSOURI REUNION 1982

It's not often that we get to see the turning of a page in time. Those who attended the Missouri Reunion may have witnessed just that this summer. The sermons at the Reunion showed a greater urgency in their warning of the need for preparation for the time we are living in. They said, This is "the time of awakening," "Out of the latter days, now in the last days," "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." "We are entering the days of tribulation."

Brother Bill Sheldon was the first preacher that weekend. He spoke of the need for preparation for things to come, the need for a fuller application of His teachings to our lives, the need for a grater faith, even like that of the brother of Jared. "In that day that they shall exercise faith in me, . . . that they may become sanctified in me . . ." He mentioned that the hand of affliction is heavy upon us now, and gave the admonition from Isa. 1:16 on, "Wash you, make you clean; . . . Learn to do well; seek judgment . . . And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross . . . afterward thou shalt be called The city of righteousness, the faithful city . . ."

Brother Hubert Yates was the second speaker of the Reunion. His first reading was from Mosiah "I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together . . ." He likened King Benjamin's teaching that day to the Church of Christ teaching us this day. "God has not given us a spirit of fear but of . . . love and a sound mind. Called with a holy calling, endure hardness as a good soldier. If ye be risen in Christ, . . . set your affections on things above. It's time for the Church of Christ to awake. It's not only important that the Spirit of God speaks to us; it's also important that we listen. Choose you this day whom you will serve. As many as I love, I will chasten. Before we want to teach, let's be taught of that Spirit.

The sermons this Reunion did not simply follow each other. Many of them were interwoven. With two previous sermons to work with, Brother Marvin Ely began this weaving process: The need for greater faith, for greater love for our brothers and for God, the endurance of good soldiers seeking the old paths, called with a holy calling to be a righteous people; a holy, ddicated people. The Bruner family sang, "Lord, Help Me Walk Just One More Mile," and this fit in too.

Brother Ely referred to the manifestation printed in the July ADVOCATE and quoted the last paragraph, "Only by your sincere fasts and prayers joined by righteous obedience shall ye inherit the security found in my Zion." His sermon was primarily on instruction for fasting and prayer. "They did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the

purifying and sanctification of their hearts . . ." Isa. 58: "Shew my people their transgressions . . . They delight to know my ways . . . Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not?" He continued verse by verse through the chapter, showing with cross references what really is a fast, an acceptable day to the Lord.

One of the nicest things about the way the Reunion was held this year, is that at night most people didn't have to go home and miss something. On Friday night one group met in the lobby on the second floor and sang for a couple hours. The Bruner family had brought their instruments and they led the music, helped by a couple of relief guitar pickers and one shy and retiring singer. There may have been a similar gathering on the first floor also. Two mothers and a bunch of little girls gathered on one stairway to practice songs or tell stories. Others retired to their rooms and were peacefully sung to sleep.

In the prayer meeting on Saturday morning, Brother Loren Bryant reinforced one of the things Brother Ely had touched on in his sermon: We must be careful even what we think about, for "the imaginations of our hearts" are heard continually. And again, we have to be a prepared people, through fasting and prayer.

Neither the scheduled speaker nor either of two alternates were present for the 11th hour service on Saturday. We had an A#1 substitue, Brother Leon Yates. Brother Yates defined Reunion as "for the purpose of effecting a religious awakening," and at no other time in the world has it been so important to have widespread awakening . . . that ye might be partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4-12). Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our profit and learning, that we might have hope. That we may be perfect. Let your light so shine that men may see it and glorify God. Bring forth works of righteousness. We're involved in more than just the church. We're involved in the Kingdom. It's our duty to cry, "Christ is coming." Rightousness is the ticket to the wedding feast. Ahe you prepared? We're standing right on the brink of time when Christ is going to appear. Prepare ye, prepare ye.

There is one interesting bonus added to the other advantages of meeting as we did this year. Since a few minutes of thoughtless delay could make a hardship for those working in the kitchen, and could even deprive them of part of a meeting, the preachers made a special effort to close their sermons in their allotted time. The sermons were so crammed full we could not tell that anything had been left out. But sometimes it did stir up a curiosity about what more a speaker would have taught if he'd had time. Curiosity about the scriptures seems like a healthy thing.

The young people were in charge of the Saturday afternoon meeting. They presented four double skits,

each showing the wrong way and then the right way of handling a situation: The Lunch Line with the selfish individual who will not abide by the rules of courtesy and fair play, The Curfew where parents become strict about a family rule, the Movie where the choice is between keeping your own standards or impressing a date, and The Party where a group of friends puts pressure against your way of life. The skits were so simple and so clear you didn't remember until later that some of these young people have already faced actual physical danger because of their standards and beliefs.

After the skits, a panel of young people (Joel Yates, Nick and George Adams, Kim Oldham and Marie Case, with Larry Sarratt) led a discussion with the congregation on discipline, music, entertainment, dress, and a variety of other things. They did great.

Brother Eugene Gould began his sermon with a warning (2 Nep. 12:35) Wo be unto him that shall say, "We have received the word of God and we need no more . . . we have enough." And the promise, "Unto him that receiveth, I will give more." (Alma 9:15) It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God . . . according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him. (3 Nep. 12:3) And if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.

Brother Arthur Smith was the last speaker on Saturday. He presented the other side of the coin - not the blessings and benefits promised the righteous, but the possibility of trials and troubles to drive us together, of necessity and persecutions to make us meek. Using the parable of the sower, he preached a sermon of repentance. He gave us a guideline: "If everyone were just like us, what kind of a church would this church be?"

On Saturday night there were cookies and coffee and tea served in the lounge. There was such a crowd it was almost standing room only. Those who did sit down must surely have missed something because 18 inches above their heads the conversations flowed back and forth. You had only to turn a quarter turn or move one step over to join in a new group. The conversations probably told a lot about the group too: The need for manifestations and revelations to agree with the Scriptures; about brothers and sisters who had planned to come but couldn't; a request for a recipe for an exceptionally good cookie; the dangers some of our people were living among; the burdens some were carrying; how one sermon or another touched a common interest. We shared. It got late, but rest wasn't far away.

Brother Don McIndoo was the final speaker of the Reunion. He used bits from 4000 years of recorded history with the idea that we should learn from the past and apply that learning to our lives today. From the unheeded prophecies of Jeremiah (ch. 7, 8 and 2) and

the warnings of God to the brother of Jared that those who lived on this choice land must serve the Lord, through the Puritan covenant and the Revolutionary War and Constitutional Congress, the history upholds a people who deny themselves and take up their responsibility of serving God and each other. Our nation, in trouble now, needs an example in all our communities. God's people must lead the way, to repent and humble themselves, to deny themselves, and to do it willingly. A body of believers, completely committed to a sacred trust.

Just before dismissing the congregation, Brother Yates and Brother Brantner said, "Our ministry have had their fingertips on the pulse of the times. We are living today in the time we have looked for all our lives." "We've been living below our privileges, Brothers and Sisters. Let us be up and about our Father's business."

Ella Engle

Secretary for the Missouri Reunion

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Brother Isaac Brockman was our guest speaker on July 11th. His topic was: God has a plan that will not be altered. Every living thing in nature depicts the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ. He rehearsed to us that by taking upon us the name of Christ we have become God's children - - we should act as such. We cannot get away from the power of God. He further told us that true happiness does NOT come from wealth. It comes so simply from the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is not something that is passive - - it must be acted upon. It must be lively - - stirring within us all the time.

The following Sunday was our dinner Sunday and Brother Roland Sarratt was our guest speaker. Referring to others outside the Church of Christ he said - - they're doing so much with what little they have and we are doing so little with the great amount we have. God is perfect, He does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. Man is in a fallen state via Adam. Christ is our mediator. He makes it possible for our reconciliation to God. Our spirit will never be comfortable anywhere but in the presence of God. Christ has made it possible for us to return to God. He also stated this: There are those who know the miracles of God, but don't come to know the God of Miracles. (A thought worth considering.)

The following Sunday Brother Larry Shaw brought some interesting thoughts to us. He said we have a new god - - FUN. Our society revolves around what we can buy, etc., to help us to enjoy or have "fun." Don't be a victim of our society. What goes on inside us is more important than what goes on around us. He told us - - the treacherous, unexplored areas of the uni-

verse are not in continents or in the sea, but in the hearts of man. (That's a quote from someone, but I forgot who.) He also said that God didn't create us to be failures. He wants us to be happy, healthy, etc. He closed with a challenge that I'd like to share with you: You're God's image - - How does He look today?

Brother Joe Yates spoke to us August 8th. He referred to their Sunday School lesson on lying being so well accepted - - taxes, bankruptsy, etc. He said lying is a trap door over Hell - - easily sprung. He spoke of a preacher as a salesman selling something that WILL DO YOU GOOD. He said God blesses people who obey him. IF we would "do unto others . . ." there would be no wars all over the world. Priority - - "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." What principles do we live by? If you don't have your mind made up as to what is right (the standard you live by) sin can creep in.

The Missouri Reunion was held at Warrensburg, Mo. August 13, 14, and 15th to which was a very good attendance and much good gained. I give thanks to God for these gatherings.

On August 18th at 7:00 p. m. we were caused to rejoice as we gathered to witness the marriage of Terry Cook and Debbie House. Brother Larry Shaw was in charge. The best man was Terry's brother, Marvin, matron of honor was the bride's sister, Nancy, the flower girl was little Rachel, Debbie's daughter. Two songs were done. One by Marvin and the other one by me.

Brother Don McIndoo spoke to us August 23rd on forgiveness. Everyone has the great need to hear the Christ message - - "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Forgiveness does not come only once in our lives, (baptisms) but a daily repentance (Lord's Prayer). Matt. 6:14-15 . . . forgive and ye shall be forgiven. WE have been called to carry the Christ message. It's our responsibility to forgive as God forgives - - completely.

Brother Oren Caviness spoke to us on the four issues of life. He listed them as peace of mind, physical health, food and shelter, and friendly neighbors. He said wealth is not the answer. Some make joy (the pursuit of happiness) their god. Others make the pursuit of gold, power, or drugs their god. Our belief in God Almighty is the answer. We must love our fellowman. It is impossible to live on this earth without love. Even rats and mice in laboratory studies respond to love. If God can see the sparrow when it falls, He can see and hear us when we cry.

Brother Marvin Case was our guest speaker for September. He told us of a conversation he had with a friend who asked what he thought of all the good, the blessings, etc. that are being had in other churches.

He said he thought to say, "There is good in all churches," but was restrained by the Holy Spirit and said instead, "The Lord recognizes faith in whomsoever He finds it." He said also in his sermon that God is no respecter of persons. God is merciful. Only through faith on Jesus Christ and repentance of sins does mercy have claim on you. If you hear the word or know where to find the answer, you ARE accountable. There is no way to avoid God.

I have some sad news to relay to you. On September 21st Ethel Kauffman passed from this life. She was the mother of Allen Kauffman, Judy Hedges, and Vera Creek. Ethel was baptized into the Collins Christian Church many years ago, but has attended services faithfully with us of the Collins Local for about seven years. When she realized the seriousness of her illness she called for the Elders who came immediately to administer to her. She had a calm and peaceful attitude and thankfully did not suffer very much. Her husband Merl is yet in need of our prayers.

There are many who stand in need of our prayers. Floralise Yates is having health problems, Norma Cook is not able to get over a serious cold. Brother Leon Yates has gone back to the hospital and has asked for our prayers on his behalf. I'm sure there are others, but please, take a few minutes every day to ask God for his help. If we don't have God's help, what hope is there?

Your Repoter
Czerna Kauffman

SPRINGFIELD'S BLESSED EVENT

There has been a birth in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)! ! A new branch on the Family Tree was born August 29, 1982 at 10:00 a. m. in Springfield, Missouri. The Father is very pleased and has given the Child many marvelous blessings already! He is a very generous and loving Father, indeed!

The "Blessed Eevent" is the organization of a Mission. It is the culmination of many prayers and lots of effort on the part of some very dedicated servants of the Lord! How thrilling it is to see the Lord working!

Our organizational meeting was August 29, 1982 with Elder Arthur Smith officiating and Jane Anne Stancil as secretary. Brother Arthur Smith suggested there be two officers of the Mission to carry out mission business since there will be no pastor, yet; a mission monitor to help organize and keep communications open; a secretary/treasurer to keep notes on meetings and account for all money.

Elections were held and Jane Ann Stancil is the Mission Monitor and Patty Reibel is Sec./Treasurer. Dee Anna Hutchinson is Chorister.

After the close of the meeting we had a wonderful

and inspiring sermon by Apostle Leon Yates. Brother Yates reiterated what makes the Gospel so unique for today and what we have to share with the world.

This was truly a very blessed event for those of us in Springfield. It means an opportunity to meet with our brothers and sisters in the Gospel and to be taught by the ministry from all over Missouri. It's also the privilege to be an instrument of the Lord to spread the Gospel in yet another area.

We in Springfield are facing the greatest challenge of our lives, so far. We need the prayers and support of all our brothers and sisters to make this Mission a success - - to grow spiritually and in numbers. If we depend on our strength alone, in this effort, we will surely fail. But with the Lord's strength one will never fail.

Here are the families represented in Springfield: Mike and Patty Reibel, Gary and Shirley Reeds, Ron and Dee Anna Hutchison, Kim and Jane Ann Stancil and Robert Green.

Those that were there to give us support were: Isaac and Ruth Brockman, "Ikey" and Mary Jane Medders, Florence Kommer, Arthur Smith, Leon and Francis Yates, Eugene and Bernice Gould.

All of us here in Springfield want to give a very special invitation to all our brothers and sisters to come and worship with us.

Jane Ann Stancil

MINNEAPOLIS

The Minneapolis Church of Christ bids me (Irene Maley) serve as their reporter, and to tell you the events of our busy summer. But first, let me tell you where to find us. We are located in the beautifully remodeled Good Templar Building, just one-half block north of the intersection of Lake Street and Cedar Avenue, 2922 Cedar Avenue. When you come to the Twin Cities locate our meeting place and worship with us. Pastor Thomas S. Maley has tended the torch here for the past forty years. He knows the city well and can assist you in finding us, and welcomes all who come. We meet at 10 a. m. for Sunday School, followed by preaching (or Sacrament Service on the first Sunday of each month), and dismiss at noon; except that in each month which has a fifth Sunday, we enjoy a Pot Luck dinner together and are free to use the well equipped kitchen and dining hall until 3 p. m.

Elder Forest Maley is our adult class Sunday School teacher. Sisters Leah Ferrier and Nana Gill instruct our precious youngsters. Brother John Gill leads mid-week study and prayer service, held in homes by invitation. Brother Jon Gould is working with us as choir director in hopes that "our noise unto the

Lord" may become more "Joyful." We are beginning Christmas song practice, each Sunday afternoon following dinner together in the homes where there is space, piano, and invitation.

The July 4th weekend we gathered at Lake Shetek, Currie, Minnesota for Tri-State Reunion. We met in semi-circle by the lake for one of our afternoon discussions, other meetings were held inside the meeting room cabin. Our discussions were lively; our preaching services profitable; times between meetings held fellowship, and superb repasts provided by the kitchen staff. The Glenn Gill family provided superb musical fare, the Minneapolis choir sang, and Sister Amy Schrader presented a song of Sister Helen Taubert's composition. We were from Missouri, California, Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, and various locations in Minnesota.

The young folks' meeting the final evening of Reunion deserves special mention. All who had vigor enough left to meet with them regardless of age were invited. It became a sweetly special time as all in our casual circle were encouraged to remember times when they were able to show their true Christian colors at school, or at work or play. We again enjoyed the Gill family's musical talents, and the discussion was led by Brother Glenn Gill. . . . It wasn't easy to break away to the Land of Nod, for we knew Something Very Precious was there in our midst . . . and tomorrow would bring the breaking of camp, and the going of separate ways across the miles. We also knew we had to get some rest in order to endure tomorrow's teary farewells, and make the drive to our homes. . . . Thanks, Kids, for the treasured memories, from your meeting.

August here found many of our church members, including Peter Gould, enthusiastically manning a booth at the Dakota City Fair in Farmington, Minnesota! The Gill family were persuaded to come with their ministry of music. The Gill family and Minneapolis choir occupied the stage; our children had their turn on the stage for a number of songs. The display at the booth presented the Book of Mormon with Christ as its Center. Interested citizenry found answers to their questions, received literature, and left their names, addresses, and telephone numbers for use in a prize drawing. Sister Myrtle Earl who was visiting her sister, Ruth Gill during the summer, from California, drew out the names of the winners. Lorelei Lovelace of Lakeville, Minnesota was the winner of a toy puppy music box which played "Jesus Loves Me." A shelf-mirror was won by Joan Schwock of Rosemount, Minnesota.

At September's Sacrament Service, Brother Tom Maley explained to our Hmong friends lovingly and simply, the significance of partaking of the broken bread and the wine. His words served as poignant reminder to all members of the body of Christ.

Two weeks ago a young Hmong couple, Chue and Chang Lee, who were already man and wife according to Hmong custom, but who wanted an American Chris-

tian wedding were united in marriage with Brother John Gill performing the ceremony. A beautiful part of the ceremony was a translation of the wedding vows lovingly spoken by the bride in her native tongue, for the mother's benefit. The bride was lovely in a white gown with lace bodice, fashioned and made by Sister Nana Gill and herself. Nana sang to her own guitar accompaniment. She also baked and decorated the wedding cake. The groom's family provided a luncheon of home prepared, Chinese food for the reception held in the church dining hall. We wish Chue and Cheng much happiness and an abundance of blessings. Our prayers are with them. We are hopeful that they may continue to meet with us.

Another visitor who attended services here and also visited the fair booth, was Elder Warren Johnson, who was in Minneapolis on business. We hope that his company may need his services here again soon and often! He is from Independence, Missouri. Brother Enoch Gould, from Bemidji has found work here in the electronics field. We are happy to have him with us.

Permit me the grandmotherly prerogative of telling you that I was away from Minneapolis for most of the summer; and left a big part of my heart in Missouri and Colorado with our new granddaughters, Lisa Deanne, born to Bonnie and Don Case, Higginsville, Mo., and Amy Valentine, born to Becky and Allen Downs, Grand Junction, Colorado. I was privileged to see both babies presented to God for His blessing upon their precious lives.

In Grand Junction, during a visit in Becky and Allen's home, our Sister Sybil Ely told of a time when Brother Tom Maley was directing the singing at Conference and invited her to come forward and stand beside him to hear the congregation's singing. Her face glowed with pleasure as she recounted the experience. . . . We little guessed at the time how very soon she would be listening, with that same joyous smile, to Heavenly choirs.

During my absence from church here, long time member, Sister Annie Jones, age 80, suffered a severe, brief illness and passed away. Sister Annie had told her close friend and sister in Christ that she "had a long talk with the Lord" telling Him that she could not endure pain and would prefer death. Though we miss her greatly, we must rejoice that our loving Father answered her prayer.

A flurry of moving is taking place among the Hmong families and also the young families of the church. The Merlin Eddys and little sons, Joey and Jakey to be smugly moved soon into the new home almost completed near the Gill farm.

Our truly beautiful Fall colors are just now at their peak. We are told that they are ten times as gorgeous in Duluth. If that is so, I'm sure we could bear the

sight! It leaves us completely breathless;

The addresses of our Local members of the ministry are:

Elder Thomas S. Maley
615 Sheridan Ave., No.
Minneapolis, Mn. 55411
Tel. 612-521-9423

Elder Forest E. Maley
201 Satellite Lane N. E. #9
Fridley, Mn. 55432
Tel. 612-571-0353

Priest John R. Gill
13021 Rich Valley Blvd.
Rosemount, Mn. 55068
612-423-3548

With loving regard,
Irene Maley, Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY LOCAL

The change of seasons is refreshing and those of us in this part of the world would miss this if we lived where there was only one season. The people of the tropic zones who have never known anything but summer would not miss the beautiful autumn, invigorating, winter, nor the new life of springtime. The same could be said of the far North. You don't miss something you haven't experienced. It is the same in our religious life. Now that we have grown accustomed to meeting together, we would miss not meeting, dreadfully! We have had these good experiences and we pray that we can continue to do so.

August was a busy month for all of us. Some of our group were away visiting family or vacationing. The Elwell family made their final plans for moving into a new home in Edmond. (Edmond is north of Oklahoma City.) We had some very important visitors: Steve and Melissa McGhee, Apostle Don Housknecht, and Brother Harold Polack. We are always so glad to have visitors.

Some of the sermon thoughts brought to us during August were: Be not slothful. Have hope and patience. Bless your persecutors. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Feed and give drink to your enemies. Overcome evil with good. It's a law of nature - - plant one apple seed and you get back an orchard. Plant one potato and get back a bushel. We have power to control our lives for good or evil. Sometimes things are not what they seem for they can look beautiful and still be destructive. They can seem ordinary and yet be what we have been asking for.

"Our heavenly Father, we thank thee that we have been able to be in this service together. We're thank-

ful we can worship together. We are thankful for your watch care over us. Guide us along life's pathway. We pray that the gospel in our lives will lead us on to perfection. Forgive us of our sins and that each one of us will be received unto thee, that we may have your spirit to guide us. We ask in Jesus name, Amen," prayed Brother Larry Beem as he closed one of our services in the month of August held in their home.

September brought us together twice. On September 12 we were at Mike and Barbara Martin's and on September 26 we were at Mike and Barbara Kimball's.

Our September 12 service was extra ordinary. I sometimes think all our services are extra ordinary and Brother Larry was extra ordinary when he taught our Sunday School class about Zion. Brother Frank Fann gave the sermon and he, too, was extra ordinary as he used an old car as an analogy as he taught us to open up our hearts and let the spirit of God work with us. Have you ever had trouble getting your car started? Maybe it needs a tune up. Maybe we need to "tune up" our lives. Do you need to adjust the car lights? Maybe we need to adjust our light. In Matthew the 5th chapter we are told "to be the light of the world." Everybody we come in contact with is looking at us. We affect them righteously or we affect them the other way. Do you need to adjust the brakes on your car? Perhaps we need to adjust the brakes on our tongues. Brother Frank went on to say, "I pray this morning that you tune up your lives and follow more closely the teachings of Jesus Christ for He is the way to eternal life."

Following our dinner together (and it was very good) we had a business meeting and elected officers for the coming year. We have grown from one Sunday School class into two classes. We have gone from one priesthood member to two priesthood members. We are not standing still, nor are we going backwards. We are going forward and we are happy with our progress. We praise and thank the Lord for His help. The following officers were elected: Pastor: Larry Beem! Assistant Pastor: Frank Fann; Sunday School Superintendent: Mike Kimball; Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Kimball; Reporter: Alzada Massey; Alternate Reporter: Jewel Beem; and Building Committee: Mike and Barbara Martin and Larry and Jewel Beem.

May the good Lord bless and keep each of you.

Reporter: Alzada Massey

CHURCH OF CHRIST at Ava

There were no meetings at Ava on the first Sunday in September. On the second Sunday the group met for their annual business meeting. All officers and

committees were re-elected for another year: Pastor - Brother Arthur Smith; Assistant Pastor - Brother Alex Smith; Secretary - Barbara Burgin, and Treasurer - Ella Engle. The Sunday School Superintendent is Lester Burgin and the Secretary-Treasurer is Lorraine Welton.

On September 15, a special business meeting was called to consider buying a certain piece of property that might be used for the local church building. It was agreed and negotiations have been started.

Brother and Sister Larry Beem and Christy visited at Ava the third weekend, and Brother Larry was the preacher that Sunday. He spoke of our Source of all strength. In crisis, with burdens, or trials and tribulations, our Strength is there; we just have to learn to ask for it. He is also the source of all understanding, knowledge and wisdom. We should not wrest (or rest) the scriptures, but use them. If God had not intended for us to be happy, He would not have given us this gospel, this church or our families. But we have not used God's strength and understanding and knowledge enough.

Brother Arthur Smith was the speaker the fourth Sunday. He spoke of the power of God. Man has put things in the sky that copy the stars. Man has made computers that copy part of the functions of the brain. God made the real stars and the brain with its multiple complexities of powers. He also gave a special power to His apostles (Mark 6:7), and the power of the spirit of truth (John 12:12-16), the power of the laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-17), and the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).

When Alex Smith was first ordained an Elder, he said he wasn't a very good speaker and that he would try to make his life his main sermon. He just finished that sermon September 30, 1982.

He chose for his life's text the second commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." He lived the affliction and patience of Job, Jacob's conflicts and his battle to overcome, the Psalmist's repentance, the generosity of the good Samaritan, and the perseverance of Noah. These were his scripture references.

Alex was there when the Ava group was organized. He loaned the first church building, rent free and with no strings attached. Through the years everyone else moved away from Ava at one time or another. Most moved back, and some have moved away again. Through thick and thin, Alex and Darleen have stayed faithfully in the same place. Sometimes there were two families attending church; sometimes there were only the four people of his own family. For many years Alex was the Sunday School teacher and the one and only preacher every Sunday.

It's hard to write about Alex. He was a determined individualist. There is a quotation about a person who does not fit a mold is marching to a different drummer. Some of Alex's friends thought he marched out of step for the fun of it, to explore the possibilities. Could he learn something new? Would anyone walk with him instead of that noisy drummer? And who made the drummer the boss anyway?

He and Darleen taught by example that you don't repay a favor. You pass it on. Since he was generous with help when it was needed, he left us a tremendous trust fund of brotherly kindness for an inheritance.

Ella Engle - reporter

EXCERPTS OF LETTERS . . .

. . . TESTIMONIES

Thinking of some of the testimonies of one of our sacrament meetings; a sister related a dream she had had in answer to prayer, several years ago; of which she had thought at the time as related only to a personal problem, but now realized it had a much broader meaningful application. In the dream she was at a Christmas party, where gifts were exchanged; each provided a gift and each received one. She slid the cover part way off the box she received and found some of the simple olive-glasses (that olives come in) that she liked so well and was saving, and thought, "Oh, from someone who knew her liking of them and knew she was saving them." Later on arriving home she opened the box again and . . . the glasses were intricately molded and cut in delicate patterns; opening the lid of the tiny box further she found more beautifully exquisitely cut glass-ware; then she took out fine stem-ware so finely balanced and lovely she could scarcely put them down. Then there was a lovely designed and cut pitcher, and there were cut glasses and plates in two sizes, and another pitcher, all these catching the sun light and radiating exquisite, sparkling rainbow colors, far, far more items than ever could have been put into the small box. Then she woke up.

I sat through the testimonies alive to the spirit as it rested first on one and then another as they rose to their feet, and thought, "Oh, we people; we feel ourselves the poorest 'potter's clay' pots; We feel ourselves to be simple olive-glass or pickle glass, cut by our mistakes, failures, and scarred by tribulations; broken, chipped, unlovely. Yet here before me was the touching of God's Spirit bringing a sparkling radiance to our repentant souls by His forgiveness; touching those scars, cuts and wounds creating from them a beauty that radiated in our hearts and I could visualize that one day we may wear with joy unto God these deep scars of our probation as offerings unto His glory.

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One sister told of listening to a radio preacher who

was listing the words, name-calling that are prompted of the devil, and the horror she felt as she realized that she had used many of these words or/and expressions toward her own family members; and her agony of repentance and grief in her fear that she may have brought lasting harm to them.

—x—

How carefully we must guard against letting the sin and permissiveness on every hand become so common to us that we also are swallowed up in it. And it does seem that foul or reckless language is a start of slipping into worse habits. As the beautiful song says, "Looking at evil you grope in the night, looking at Jesus you walk in the light."

—x—

I sat rejoicing through a sermon by Brother Frank Fann on the importance of praising God always, and the vital need of true depth gratitude and thanks to God; for by praising in thankfulness and love we open God's way, or the way in us for God's entering in blessings; and his help in our growth toward him in fullness. Also Brother Sarratt's dream of his mother after her death was beautiful; the quality of the atmosphere of love is which she now dwelt . . . that love really is the one thing that we carry with us when we die. How true this must be, the Eternal love that now dwells in us, (however the small amount we can attain to) is that which goes with us over there.

MORE LIGHT AND TRUTH TO BREAK FORTH

The following is taken from the farewell address of John Robinson, the pastor who was prevented from accompanying the pilgrims to America.

"Brethren, we are ere long to part asunder and the Lord knows whether I shall ever live to see your faces more, . . . I charge you before God and his blessed angels, to follow me no farther than I have followed Christ. If God should reveal anything to you, by any other instrument of his, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive nourishment by my ministry for I am very confident that the Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth out of his holy word. For my part I cannot sufficiently bewail the position of the reformed churches who are (a word here undecipherable) in religion and can go no further than the instruments of their reformation. The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go any further than what Luther saw, and the Calvinists today remain exactly where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things. This is a misery much to be lamented for though they were burning and shining lights in their time yet they penetrated not the full counsel of God, for were they now living they would be as willing to embrace further light as fast as they could. Remember your church covenants in which you have agreed to walk in all the

ways of the Lord made known or to be made known unto you. Remember your promise and covenant with God and with one another to receive whatever light and truth however made known to you from his written word. But with all, take heed I adjure you, what you receive of men; Examine it, consider it, compare it to the scripture of truth before you receive it, for it is not possible that the christian world should come so lately out of such (anti-christianity?) and that such knowledge should break forth all at once . . . "

It would appear that this is as good advise as when first uttered to those so long ago, that what applied to them still applies to the peoples of the reformed churches persuasion; but also to us of the Restored churches conversion. Surely all that the Lord intended for this eleventh hour dispensation has not yet been given, there is more light and truth, more counsel of the Lord to come and we must look for it, examine it, consider it and be open to receive that which proves valid. To do otherwise is to court the same disaster which has stymied the peoples who are converted to the doctrines of the reformation. For, "For whosoever receiveth, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance; But whosoever continueth not to receive, from him shall be taken away even that he hath." Matt. 13:10-11. Inspired Version.

FAITH AND DOUBT

Doubt sees the obstacles,
Faith sees the way;
Doubt sees the blackest night,
Faith sees the day;
Doubt dreads to take a step,
Faith soars on high;
Doubt questions, Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I."

OBITUARIES

ELWYN C. TENNANT

Elwyn C. Tennant was born in England, September 10, 1895 and passed away August 28, 1982 at McLaren General Hospital in Flint, Michigan at the age of 86 years. He married Beatrice Lockwood, August 30, 1924. He devoted his life to serving God, and in his later years he was baptized and became a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). He was a faithful member of the Flint, Michigan Local Church until his death.

Surviving are his wife, Beatrice; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, Edward.

Funeral services were at the Reigle Funeral Home August 31 with Rev. Thurman W. Chenoweth officiating. Burial was at Crestwood Memorial Cemetery.

ALEXANDER M. SMITH

Alexander M. Smith was born on February 17, 1909 in Lamoni, Iowa, to Arthur and Estella Smith and entered into Eternal Life on September 30, 1982 from the Veteran's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. He became a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by baptism on June 17, 1917 and transferred his membership to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in 1925.

Alex joined the Marine Corps on November 21, 1928 and served with them in the Marine Expeditionary Force in Nicaragua from January 19, 1929 to April 7, 1930. While in the Marine Corps he was hospitalized at Pearl Harbor from June 6, 1930 to June 1, 1931. After a Medical Discharge in August 1931 he returned to Independence, Missouri. Shortly thereafter he came to the Ava area and purchased a farm about eight miles south-east of Ava. Later he returned to Independence and worked for a short while in the print shop of Alva Wheaton in the printing of the Zion's Advocate, among other things.

On June 20, 1937 he married Elizabeth Darleen Gould of Bemidji, Minnesota and together they began dairy-farming on their Ava farm; continuing in that occupation until retirement in 1974. To this union was born two children - Estella Smith Davis and Verl L. Smith both of Ava.

Alex was ordained to the office of Elder in the Church of Christ on July 9, 1950 by Apostles A. M. Smith and R. R. Robertson officiating in that capacity until his decease.

He leaves to mourn his absence, his wife Darleen; his daughter Estella with her husband Leonard and son David Davis; his son Verl with his wife Sandra and children Tammi and Jason Smith; his step-mother Minnie C. Smith; five sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of California, Mrs. Georgia Tate of Arizona, Mrs. Lorraine Welton, Mrs. Myrle Darlington, Mrs. Barbara Burgin all of Ava; four brothers, Carl of California, Kenneth of Independence, Missouri, Arthur of Ava, and Joseph of Idaho besides a host of other relatives and friends.

Services for Alex were held at the Clinkingbeard Funeral Home of Ava on October 4, 1982. Elder Nicholas Denham was in charge assisted by Elder Robert Oldham, both of Independence, Missouri. Two of Alex's favorite songs, "The Old, Old Path" and "In the Garden" were sung by his sister-in-law, Ruth Smith. Interment was in Dobbs cemetery in Boone township.

Dear Readers:

Any information on the whereabouts or addresses of the people whose names are listed below, with their last known address, will be greatly appreciated. Please send information to:

Elder Isaac Brockman
1208 Baker Dr.
Independence, Mo. 64050

Since I am the General Church Recorder, I solicit your help in any way.

In Gospel Bonds,
Elder Isaac Brockman

Lois Krause
Vesta, Mn.

Albert Chester Krause
Vesta, Mn.

Eleanor M. Greer
Box 2

Vera L. Biles
Lowry City, Mo.

Robinsdale Mn.

Eva Vernice S. Derry
Omaha, Ne.

Camilla Kateryn Derry
Omaha, Ne.

Enna Mathilde James
3540 Monroe
Omaha, Ne.

Audrey LuVerne James
3540 Monroe
Omaha, Ne.

Ralston Jesse James
3540 Monroe
Omaha, Ne.

Jesse L. James
3540 Monroe
Omaha, Ne.

Agnes Flora McClenahan
Imperial, Ne.

Durward Duane McClenahan
Imperial, Ne.

November, 1982

GOD'S WINDS

Oh winds that blow
 across the empty fields of space,
That push the driving rain or snow,
Before the cloud that shrouds your face;
That rush o'er plain,
 and through the forests beat,
That wash the angry waves
 to swirl and eddy round my feet;
You whip to dust the fallowed span,
And o'er the grasses sown, you play your
 game of tug of war
That lays the full heads down.

Oh winds that rage and bend and break
And in your path that
 can shaken be, art thou
As well as the gentle breeze, the chosen
 winds of God for me?
Do you move at His command, to wake me
From vain apathy? to loose me from
 the sham and shame
Of all self-sought absurdity?

Oh winds that so relentlessly blow
About this poor form of clay
With numbing, bruising force
 such as to strip away
All that is of folly born,
 of prejudice and pride
That only that remain of me which
 can God's scrutiny abide;

Oh winds that blow, I must not seek
 from thee to flee
Lest I abort God's perfect will
 and way in bringing
Eternal Life to me. For what God
 would, that I would too

Whether lifted or laid low -
 only to wish for what pleases
Him, from whatever winds that blow.
To see through tears, of grief or pain,
 all that could ever be
Brought by His winds about my bark,
His love has chosen best for me.

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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.

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