

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. 59

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Christmas

It was the calm and silent night!
Seven hundred years and fifty-three
Had Rome been growing up to might,
And now was queen of land and sea.
No sound was heard of clashing wars, -
Peace brooded o'er the hushed domain:
Apollo, Pallas, Jove, and Mars
Held undisturbed their ancient reign
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago.

It is the calm and solemn night!
A thousand bells ring out and throw
Their joyous peals abroad and smite
The darkness, - charmed and holy now!
The night that erst no name had worn,
To it a happy name is given;
For in that stable lay newborn
The peaceful Prince of earth and heaven,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago.

Alfred Dommett

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Editorial . . .

" . . . NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN"

One of the great mysteries of God is His ability to conceal a marvelous truth within His own written word to be revealed only as one ponders His word in the Spirit. Many types of Christ were given to the Israelites so that they would recognize him when he came, but for the most part, they failed the test. These types stand before us today as infallible proofs of a True and Living Testimony.

It is considered appropriate to reflect upon the story of Jesus' birth at this time of year, if for no other reason, to counter the commercialization of the Christmas holiday. But I find that it is well to ponder that miraculous event at all times and to give thanks to God for the unspeakable gift of His Son in atoning for the sins of mankind. We should not let this part of the story of Christ or his death and resurrection to become seasonal things to us or to let the influence of the world's type-casting make the beauty and profoundness of these events become too common and carnalized.

The coming of Christ to the Jews was the fulfillment of many prophecies which God saw fit to give not only in their language, but also in various types. One such type was in the account of Christ's birth recorded by Luke (2:7), but it has gained widespread attention

throughout all Christendom: ". . . there was no room for them in the inn," This one simple phrase tells the story as plainly as any recorder could give it; just as there was no room in the inn to be born (a more proper place), there was no room in the hearts of the Jews for him to be born.

Jesus was not accepted by the Jews as their savior. As he wept over the city of Jerusalem, he said, ". . . how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Luke 13:34)

This only tells part of the story, however. It is easy to look back at the people then and judge their wrongs as being inexcusable. But what about modern times; what about today? Have we, the modern day Christians, left room in our hearts for Christ to be born? Or have we crowded him out to make room for other things? Have we let the cares of this world become so great that we can't let Jesus have his rightful place in our hearts? Have we opened our hearts and minds to his teachings and his commandments or have we set them aside to fulfill our own lusts or personal aspirations?

We may celebrate Christmas 1982 as many have done down through the years observing the many tra-

ditions, but if we have not let Jesus have place in our hearts, our celebration is merely a mockery. Reread the story of Jesus' birth and ponder its great worth.

RLS

ZION Past, Present, and Future

What is this thing called "Zion," so meaningless and insignificant to most people of the world today, yet so highly regarded and revered by so many others, though comparatively few? To find the answer, we go to the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Book of Commandments.

There is some evidence that the first Zion on record was the city in which Methuselah's son, Enoch, lived, circa B. C. 3700. This verse from Genesis 5:24, King James translation, is significant: "And Enoch walked with God and he was not: for God took him." Though the same translation of the Bible is silent as to a city of Enoch, modern day revelation given in January, 1831, says: "I am the same which hath taken the Zion of Enoch into mine own bosom:" Book of Commandments. XL:3.

Why the King James silence? Thanks to the Book of Mormon, there is a plausible answer: "Wherefore, thou seest that after the book (Bible, E. S.) hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the lamb of God." 1 Nephi 3:171.

Did Enoch, indeed, live in a Zion city which was taken to heaven when God took **him**, even though the K. J. translation does not proclaim it? Was that one of the "plain and precious" things removed from the K. J. version? It is possible.

The word Zion, sometimes spelled Sion in ancient times, has many related meanings. Among them, referred to in the Bible as far back as B. C. 1520, (Psalm 2:6) are the following:

1. Mount Zion, a mount in Jerusalem upon which Solomon's Temple was built, as well as a number of palaces. Psalms 48:9, 11-14.
2. The city of Jerusalem itself. 2 Sam. 5:16; Psalm 52:18.
3. The entire area in Palestine occupied by the Israelites under Kings, David and Solomon. 2 Sam. 5:7.
4. The Israelites themselves, called "Israel" or "Judah." Isa. 60:14.
5. The City of God. Psalm 87:2, 3; Isa. 12:6.
6. The City of David. 2 Sam. 5:7; 2 Chron. 5:2.

7. The Castle of Zion. 1 Chron. 11:5.
8. The city of righteousness. Isa. 33:5.
9. The city of solemnities. Ibid:20.
10. The Lord's chosen place. Psalm 132:13.

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From the above references we see that Zion the place and Zion the people were considered holy, and that God established them and was Himself, in the midst of it. They believed that all righteous commandments and judgments originated there. However, there is scriptural evidence that the Gospel was known in Abraham's time. 3 Nephi 9:63; Gal. 3:8.

In that first Judean Zion, the Lord was to be their judge, lawgiver and king. Isa. 33:22. They looked forward to the time when He would appear among them in all His glory, Psalm 102:13, 16. He would be their guide, "even unto death." Psalm 48:9, 11-14.

Although prophetic warnings had been given them over and over, the joyous inhabitants of that first Israelite Zion, centered in ancient Jerusalem, did not fully realize that their favor with God would eventually be taken from them because of wickedness, and that they would be scattered upon all the face of the earth and become a curse and a byword among their captors and the destroyers of their beloved Zion. They were content in their minds that their joy in Zion would always exist - - that it would stand forever. Isa. 33:20.

They were as complacent as a people of another Zion yet to be, no doubt saying, according to an American prophet, "All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well." 2 Nephi 12:25.

Others, outside that Zion of Israel, were aware of its superiority before wickedness set in, as shown by the following: "And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways; and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Micah 4:2.

One of the warnings given them was: "... I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd, and the Lord said, These have no master. ... " 1 Kings 22:17.

The Old Testament books, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Psalms and others tell the sad story of the growing wickedness of these once righteous and happy people who were chosen by God to be the custodians of His Gospel, the "Good News" of the means of eternal salvation. These books tell of the fulfillment of the many prophecies that, because of their wickedness, Zion would be destroyed; the temple, its center, would be demolished with not one stone left upon another, and most of the inhabitants would be taken captive into Babylon and eventually scattered upon all the face of the earth, and to the isles of the seas. History confirms that the once joyous Israelites did, in reality, become slaves and endured humiliation, poverty and every kind of hardship, privation and sorrow, and even mass murder, under Hitler, as many of us have observed in our own lifetime. Their beloved Zion became only a memory. It was desecrated and laid waste, but a loving, merciful Heavenly Father heard His people's cries of repentance and promised them, through His Holy prophets, forgiveness and restoration.

In their longing for deliverance, how sweet must have been the prophet's promise: "For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." Isa. 51:3. And how these words must have gladdened their hearts: "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." Jer. 3:14. It was this same prophet who admonished the now repentant, persecuted wanderers to say, ". . . O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel." Ibid. 31:7. (Underlining mine. E. S.)

There is a very important little word that runs, like a golden thread, through the records of all of God's dealings with His people from the very beginning of time. That little word is not omitted in this marvelous story of scattered Israel, her long years of suffering, her forgiveness and her final gathering back to her homeland. To emphasize its importance, I have underlined it, above, and in the following quote, as well as each reference in which it occurs, or wherever used: "Yet will I leave a remnant that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered among the countries." Ezek. 6:8.

Has not God always worked through a remnant (that part left over from the whole) rather than through the masses, the popular and the powerful? How well we of the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot should be aware of that! What a small remnant we are! And how grateful we should be that it is our privilege to know where some of that remnant of Israel were led and preserved, to fill in their part of God's plan for

the establishment of another Zion to come, here in America. More about that further on.

Many of us today have identified, via our multiple and sophisticated methods of communication, the partial fulfillment of that prophetic scattering and that scourge of Judah, followed by the promised re-establishment of Israel, Zion, to their homeland in the years 1948-50. The prophecies have indicated that the "Zionists," as those determined to reclaim their former homeland called themselves, would, in reality, obtain and keep their re-established independent nation, but not without contending with surrounding nations in war and much bloodshed. Micah 4:13. We have observed the results of the "Six-Day War" with Egypt in 1967, and Israel's conflicts with various Arab nations since then, including the devastating conflict between Israel and the PLO guerillas in Beirut, Lebanon, the very moment I write these words, in the summer of 1982. That all nations that fight against Zion shall fail is foretold in 2 Nephi 11:108 and following verses, some of which are quoted from Isaiah, which they had brought with them from Jerusalem in B. C. 600.

In the re-established nation of Israel we see the beginning of a re-established Zion - a new Jerusalem.

How sad that the inhabitants of the former Zion, though they looked for the coming of the Messiah, meaning the anointed or the deliverer, yet did not recognize Him when He came, but crucified Him instead! As a re-built nation, they have not yet acknowledged the Messiah, but according to prophecy, one day they will. And great will be their sorrow when they identify Him by the prints of the nails in His hands, in His feet and in His side. Zech. 13:6.

It is of special significance that God deals in like manner with His people in all ages. This we can expect in the light of His words in Malachi 3:6: "For I am the Lord, I change not; . . ." as well as several other scriptures in which He declares Himself to be the same ". . . yesterday, and today, and for ever." Heb. 13:8. Considering such statements, should we be surprised to learn that there is to be more than one Zion? Our sacred books speak of several.

The Book of Mormon tells us of a remnant of the house of Israel who had been divinely led from Jerusalem to the Americas, "the promised land, "where they, too, established a Zion city and where they had "all things common" and built a temple at a place called "Bountiful." Alma 13. There the Nephites were receptive to Alma's teachings, and as many as seven churches were built up in the land; but the thing that will mark that spot as sacred for all time is the fact that it was outside the temple in the City Bountiful that Jesus visited His people after His crucifixion, His rising from the dead and ascension into heaven. He blessed their little children, healed their sick, expounded

the scriptures to them and called twelve "disciples" upon whom He bestowed the authority to baptize, to preach His word and to perform all the sacred rites of His Church, just as He had authorized His twelve apostles in the primitive Church which He established in Judea before His crucifixion.

Though this righteous community at Bountiful was not specifically called Zion, at that time, it had all the characteristics and qualifications of a Zion. It was said of them: "And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God:" 4 Nephi 1:19. However, like their predecessors of old, at Jerusalem, wickedness overcame them, like a plague, and after 200 years of righteous living and the supreme happiness it brought, their grievous sins deprived them of prosperity, peace and the favor of God!" Fierce wars between them and their enemies, the Lamanites, eventually resulted in their destruction. Third Nephi 5 through 13, and Mormon's summary beginning on page 687, Book of Mormon, tell of this sad story.

Our part in this world-wide drama foretold in prophecy and verified in history is a humble one but very important. In that wonderful "stick of Joseph," the Book of Mormon, which was to become one with the "stick of Judah," the Bible, (Ezek. 38:16-19) will be found the part we, the Gentiles, have already begun and are yet to play in this live drama of the last days. One of the important parts the Gentiles were to play, was to take the fulness of the Gospel to the Lamanites, a part of that "**remnant** of the house of Israel." B. of C. XII:5

The **remnant** of the house of Israel referred to above had already been divided into two separate nations, the Nephites, for the most part a righteous people, and the Lamanites, rebellious and wicked. Later, both had become so wicked that God had allowed the wicked to destroy the wicked, which resulted in the extinction of the Nephites and a **remnant** of the Lamanites left whose skin had been darkened because of their wickedness, (2 Nephi 4:35) and they had become "... a dark and loathsome, and filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations." 1 Nephi 3:134.

It was in this setting that the European Colonists, the Gentiles, in the early 17th century, made their appearance on the scene, and were permitted by God Himself to scatter the Lamanites and disposses them of their lands. Ibid. 150.

Then came the prophetically foretold restoration of the Gospel, after its having been taken from the earth for 1260 years. Another Zion, or New Jerusalem, was to be built upon this land of America, with the inspired promise, "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.

It is with humble gratitude that we remember the story of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon in 1829, having been translated from metal plates, by the gift and power of God given to the young man, Joseph Smith Jr., and then the official organization of the Church of Christ on April 6, 1830, restoring divinely given priesthood authority, in fulfillment of numerous Biblical and Book of Mormon prophecies, as well as divine revelation of that day.

It was not inappropriate that the early members of the Church of Christ referred to themselves and the places where they lived, as Zion. Even before the official organization of the Church, Oliver Cowdery, Joseph's Scribe, was admonished, "... seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." B. of C. V:3. Later he was admonished to be faithful to the work assigned to him, "For thou shalt devote all thy service in Zion." Ibid. XXV:10.

Besides the people of the Restored Church and the places where they lived and worked being referred to as Zion, there was to be a specific place where they were to gather together and build a "new Jerusalem," a name, as we have seen, synonymous with "Zion." From a revelation given in February, 1831, at Kirtland, Ohio, we read: "And from this place . . . ye shall build up my church in every region until the time shall come when it shall be revealed unto you, from on high, when the city of the New Jerusalem shall be prepared that ye may be gathered in one, that ye may be my people and I will be your God." Ibid. XLIV:9.

In any Zion or place where the righteous gathered together to worship God and learn His ways, a central city and a temple were traditional. As early as 30 years after the **remnant** of the house of Israel had left Jerusalem, Nephi built a temple here in the promised land, at a place called Nephi, in accordance with the wishes of his people. There was also a temple at Zarahemla, one of the major cities in this, the promised land. Mosiah, chapter 1.

The latter day Zion also was to have its temple. 1 Nephi 3:185-187. Fifteen months after the organization of the Church, the anticipated revelation came as follows: "Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints; wherefore, this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion . . . Behold the place which is now called Independence, is the center place, and the spot for the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse." RLDS Church history, Vol. 1, p. 204.

Though severe persecution had gradually driven all the saints from Missouri, a faithful few from Illinois

returned and, strange as it may seem, dedicated the divinely appointed "spot" upon which the temple would be built, while it was still state land. Such was their faith! It was nearly six months later before the 63 acres embodying the designated spot were bought, by a private individual, and preserved for that purpose.

Accepting the revealed pronouncement that besides the revelations from God some are of man, and some of Satan, put a great responsibility upon us all to recognize one from the other. B. of C. XLIX:9.

The concept that Zion would be a place where "all things common" would be a reality, has been interpreted somewhat differently by various good and sincere members; some believing in common ownership of all the lands in Zion, each family to receive its homesite through a carefully worked out plan of "stewardship." Ibid. XLIV:26, 27. Others, just as sincere, adhere to the principle of privately owned property, but still seeing to it that there were no rich and no poor among them. Some of us believe that either condition is possible if and when a people are so filled with the love of God and each other that they could not enjoy the good things of life if any member was in want. Love would be the supreme equalizer. Pride, vanity and selfishness would be non-existent, even if, instead of pooling all material holdings and accepting a stewardship designated by "the bishop," (Ibid.) or whomsoever, each one would "sit under his vine and under his fig tree: . . .," (Micah 4:4) happy in the natural love of home and the knowledge that no family in Zion was without a home adequate to its needs, and that there were no poor among them. "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, . . ." 1 Kings 4:25.

Dissensions among the inhabitants of Zion to which Christ will come (3 Nephi 11:4) will be non-existent. ". . . with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion." Mosiah 7:78.

Some of the scriptures on the subject of Zion may at times be confusing as to which Zion is referred to - the re-established "new Jerusalem" in Israel, or the "new Jerusalem" on the American continent, just before Christ returns to earth. But as God is the same ". . . today and tomorrow, and for ever," (Moroni 10:7), so also shall the conditions of Zion be the same, whether in Jerusalem or in Independence, Missouri and its environs, or whatever. However, in the Israeli "new Jerusalem," when Christ returns to earth again, His feet will stand upon Mount "Olivet" where He wound His way around its southern side on His triumphant entry into the old Jerusalem, and upon its crest delivered His famous Sermon on the Mount. How appropriate that His future triumphant return will be upon the same Mount where "every eye shall see him, . . ." Rev. 1:7. If our human knowledge of the limit of

man's earthly vision cannot conceive of such an occurrence, our faith can, for nothing is impossible with God.

When Jesus visited His people here in America, and expounded the scriptures to them, He often quoted the Old Testament prophets. One of those quotes tells us the location of His second return here in the promised land. "And these are the words which he did tell unto them, saying, Thus said the Father unto Malachi, Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me, and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." 3 Nephi 11:4.

Yes modern day revelation has pointed out the place where a temple will be built in the last days. Its cornerstone with significant location and date markings, has been unearthed and is on display on the Temple Lot, for the faithful or the curious to look upon; for the believer to ponder and pray to be worthy to know and behold its fulfillment; a place where Christ will suddenly come to claim His own.

History is replete with the rise and fall of nations in keeping with their turning from righteousness with God's rich blessings, to wickedness with His just punishment and destruction, or vice versa. The history of the "remnant of the household of Israel" and the Gentiles in the Americas is no exception.

We all remember our American history and know of the fate of the American Indians, the Lamanites, and the part the Gentiles played in dispossessing them of their lands, making some of them nomads, wandering from place to place with no assurance of a permanent home. This was their fate because of their wickedness. But that condition will change, in the last days, and prophecy foretells a reversal of the conditions between the Gentiles who, if they reject the "fullness of the gospel" shall be cut off and be smitten by the Lamanites who, when they have accepted the Gospel, will take the leading role in building Zion and the temple, while the faithful remnant of the Gentiles who have become Israel by adoption (been baptized into Christ's Church) shall be permitted to assist. These things are all foretold in 3 Nephi, chapters 9, 10 and 11.

The new Jerusalem Zion to be established in Israel, the Zion in Independence, Missouri, and the Jerusalem to come down from God out of heaven will make up a trinity of Zions where such joy as man could ever know here on this earth will exist. Of course it must be that the Zion or new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2) which will come down from God out of heaven, (Enoch's city?) will already have experienced superlative joy in the presence of God, and will continue to bask in that exultant state. Just where it will be located on this globe of ours, almost 25,000 miles in circumference, we do

not know, exactly, but it will be somewhere in "the promised land." Ether 6:2, 3.

As the body of the Church of Christ, we have made our mistakes in the past, some of which we have corrected, and no doubt we are not wholly right in His sight now, but He will draw us as close as we will let Him, and He will direct us in the future to know what He requires of us, a small remnant on the Temple Lot. Let us watch for, and work for the conversion of more and more of the Lamanite people, (not excluding the Gentiles, of course) and welcome this remnant of the house of Israel when they are led to the central place to fulfill, with our help, their destined part in building Zion and its temple which Jesus will one day hallow with His presence.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like precious ointment upon the head, . . . As the dew of Hermon, (Mount Zion, Deut. 5:48) and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore." Psalm 133:1-3.

Evalena Sills

THE MARTYRDOM

(The following material is taken from a handwritten manuscript in the writer's possession by Chancey Whiting. Chancey Whiting was a member of the church in Joseph's day and was an eye witness to many of the events he wrote about. This is submitted exactly as it is written; no corrections of grammatical errors have been made).

On the afternoon of June 1844, Governor Ford came to Nauvoo with an escort of 60 men or more and addressed the citizens from a small wooden platform near the prophet's house. His address gave everything into the hands of the mob, and in fact encouraged its timidity the spirit of rebellion against the laws. He concluded by warning the people that if they molested anyone, their city would be fired, and their wives and children put to the sword. The wives of Joseph and Hyrum, set on foot a petition praying that the Governor would protect the defenseless women and children of the city from mob violence. It was signed by a large number of women, and was received by the Governor with respect and even with emotion.

Joseph's wife presented it in person, accompanying it with a brief history of their troubles, and a statement of their painful apprehensions. This lady is described as large and well built with dark hair, hazel eyes, and a plainly moulded head.

Before the Governor left Carthage the Smiths were to go to trial for riot; and under the impression of security

and greater safety did not ask for bail; but consented to be lodged in jail. On the morning before commitment they were arrested on a charge of high treason, on which however no examination was had and no one supposed them guilty.

The troops incessantly demanded to be taken to Nauvoo, but the Governor declined to grant their request on the grounds that their mutinous spirit would surely lead to an attack on the city. He therefore disbanded them to Carthage.

The Smiths were escorted to jail by the Carthage Grays their most bitter enemies whose captain had the day before ordered them to fix bayonets and load with balls and cartridges to sustain themselves in their mutinous conduct in hissing General Dimming. The Captain was also the justice of the peace before whom they had been arraigned. A lawyer by the name of Skinner was lieutenant of the company. He had formerly been the counsel of the Smiths, but had quarreled with them, and now loudly demanded their expulsion from the county. To such men Governor Ford committed the Smiths for safe keeping, disbanding a few hours before he left within a few rods of the jail, a thousand or more men whom he dare not take with him to Nauvoo for fear they would burn the city. About the hour the Governor was addressing the Mormons at Nauvoo, six o'clock P. M., some 200 armed men disguised with red, black and blue paint surrounded the Carthage jail which was guarded by half a dozen of the Carthage Grays, the rest being a half a mile distant. The guard fired their guns at the mob but they were loaded with wads so nobody was hurt. Quickly disarming these valient sentinals, the mob rushed up the stairs leading to the second floor where the prisoners were confined. The door to their room had not even a latch, Hyrum Smith on seeing the approach of the bloodthirsty crew, sprang to it, closed and held it. Immediately a volley of balls went crashing through the door into the room, one of them striking Hyrum under the eye and near the nose and entering the brain. He reeled backward exclaiming "O God I am a dead man!" At this instant another ball entered under his chin and plunged upwards into the brain. While he was falling a ball struck his knee passing through the leg and out of the thigh. Another struck his right side, shattered the crystal of his watch and entered his body. Some friends had given Joseph Smith a revolver and when his brother fell, the mob having pushed the door held by himself, Richards and Taylor, partially open, he passed the muzzle into the opening and fired three shots into the crowd, a fourth cap missing fire. They were then forced back from the door and retreated across the room, Smith and Taylor making for the window. Taylor put one foot out and received four balls in it and fell backwards into the room and crept under a bed.

(continued next month)

CROSS ROADS

On behalf of the young people I wish to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the reprinting of the "Cross Roads" magazine written by the young people.

Lately there has been an interest in once again republishing the "Cross Roads" and your cooperation would be appreciated. We would welcome contributions of testimonies, sermons, news articles, poems, and original articles. We feel this is our means of reaching out. Once again I wish to welcome you and thank you for your cooperation. Contributions may sent to:

"Cross Roads"
c/o Kim Oldham
5709 Logan Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64136

In Christ's love,
Kimberly Oldham
Editor

A SPECIAL WEEKEND

Chasing cows and mending fences on a gray drizzly Saturday morning, one weekend in September, was not my idea of what "Camp For All Ages" was all about. However, that was the way this camp began.

"Everyone gather around!" Randy yelled.

We assembled, curiously awaiting Randy's announcement.

"Larry, you and Jamie, chase out the cows and mend the fences, Irene, Ruth, and Carol, take these shovels and clean the yard. Tamar, follow them around and spread straw where it's needed. Harvey clean this side of the building. Everyone else can help clean up the house or help Becky with breakfast." Randy instructed us. What an announcement! We all collected our tools and started our assigned tasks.

Well, at least doing chores was a chance to visit with old friends and make new ones. As for me, I hadn't seen Jamie Addy since meeting him in a school auditorium at the 1975 Phoenix Reunion. We really enjoyed the chance to work together and become reacquainted. As progress was made with the instructions Randy had given, more people arrived. They were given tools to help out wherever they were needed. It wasn't long before we were finished and ready for breakfast.

As soon as breakfast was over, the meeting tent was put up, a monstrous enterprise that defies description. (You'll have to come to one of these camps and

experience it for yourself.) Next the benches were moved from the house to the tent. We arranged them around the perimeter of the tent, leaving the middle open. This enabled everyone to be able to see and hear what was going on.

Since putting up the tent was the last deed on the agenda for Saturday morning, we decided it was time for recreation. I have heard of some tremendous football games played in one of the pastures. Softball could also be played as well as soccer, which had been played once or twice. This time the election was to play volleyball, our old stand-by.

One you had a look at the court, it wasn't hard to figure that one team would have a distinct advantage over the other one. The volleyball court had a slight pitch to it, so the teams just alternated sides after each game. This is usually customary, but was absolutely necessary here. Needless to say, we crushed the opposition or were stomped by them, depending on which side of the grade our team was on.

At 12:30 or 1:00 we stopped for lunch. Almost everyone had packed a lunch for themselves. Lucky for me, there were provisions for those who didn't have the foresight to bring a lunch. Sitting down to eat, I noticed quite a few people of all ages had arrived, representing almost every Local in Missouri. What a thrill just to be able to associate with everyone who turned out for this camp.

We moved over to the tent as soon as lunch was over for our afternoon service. Following an opening prayer, Ikey Medders introduced the topic of marriage and the first speaker, Brother Tony Grzincic. Brother Tony made some opening remarks on the subject to start the discussion. Before long the conversation turned toward family relationships. During this part of the discourse several of the younger people were drafted for impromptu skits. Circumstances were given and the participants acted out how they would handle that situation. The audience then commented on how they would have managed the problem. It was a very informative afternoon in which I learned a great deal.

At the conclusion of the afternoon service there were several choices of activity. Horseshoes were set up, teams for volleyball were chosen, and several adults went for an afternoon walk with some of the kids. Mike Payne was able to talk me into passing up some of the recreation in favor of helping him put up his tent. It didn't take long, however, and soon both of us were drifting toward the horseshoes. When our turn came to play we made the most of it by scoring 5 or 7 points

against Sam Kidd and Ikey Medders. They were as good as Mike and I were bad. After a couple of games of that a decision was made to retire from that sport. Besides someone was calling for volunteers to play volleyball. When a volleyball team has had fortune it's much easier to spread the blame.

Supper came just in time. I was almost tuckered out from a day of vigorous activity and very hungry. The kitchen committee had made taco salad and it hit the right spot. In fact they did a great job of coordinating all the meals and their cooking was excellent! Not enough could be said about how hard they worked or how good a job they did.

Randy, Becky, and Sister Cobb took most of the pre-teenagers on a hike after supper. Their hike included exploring a cave. The rest of us played 500 or played catch with a football, while others sat and talked as the evening closed around us.

When the hikers returned everyone was ready for the famous campfire discussion. This time the American Indians' heritage was honored. They told of an Indian friend they had in high school. Brother Leon Yates related some stories where he had encountered Indians on a covered wagon trip from Missouri to Phoenix, Arizona. He made that trip with his family when he was just a boy. It was like reading a book dealing with the Old West. Bob McCubbin gave a little history and geography lesson as to where the larger North American Indian tribes had settled. He also played his guitar and sang a song about an Indian.

After the closing prayer, Bob was talked into playing his banjo and fiddle. When he played songs everyone knew we would sing along. Otherwise we listened as he played one of his three instruments. We told each other good-night, after awhile and retired for the evening.

Sunday morning, Randy and Becky made everyone get up with the chickens for a sunrise Sacrament service. Brothers Bob Oldham and Tony Grzincic were in charge. An inspirational service was enjoyed in spite of a cloudy sky that hid the sunrise.

A delicious breakfast of biscuits and gravy was served. Afterwards we returned to the campfire for another service. Elders Gary Housknecht and Joe Yates delivered sermons concerning Zion. Following the sermons, there was time for some discussion about Zion.

The volleyball net was taken down after dinner, so a game of soccer could be played. The team I was on came up short in a 3-2 battle. I decided soccer wasn't half bad, if you didn't mind having sore shins for a week. Next time that game is called for, those who wore boots ought to try their luck playing barefoot.

Randy recruited several soccer players to move the benches back into the house and to take down the tent. While we were folding up the tent, most every-

one else was picking up paper plates and cups that had been strewn around the yard.

After the tent was packed away and the yard cleaned up, we reluctantly collected our own personal belongings. Last minute checks were made, while packing our cars, to make sure nothing had been left. When the last car was packed, Randy called us together for a word of prayer.

Everyone was hugging each other and bidding farewells. Time had flown by so fast that I couldn't believe the weekend outing had come to an end. I found myself saying, "I can hardly wait for the next Camp For All Ages!"

Larry Sarratt

LOVE IS A LOT OF THINGS

Carrie Hedrick

"Herein is love,, not that we loved God, but that he loved us." (1 John 4:10).

Teen-age Jen was huddled over the coffee table, selecting and addressing valentines. Her college-age brother, Steve, was sprawled in a chair reading. Their mother came in from the kitchen and plopped into an easy chair.

Jen looked up from her valentines. "Mom, what is love, really?"

"Look who's interested in love!" Steve teased, glancing over the top of his book.

"We'd all better be interested in love," Mom answered, "It's one of our top values."

"But what is it, really?" Jen persisted.

Her mother was thoughtful as she answered. "Love is a lot of things. For one thing, it's boy meets girl, about which we hear so much."

"Yeah," Jen sighed, and leaned back on the sofa, a dreamy look on her face.

"That is love in the sense of enjoying being with someone else."

"That's hedonism." Steve said in a tone of authority.

"That's what?" Jen blinked her eyes.

"Oh, that's just a fifty-dollar word that college-age boys use to label one kind of phiosophy."

"Is that so? Well lots of intelligent men use it also. It means doing everything you do from the motive of pleasure."

"That's right." Mom nodded, remembering her college days. "But back to love. Many people experience only that form of love. But love is deeper and finer

when you care enough about a person to do things for him to help him."

"Like you, Mom, huh?" Jen asked.

"Sure, that's altruism."

"Show-off!"

"Well, I like those kind of words - they say more."

"And just what does it mean?"

"Well, in altruism, a fellow loves a girl because he is interested in caring for her well-being and she satisfies a need in his life."

"But loves goes beyond that." Mom said.

"I know." Jen nodded her head back and forth.

"Yes, you know." Mom agreed, thankful that both her children had been brought up in a Christian home and did not have to be content with the coldness of philosophy but could know the warmth of the love of God. And because she loved the great truth so much, she went on, "Yes, there is depth of love that is greater than enjoying being with someone else, or greater than helping them and being helped by them. There is the love of someone who cares enough for another person so he forgives the mistakes and the wrongs of that person."

"Our greatest example of that love is when God sent his divine Son, Jesus Christ, to earth, to die on the cross for sinners, you and me. That is the love that passeth all understanding. That God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." (2 Cor. 5:19).

"Mom, you've got something there." Steve said seriously.

"I like that kind of love, too." Jen agreed.

Suggested prayer: Dear Lord, help me to find and keep that special love for my family, friends, special people in my life, - - but especially for Him who first loved me.

A CLOWN'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me create more laughter than tears, disperse more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair.

Never let me grow so big that I fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.

Never let me forget that I am a clown in that my work is to cheer people up, make them happy, and allow them to laugh; to forget momentarily all the unpleasant times in their lives.

Never let me acquire financial success to the point where I will discontinue calling upon my creator in the hour of my need or acknowledge him in my hours of plenty. Amen.

Contributed by:
Carrie Hedrick

THE STRANGER

As I was walking a forest path,
Covered with autums bright colored leaves.
I met a man along the wayside,
Dressed in tattered clothes and no
Shoes on his feet.

I offered a hand to help him up.
He smiled and took it graciously.
I told him I lived up the road a piece.
I invited him for an evening's sup.
We continued along our merry way,
To my cabin around the bend.
We talked about birds and trees
And the One who created them.
I asked if he believed in God;
When he said yes, I sighed with relief.
Kneeling down upon our knees,
We gave thanks as the blessing was said.
The evening's meal wasn't all that much.
A cup of wine and a loaf of unleavened bread.
The evening hours went by quickly,
He arose and said it was time for him to go.
He thanked me for the meal,
I thanked him for his company.
As he walked out the door and
Upon the ground covered with leaves,
I noticed they made not a sound.
I looked down towards his feet,
I noticed they never touched the ground.

Mikeal G. Payne

THINK ABOUT IT . . .

Think about your life as a garden. Each day you go to work or school, and you scatter seeds through your actions. You can sow a good seed by a kind word, a smile to a passerby, or any small deed. These actions can sprout in a person and sometimes cause a change in them. Then, what about the bad seeds scattered carelessly? A word that slipped, a lost temper, or an action, which you would like to recall, that had turned a person off when it could have been helped.

Kim Oldham

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"SONSHINE" . . .

from Phoenix

Promises

by: Marlene Oar

All you junk food lovers are probably familiar with the most popular hamburger franchises. Several months ago one of them launched an ad campaign for a new entre: Taco Salad. The television commercial showed a large crisp looking salad. While a mellifluous voiced announcer tantalizingly described the creation of a Taco Salad, an unseen hand poured a heavenly looking chili concoction across the salad greens. After seeing this commercial several times I was almost in a lather to dive into Taco Salad.

After several weeks of anticipation we finally decided to eat lunch at their restaurant. I sat down expecting a spicy treat. What a disappointment! The much lauded Taco Salad was a waered down, bland, soggy mess! I looked around the restaurna and thought, "The other patrons must be disappointed too. Never trust an advertising hype!" I thought disgruntledly.

At that moment my mind turned to the spiritual. "This is what the devil's promises are like," I thought. "He gives sin the big hype. When people buy it he never delivers all he has promised."

That's enough for some people but many people are not satisfied with half a life. They are searching for more. Let's earnestly ask God to help us find those people and share a promise with authority: the WORD OF GOD.

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Something beautiful will happen today
How or when I cannot say -
I'll leave this day in your hands, Dear Lord -
I'll seek your will and trust your word.
Then as I walk on life's pathway,
I' know something beautiful will happen today.

Tho' the world looks dreary, tho' disasters may come,
I'll rejoice in knowing Thy will be done -
I'll give You my life, seek only Your way -
Then something beautiful will happen today.

FREE

by: Jackie Lacy

"Now the God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13

FREE - to overcome the tribulation we know in our flesh and in the world.

FREE - to follow the greatest believer, Jesus Christ. He believed God in everything!

FREE - to rejoice in the joy and peace of believing God!

BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM

by: Meredyth Baskett

It was early December when we bought our home in Phoenix after moving here from Colorado.

There were seven good-sized trees in the back yard. Of course I couldn't tell what kind they were. They all looked alike to me. As spring arrived, they leafed out and began to blossom. By summer, as the fruit appeared, I could finally tell that there were some peach and some plum trees. The old, dead-looking vines over the fence were now leafed out and had little grapes on them.

One day as I was pleasantly thinking of the fruit, I thought how like those trees our lives are. As we live among others, no one can know what kind of person we may be - - until they see what kind of fruit our lives bear. Perhaps we are like the fruitless mulberry tree one of nine turned out to be. Hopefully, the fruit of our lives will be deliciously rewarding love, compassion, industriousness - - all the "fruit" of the true Christian.

IN APPRECIATION

by: Karin Malone

(My) ideals are straight
but the world is round
and a messy mortal
is my friend.
Come. Walk with me
through the mud . . .

I don't know who I am quoting or how he interpreted it but at this moment I feel like this could have been an invitation given by Christ. Have you ever skirted one confrontation by compromising thus creating a greater tumult? Everyone expects our creed to be reflected in our deeds. Being mortals, we fail now and then so there are allowances . . . allowances for educators, politicians, doctors, parents, neighbors, law-breakers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, everyone except one who professes to be a Christian.

Christ volunteers to walk with us through this life, guiding and directing. Sometimes the pathway is a bit more tricky than we anticipate and we find ourselves up to our wayward knees in mud. Always, always He is there to forgive and extend His hand.

I thank Him and praise Him for His invitation to this messy mortal to walk with Him, His way, unto His glory.

STANWOOD CHURCH CAMP AUGUST 1982

When I heard news of a camp-out week end in Stanwood, I decided that I and my family would attend. I always enjoyed the church camps I had attended when I was a child. We planned all through July to prepare for this trip. As the weekend approached one of my son's friends asked if he could come. With permission from his parents he soon was preparing to come also. I also asked the children of a friend to come and a few parents asked if I had room to take a couple more. At the last minute my husband couldn't get the time off but promised to meet us there later in the week.

I didn't get discouraged and braved the trip with eight children, a camper, and a couple of tents. After a long ride, our first project was setting up camp before dark. The pup tents went up in minutes and the camper a little longer, but we were all set up before dark. We had a snack followed by a circle of prayer. Then they were off to bed.

Our first day there was Thursday, a day before people were to come. There weren't any plans for church services so the children and I set up another tent after breakfast and moved the kids into it. It was a beautiful day and very warm. We spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the water to cool off. After dinner we went in search of the castle at Canadian Lakes. We spent well over an hour looking before we got lost and finally came across it. (by accident) The children enjoyed the excursion and we ended the day with prayer and thanks to the Lord for his guidance.

Friday morning we packed a picnic lunch and set off for the woods to do some berry picking. As most of these children had never been in the woods before they were more intent in chasing frogs and running from spiders than in filling their berry baskets. We did manage to pick a bucket full then we left for our picnic. We made a cobbler of the wild blue berries and everyone liked what they had worked for. That evening the Pinder families joined our camps with some friends. We had prayer and retired early. Saturday was the first church service.

At 7:30 Saturday morning we had our first church meeting and song service. After breakfast we had a service for the children to prepare for a play we were going to do Sunday afternoon. We tried to find costumes for everyone, some had to make do with towels pinned together. We had the children color the back drop on a large box. Sister Gail Middaugh played a recording of the song to help teach the children what to do. I wrote up a small narrative for Gene Weaver to read for the play. After practice Sisters Mary Pinder and Gail helped me take the children swimming while Emery D., his wife, Janice her niece Teri, Jason

Pinder, Tim and Robert went tubing down the river. Brother Pinder conducted the evening service with the help of Ryan Shafto.

Sunday morning services were conducted by Max Lee and was assisted by another one of our young persons, Gene Weaver; who also said closing prayer. We were dismissed for breakfast and to get ready for church. Brother and Sister Podhola came from Southfield to join us. Brother Podhola and Brother Max held the sacrament service and prayer meeting. We all were enriched by the spirit as we left for Sunday School. Sister Gail and I rehearsed the children's play again and finished coloring our sets. After lunch Gene Weaver read his narration of Joshua at the battle of Jericho. Ryan lead his trumpeters around the city as they marched to the recording. Cary Sullivan had the misfortune of being in front of the box as the walls came down. Altogether a nice effort by all. Our cast: Jason Bowmaster, Christy Lee, Stacy Lee, Michelle Middaugh, Michael Middaugh, Katie Sullivan, Ian Sullivan, Cary Sullivan, Gene Weaver, and Eric Weaver.

We then said good-bye to those who had to leave after lunch for home. We also prepared to leave by packing up the smaller tents and camping gear so we could leave early for home ourselves.

A special thanks to those who also attended and helped out, Mrs. Dorothy Howe, Mrs. Christeen McCarthy, and Brenda Compton.

The lord watched over us throughout the trip home and all the children were talking for weeks about their week at the Lee's house. You could even hear an occasional song they had learned at camp.

Thank you Brother and Sister Lee for having us.

Terry Bowmaster

HOUSTON, MO. LOCAL REPORT

The first Sunday in September witnessed the baptism of two new members into our Local here. They were Wilda Jones and Dianna Taylor, both of Houston. John Jones baptized his wife, Willie, and Ikey Medders baptized Mrs. Taylor in Indian Creek just south of town with confirmation back at the church a short while later by John Jones and Virgil Addie. With hearty hugs and the hand of fellowship we welcome these two sisters to our group.

Virgil Addie was the evening speaker that same Sunday telling us that we need to lay at Jesus feet all our troubles, burdens and problems of life. It is a serious business to be God's children. We must build within us desire to overcome all obstacles put in our way. A baby learns to crawl before he walks, so must

we go in slow steps learning the basics first, pick up Jesus ideas and commandments, learn understanding, to sort evil from good. We must learn God's ways, enjoy life more by meeting folks without argument or dissension, have love for each other and lend a helping hand when someone is in need. Let your good deeds show. Carry His Gospel to others to teach them where they can get that wonderful peace of mind and heart - no where except through Jesus' promise.

The pressures are great in the world today. Many turn to drugs, alcohol, and evil ways when they should turn to the Lord instead. If we are to receive God's blessings we must earn them. When we work we get paid, though of course we must do a good job; so too, we have to earn these joys from God by following his commands and doing that which pleases him.

Give a little more time to the study of the Scriptures, and to helping others for it is Jesus' will and who knows but what a stranger might be Jesus in disguise. Build up . . . don't put anyone down. Pray that we as a people and as individuals will accept God's challenge to be his sons and daughters. It is our free choice, search your own minds . . . decide which way you are going.

Brother Marvin Case was our guest speaker this month telling us God doesn't always make things smooth for us after baptism. Often we must suffer trials, we must learn to depend on God first, to follow him and also the many things that we have been taught that we should do in the scriptures. We must search for and study His words and need to live our lives in accord with his commandments. Heed Christ's great teachings; let the power of the Holy Ghost go with you in all you do, looking to God for all things. If our love for God wanes, then doubt and sin can enter in may-be putting a barrier between ourselves and our Master. Jesus tells us, "If a man love me, he will keep my words." When we can do that willingly and with love, we dwell with Him and he shall abide with us. Every soul is equally precious to the Lord.

If our savior, Jesus found joy in serving God, his Father, won't we also find joy and great blessings in keeping his words? Let the Love of God show in your face, actions and deeds. Each of us reinforces another's strengths by letting our light shine forth.

Your reporters,
Mary and Janeen Addie

WARRENBURG NEWS

The beauty and comfort of autumn is here once again. It is great weather for the farmers to get their crops out of the fields and for all of us to prepare for winter.

We welcome the new arrival of Lisa Deanne Case on July 13th and congratulate her parents, Bonnie and Donnie Case. She is a beautiful baby and a joy to watch and love.

Also, sweet Sheri Lynn Cunningham, 2 month old daughter of Danny and Carrie Cunningham of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was brought forward to be blessed by her Great Grandfather, Elder George Brantner, and Elder Bob Eddy.

A number of us went to the art exhibit of our Brother Dennis Yates at CMSU. He certainly has a great talent and is using that talent which God gave to him.

It is apparent that there is a great abundance of talent in our Church as was demonstrated at the Collins Church of Christ on October 16th, when the Collins local was our gracious host to a talent show. Young and old alike took part in the entertainment with songs, poems, readings, etc. Everyone enjoyed a noon pot luck meal also. We thank the Collins local and all who took part in this day to make it a day to be remembered.

On October 24th, we will have an all day meeting with the usual pot luck dinner at mid-day. I expect that God will be with us and we will once again enjoy the company of our Brothers and Sisters.

Pray that God will watch over all His Children in these latter days, that we will not stray from Him. We cannot face the cares and enticements of this world without God's help and come out victorious. He is the only way.

Mildred Adams, Reporter

THE IMPORTANT COCOON

The caterpillar can not see his predecessors flying gracefully and beautifully in the sky above him. Neither can he perceive their presence; yet, one day he will join their ranks. But, first he must build his cocoon, correctly, perfectly and in a well sheltered place being well anchored. If not, he will surely die in this cocoon stage.

We can not see beyond the great divide, neither can we perceive many things to come, but if we build the cocoon of our lives with love and trust, humbleness and forgiveness, praises and glory, we too will join the ranks of our predecessors who have done so, leaving behind the things of this world and moving to the spirit of the heavens.

Sharon Maxwell

Dear Readers:

Any information on the whereabouts or address 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

Leah Hill
512 Johnson Ave.
Larned, Ks.
Mary E. Wiler
913 No. 3rd St.
Leavenworth, Ks.
William Harvey Lucas
Route 2
Kansas City, Ks.
Rosella Wightman Fry
Route 2
Oak Hill, Kansas
Ocie Florence Burg
P. O. Box 193
Ft. Scott, Ks.
Benjamin A. Brown
3511 Wyandotte
Kansas City, Ks.

Minnie Lo Hill
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Arthur E. Wiler
913 No. 3rd St.
Leavenworth, Ks.
Wesley P. Cover
Prestonburg, Ky.
Lester Charles Dawe
Route 1
Bethel, Ks.
Carly Albert Burg
P. O. Box 193
Fort Scott, Ks.

December, 1982

WHAT MAKES MEN STRONG

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

J. Edgar Hoover once said:

Through many years of active life, and the observation of many kinds of people, I have found that the strongest, wisest, most competent and reliable man is also the first to admit his inadequacy.

Contradictory though it may sound, he is strong because he is humble - and remembers always that man is the creation of God. No rule of life is more basic.

When man "leans on his own understanding" . . . when he lives by his own strength . . . when he boasts of probing the mysteries of the atom, the depths of the sea, or the secrets of outer space - he forgets God and claims he is his own master. The result is untold suffering.

Even though one's position is maintained, even though material wealth increases, success quickly turns to failure when God has been forgotten. There is no peace of mind, no personal satisfaction, no personal experience of inward joy.

To "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart" is a mark of strength. And it is the only path to happiness, success and true fulfillment.

WEDDING

ADAMS - RANDALL

On Sunday, September 12, 1982, Miss Pamela Adams was united in marriage to Benjamin Randall. The lovely lawn wedding was held at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Opal Adams. The double ring ceremony uniting the pair was performed by Elder Conley Ad-dington, of Maple City. The bride was beautiful in an off-white beige floor length gown trimmed with 6" lace around the bottom ruffle and 1½" lace insertion down the sleeves.

Cindy Damoth, of Clare, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Sara Swiler, Laurie Hathaway, and Lisa Williams, all of Marion. Flower girl was Leslie Onstott, of Mt. Pleasant.

Todd Alberts, of Marion, acted as best man. Grooms-men were Scott Allen, Calvin Ashby, and Darrell Bowman. Ring bearer was Shawn Lee, of Battle Creek.

Mary Lee, of Grand Rapids, played the traditional wedding music.

A wedding reception was held immediately follow-ing the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Opal Adams and the late Earl Adams, of Marion; the groom is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Asa Randall, also of Marion.

The newlyweds will make their home in Sandusky, Michigan, where the groom is currently employed.

"ALL NEW"

1. A New Birth (John 3:3, 7).
2. A New Heart (Ezekiel 36:26).
3. A New Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26).
4. A New Name (Isaiah 62:2; Revelation 2:17).
5. A New Nature (2 Peter 1:4).
6. A New Song (Psalm 40:3).
7. A New Master (John 13:13).
8. A New Commandment (John 13:34).
9. A New Covenant (2 Corinthians 3:6).
10. A New Home (John 14:3).

W. A. Satterfield in Quiet Echoes

OBITUARY

SYBIL I. ELY

On September 18, 1982, there passed from this life at Grand Junction, Colorado, a sister of the Church known to many for her constant faith and helpfulness to others. Sybil I. Ely was born Sybil Park on January 31, 1900 at Olathe, Colorado. She spent all of her life on the Western Slope of Colorado, having lived at Meeker, Delta, Palisade and on a fruit farm near Grand Junction.

She married Theodore Ely on November 28, 1920 at Meeker. Brother Ted died in 1977, and Sybil maintained her home on Orchard Mesa until her death. The surviving family include the three children, Marvin and Robert Ely and Margie Downs, and her sister, Vida Park, all of Grand Junction. The six grandchildren, all members of the Church, are Janice Moore, Aurora, Colorado; Arden Ely, Houston, Missouri; Patsy McCann and Duane Ely of Phoenix, Arizona; and Allen Downs and Edith Arden of Grand Junction. Twelve great-grandchildren complete the family.

At the funeral, Brother Don McIndoo gave us comfort and reminded us of the many ways that our Sister lived her life as an example of the believers in Jesus Christ. We are diminished by her death, yet replenished because of rejoicing for the gift of God, the gift of life that lies beyond this life. John 10:27-28 reads, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." From the words of Alma, he read these reassurances: "Behold, it has been made known unto me, by an angel, that the spirits of all men . . . are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow." Alma 19:43-44.

In continuing his remarks, Brother Don reminded us that the quality of life is better than the length of days. Our Sister enjoyed not only length of years, but her life had quality as she shared with others in responding to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Sybil's testimony was just as strong at 82, as when she was young. Brother Don recalled having heard her say many times in testimony, "Oh, if we could only do more for the Lord." It surely could be said of her, as Paul's testimony from II Timothy 4:7-8: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Sister Sybil was laid to rest in Orchard Mesa Cemetery on a beautiful sunny day, amid many bouquets of flowers. At the graveside, Brother Don also reminded us of our Sister's love for God's growing things and how her garden had bloomed.

In 1980, we had an 80th birthday party for Sybil, and the following two verses from a poem written for that occasion, express our feelings:

And let's not forget the importance
Of a lifetime in service to God.
Her spiritual light has helped other do right
As this rough, earthly pathway they trod.

So we see how her eighty-year lifetime
Has been blessed by our Father above;
And we thank Him today that we're gathered to say,
"Happy Birthday" to Sybil with love.

Our Local, and all those whose lives she touched,
will miss her very much, but we rejoice for her "beautiful birthday in heaven."

Enid E. Bell

"The righteous considereth the cause of the poor:
but the wicked regardeth not to know it." (Proverbs 29:7)

A STATEMENT OF INTENTION FROM



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.

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December, 1982

WHAT MAKES MEN STRONG

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

J. Edgar Hoover once said:

Through many years of active life, and the observation of many kinds of people, I have found that the strongest, wisest, most competent and reliable man is also the first to admit his inadequacy.

Contradictory though it may sound, he is strong because he is humble - and remembers always that man is the creation of God. No rule of life is more basic.

When man "leans on his own understanding" . . . when he lives by his own strength . . . when he boasts of probing the mysteries of the atom, the depths of the sea, or the secrets of outer space - he forgets God and claims he is his own master. The result is untold suffering.

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" — A 50 minute slide program with taped narration about how archeology supports the Book of Mormon.

"Out of the Dust" — A 55 minute slide program with taped narration about the story told within the Book of Mormon.

"A Lamp Unto My Feet" — A 35 minute slide program with taped narration about the story within the Book of Mormon (directed toward Indian viewers).

"Light at Evening" — A 35 minute slide program with taped narration about the bringing forth of 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

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