

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. 60

Independence, Missouri, March, 1983

No. 3

In Him No Darkness

Let there be light, God said,
And lo, across the chasm of the deep
All darkness fled dismayed before the One
Whose radiance outshines a noonday sun,
And dawn came on
And morning out of night,
When God, sweeping across the chaos, said
Let there be light.
Let there be light, God said;
And lo — from out my sinful heart
The darkness fled;
From bondage I was free,
I only looked in faith to calvary ,
Saw One and loved Him;
Thus gained my sight
When God swept down across my soul and said
Let there be light!

Selected

CONTENTS

Special Notices	34	My Church	40
For the Poor Always Ye Have With You	35	The Seven-Day Mental Diet	41
The Lord Shall Build Up Zion	37	How To Be Happy	41
Cross Roads		Choice	41
An Answer to Prayer	40	The Martyrdom	42
Giving	40	Local News Items	42
Today Is The Very First Day of		Obituary	47
The Rest of My Life	40		

Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 699-300)

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

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Doris Ratterree, 926 S. Logan, Independence, Mo. 64050, 461-3779
Amy Schrader, 5625 Logan Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64138, 356-8159

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

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

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

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

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. Gudgeall, Independence, Missouri 64055.

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

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

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

SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with instructions of the 1982 Ministers' Conference, a larger facility has been rented for the first Sunday of the 1983 Conference that all may be able to meet in one room. All activities for Sunday, April 3, 1983, will be held at the Mid-America 4-H/University of Missouri Extension Center Bldg., located at 2828 South M-291, Independence, Missouri. Please note that access to this building is only possible via the M-291 frontage road.

For further explanation please contact either Smith Brickhouse at 816-356-9214 or Marvin Case at 816-373-1116.

COLORADO REUNION NOTICE

The 1983 Colorado Reunion will be held at the Orchard Mesa Local Church, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, on June 10, 11 and 12. For further information contact:

Marvin E. Ely 303-434-8149
236 — 32nd Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

CONFERENCE TO CONVENE

APRIL 3, 1983

Following instructions of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year, will be April 3rd.

Business Sessions, however, will start at 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 4th.

As per Bill No. 1, 1972 Referendum, "all committees and boards etc. of the Church empowered to expend general Church funds or collect the same shall be required to submit an annual report of their activities to include a financial statement of funds received and disbursed and submit to a joint meeting of the Council of Twelve and Bishopric at least one week prior to the opening of Conference a proposed budget for the ensuing year."

Officers and committees, as noted in the directory, should see that their reports are filed with the conference secretary as early as possible. Persons needing a place to stay should contact the Conference Coordinator. Those wishing to donate food or money to the conference should contact the Dining Hall Committee.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to greeting each one of you and pray that the Lord's Will will be done in all things.

R. W. Oldham
General Church Secretary

Editorial . . .**"FOR THE POOR ALWAYS YE
HAVE WITH YOU"**

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17.

What does this mean? That the spiritual has no involvement with the physical or tangible? Is not reflected in the daily living and handling of the material necessities of mortal existence? No, Paul was speaking of the disputations and judgments the converts, Jews and Gentiles were making between themselves over what was or was not lawful to be eaten, by whom and when. To suppose that there is no connection between our handling of the things of daily life and our spirituality would be to make other of Jesus' teachings meaningless. In the parable of the sheep and goats, Matthew 25:31-45, on what were they being judged or rated? was it not on the ministering of, or failure to righteously act in accord with the requirements of the gospel in the use and service of these very tangible things of the flesh? Again James 2:13-16, says that if one is hungry or naked and we claim faith yet do not supply their need, there is no profit to us. In other words it is not counted to us spiritually. The Book of Mormon in the following scriptures all link the use of our substance for the poor and needy with the status of our righteousness. Jacob 2:24, Mosiah 2:28-43, 8:60-63, Alma 1:45-46, 16:218-225, Mormon 4:54-56.

The material, economic condition in the world is chaotic. Enlightened evaluations can in no way suppose the world is enjoying a high spiritually motivated status and the lack of it shows in the inconceivable handling of the tangibles of life as well as in the moral decline and degradation which is extant. Admittedly, as only one of the Christian professing groups of people, we do not control the world in these matters. But do we even give it a leading example? Can we, will we ever be able to if we continue to hold to some of the world's attitudes concerning these matters.

"And the Lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Luke 16:8. I suppose that this statement has many applications, perhaps this case may be one of them. From the Springfield Daily News I quote, with permission.

INSENSITIVITY TO POOR IS DEPLORABLE

One of the most insidious, pervasive philosophies to come of age in the 1980s is the implied disgust of the poor.

No one comes out and says "The poor are disgusting," but plenty of disdain is couched in

phrases such as "Anyone who wants to work can work — look at the want ads in Sunday's paper!" or "If they don't like it, they can vote with their feet," or "The truly needy will not suffer," i. e. all those who suffer are not the truly needy. The implication is that those who suffer deserve it.

The mayor of Detroit, a region hard-hit by industrial layoffs, made a poignant observation recently: He termed Detroit's growing number of homeless and poor as valid a reason for emergency help as devastation by a tornado. Mayor Coleman A. Young declared a state of emergency in the city last week and asked Gov. William G. Milliken to declare the fact officially so Detroit could avail itself of federal aids as would victims of natural disasters. He cited the city's unemployment rate of 25 percent, an increase in infant mortality and an investigation which revealed one-third of the city's population suffered from an inadequate diet.

Coleman's request was an interesting first marriage of our philosophies about need: If devastation results from an "act of God," then we're eager to give victims aid. "It could have happened to us," think to ourselves. If devastation results from poverty, we say they did it to themselves and they deserve it. The grating insensitivity of this stance is that we never ask why people are poor, why they "did this" to themselves.

If we asked the question, we might have to ask ourselves why we are where we are. We might find that we're not where we are because of brains, brawn, good looks or talent, or any other combination of qualities we thought assured us of salvation from the plight of the poor. We might have to examine our lives and find that our stations in life have come as a heritage from others in our lives.

We might have to admit that our parents, teachers, neighbors, Sunday School teachers — or anyone else who got through to us when we were impressionable — gave us dreams and visions of ourselves living above poverty. One cannot rise higher than the vision one conceives of himself.

If we discovered this basic truth about ourselves, that so much of what governs our thoughts and actions is culturally transmitted like dress codes or religion, we have to then look at the majority of poor people. What kind of visions were imparted to them? If mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers and generations before them lived in poverty, what kind of life can they conceive of for themselves?

We see many instances of people rising above their cultural imprinting, but they are the exceptions, not the rule. They are the wise, gifted or talented, or those lucky enough to be touched by people who teach them to dream.

We've been wasting our brainpower on accusations and recriminations when it comes to the poor, when we should have been searching for answers. If we can conceive of putting men on the moon and revolutionizing industry via computer technology, we can conceive of true aids — not band-aids — for the poor. So far, we just haven't wanted to.

Sarah Overstreet is a features writer and columnist for the News-Leader. Her column appears each Saturday.

Are there those, out there, as we are so prone to call it, wiser and more concerned, and seeing more clearly than we when it comes to judgments, attitudes and reactions to the poor? Are we still among those King Benjamin spoke of who blamed the poor for being poor, withholding their substance from them, and whose substance would perish with them? Our columnist is not speaking alone of the need to provide food, shelter, clothing and heat for those who are without, but also of the attitudes by which we seek to justify our withholding of these things from them. If she is right and the world could feed and clothe the hungry and destitute if it wanted to, how much more true it must be that justice and equity could be brought about within the Church, if we wanted to.

The following excerpts are from the writings of one William Law, published over a span of forty years during the early 1700's. Perhaps the bluntness of his comparisons may shock us into a close scrutiny of our attitudes and actions.

"All things are God's, so all things are to be used and regarded as the things of God.

"True devotion will make us religiously exact in the use of our money and worldly goods.

"As the holiness of Christianity consecrates all states and employment of life unto God, as it requires us to aspire after universal obedience, doing and using every thing as the servants of God, so are we more especially obliged to observe this religious exactness in the use of our estates and fortunes.

"The reason of this would appear very plain, if we were only to consider that our estate is as much the gift of God as our eyes or our hands, and is no more to be buried or thrown away at pleasure, than we are to put out our eyes, or throw away our limbs as we please.

"If there be nothing so glorious as doing good, if there is nothing that makes us so like to God, then nothing can be so glorious in the use of our money, as to use it all in works of love and goodness, making ourselves friends, and fathers, and benefactors, to all our fellow-creatures, imitating the Divine love, and turning all our power into acts of generosity, care, and kindness to such as are in need of it.

"Another great reason for devoting all our estate to right uses, is this: because it is capable of being used to the most excellent purposes, and is so great a means of doing good. If we waste it we do not waste a trifle, that signifies but little, but we waste that which might be made as eyes to the blind, as a husband to the widow, as a father to the orphan; we waste that which not only enables us to minister worldly comforts to those that are in distress, but that which might purchase for ourselves everlasting treasures in heaven. So that if we part with our money in foolish ways, we part with a great power of comforting our fellow-creatures, and of making ourselves forever blessed.

"If a man had eyes, and hands, and feet, that he could give to those that wanted (needed) them; if he should either lock them up in a chest, or please himself with some needless or ridiculous use of them, instead of giving them to his brethren that were blind and lame, should we not justly reckon him an inhuman wretch? If he should rather choose to amuse himself with furnishing his house with those things, than to entitle himself to an eternal reward, by giving them to those that wanted (needed) eyes and hands, might we not justly reckon him mad?

Now money has very much the nature of eyes and feet; if we either lock it up in chests, or waste it in needless and ridiculous expenses upon ourselves, whilst the poor and the distressed want it for their necessary uses; if we consume it in the ridiculous ornaments of apparel, whilst others are starving in nakedness; we are not far from the cruelty of him that chooses rather to adorn his house with the hands and eyes than to give them to those that want (need) them.

"Every exhortation of the scripture to be wise and reasonable, satisfying only such wants as God would have satisfied; every exhortation to be spiritual and heavenly; every exhortation to love our neighbor as ourselves, to love mankind as God has loved them, is a command to be strictly religious in the use of our money."

I am not suggesting that the Church go public in propounding these things. I am suggesting that there is a need for us to pause and take a thorough look at the concepts we hold in the light of these scripture teachings, and of our practice in the light of those concepts, to see with clarity the attitudes which dominate our actions, and which, in the reasoning of William Law, may be robbing us of the very goal we are struggling for; which if held to may exclude us from that kingdom of heaven towards which our hearts yearn.

A. S.

"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." (Proverbs 27:2)

THE LORD SHALL BUILD UP ZION

by Apostle William Sheldon

Edited for publication

"Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord." Ps. 102:13-18.

With regard to Zion, I feel this is something that is a matter of our more eminent or desirable concerns, perhaps more than anything else we might discuss or have on our minds in the time in which we live, because, surely the events that are transpiring around us in the world today should cause us to realize that except the Lord does bring about that blessed condition that is referred to so abundantly in the scriptures of truth in which a people shall be prepared and ready for the coming of the Savior, and except that condition is brought about very shortly there perhaps would be no flesh that would be spared, before God

And I say this advisedly, because we are given to understand by the word of the prophets of old that the conditions that are to be, and are in the latter days are like unto that which was had in the days of Lot; also in the days of Noah; the imaginations of men's hearts being evil continually and becoming such a gross matter of insult to the righteous souls that are on the earth, though few they may be, that it behooves us to be thinking in terms of Zion and it's literal fulfillment, as I believe to be in our day and time, in the day and time of those of this generation. We need to be concerned about the conditions that will bring about Zion. And I want to say unequivocally that I believe that Zion is really the destiny of the Church of Christ, and of course I'm speaking in so far as the earthly destiny is concerned realizing that the primary thing is salvation of the souls of men; to bring them into a covenant relationship with God by which they might inherit a place at his right hand.

We should realize as the scripture gives us to understand that the time will come that the saints will inherit the earth. We are told to pray for that because God himself, in the presence of his Son, Jesus Christ, is going to dwell upon the earth again, and there's going to be peace prevailing upon the face of the earth and the hearts of the children of men will have been changed greatly from the greivous condition of sin and the gross wickedness that presently prevails, and which I believe is going to prevail to a greater extent

in the future than it has up till this time. That all is going to change and yet we should realize that this can only come about when and because the children of men have permitted the Spirit of God to change their hearts and their relationships one with another, insomuch that they become like the Master.

Going back to the scripture reading, I want to emphasize that the first verse said, the Lord shall arise and have mercy upon Zion for the time to favor her, yea, the set time is come. And that when the Lord should build up Zion that he would appear in his glory. And in the last verse it says, this shall be written for the generation to come and the people that shall be created shall praise the Lord. That's a rather peculiar terminology, but yet it is so appropriate to the facts as we understand them so to be given to us in a prophetic sense, in the scripture.

We realize that the whole creation of God has been accomplished from the very beginning; that there was accomplished a spiritual creation and then a physical formation of all things and in which the Lord has caused that his Spirit should be breathed upon all that he had formed in bringing life to all things that do possess life, not only as far as the human family is concerned but also the animal family and the vegetable family. We believe that all these things exist by reason of the creative process that took place in which this Spirit of God was placed within all living things. But here it speaks of a people that shall be, and that's future tense, which shall be created shall praise the Lord. We must necessarily look upon that in a slightly different sense from what I've just been speaking of. It's speaking of that which I referred to a moment ago; a change taking place in the hearts of men, creating them to become godlike, causing them to become more like the Master.

And when the Lord has accomplished this thing, and which I'm fully persuaded will be accomplished in these the latter days in this generation, then there will come that blessed event of which I have spoken, when Christ shall dwell upon the earth and peace shall prevail amongst the children of men. I read in connection with this 102 Psalm, going over to the 60th chapter of Isaiah, verses 21 and 22, and remember that I said that Zion is the destiny of the Church of Christ, and I believe this is exactly what is referred to in these two verses. "Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." And I want to say that this is the time, this is the set time for the Lord to begin the gathering of his people of the latter days and the establishment of Zion.

We're living right in the very opening moments of that blessed event that is going to transpire in which

a people shall indeed be a branch of the Lord's planting. They will be his creation because he will have put his Spirit upon them because they have turned their hearts unto him. Note, he speaks of this as a branch of his planting, the work of my hands. And we're told in the scripture by the Master himself, "I am the vine, ye are the branches," and he goes on to tell us further that except the branches shall abide in the vine that there is no life there, that it shall wither and die. Therefore the importance of impressing upon our minds as the very essential element of the establishment of Zion the fact that there must come an abiding power within us, a desire upon our hearts to become godlike; to become as the Master of men. This is the only thing that will produce Zion. When that blessed event takes place, note that he says, a little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation. I glory in that thought because we realize that the Lord uses the small the weak, the insignificant in the accomplishment of his purposes and we read that there was to be a stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands that was to roll until it filled the whole earth and we are told that that stone was the Kingdom of God.

The Church of Christ represents the Kingdom of God upon the earth today notwithstanding the fact that there are those elements yet within us as a people that are not altogether as they should be; that God is going to have a cleanse and sanctify the body in order that there might be a people brought down into the depths of humility and to rise to the heights of righteousness that shall qualify them to be known indeed as the saints of the most high God. When this blessed event takes place the Lord will have then made a small one become a great nation. We're told in the Book of Mormon, that the saints of God, the people of the Church of the Lamb of God, were few and their dominions were small upon the face of the earth, and contrariwise the great and abominable church which is the church of the devil, would be a large people upon the face of the earth. But the Lord was to arm his saints with power, and we're looking forward to that time when the power of heaven will be upon the saints of God and they shall indeed have become a mighty instrument in the hands of God in the accomplishment of his purposes.

Going to the 61st chapter of Isaiah, I want to read just the 3rd. verse. Here the prophet is speaking of the Lord himself, of the great mission that was to be accomplished by Jesus Christ, and he says concerning him, "To appoint unto them that mourn," in other words Christ was going to "appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Now note this, he's going to give unto those that mourn in Zion, beauty for ashes, in other words this is speaking prophetically of a terrible time of tribu-

lation spoken of by Christ and by Daniel that was to occur in the latter day and I'm very sure that this mourning that will be had by the people of God will be to a large extent because of the wickedness, the distress amongst the nations; that is in existence right at the present time.

Wickedness is becoming the order of the day, and has become so prevalent as to become acceptable in the hearts, the conversations, in the activities of the children of men. Sin is no longer sin so far as the world is concerned, as far as this great nation is concerned. You hardly hear about sin except, of course, from the pulpits as we have it brought to our attention by the ministers of the day, and I give credit to those who are very much concerned about sin outside of the Church of Christ. I give them credit and I believe the Spirit of God is working, but where there is one voice lifted up against the power of wickedness that is upon the face of the earth, there is a hundred or a thousand that are seeking to lead the children of men into darkness, and call it light.

The Lord is going to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, as we read prior to this, that he might be glorified. Again we have in the 62nd chapter of Isaiah, verse 1, "For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest," the Lord speaking, "until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." The Lord is going to accomplish this task; and I'll tell you that if we will not submit ourselves that the leading of the Spirit of God will lead us into the ways of truth and righteousness, the Lord is going to take us out of the way that those that remain may be a people that will be a choice planting of his, whom he will lift up as an ensign upon the mountains, in which the nations will be able to see the great power of God. Yes, it's time that we were making that preparation within our lives in order that we might indeed be the Zion of God.

There is a thought that is sometimes presented with regard to Zion, that we might discuss just a little, and that is that there must be a Celestial law given. And of course we don't find that given in just that way in the Bible and Book of Mormon; we do find reference to it in latter day revelation, and I don't have any objection to the idea of there being a Celestial law of God that will be necessary for the establishment of Zion. I don't have any qualms or any feeling against the idea of there being a Celestial law, but I think sometimes that there are those who have not really considered from the scripture standpoint what the Celestial law of God is. This is really what I'm concerned about today, what is that Celestial law? It has been termed as a law of consecration in latter day revelation,

and I'm not opposed to the idea of there being a consecration. As a matter of fact, I am fully and heartily in favor of the idea of a consecration, but when I consider consecration I believe that I do so in terms of that which is revealed in the Bible and the Book of Mormon as that which contains the fullness of the gospel, not as being just simply a consecration of our monies or of our substance. But it's a consecration of our lives, of all that we have, and I can't consider the law of consecration in any other terms than that there should be a consecration of our lives, our very souls to God so that he has the pre-eminence there. Yes, above anything else in life.

I'm going to read to you what I'm persuaded within my own mind is the consecration law as found in the scripture and this is found in the 22nd chapter of Matthew, and here we find that there was one who was a lawyer who came to Christ and tempting him, saying, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Pause right there; he's saying, what is the great commandment in the law? If the Lord gives him the answer to that, I can hardly believe it could be other than the Celestial law. So he is going to give him the answer and tell him what the Celestial law really is, and here it is, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Pause there; have you committed your soul in love to God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind? Well he says that's the great commandment. It's a part of it anyway. He says, "This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." I'm going to suggest that there is the Celestial law of the Kingdom of God, right there

It isn't that we haven't heard these things, every one of you, I daresay, except it be some of your little children are well aware of this scripture that I have just read. You know what the great commandment is, you know what the great law of God is. The problem is just putting it into effect in our lives. That's the problem, isn't it? It is something that must engage all our attention; it must engage our attention at this time and from here on as it has never done before. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, soul and strength; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." It doesn't say anything about loving yourself, does it? Because that's just so human that we love ourselves and we love our families. I think most of us do really love our families although we're living in a world today that doesn't have much love of family, speaking in a broad sense. If they did there would be some teaching going on that would not be permitting our children to do some of the things that are being done, the things that they are engaged in today that is making a generation of people to rise up that

will be further down the road spiritually than the present generation, if it keeps on.

I don't say this just in regard to our children, because we are all the children of our fathers and mothers and we are to a very great extent that which we have been taught, or the failure of that teaching that has been had for us. We are down the line; each generation is going further down spiritually and morally in everything that pertains to truth and righteousness. But God is to create a generation of people by his Spirit that He would place his approval upon. I want you to note that both of these commandments were based on love. We hear a lot about love, but when you come down to really loving God, it is keeping his commandments, and the doing of just such things as He has caused to be spoken here, by his Son.

Turning over to the book of 1st John, and reading from the 4th chapter, just verse 16. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." We're told further here that by this we shall know that we love God, if we love our brethren, and of course not only our brethren but our fellowmen also, even as we love ourselves. I'm quite sure that what we need is to comprehend what the love of God is. We're told very plainly in the scripture that God so loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son that whoso should believe on him might not perish but have everlasting life. And yet sometimes I wonder if some of us in the Church of Christ really understand that much of God's love. The Christian world today in general, and to some extent this has found place within the Church of Christ, seems to have the idea that God only loves us when we come to Him and confess Christ, and if we haven't come to that point we are lost. As I say, this has found lodgment even within the Church of Christ, and so I think that some of us have really not comprehended how great the love of God is; because we are told in the scripture that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. He loved us, that He might bring us to Him.

I'm not trying to get away from the idea that God expects us to come to him when we have the gospel preached, but I would like us to really seek to comprehend just how great the love of God is that reaches down and seeks to lift an erring soul, and that Christ is the good Shepherd who will go after that which is lost until he find it. I believe that when we have really come to comprehend that, we will begin to comprehend the love of God. This says that he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God and God in him. Christ has made the statement in the scripture and it's recorded, "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." He went on further to say that, "they will not come to me because they have not known me." I'm putting my

(Continued on Page 41)

CROSS ROADS

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

I had an experience recently that opened my eyes to how short-sighted I am. Many times I often see others faults better than I see my own. But through the prayers of others, the Lord saw fit to show me something that afflicted me and those around me.

To overcome those things took a great deal of prayer and I needed strength as well. I received that strength from different sources, all of God. Here is one of those sources that helped me. I hope it may help others as well.

Prov. Chapt. 3 verses 1-12. "My son, forget not my Law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about your neck; write them upon the tablet of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."

This particular passage of scripture really helped me. I thank the Lord for His Church and the scriptures, which is the rod of iron.

Larry Sarratt

GIVING

G. Jesse Adams

"Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."—Mat. 5:42

Giving is an act by which a person sacrifices a part of himself to make another person's life better. The greatest gift ever given was Jesus' life. It was given to all men that accept it as an atonement for their sins. You may never have to lay down your life for someone else but there is much that you can do to ease the

burdens of other people. (I believe that some of the best gifts of all are worn on people's faces and are seldom more than 2½ inches long, but they are curved upwards and are extremely contagious.)

God loves people who give. He blesses them and in fact inspires all gifts. Paul wrote, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."—II Cor. 9:7. When you give, give much and give with a heart full of love.

Always remember to LOOK for ways to help your fellow man, for if you love your neighbor as you love yourself you will care about their needs as much.

Giving is a result of loving, a by-product of caring.

TODAY IS THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE

This is the beginning of a new day. I have been given this day to use as I WILL. I can waste it . . . or use it for good, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes, this day be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, and not loss; good and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it. I will try just for today, for you never fail until you stop trying.

contributed by
Harvey L. Seibel

MY CHURCH

My church has but one temple,
Wide as the world is wide,
Set with a million stars,
Where a million hearts abide.

My church has no creed to bar
A single brother man
But says, "Come thou and worship"
To every one who can.

My church has no roof nor walls,
Nor floors save the beautiful sod —
For fear, I would seem to limit
The love of the illimitable God.

Unknown, signed E. O. G.
Submitted Anonymously

Years ago when I was but a wee lad in the YPCL, the Crossroads ran a short article that I really liked. Since it was so long ago, I figure that just about everyone has forgotten about it (with the possible exception of Dan Hedrick who submitted it first). So here it is folks, as best my memory serves —

THE SEVEN-DAY MENTAL DIET

For the next seven days watch what you say very carefully. You are not allowed to cuss. Sound hard? I hope not because that's not all. You can't talk behind anyone's back either. Don't even say anything negative about anything, especially about people.

Now, I won't try to mislead you, it isn't easy. Negative thoughts produce negative words and negative thoughts are easy to have in these depressed times. However, Christians should have a lot of positive things to think about, like how much God loves us, and that we don't have to go to hell if we endure to the end.

As a matter of fact, that brings to mind an alternative to saying bad things. If you are feeling bad about something, think about Jesus. If you want to gossip, before you begin to speak remember that the subject of your idle rumors may be just a little bit more loved of God than you. So don't step there!

Good luck!
G. Jesse Adams

HOW TO BE HAPPY

Are you almost disgusted with life, little man?
I'll tell you a wonderful trick
That will bring you contentment, if anything can,
Do something for somebody, quick!
Are you awfully tired with play, little girl,
Wearied, discouraged, and sick —
I'll tell you the loveliest game in the world,
Do something for somebody, quick!
Though it rains, like the rain of the flood, little man
And the clouds are forbidding and thick,
You can make the sun shine in your soul, little man,
Do something for somebody, quick!
Though the stars are like brass overhead, little girl,
And the walks like a well-heated brick,
And our earthly affairs in a terrible whirl,
Do something for somebody, quick!

Unknown
Submitted Anonymously

What shuddering sense of the wrongs we've wrought
That may not be redressed
Of tears we did not brush away, of lips we left
Unpressed, and hands we let fall
With all their loyalty unguessed.
Oh! the empty, empty watches of the night!

* * * * *
"CROSS ROADS" is a publication of the "Young People's Christian League" of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Contributions of written material are solicited from all young people throughout the church.
* * * * *
Editors: Secretary:
* Kimberly Oldham Marie Case *
Mikael Payne Treasurer:
Harvey Seibel Kimberly Oldham *
* Leader: Reporter, Recorder: *
Larry Sarratt George Adams *
* Asst. Leader: Parliamentarian: *
Mikael Payne Bobby Hedrick *
* * * * *

THE LORD SHALL BUILD UP ZION

(Continued from Page 39)

own wording in there but that's the thought. I think that he's not only telling us to search the scripture, which I think is a part of this matter of developing love toward God, in other words, if we love God we will want to find out about Him so we will search the scripture; but He is, for the most part offering a rebuke, because He is telling the people of His day, you search the scripture for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me, but you will not come unto me. And sometimes I think that this is appropriate to us today; sometimes we will search the scriptures because we think that they contain eternal life, and they do, but after we've searched the scripture we just simply lay it aside and forget about it. But He wants us to come to Him, because if we have learned of Him and do not come to Him on His terms, I'm very sure that those scriptures will be as a condemnation to us rather than as a blessing. In other words we must learn to live the gospel of Christ.

(To be continued)

CHOICE

Our lives are songs;
God writes the words
And we set them
to music at pleasure;
And the song grows glad,
or sweet or sad,
As we choose
to fashion the measure.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

THE MARTYRDOM

(Part III)

At the house of Hyrum Smith a little way off, the scene was not less heartrending. His wife had gathered her family of four children into the sitting room the youngest sat on her lap. The poor and disabled that fed at the table of the husband had come in and formed a group around the room. They were all sobbing and weeping, each expressing his grief in his own peculiar way. Mrs. Smith seemed stupified with horror at the deed. While these scenes were being enacted in the city, the bodies were on their way from Carthage. To preserve peace and prepare the citizens to endure the ordeal with resignation, a general assembly was called at 10 o'clock a.m. which was addressed by W. W. Phelps and Col. Buckmaster of Alton, aide-de-camp to Governor Ford.

No one thought of revenge; all seemed overpowered with grief. At three o'clock in the afternoon the bodies arrived in charge of Marshal Samuel H. Smith the only surviving brother of the murdered men,* and followed by Dr. Richards and Mr. Hamilton of Carthage. They were received near the temple ground by General Joseph Smith's staff, the major general and staff and brigadier general and staff and other commanders of the Nauvoo Legion; the city council and a vast concourse of citizens. The officials formed around the bodies, the mass silently opening to give them way. As the mournful procession moved on, the women broke out in lamentation at the sight of the rude boxes in the wagon covered by the Indian blanket. The weeping was communicated to the crowd and spread along the vast waves of humanity extending from the temple to the residence of the prophet. The groans and sobs and shrieks, grew deeper and louder till the sound resembled the roar of a might tempest or the slow roar of a distant tornado. When the bodies arrived at the mansion of Mrs. Emma Smith the people numbering eight or ten thousand mostly Mormons and in close sympathy with the deceased pressed about the house and the loud wail of the mourners outside and the family within were truly terrible.

Means to divert the multitude were finally in requisition to aid in making way for the removal of the bodies into the house. Judge Phelps, Doctor Richards and Messrs: Wood and Reed — the two latter having been the Smith's counsel, moved to different places and began addressing them. Mr. Wood, who was from Fort Madison and a lawyer of high standing was very severe in his commendations of the whole affair and censured Governor Ford in particular for the careless and guilty part he had acted in not protecting the prisoners. The bodies were carried into the dining room and about a dozen resolute men who could stand the scent of blood, were selected to lay them out. This occupied an hour or more and they were arranged un-

der the west window of the room and their families were brought in to take the first look of the dead husbands, children and fathers. As the door opened the prophet's wife entered with two attendants. She advanced a few steps towards the body of Hyrum, swooned and fell to the floor. Her friends raised her up and gave her water but she fainted again and was carried out insensible. Six times she attempted to see the bodies and six times she was removed in the arms of her attendants. Hyrum's wife next entered the room with her four children supported by no one, she having resolved to bear the scene with her poor orphans. She trembled at every step and nearly fell but reached her husband's body, kneeled down by him, clasped her arms around his head turned his pale face upon her heaving bosom and then a gushing plaintive wail burst from her lips: O' Hyrum, Hyrum; are you dead? O! speak to me, my dear Hyrum. She drew him closer and closer to her bosom; kissed his pale lips and face, put her hand on his brow and brushed back his hair.

*This is an error as William Smith was still living at this time.

(to be continued)

HOUSTON LOCAL

Greetings from south central Missouri. Visiting here at Christmas were Alzada, Bill and Marilyn Massey. D. D. King, a friend of Marilyn's. Walter and Florence Kommer, Kim, Jane Ann and Justin Stancil, Ron, Dee Anna and Grant Hutcheson, Apostle and Mrs. Marvin Ely.

Sister Diana Taylor and children have moved back home to Westmoreland, Kansas. We sure miss them. Diana was our children's choir leader.

Our local is fortunate to have the Joe Carney family, Sister Seibel and Sylvia attending church here. Sylvia is employed at the Texas Co. Hospital here in Houston.

Christmas this year brought us a shock and sadness. God called Mary Addie home to be with Him. He was merciful and took her home so quick. Virgil and family, and all the church felt as though we needed her, but I know God had plans for a beautiful wife, Mother, Grandmother, and dear sister of ours. I know there was joy in paradise where Mary entered on Christmas Day to be with our dear ones that have gone before. I know the prayer on her beautiful soul is, that we will all soon be there too. All of Mary's children were home to visit with their mother and family. The Red Cross made it possible for her son, Jerry, to arrive from Germany a few days before Christmas. Jerry's wife, Sally and children are staying with Virgil and James until it is possible for them to go to be with Jerry in Germany.

Our neighbor, Lucian Hebblethwaite, passed away the first of January. He had been in ill health for several years. He will be missed. His wife, Ollie attended

Church every chance she could over the years. We pray for the comfort of the Addie and Hebblethwaite families.

John and Wilda Jones were in Springfield Sunday, Jan. 12. They reported a very nice worship service. John was their speaker.

Jan. 19, Ike Medders was our speaker. He spoke on "Peace of Mind." Phil. Ch. 4 was the text for the sermon. Peace of mind comes from within. He stressed four points: forgive others, forgive yourself, keep up with yourself, not with others and, see yourself at your best and have a good self image.

POEM

When good friends walk beside us . . .
On the trails we must keep . . .
Our burdens seem less heavy . . .
And the hills are not so steep . . .
The weary miles pass swiftly . . .
Taken in a joyous stride . . .
And all the world seems brighter . . .
When friends walk by our side.

PRAYER

"Oh Master, have mercy on us. Help us to have that pure unselfish love that you call charity. Help us to exemplify this love in every action and deed. We want to be kind, considerate, helpful, and compassionate to all we come in contact with, but we need your help in all things. Help us to put You first in our lives and keep ourselves free from captivity of that evil one. Amen."

Mary Jane Medders

CHURCH OF CHRIST at Ava

A strong wind blew through the Ozarks one day early in January. It wasn't a bad storm, but it did make things a little inconvenient for those whose electricity was cut off by fallen trees and power lines. It also took a piece of the roof off the building the Ava group had recently bought for a church. The next day Art Smith and Earl Darlington went up to see how much damage had been done and what would need to be done. While they were there they noticed a bad, peculiar smell in one room. Checking it out, they found a glow behind one of the plug-ins where wires were sitting there, glaring, waiting to burst into flames the first chance they got. Art and Earl were thankful to be there to turn off the electricity before things got any worse. It was decided to rewire the building before going ahead with any more clean-up, paint-up, fix-up.

Brother Arthur Smith was in charge of the Sacrament meeting the first Sunday in January. He took his reading from the 22nd chapter of Luke, "This do in remembrance of me," and spoke of the need for preparation.

Two of Dorothy Burgin's daughters visited that Sunday: Ruth Gass and Lula Tabor. Sister Amy Schrader has been staying with her sister, Darleen Smith, this winter. We've adopted her and don't count her as a visitor any more.

There were no meetings on January 9th. The third Sunday, Brother and Sister Roland and June Sarratt were down and Brother Roland was the preacher. He spoke of the covenant relationships between God and man. A covenant is a contract: commandments to be obeyed, promises to be gained.

There were no meetings the 23rd. Brother Arthur Smith was the speaker last Sunday. He took his scripture lesson from Jer. 9:23 and 24, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom . . . But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord . . ." With it he used Prov. 2: "My son, if . . . if . . . if . . . ; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."

Ella Engle—reporter

GREETINGS FROM GRAND JUNCTION

The January edition of the Zion's Advocate contained reports from many of the local churches. In reading and enjoying the articles, I thought of how nice it would be to see a Grand Junction report there, never realizing that it might be my responsibility!

Our local business meeting was held January 22. We took care of the Sunday School business first. Our "new" superintendent, for the twelfth consecutive year, is Brother Allen Downs. Assisting him is Brother David Larsen. Allen's address, should you need to share or acquire information is: 299½ Holly Lane, Grand Jct., CO 81503. Our secretary/treasurer is Sister Kathy Larsen; Joannie Larsen is our efficient and talented pianist; Enid Bell is our chorister; librarians are Sister Lois Bell and Brother Aric Downs.

We then considered the local church business. Our Pastor is Brother John Bell, his address is: 572 — 34 Road, Clifton, CO 81520. Assisting him is Brother Bob Ely. Elected secretary is Sister Enid Bell; our treasurer is Sister Alice Larsen; chorister is Sister Enid Bell; pianists and organists are Sister Jane Bell and Sister Becky Downs. I might mention the reunion housing committee, should any need to get in touch: Brother Ron Church, Brother Marvin Ely and Brother Allen Downs. We'll have a reunion notice in the Advocate with their addresses. It is our tradition to hold the Colorado Reunion here the second weekend in June, which will be June 10, 11 and 12 this year. Please plan your time so you may come and worship with us.

Hopefully you will hear from us from time to time in the Advocate. Our local is small, but we enjoy good

attendance by our members. We gained four new members this year with the transfers of Brother Jim and Sister Vieva Shaw—we are so pleased they are here in Grand Junction again. Brother David and Sister Kathy Larsen have lived here about two years, if my memory serves me correctly, and have recently transferred their membership to this local.

We held a meeting of the United Workers on January 25, at my house, with eleven members present. Our study was from the First Book of Samuel, the story of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, It's worth repeating this study of the brave woman and her dedication to the Lord, the "loaning" of her young son to the Lord. We hope in our studies to improve our service to the church, to our fellowmen and to the Lord. Refreshments were served by young Ronnie Church with the able assistance of Aric and Miles Downs. Entertainment was provided by Amy Valentine Downs, now six months old and full of fun!

We enjoyed a wonderful sermon from Brother Bob Oldham, who was here to worship with us January 23. His enthusiasm for the gospel work came through in his energetic urging for us to put on the WHOLE armor of God and go forth with courage and resolution, to meet every challenge whole-heartedly. It's hard to boil a good sermon down to just a few sentences, but those who have heard Bob speak know of his dedication and compassion for his brothers and sisters. Bob visits us whenever his travels permit, and we profit from his input during Sunday School lessons.

Our membership has risen to 31 with the addition of the Shaws and Larsens but the cradle roll will increase again in April. We know neither the day nor the hour but we do know the expectant parents David and Kathy Larsen and wish them all the best. We have their son John and daughter Mary in the primary class, along with Aric and Miles, who have a few years growth ahead of their little friends. It's so pleasing to see the growth of our membership.

In reading back through my typing, I noticed that I listed our church pianists and organists as Jane and Becky. Please don't get the idea that we wrangle every Sunday and Wednesday over who will play what. As in other locals who have both musical instruments, we do our best to provide quiet offerings between Sunday School and the following meetings. We have a mutual understanding that Jane is more talented with the organ, so I usually accompany her with piano transcriptions of favorite hymns at that time. For the congregation hymns, we both use the Zion's Hymnal. It's just one way of serving the Lord with our different talents. Where do your talents lie? I know everyone has them!

Recently I attended a women's meeting with a friend of mine from a different church in the restoration movement. Their ladies are very much like our own interested in serving the Lord by being good moth-

ers and household engineers. Their evening was spent in different classes on economical (and still quite edible) food preparation and useful needlework projects such as embroidery and quilting. Please write to your sisters and share the things that have worked in your family your particular group of church ladies. Our president of the local United Workers is Sister Shirley Ely, her address is: 3201 — B½ Road, Grand Jct., CO 81503. We need to keep in touch with each other and profit from others experiences.

Speaking of need, do you remember how the different groups in the New Testament met together often to speak of their Lord? They needed those gatherings, and we need the testimonies of others to strengthen us in our resolve to live our lives to the fullest in the Lord's service. Being good parents and good friends are big jobs these days, sometimes we think totally thankless jobs. But, with our goal of eternal life in mind, and the prospect of raising our children to become responsible members of society and workers in the gospel we are rewarded with much happiness and satisfaction right here on earth, too. Doesn't your heart overflow with happiness and gladness when you hear of the blessings of others, how the Lord has protected us and changed hearts and minds and bodies? We know of many who stand in need, whether it be because of illness, lack of direction in personal lives, discord in families, discouragement, hardship because of the present economy whatever it may be. We also know of our avenue of prayer, of the blessings and helps that are available to those who call upon the Lord in faith believing they shall receive. We all have those testimonies or we wouldn't be in the church today, believe it. Please pick up your Bible and read St. John 14:15-18, And know also, that your names are mentioned in our prayer meetings as needs arise. We have an extensive telephone network that links us to many locals in the requests for prayers.

Hopefully, you have enjoyed this report and will come to know our families as we have come to know and love yours through the various local reports. After all, we have so much in common! And a great big thank-you to those special people who contributed the January Cross Roads articles. I just had to read "Mom's Three Commandments" right away!

In gospel bonds,

Becky Downs, reporter

P.S. Your Minneapolis reporter is my mother, Irene Maley. How many ways can you connect families in the Family of God?

MINNEAPOLIS

Our December activities deserved prompt reporting; but the New Year caught the reporter out of synchronization with the deadline for getting our news written

and to the editors. A resolution for 1983: Remember that report, on time!

Nevertheless, all the effort put into preparation of our pride-and-joy youngsters for the Christmas program is still bright in memory. Nana Gill had a very tight schedule, directing the children and presenting their pageant on Sunday, Dec. 19. Then on December 20, she presented her husband, John, and children, Ronnie, Tommy and Laura with a fine 9 lb. 5½ oz. John Micheal, for one of those unforgettable Christmases of a lifetime! It didn't seem appropriate at the Christmas program itself to give three cheers for Nana. So we did it privately, each in our own way—and again on Monday.

The Christmas story was read by "Grandfather" (John Gill) with songs of the children and of the adult choir assisting in the telling. The Christmas story was enacted by Lee Lee as Mary; Ronnie Gill as Joseph; and Xe Vang as Innkeeper. Shepherds were: Joseph Eddy, Issaac Ferrier, Maari and Michelle Gill, and Lisa Gould, a sturdy little three year old shepherdess who carried a loved and quite un-new toy lamb which we could imagine she had rescued from a wolf on some Judean hillside. Privileged sheep, we must say, to have such fine shepherds!

The angels, all with faces as pure and bright as the Christmas star itself, were: twinkly blonde, Amy Ferrier — age 2, sleepy little angel, Jacob Eddy — age 20 months, lovely dark haired Liza Ferrier — age 5, and rosy, dark haired Laura Gill — age 21 months. Seen through the eyes of love the whole troupe were angels, including their director.

To some it might seem a flaw that when the Minneapolis choir sings and the children perform there are precious few to comprise the audience. Those precious few were Tissie and Tom Maley, Mary and Warren Johnson, Mike Gould — and Merlin Eddy busy recording the program on video tape. We do not doubt that the Unseen Guest of Honor was present, whose birthday we celebrated. Each little one who takes a part in the worshipful devotion of "The Christmas Program" gains more love and knowledge of Him Who Came Into The World according to prophecy. "The Coming" enacted year after year establishes for each generation, the basis of our Christian heritage. The wonder of the age old story of Christ's birth comes to us ever new, as each new flock of His precious lambs present it. We hope also that our practice times together as well as the program itself, are pleasing to God as our offering of love. The time on stage is so brief compared to the hours of practice; just as our time on earth as practicing Christians is brief in comparison to God's eternity.

Wouldn't it be a treasure to have a picture album in each local church devoted exclusively to pictures of each year's Christmas children?

On December 27th our area had seventeen inches of snow which tied things up for a couple of days. At

such times it's noted that strangers are suddenly friends. Our hurry-scurry lives are unavoidably interrupted we look at each other and smile "Howdy! Some snow!" Then the snow plows get arteries open; the smiles fade as we go back to our grim hurry-scurry which some liken to a treadmill. But it is comforting that the good in human nature goes on parade at its best at such times. The month of January came and sat with hands piously folded with much warmer weather than is normal. January spread out snow, rain, and slick roads; but on the 3rd roads to church were dry. Gloria and Gary Bentson and children had returned from a quick trip to Phoenix. Nick Gould and Doug Ferrier and Mike Gould had gone to Bemidji. Sister Tissie Maley who is usually the first one seated each Sunday and always has a cheery welcome for all, was unable to meet with us. We miss her welcome on those rare times when she is not able to come. Ronnie Gill gave a nice talent offering on his clarinet, playing "Amazing Grace". It is a favorite song of Sister Tissie. We hope Ronnie will play for us again soon when Tissie is present.

Following our fifth Sunday Pot Luck dinner, a business session and election of officers was held. Officers re-elected for 1983: Pastor — Brother Thomas Maley; Treasurer — Sister Ruth Gill; Secretary — Sister Eva Lin Eddy; Sunday School Supt. — Brother Forest Maley. We all have a way of depending upon those we find to be dependable. Reports were given; and plans discussed.

Little John Micheal Gill who was born with a cleft lip has had surgery to correct the lip, and has returned home from the hospital. His mother, Nana, says—"Seeing the condition of other children at the hospital, made us realize how greatly God has blessed us. In comparison the cleft lip is such a small concern." We are thankful with his family, that he is a fine, healthy baby. Sister Ruth Gill has been helping out in Nana and John's home. All the children of the church think Ruth is their very own "Grandma". Ruth spent Christmas with daughter, Bonnie Case and family in Missouri. She plans to visit her sister, Myrtle Earl, in San Diego, Calif. soon.

It was a great pleasure to have Mary and Warren Johnson meet with us for a time. Brother Warren's work has now taken them to other locations. Our love and prayers go with them.

Our attention was called to the three choices (of punishment) given to King David, whom God referred to as a man after his own heart. It is found in II Samuel, Chapt. 24. We invite you to read the account, to learn what the two choices of punishment were which he rejected, choosing "three days' pestilence".

We quote verse 14, David speaking . . . "I am in a great strait: let us fall into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man." Verse 15: "So the LORD sent a pestilence

upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men." God's love is a tough love which requires obedience.

At the beginning of 1983 we hear the terrible crying out of the World's peoples. "Let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for His mercies are great."

Irene Maley, Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY LOCAL

Our people have been happy and very busy since our last report. We have had out-of-state visitors too. We enjoy our visitors. Brother and Sister Marvin Ely, Brother and Sister Roland Sarratt and son, and Brother Bennie Case have been visiting in December and January. We appreciate their taking time from their busy schedules to include us.

December, being a month of celebration, was celebrated by us, too. We tried to celebrate Christmas in a way we thought would be pleasing to our heavenly Father. On December 12, we gathered at Mike and Barbara Martin's home for our celebration. We read beautiful scriptures, meaningful poems, sang songs of praise, and enjoyed a vocal solo as well as a flute solo. We were touched by our way of giving praise to our Lord at Christmastime.

The Sarratt family helped us celebrate Christ's birth on this December day. Brother Roland spoke the sermon. We consider hearing Roland a gift to us. The main thought of his sermon was "The kind of peace Christ brought." We can draw on peace from Christ. He can fill us. He can overflow us with this peace. This is our great promise. He will give, and give, and give if we accept it. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts," (Col. 3:15). "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you;" (John 14:27). Brother Roland went on to say, "Bring Christmas into your life all year long. Don't put "it" away in a closet. Keep it with you."

January was a typical winter month. We had cold weather with ice and snow. We had many crisp, sunny days. January 16 was one of these crisp, sunny days. On this day we met at the Beem home. As we gathered in their living room, we exchanged bits of news about church people. Some of the news was good, but there was sad news, too. We agreed that we must always pray and remember one another as well as the rest of our church family. We must remember our friends, too. No family is spared sadness. All families experience joyful times, too. As we did our bit of visiting, you could sense the happiness we felt because we were together once again. Once again, Mike Kimball called our Sunday School to order and we studied our interesting church history.

Brother Frank Fann spoke to us this sabbath day.

The theme of his sermon was, "The missing ingredient—Commitment." If we are truly converted, we will glorify Him. It isn't going to be easy to commit ourselves to God. The devil is walking the earth trying to devour us. The devil has cunning ways. He can quote scripture. (Mat. 4:6) and he uses it to his advantage. When we "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another and brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" (Romans 12:9-12) we will be a committed Christian. (Read rest of this chapter.) Brother Frank ended his powerful sermon by reading a beautiful poem by Helen Steiner Rice, which she called "What More Can You Ask?"

When Brother Benny Case visited our local on January 23, he seemed to follow-up on Brother Frank's sermon, reports Sister Jewel Beem to your reporter. She says it well when she reports that Benny took his sermon from James letters to the people. These letters are powerful and all of you should read again the book of James. Benny went on to encourage us to endure and overcome our inconvenience of living so far apart. Make the extra effort it takes to keep the faith and we will be blessed. Submit yourself completely to God. Let Him be your director and guide. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the vices of the world." (James 1:27)

May the Lord bless and keep all of you "out there" and we will be delighted to have visitors. If you wonder where we are meeting on a given Sunday, call Dr. Larry Beem (Brother Larry to us) in Norman. His office number is (405) 364-5144. Their home number is 364-9986. You will have a good worship experience and if you should visit us on "dinner Sunday," you will be well fed.

Alzada Massey, Reporter

EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters, even though January is a month sometimes full of bad weather and gloomy spirits, I'm happy to report we've been given many reasons for happiness and praise. We were privileged to witness three baptisms this month. Sister Wendy Smith, daughter of Brother and Sister Mike and Belinda Smith, was baptized on Sunday, January 9th. Sister Susan Geier, wife of Brother Brian Geier, was baptized on Sunday, January 16th, and Brother Victor Bates, of Adrian, Missouri was baptized on Sunday, January 30th. We all rejoice in the covenant these three have made with our Heavenly Father.

On Saturday, January 8th, was an event very special to me and my family. It was a celebration of a marriage between two people who for fifty years, have stood by one another through good times and bad.

Through times of hardship, ill health, mourning, and loss, their love remained. They raised five daughters in this atmosphere of love. We were not only taught, but shown the sanctity of marriage. We were raised in the gospel learning also to love our Heavenly Father.

We in turn are now striving to have the same success in our marriages, and to pass on the same heritage of love to their fourteen grandchildren. I praise the Lord for my blessings and most of all that Brother and Sister Bill and Gladys Nast are my parents.

We are extremely happy Sister Edna Smith is home from the hospital and pray for her speedy recovery. Sister Ruth Randall is still unable to meet with us. She has been in and out of the hospital many times this last year and has had several operations on her leg. She is in great need of our prayers for her recovery.

We do have one sad note this month. We must say goodbye to Brother and Sister Mike and Connie Payne. They are moving to Florida. Mike's parents live in Florida so it will be a happy reunion for him, but their presence will be missed here. We do wish them God's blessings in setting up their new home.

May God bless each of you through this coming month and year.

Your sister in Christ,
Melissa McGhee

OBITUARY

RUBY J. BRYANT

LIFE'S CLOCK

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.

The time measured only unto man came to an end for our sister in Christ, Ruby J. Bryant, on January 3, 1983, at a late hour in her life of 80 years. She passed from this life at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Grace and Virgil Rudd of Independence, Missouri. She was born on December 10, 1902 the second of four children the daughter of Charlie P. and Lelia A. Daniel. She was united in marriage April 30, 1924 to D. Ray Bryant of the rural Cowgill area. To this union were born two sons and two daughters: Gerald R. and Loren D. Bryant, Cowgill; Mrs. Grace Rudd and Mrs. Marcia Christian, Independence, Missouri. She lived in the Braymer-Cowgill area nearly all her life.

She was baptized into the body of Christ on October 26, 1930, as a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Hamilton local. In September, 1952, Brother and Sister Bryant donated land and a building in the Cowgill area, which was dedicated to the work of the Lord

and the Georgeville local of the Church of Christ was organized. The building was replaced in 1969 with a new church built by the hands of the congregation and loving hands and donations of many brothers and sisters. The local still remains active.

The Bryants opened their doors to one and all in the work of spreading the gospel and Sister Ruby spent many loving and sacrificial hours caring for the temporal needs of those who came to share in the spiritual feasts. She remained an active and faithful handmaiden of our Lord until her death.

She was preceded in death by her husband and by an infant sister. She is survived by all of her children and their companions; eight grandchildren, three of whom are married; and five great grandchildren. Survivors also include two sisters, Mrs. Viola Hansett and Mrs. Mary Hansett, both of Boonville, Missouri.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., January 6, 1983, at the Pitts Chapel in Braymer, Missouri with Apostle William A. Sheldon officiating, assisted by Elder Nicholas F. Denham. Karen Bryant, Mrs. Rodger Bruner, and Mrs. Loren Bryant sang, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and "The Old Rugged Cross". Organ music was furnished by Mrs. Loren Bryant. Pall bearers were: Gerald and Loren Bryant, Virgil Rudd, Dick Christian, David Rudd, John Bryant, and Jason Christian. Honorary pallbearers were Eugene Silvey, Greg Evans, Dean Swafford and Bill Sprouse. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery at Braymer.

Sister Ruby Bryant will be greatly missed by her earthly family, her Church family, and many friends. Her example and faith will be long remembered and we feel that she has fulfilled her desire as expressed in the following poem that she wrote:

I'd like to be the homey kind,
The one who does each day
The little things that make life sweet
To those along the way.
The deeds of great distinction
I must leave to Another,
Just let me think and feel and see
The viewpoint of a Brother.
To walk beside my fellow-man
And hope that Christ walks, too,
That middle-aisle between us
To keep us pure and true.
For out of love can come no wrong,
For God, Himself, is love,
Must I not walk with God while here
To dwell with Him above?
My thoughts so oft' stray far away
To Christ's world yet to come,
Should I neglect my duty now
I'll never hear, "Well done."
So let me work and watch and pray
That when the Lord shall call
I'll not have wasted life or day,
But "stand", having "done all".

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1983 Minister's 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 1983 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 17th, 18th and 19th at Independence, Missouri.

WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR "ZION'S ADVOCATE"

Articles, sermons, poems, news items, letters, notices, etc. which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible they should be typewritten on one side of sheet only, double spaced and grammatically corrected. If this is not possible, please send your material anyway. Send all material to one of the members of the editorial staff or to the general church (see title page). The deadline for each month is the 7th of the previous month.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

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

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

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

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS

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

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

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE

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

Second Class Postage Paid

Independence, Mo. 64051

MRS. EDITH HANKS
RT. 1
SAND LAKE, MI. 49343

AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We Sing and We Talk About Jesus" — A series of Sunday School lessons, each with a teaching outline, and illustration and a taped song to be learned by primary or intermediate age children.

Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P. O. Box 472, Independence, Mo. 64051. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided.

We also provide a Sermon-by-tape service. There is no charge for the issuing of a cassette tape on a loan basis. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, 2929 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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

Primary, Volume 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus (Out of Print)	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry (Out of Print)	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.	N/C
Primary, Volume 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus	N/C
Church History for Juniors (34 pages plus Teacher's Guide by Donna Moser	N/C
The Book in the Stone Box (7 pages) by Viola Hanning	N/C
The Bible Game "Who Am I?" by Doris Housknecht	1.50

(No charge for single box to a Local Sunday School)