

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

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No. 9

We're On Our Way To Zion

We're on our way to Zion,
The city of our God,
The place of holy refuge,
Where saints of old have trod,
While men have labored in darkness,
And sought the narrow way,
The saints of God have found it,
In this latter day.

It will lead us on to Zion,
That blessed, holy land,
For Jesus is escorting,
By His almighty hand.
Arise ye saints and serve Him,
Who is the great I Am,
For we're on our way to Zion,
The good old promised land.

We're on our way to Zion,
The city bright and fair,
Arise ye saints, behold it,
Just beyond us there.
We can see her lights a-glowing,
As we press on this narrow way,
From beneath her banners showing,
In this, the blessed latter day.

Words by Elmer H. Jenkins
Sing to, "We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet"

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Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Doris Rattersee, 926 S. Logan, Independence, Mo. 64050, 461-3779
Amy Schrader, 5625 Logan Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64138, 356-6159

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

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

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Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
200 S. River Blvd.
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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. Gudgeff, Independence, Missouri 64055.

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

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EDITORIAL

WILL WE ESCAPE THE SNARE?

As we study prophecy, we are alerted by the fact that we are living in the very time of great deception. Jesus, himself, spoke of this day and cautioned us against the deception that would manifest itself in individuals claiming to be Christ. The false Christs and false prophets would deceive the very elect if it were possible.

It behooves us then to strive to be Christ's elect people, those whom he would give the gift of discernment that they might not be deceived. Such a gift is not usually obtained by merely claiming it, but with claiming the promise, also must come our fulfillment of the Lord's will in us as a proof of our worthiness. We must strive with all our strength to be free of the bondage of sin.

If we are sufficiently observant, we readily can see the grip that sin has upon the peoples of the world today. The devil has placed his snares and traps carefully and is now hauling in the souls of man in great numbers. His powers of influence are varied and range from the most violent criminal, who preys upon the weak and innocent, to the hypocrites in high positions that deal unjustly to satisfy their own selfish gains. The devil's spirit rages in the hearts of some, while he cleverly lulls others away into a false security.

The writers of the scriptures warn us of the snares

of the devil repeatedly, both in direct counsel as well as in example. We are told that Satan would lead us by the neck with a flaxen cord if we yield ourselves to his will. His power to deceive should not be underestimated for he can appear even as an angel of light. To you and I, he will not voluntarily make his real character obvious, but he will attract us through our weaknesses. It is necessary, therefore, to have the gift of discernment effectively working in our midst. We may not all have the gift, but we should pray that God will bestow it upon His servants as is needed to meet the onslaughts of the devil.

Individually, we must study to acquaint ourselves with the distinction of that which is good and of God, and that which is evil and of the devil. The mission of Christ was to deliver the souls of man from captivity. His atonement granted unto man the uncommon privilege to choose liberty and eternal life by obeying the commandments of God. At the same time, however, man was granted his agency to reject the favor of God if he so desired and to yield himself to the power of the devil choosing captivity and ultimate spiritual death. It is the will of God that man has the freedom to act for himself, according to his knowledge of good and evil.

A well-known example of this point of choice is given in the experience that Jesus had when he was

tempted of the devil. Characteristic of our own experiences with the devil, Jesus was placed upon a pinnacle of the holy temple. The devil suggested that Jesus cast himself down through the aid of the angels that were given for his care.

Apparently Jesus was aware that obeying the mere suggestion of the devil would be an offense unto God. Jesus answered him from the written law "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." (Matt. 4:7).

Many times we find ourselves upon such a pinnacle of decision where we could easily err by yielding to the logical suggestion of the devil and thereafter be snared by his cunning ways. No matter how right his ways may seem at the time, his ultimate persuasions lead to a blindness that in turn becomes a snare of total captivity. In our own strength, we cannot break the cords of his power once he has ensnared us; we must humble ourselves before God and call upon His strength to free us.

We must realize that making the right choice, i. e. choosing to obey God's will, gives us the great privilege of continuing in the freedom of choice. Whereas, making the wrong choice, i. e. choosing to disobey God, puts us into the hands of Satan making us his captives. Retaining the full right of choice between good and evil may seem rather uncomfortable and even scary at times, but no greater privilege, nor a more blessed condition, can exist in this life.

Many people today have a misconceived idea of freedom. It is generally reasoned that true freedom allows one the total privilege, without the fear of consequences, to follow any persuasion that one should encounter in this life in the way of religion, politics, etc. This misconceived reasoning tells us that if one should desire to be an atheist, he is free to do so, and after doing so retains his full rights of freedom. Also if he chooses to be a communist, he can do so retaining his full rights within the country he lives, even though his favoring communism would in itself bring eventual dictatorship over him, characteristic of all present day communist ruled countries.

In effect, the world is trying its best to tell us that we have a right to sin against God without fear of consequence. It is telling us that religious teachings are causing us unnecessary and even damaging inhibitions. The present day powers that be are seeking controls whereby all beliefs in God will be eliminated.

The whole world is in the devil's snare and we are but barely escaping it. The day of the heathen is rapidly coming upon us. We must prepare ourselves quickly by placing our full trust in God and obeying His word. Let us, therefore, take to heart the counsel given in olden times that admonishes us to "... lay hold upon the word of God which is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning, and the snares,

and the wiles of the devil, and lead of Christ in a straight and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared the wicked, and land their souls, yea, their mortal souls, at the right hand of God, in the kingdom of heaven, to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and with Jacob, and with all our holy fathers, to go no more out." (Helaman 2:26).

R. L. S.

IMPART OF YOUR SUBSTANCE TO THE POOR

A SERMON BY C. LEROY WHEATON, JR.

Condensed for publication

PART I

I count it a privilege and a responsibility to come out and speak with you this evening. I'm sure it's impossible to bring anything new, but there are those things which are on our minds more or less continually as we think about our responsibilities as a people in this hundred and some odd years since the gospel has been restored. And it's some of those things and the purpose for which they have been brought down to us that I have thought to speak about this evening.

Probably most of them will come out of the Book of Mormon. I would like to take us first to Jacob 2: and begin with the 22nd verse. And note here that Jacob under the direction of the Lord is bringing to the people some of the things which will prepare them for the greater things that will be brought as time goes on. "Think of your brethren, like unto, ourselves, and be familiar with all, and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you. But before you seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have attained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them, and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer to the relief of the sick, and the afflicted." I believe to a certain extent and possibly to a great extent from time to time we have endeavored to apply this into our lives. We have gradually, through the years of my life time, increased our tithes and our offerings and begun to share those with those around us both within and without the church that stood in need. And we have done this at times freely and at other times not so freely. As a result of this God has promised us certain blessings and we have received some of those blessings. I believe that most of the church people who are able and desirous have jobs and are working. I realize that there are some that are out of work, but for the most part we have sufficient of this world's goods; maybe not all the things that we want and sometimes think we need but we do enjoy abundantly of these temporal gifts which God has promised to those who use these resources which he gives us in the manner in which Jacob here is speaking. And we

might remember back to the prophet in the Old Testament in which he said that if we shared our substance, if we paid our tithes and offerings he would pour us out a blessing such as we were not able to contain. We have not to a great extent received that blessing which we could not use or contain, and possibly this is one of the things that I have felt through the years to bring to our attention.

I'd like to turn over a little further into the 1st chapter of the book of Mosiah and read the 49th verse, and he says, "And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God." And he had spoken before of many of the attitudes that we should have as the children of God, that we should answer with a clear conscience to God daily, that we should be concerned about those about us too, and reminded them that even though he was appointed king over them yet he labored with his own hands for his own support in order that he not be a burden to those over whom he ruled and he used this as an example of how we should be in the service of our God. And Christ said something along this line as he spoke to the Jews, that inasmuch as we did these things to those around us, give a cup of water or a crust of bread, or share those things that we have, we do it unto him. We are in his service when we learn how to use these things as God has intended them to be used.

Going on into the 2nd chapter of Mosiah, down to the 18th verse, it says, "And again I say unto you as I have said before, that as ye have come to the knowledge of the glory of God, Or if ye have known of his goodness, and have tasted of his love, and have received a remission of your sins, which causeth such exceeding great joy in your souls," I'd like to pause right there and remind us of what Jacob had said, that before we seek after riches, which we will seek after, we must seek first for the kingdom of God and it's righteousness. Going on, "Even so I would that ye remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long suffering, towards you unworthy creatures, And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come," not just standing in the faith of that which we know which we can feel with our hands and take within our bodies, but that we have faith in those things that are to come, have faith in that greater salvation, that opportunity to be with God and Christ throughout eternity that we might be able to sing his praises and work with him throughout that great eternity, because we have learned how to serve him here in this life which he has given to us.

These are the things that King Benjamin is trying to call to our attention and to make us realize that our faith causes us to look forward to these things and to

work toward them. We must be humble, we must call upon the Lord daily, we must be steadfast in our service to him, because he has spoken these things to us down through the ages, sometimes through the mouths of angels, sometimes through stumbling words of those he has called to preach and to speak to us, and by the prophets of old. He continually works with us, and I might say, as we are children, that from time to time, much as our own children need prodding and encouragement and sometimes chastising in order to get them back into the path, so God works with us.

And he allows afflictions, hardships and trials to come to us, not to beat us down but to make us stronger in learning how to resist and overcome by the exercising of faith and in looking forward to those greater and better things that are to come. "And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins;" Did you ever stop to think that it's possible that we can come to that condition that we cannot retain the remission of sins that we have received? Read in the Book of Ezekiel and you'll find this, that when the righteous turned from their righteous ways and do wickedly then those things they'd received in their righteousness are turned aside. We must walk in such a way that we retain a remission of our sins. This sometimes is a painful thing, to realize that we have to give up some of our activities, we have to be willing to submit ourselves and subject ourselves to God.

"And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true." Yes, we have come to understand what is just and true; what God has required of us; what these things mean to us; how we should react to them, how we should respond to those around us in order that we might be just and true. The scripture says that it is necessary to forgive those who ask forgiveness of us; and God will forgive whomsoever we will. We may not like this, as human beings, we may not even understand it, but this is one of the things that helps us to realize our own nothingness, and that God is greater and above all and that we must learn to submit ourselves unto him.

"And ye shall not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due. And ye will not suffer your children, that they go hungry, or naked; Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers; he being an enemy to all righteousness." We have a theory which has grown up in the world today and is becoming more prevalent, that you can't correct your children too greatly you might hinder them; you might frustrate them, and yet this is what the scripture is telling us, God expects us as parents, as those set in

said he would have to be re-certified by another office to be considered a disabled veteran (this was to be able to receive the 10 point preference). Yes, they knew he still had a disability, yes, they knew he was still receiving a small pension for it, but his records were in St. Louis, Missouri and they were not willing to pick up the phone and get verification! ! Dick and I said a prayer and he called the Salt Lake City VA office and they were a bit disgusted with the Denver office and said they would write the letter of verification that day and send it to Dick. They did. We received it the next day and Dick put it over night to Denver and things were once more progressing.

There were more incidents which kept delaying the job, but that one was the big hurdle for me.

I have always wanted to have more patience - I have known this was one of my major faults. So I have been praying for the Lord to help me learn patience.

You'd better be careful what you pray for and that it is really what you want! ! Because patience is exactly what the Lord was teaching me!

Dick was called to report for work July 11th. His job is not a temporary appointment, but permanent. He has been re-instated for the years he was with the government in the past, which adds up to 6½ years towards his retirement with them. (The exact amount of time he lost with the engineering company of Kansas City, Missouri! !)

There have been other blessings which have been heaped upon us too. Some which we've been praying about for a couple of years! !

And now, Dick has made telephone contact (through Maynard Case) with a man in Ogden, Ut. who wants to know more about our church. He has made contact with an isolated member of the church in Ogden who is also looking forward to our visit. He has made contact with an Indian nearby who is trying hard to help his people and is happy for Dick's interest and willingness to help too. (This last, was through Percy Little Eagle's help.) So it certainly looks as if there is work for Dick to do for the Lord in this area.

I made a promise that when the Lord had blessed us, as we were asking Him to do, that I would write the testimony for others so they would know the Lord's promises are true and that He does care about each one of His "sheep".

Whatever do people DO who have trials and problems and don't know they can turn to the Lord? ! ?

Again and again I keep thinking, "To God Be The Glory!"

In Christian love,
Velma J. Wheaton
Vernal, Utah

QUOTATIONS FROM THE BOOK OF MORMON

"Yea, And he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with strong cords forever." (2 Nephi 11:94.)

"And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil, for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord; for behold they choose evil works, rather than good: therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house;

"And these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil." (Alma 19:45,46.)

"And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels of evil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself;

"Yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents;

"Who transformed himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men into secret combinations of murder, and all manner of secret works of darkness." (2 Nephi 6:21-23).

"And assuredly, as the Lord liveth, for the Lord God hath spoken it, and it is his eternal word, which can not pass away, that they who are righteous shall be righteous still, and they who are filthy shall be filthy still;

"Wherefore, they who are filthy are the devil and his angels;

"And they shall go away into everlasting fire, prepared for them; and their torment is as a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flames ascendeth up for ever and ever; and has no end." (2 Ne. 6:38-40.)

"But woe unto him that has the law given; yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation; for awful is his state!

"O that cunning plan of the evil one!

"O the vainness, and frailties, and the foolishness of men!

"When they are learned, they think they are wise, and they harken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves;

"Wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness, and it profiteth them not. And they perish." (2 Nephi 6:56-60.)

"Yea, wo unto those that worship idols: for the devil of all devils delighteth in them.

"And, in fine, we unto all those who die in their sins; for they shall return to God, and behold his face, and remain in their sins.

"O, my beloved brethren, remember the awfulness in transgressing against that Holy God, and also the awfulness of yielding to the enticing of that cunning one.

"Remember, to be carnally minded, is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal." (2 Nephi 6:71-74.)

This makes a very plain picture of the awful condition that God's creation can be led into by the cunningness of the devil. Let us go back to the first verse quoted. Nephi 11:94, Yea, And he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with strong cords forever". Satan uses such cunning ways to lead us into thinking, this can't be wrong, it's such a little thing, I can't see any harm in it, things that we say, places we go, things we do, the way we might dress, we may not think these things have the appearance of evil to us, but to some one else may be a hinderence.

Because of the energy of youth, or over-indulgence of middle age, or boastfulness of old age that gives satan an opportunity of leading us with a flaxen cord, we must always be on guard, lay aside any and every thing that tends to take our time or thoughts away from the Lord our God. (S. B.)

"O, My beloved brethren, give ear to my words, "Remember the greatness of the Holy One of Israel.

"Do not say that I have spoken hard things against you; for I have spoken the words of your Maker.

"I know that the words of truth are hard against all uncleanness; but the righteous fear them not, for they love the truth, and are not shaken.

O then, my beloved brethren, come unto the Lord, the Holy One.

"Remember that his paths are righteousness.

"Behold, the way for man is narrow, but it lieth in a straight course before him, and the keeper of the gate is the Holy One of Israel: and he employeth no servant there:

"And there is none other way, save it be by the gate, for he can not be deceived; for the Lord God is his name." (2 Nephi 6:75-82.)

"Behold, my beloved brethren, remember the words of your God; pray unto him continually by day, and give thanks unto his holy name by night." (verse 103.)

"And now, my brethren, I would that after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scrip-

tures testify of these things, come forth and bring fruit unto repentance;

"Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you.

"For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea: behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

"And now as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end;

"For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed.

"Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God.

"Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world.

"For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even unto death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his;

"Therefore the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.

"And this I know, because the Lord has said, he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell;

Yea and he has also said, that the righteous shall sit down in his kingdom, to go no more out; but their garments should be made white, through the blood of the lamb." (Alma 16:226-236.)

Sister Sarah Brantner

We always hope; and
in all things it is
better to hope
than to despair.
When we return to
real trust in God,
there will no
longer be room
in our soul for
fear.

Goethe

places to be responsible and to be teachers and to be examples that we teach them that they shall not transgress the law of God. That they shall not fight and quarrel one with another because when they do they are serving the devil, they're not serving God and Christ. And we must do this in our own lives in order that we might thus set an example and teach them. And so God is just, and free with those things he has, as he gives them unto us, and requires obedience of us and requires that we learn how to serve him, and that we learn the truths of the gospel which he sent forth into the world, and that we accept and acknowledge those things which the angels have come to speak to us.

"But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another; And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; And ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish. Perhaps thou shalt say, This man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance, that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just." We see this in the world. Even this great government which we live under says all too often, they brought these things on themselves, that won't work. Yet there was an article in the paper this morning of a man who had leukemia and he couldn't work, and yet they forced him to and as a result he passed away. His funds which the government had begun to give him at one time were taken away. And the government considers that this is just. But God does not consider it just. He requires of us that we impart of our substance, and that we leave the determination of the justice or the injustice of their needs, of their requests, in the hands of God. Yes, he requires that we do these things under his direction and give heed to his Spirit. And I feel to a great extent the church has endeavored to do this, but we must be careful that we don't turn them away because we feel that they have brought these things upon themselves.

"Out I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this, the same hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done, he perisheth forever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God." In other words these are some of the things we must be careful to do in order that we may retain a remission of our sins—that once we have received. Go on a little further to the 43rd verse, reading a couple of verses; I might pause here to say that I'm sure all these things in between are things we should read, it's impossible to bring them all to us at one time, I'm sure that to a certain extent we've all read these, but we need to put them together and see that God is trying through his servants here, to lead us in a way; to

lead us in a certain direction, and this is why I'm trying to bring these to us this evening. The 43rd verse says, "I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants, and see that all these things are done in wisdom and in order; for it is not requisite that a man shall run faster than he has strength." And I believe this with all my heart. God has made us a promise, that when we do these things to the limit of our ability that he will pour us out a blessing which we will not be able to retain within us, we will have to share them with others or watch them go to waste, both spiritually and temporally. Yes, we must impart the gospel, not only by word from the pulpit or in discussions but by the everyday acts of our lives. We must show forth that we have come and learned of God and want to share these things with others, and the example in our lives is the best advertisement that we can have for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Going along over to the 9th chapter of Mosiah, we see that he continues this thought; starting with the 39th verse reading a couple of verses, "And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that we may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life;" this is Alma speaking, "Now I say unto you, if this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?" Isn't this what we want? To have the Spirit of God poured out more abundantly upon us that it might have effect in every activity in our life, that we might have the wisdom and understanding of how to meet the problems of life, and to overcome them, that we might be able to have joy, to lift the heavy burdens of those around us, to share the gospel with those we come in contact with? Isn't this the purpose for which we keep the Church doors open, and that we visit our neighbors and we visit our friends and we visit with those that come and ask of us? Yes, this is one of the things, the main thing, that we might learn how to share these things with each other.

A little further over in the 60th verse, "And again Alma commanded that the people of the church should impart of their substance, every one according to that which he had; If he have more abundantly, he should

impart more abundantly; and he that had but little but little should be required; and to him that had not should be given. And thus they should impart of their substance, of their own free will and good desires toward God, and to those priests that stood in need, yea, and to every needy, naked soul. And this he said unto them, **having been commanded of God;** And they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to their needs and wants." Note, that this is to be of our own free will, God does not force us; I'm going to say, until the day of judgment and then he will force us to accept his judgment, but up until that time we have our own free will, but he has taught us and he has called upon us as his servants here called upon these, to impart of our substance both of things spiritual and temporal, and I note that he refers to substance as both spiritual and temporal, he ties these together for us that we might be able to understand that the well rounded-out man is both temporal and spiritual.

To Be Continued

"TO GOD BE THE GLORY"

(For The Things He Has Done)

"To God Be The Glory" - that's one of my favorite songs - and lately it has meant even more to me. I want to tell you about it.

Dick, my husband, had worked for this one consulting engineering company for 6½ years and we were confident he would be with them until retirement. This company sent us to Utah to live while Dick helped build a power plant, then on to more work within the company. But, as Dick's responsibilities neared an end on the power plant (November '82) his company had no new job to send him to and after four or five lay-offs, he was finally laid off effective November 30th. That's a pretty scary thing to have happen when a family has two houses to care for and pay for - one in Utah and one in Missouri, plus a daughter in college and one seriously thinking of marriage!

Of course, we took our problem to the Lord in fasting and prayer. We didn't want to move, there were no buyers for our trailer house here in Utah, no jobs in Missouri and I had a good job here I didn't want to give up if I didn't have to. Then, before November ended, Dick was asked to come to work for a contractor he had been supervising. So his last day of work for one company was November 30th and his first day of work for the new company was December 1st! We called that a miraculous blessing! We were so grateful! We were even able to take a trip home to Independence at Christmas to see our family and meet our future son-in-law! The Lord was so good to us!

Then I discovered I needed a major operation in March. Two weeks after the surgery I started back to work and received a telephone call from Dick that

April 22nd would be his last day with this new company! I was scared and sick but remembered how God had blessed us before and Dick and I again took our problems to the Lord in fasting and prayer. We had a daughter graduating from college May 14 and a daughter getting married May 21 in Independence and we wanted to be there with all our hearts! Besides, Dick was scheduled to perform the wedding ceremony! Just right away a job possibility opened at the Bureau of Reclamation in Duchesne and they seemed to be anxious for Dick to come to work too. But, of course, the government requires so much paper work and it never moves fast; it looked like maybe Dick would have a job sometime around the first of June! Thank the Lord!

Then as we were wondering how we would be able to survive that long on my salary and unemployment income the state and federal income tax refund arrived and we were able to keep paying our bills.

I would like to add right here, that we continued to pray our tithing right along, putting our faith in the Lord's promise to bless. It works!

Every time we thought we had done all required paper work, the government office in Denver would require something else and somehow, with God's help, we were able to give them what they required and on time.

We felt the job with the Bureau was imminent, but we never stopped fasting and praying. Things were not settled, but we felt the Lord was at the controls and it would be okay for us to go to the graduation and wedding, that the job was being delayed so we COULD go.

After we returned, things were still taking a long time (I am ashamed to tell you this.) Then I began to be discouraged, I was not well and I could see an end to the finances and then what were we to do? Dick was to get an answer the next day. The next day he learned another man had edged him out!!!

Once more that feeling of panic! But I was ashamed of myself and prayed for forgiveness and we continued to pray and fast. That same day Dick learned of a different position in the same office he could apply for. This department wanted Dick so much they even changed the position from Technician to Professional so they could hire him.

More paper work for the government, more delays but this time I was determined to not be discouraged and to have faith that the Lord was taking care of us and preparing something wonderful for us and that ther MUST be a reason He brought us to Utah - a work for Dick to do, for me to help him, and that it was satan who was causing the delays.

Then the big test for me came. The Denver office sent Dick's application and all his papers back to him,

of company yet. In our group three or four guests on one Sunday is unusual. This one Sunday we had 18. It was really nice. Roland and June Sarratt came down to get Eric, and brought Kenneth and Edna Smith along. Alzada Massey was here from Oklahoma. Christy Beem and the little Jones boys were visiting grandparents. Florence Kommer, Kim and Jane Ann Stancil and boys, Ron and Deanna Hutcheson and son were all down from Springfield. Sandy Smith's mother, Charlotte Higgins, visited us that Sunday too. On other Sundays the Darlington daughters and their families have visited from Oklahoma, and Jason Speers spent some time at the Welton's. Martha Bell visited in June, on her 80th birthday. Tony and Louise Grzincic were also here in June.

Brother Tony's sermon that Sunday was very short. He can pack a lot of thought into 20 minutes, but we could have listened to more. He used Heb. 4:12, "For the word of God is . . . sharper than any two-edged sword, . . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart . . ." And Mal. 2:17 and 3:8, "Ye have wearied the Lord with your words . . . ye have robbed me." We have wearied Him by being inattentive. We have robbed Him spiritually.

Brother Kenneth Smith was the speaker July 17th. He read the familiar, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for" and put emphasis on the word, 'substance' He asked, What is the substance of your faith?

There was a little time "left over" after Brother Kenneth's sermon, so Brother Roland Sarratt was asked to fill in. "Fill" in is a good description of his sermon too. "Strong hope goes hand in hand with faith. What can I do to strengthen my faith now so that I can go on to the next? Be spiritually minded so that we can be guided by the Holy Spirit. The spirit is more real than the physical. The world is a very temporary situation. We are living now a very limited existence."

Brother Arthur Smith has been our speaker for most Sundays of the past two months. His scripture reading for the June Sacrament service was from Mor. 7, on faith, hope and charity. He expanded on this again later in the month in discussing, What is a name? Faith is no use unless it's doing something. Hope is like a garden with no seeding. And of charity, verse 53, "Pray with all energy of heart that ye may be filled with this love . . ."

In a sermon in July, he reviewed the history of the American revolution and the restoration with this question, If that part of history were in this rapid, technical, communicative time, what would have been the effect? The greatest Independence Day ever will be when we all sit under one King.

Ella Engle - Reporter

MICHIGAN REUNION

There gathered at the neat little white chapel in Bradley, Michigan, on June 18, 1983, just over 100 people for the annual State Reunion. All came eager to enter into fellowship with each other, and with their Heavenly Father whom they desired to worship in unison.

Saturday, June 18

Morning

There were two sermons delivered on Saturday morning, one following immediately after the other. The first was given by Apostle Robert H. Jensen. His message covered many scriptural passages familiar to most, but, nonetheless, with a present message for each one there. The message contained elements of prophecy, warnings, commandments, encouragement, hope, and comfort.

Among the specific references cited was 2 Nephi 12:86-91, wherein it is told that just ahead of us lies the fulfillment of that prophecy wherein ". . . the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire." It behooves every one of us to prepare for that day by living to a fullness the Gospel commandments. As that time approaches, there shall come more difficult situations for the Lord's people, including the amalgamation of all other churches which shall be arrayed against the Church of the Lamb (1 Nephi 3:217-222). In those days the Lord shall cause such astounding things to occur that the kings of the earth ". . . shall shut their mouths at him, for that which had been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider." (3 Nephi 9:83).

We were reminded that Christ stated **He** would build **His** own Church after a specific pattern of organization and Gospel with divinely bestowed priesthood authority (Matthew 16:15-19; Ephesians 4:1-25; 1 Cor. 12:131). The Gospel is preached with authority only through the gift of the Holy Spirit, and only through the Holy Spirit is understanding gained.

Among the admonishments was the urgent request to: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15) One reason for that admonition is: "For unto him that receiveth, I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, shall be taken away even that which they have." (2 Nephi 12:38) Also, "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbor hath put thee to shame." (Proverbs 25:8) The key to successful labor before the Lord is preparation. We must receive and hold with gladness the word of God, and share with all others of our opportunity.

It was explained that each one of us has a job (labor) to perform in the Church. The parable of the sower was given as a guide to remember in that performance (Matthew 13:8-34). One of our greatest needs is to pray for the gift of the discernment of the spirits (II Peter 1:16-21).

God intended that we basically be happy and fulfilled in this life notwithstanding the trials and temptations; consider the Psalm (118:24): "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

We were also urged to always consider the greatness of the blessing that the Gospel is to us: "That which was from the beginning (the Gospel), which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of Life;" (I John 1:1).

God relies largely upon us to help spread the word of the Gospel: "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. . . ." (Proverbs 20:27).

The second sermon of the morning was given by Elder George Brantner. He cited the warnings in the book of Joel as being pertinent to our day and time: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations."

It was explained that we are living in a day of a trial by tribulation, and the time shall come when there shall be safety only in Zion - the gathering place for the Lord's people.

In the meantime, referring to II Peter, 2nd chapter, there shall be the false prophets and teachers abroad in the land, deceiving many who do not have sufficient love for the truth in all things, and who fall for the many deceptions of the vain philosophies and creeds of men. The false teachers appeal to the masses of people through the lusts of the flesh and the heart, appealing to the desires that lead people astray from the Gospel of Christ.

We were urged to rely upon only God for inspiration in all things (James 1:5-8). We need to live so that we shall show ourselves approved before Him, rightly dividing His word from the word of all others. In order to do this, it is necessary for each of us, as the admonition of the popular hymn urges, to "place our all on the altar of sacrifice" - to give the best of our service unto God. The best of our service includes living a clean life in every respect, and the sharing of our assistance and the message of the Gospel with everyone who will listen and observe.

called to witness unto others.
called to witness unto others.

Pray for the redemption of Zion (I Nephi 3:187-189). Come and follow the Lord, and cling to the rod of iron (His word).

After these two sermons, we were fed with food for the body in the dining area across the street. Many of the women had brought delicious dishes of food from their homes and campers. It was a time also of enjoyment of fellowship on a conversational level.

Afternoon

After lunch, we reconvened at 1:30 for the annual business meeting, chaired by Brother Norman Trudgen. Following are items of interest from that meeting:

Norman Trudgen, whose term on the Reunion Committee expired this year, was reelected for a 3-year term.

June Haines was reelected as Secretary and Reporter for the 1983-84 year.

The Bradley Local volunteered to host the 1984 Michigan State Reunion, to be held the week end of June 16-17. No final action was taken, however.

A song service followed the business meeting. In addition to group singing, there was special music provided by the Lussenden quartet and various groups of children. There certainly is a lot of latent talent in our little group, and more is being discovered all the time.

Following the song service, we adjourned for supper - the traditional Saturday evening weiner and marshmallow roast.

Sunday, June 19

Morning

At 9 a. m., we gathered at the church for communion and a pray and testimony service. The service was conducted by Elder Conley Addington, assisted by Brother Orville Eddy. The opening song was "Nearer My God to Thee," followed by prayer by Brother Orville Eddy. For our second song, we sang "Here at Thy Table, Lord."

For his text, Brother Addington chose the 4th Chapter of the Book of Mormon, Verses 63-72.

Commenting on the scripture reading, Brother Addington emphasized that we should turn to the Lord that we might be found spotless, having been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, in that great and last day. Further, as pointed out in the reading, God does not change - he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is a God of miracles and is the same God who created the heavens and the earth, and all things that are in them.

We were urged to keep God with us every day.

MINNEAPOLIS LOCAL

Loaded to the gills at the Gill farm, two pickup trucks rolled south from Minneapolis-Rosemount down the highway past Rochester and east to White Water State Park and thence to a group camp. The Tri State Reunion had begun, and got better as people drove in from Missouri, South Illinois, Wisconsin, and various parts of Minnesota, Friday, Saturday, Sunday; and the wrap-up on Monday, July 4; and then ho for home.

The kitchen crew said the head count fell short of eighty; but verification was difficult since there was much dashing about by the young. In fact the age of the whole leaned toward the young side of the social spectrum — A good sign.

Featured speakers were Alvin Harris, Independence, Missouri, and Glenn Gill, Carbondale, Illinois. Glenn had brought his Family Gospel Singing group, which added lustre to the occasion. A meeting directed by John Gill brought an enthusiastic response. On furnished slips of paper the people wrote topics or questions of personal concern. These were popped into a box and distributed among four ministers present, for answer or comment. We never did get around to them all; but folks were leaning forward in their seats until it was so late we had to give up and go to bed.

The swimming, and hayride, and volley ball were "winners". One fisherman landed a nice trout from a fast water stream which skirted the camp at the foot of a rock bluff, which in turn scratched the sky. Some took a trail hike which crested on this same rock bluff, where they could look down in our "tiny" camp.

Any mosquitos in the area seemed entirely bashful and stayed home. A flash flood threat did not develop. The best weather of all came the day we broke camp and headed for home. The pickups took less back than was brought. On arriving back at the Gill farm the mission was completed.

Next project: Our exhibit at the Dakota County Fair in Farmington.

Other things have occupied our time and lightened our lives. Crystal Joy Ferrier arrived June 24, ahead of schedule and is now at home with Leah and Doug, and adoring sisters and brother, after some time in an "incubator" at the hospital.

Prior to Reunion a vanload of folks by name of Case passed through on the way to Duluth. Two brothers, James and Donald (both married to women named Bonnie) and their broods over nighted at the Gill farm and were joined next day by a sister to one Bonnie, who came up from Waterloo, Iowa, Julie Blackburn. One Bonnie Case and Julie are daughters of Irene and Forest Maley. The other Bonnie Case is the daughter of Ruth Gill. Others of our church family who have visited us this summer are: Helen

and Ed Podhola from Lincoln Park, near Detroit, Michigan, and Mary and Warren Johnson from Independence. Finally we were delighted by the visit of Ben Case of Wichita, Kansas, who may locate in Rochester awhile. Bethany Gould of Bemidji has been spending some time with her sisters here this summer.

Our adult class instruction materials finally arrived and we are now deep into the comparative study of the Bible account of Creation vs. the theory of evolution is proving highly flawed, done in by recent scientific findings which do not conform with the theory. Our young people need to have this information to offset what is found in most public school text books and encyclopedias dealing with the subject.

We are glad that our pastor, Thomas Maley, is now able to be in regular attendance following his bereavement. July wound wonderfully to a close with a cool Sunday, in contrast to the roasty toasty days preceding. In every month that has five Sundays, the last one has a dinner following the message hour, and so it was; after which we reviewed slides on Mexican archeology, gotten together by Don McIndoo, with a recorded commentary by Merlin Eddy. Some of this material may be converted to video tape for use in our Fair booth.

Irene Maley has been away assisting her sister, Josephine Winkler, of the Collins Local, who has undergone surgery; and will soon return to resume her reportership.

Forest Maley
Stand-in Reporter

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

The month of July has been a busy month, it seems. Foremost in my mind is something very special so I'll relate it first. About 3 years ago Brother Larry Shaw called Allen Kauffman to the ministry to the office of Elder. Then again about a year ago. There was at that time no other witness. This last July during our sacrament service Brother Rodger Bruner stood and called Allen to prepare. The following weekend was the Messiah '83' services at Pineville, There was a nice crowd. People from Independence, Clinton, Holden, and Collins were there among which were Brother and Sister Leon Yates. In between services Allen and Rodger related the calling to Brother Leon. Without knowing what Rodger had said during his call, Brother Leon spoke to Allen with the same admonishment. That night (Saturday) Allen received his own witness which he told Brother Leon of the next day. Then Brother Leon confirmed the calling as being true, as he himself had been prompted a month before during sacrament service to stand and call Allen to the priesthood.

The circle is now complete. On July 31st at the Collins Local Brother Allen Kauffman was ordained an Elder under the hands of Brother Leon Yates and

Brother Oren Caviness. Many testimonies were given to assure the truthfulness of the calls. A more beautiful service I've never seen. There was a Spirit of love and truth and power present that all who were there can testify to.

I would ask for Allen that you remember him in your prayers as this is only the beginning.

On July 17th Brother Loren and Sister Mary Lois Bryant came to visit. Brother Loren was our speaker. He said that we have to love the people if we are to minister the gospel. We must be willing to take up our life — to go on. It shouldn't be a hard task to set a side a little thought of Christ or God. We need to spend our energies on thoughts of God — set our habits to such effect. He read verse 117 on page 578 in the Book of Mormon and said we should know the will of God and ask according to His will in faith. Our thoughts should be mostly prayer. We should be humble, submissive, and full of love — first for God, then for all men. Brother Loren said so much in his sermon, but I wasn't able to make note of enough of it.

Brother Oren Caviness was our speaker July 24th. He spoke on self-discipline. He said we must choose what we want to channel all the energies of our life toward. Examine religion and Christianity as to whether we want to channel our energies toward it. What possessions bring us our greatest joy in life? Do we want material wealth or would spiritual wealth bring more joy and fulfillment? He then read Luke 12:19-21 about the rich man who had so much and then his soul was required of him — where did his wealth and possessions go? Man's folly is to believe that the more we have and accumulate the happier we'll be. Wealth by itself is the chief cause of human ills. The lack of wealth has proven no barrier of health, joy, etc. Poverty of the soul, however, has proven to be the most dreaded of all. We need to know that the peace that passeth understanding comes from God and not a well-filled bank account. If I cannot control ME or SELF I can't go very far in the service of God. Self-indulgence is the anti-thesis of spiritual law. Prov. 16:32 says that he that ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city. A man once said to Fredrick the Great, "I am a king — I rule ME!"

More good news — Dennis and Olivia Yates and children have moved back to the Preston area. We're looking forward to seeing them on a more regular basis now.

Once more I'd like to remind you of the Collins Rally to be held October 22nd and 23rd. Services will begin at 10:00 A. M. Please come prepared to share the peace and love of God with one another.

Your Reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

WARRENSBURG NEWS

Greetings from Warrensburg.

I have started this report many times but somehow could never get it finished. We have some growth this year, but have been saddened by some loved ones moving away.

Brother Brockman has been our speaker on a number of occasions, and we always enjoy his old time message.

Brother Bates visited one Sunday and told how he had been led to the Church of Christ. He touched on the concerns of our young people and how certain individuals in the Bible were helped and cured only after they had followed the Lord's commandments exactly.

Brother Oldham admonished us to pray for people, not to judge them. Look up to God; don't drown in tears of our sinful world. He also reminded us this is our time to prepare to meet God.

Brother Warren Johnson instructed us to trust God, that He would provide us a means to overcome obstacles placed in front of us if we do obey.

Brother Lee Roy Wheaton visited on Mother's Day and read to us of some mothers in the Bible who had long suffering and wisdom, which is something that we all need lessons on.

Brother Case has also given us many enjoyable messages and accounts.

We also have our own local talent. Brother George and Brother Bob have given us many good and enjoyable lessons. Brother George told us one time that we can petition God, but we can demand nothing of Him; but truth will make us free.

We have enjoyed having many ministers come and worship with us, and we hope and pray that our ministers will continue their work for us.

Your Sister in Christ,
Jeanece Stephens

CHURCH OF CHRIST

at Ava

The congregation at Ava has been enjoying regular meeting at their new building for two months. Brother Smith warned us that improvements would go slower during the summer months, but when they installed a more conventional method for operating the faucets of the bathroom sink, it seemed like a pretty good improvement for any season. Then, with imported help, Eric Sarratt from Independence, the old seats from the church of the Temple Lot were moved to Ava and set up.

This was finished just in time for our biggest group

all week, and not leave him at church on Sunday. Further, we were encouraged to set the right example by the way we live, as the world, looks for us to make mistakes.

Brother Addington's remarks were followed by a season of prayer and testimony. Many took part, giving prayers and testimonies truly inspiring to the rest of the congregation. It was certainly a time of rejoicing in the Lord. There was also administration to the sick.

The only incident that marred an otherwise truly enjoyable reunion was an accident in which Janine Coy, granddaughter of Bernie and Laura Ritsema, was struck by an automobile while crossing the road between the church and the building being used for serving meals. She was administered to immediately, and, through God's great goodness, what might have been a tragedy was averted. At last report, she is doing fine and is almost completely recovered from her traumatic experience. We praise God for just one of the many blessing he has bestowed upon his people recently.

I would like to express special appreciation to Sister Joyce Lussenden and Brother Jensen for their help in recording and interpreting notes for the reunion for me while Ken and I were attending a special 40-year reunion of Ken's World War II Bombardment Group in England and Holland. We really missed meeting with all our brothers and sisters, but the trip was a once-in-a-lifetime one for us.

Reported by June Haines
1983-84 Secretary-Reporter

PHOENIX LOCAL REPORT

As your Phoenix local news reporter, I've been very negligent. After two years of sending in reports from our area to the Advocate I felt "Why go to the effort? No one seems to pay any attention." I know that when I get my Advocate or Hand of Fellowship, I sit down and read from cover to cover, but whenever I mention an article to others, the response was "I haven't had the time to read it yet." But, like freedom, I guess something isn't missed until it is withdrawn. I have had two people ask about the lack of news from the Phoenix local to the Advocate. Do you appreciate hearing reports and reading articles others have taken the effort to present? How about letting them know!

Here in Arizona we've been blessed with a good crop of babies: Anthony Paul McIndoo (Brian and Becky), Jeremy Joseph Kidd (Gary and Sherry), Elizabeth Ann Warfield (Norman and Darla) and Heather Shiree Berquist (Dave and Karen). Ken and Marlene Oar had a little daughter (Sarah Ruth), but God saw fit to take her home to be with the angels, after lending her to us for two months. By the time this report is in print Gordon and Patsy McCann and Mike and Kim Scher will have added to our bounty.

The women of the church continue to meet together every Monday night for a time of loving-caring and sharing. Our times together are so very spiritually uplifting and rewarding. The bond of love for each other is priceless and the personal growth of each of us boundless.

Many of our ministry are preparing for their attendance at the minister's conference in August and some are planning to go to the various reunions.

Several of our ambitious and dedicated younger adults proposed the forming of a group to encompass all of our members. The following is their report as submitted by Michelle Yates:

A new C. A. R. E. group has been started here in Phoenix. C. A. R. E. — Christian Activities Reaching Everyone — was so appropriately named by Meredith Baskett. C. A. R. E. is for anyone at any time who wishes to participate in the given activity.

We couldn't begin to name them all but some activities are volleyball and basketball tournaments, Queen's Corner, Senior Citizens Day, Christian Witness Week, some special programs and fund-raising activities. Our first short-term goal is that we would each grow stronger spiritually and in our love for one another. Our long-term goal, which we hope isn't too far off, is to rent or buy a bus and travel to various reunions, etc.

We have a lot of enthusiasm and very high hopes for C. A. R. E. and would appreciate your prayers in our behalf.

Your Phoenix reporter,
Meredyth Baskett

NOTICE AND AN INVITATION

The Ava group is now meeting in their new building near Ava. They would like to invite any of their brothers and sisters who are in the area to stop by on a Sunday and meet with them.

As you drive by Ava, there is a 4-way stop where highways 5 and 14 cross. Turn west on 14 at this stop. After about 1/10 of a mile on 14, (immediately past the motel) take the Airport Road going uphill on your right. The church is a green building on the right side of the road. (It's nice for a church to be on the right.)

Y'all come and see us when you can.

HERETIC HEART

A man may feel no faith in prayer,
And quit it all with little care;
Yet in the throes of near despair
May find his heart kneels down in prayer.

Edward A. Gloegler

DARE TO DO RIGHT!

"Dare to do right, dare to be true Angels will hasten the story to tell" (from song #162 of Zion's Hymnal).

If you are lashed by another's tongue while innocent of his charge, do not retort in kind, but let goodness answer evil. If his condemnation is founded in truth, receive it in humble confession. Dare to do right!

When tempted to lie, even a so-called white lie, or to stretch the truth - dare to be true! It is better to be silent than to deceive. Liars will have a portion in hell.

When others profane the name of God or defile themselves by obscene, by lewd and darkly suggestive language - dare to do right! Lend no encouragement by your countenance or a rejoinder in kind. Your silence or withdrawal can speak volumes; but if wisdom directs that a rebuke is in order, let it be with firmness and meekness in the fear of the Lord, rather than in harsh condemnation.

Through there are all around those of close association and of false friends, or indeed of proven friends, who in human weakness will defile the temple of God, which is their body, by use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco - go not after their way, but dare to do right! for theirs is the way of physical death, and possibly that of the spirit.

If sexual desire, which is implanted in the human family by divine purpose to prepare a godly seed, is permitted an unrestrained course, resulting in fornication or adultery, those who thus disobey the commandment of God and continue therein cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. Dare to do right and dare to be true!

In a world where one devours another before he himself is devoured, and takes advantage of the other in his weakness, let us rather lift one than to crush him. Dare to do right! for he that exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that abaseth himself shall be exalted.

We are schooled with the view of advancing ourself economically, socially or politically according to individual desire, and the world will claim and adulterate her own; yet how quickly, when we fail, does she forget, and perhaps to turn and rend. You cannot serve God and mammon, for either you love and serve God and mankind, and hate the world and her allurements; or else your desires are turned to the other. Dare to be true! and secure the hidden treasures of heaven where moth doth not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal.

Apostle William Sheldon

God hath many sharp-cutting instruments and rough files for the polishing of His jewels; and those He especially loves, and means to make the most resplendent, He hath oftenest His tools upon.

Leighton

FOR THE LOVE OF THESE

Lord, cried my soul -

My heart as with fire is consumed
By pain of absence from my own
Sun-sparkled lake, rippled stream,
And bird song filling shading trees

"I left the hills of Nazareth,
It's sheepfolds and it's vineyards small,
It's tranquility and easy pace of life
To walk a weary road for man.

Love thou this more than these?"

But Lord, cried I,

I faint for want of solitude,
For reaches of silent prairie span,
For azure skies flecked with cloud, o'er head
And oceans wide with faint salt breeze

"I too, loved the shores of Galilee,
The mountain fastness in which to pray;
The desert tugged my heart away;
But e'en there I heard the people's cry

Love thou this more than these?"

But Lord, within

My souls withers and sighs,
No space, I find, for serenity
In the world's mad rush it's
Babble jungle bears me to my knees

"The Father's hand created wise
Filled with beauty both earth and skies;
Yet, born of love, all human kind
More precious for His heart to please.

Love thou this more than these?"

Then, Lord, must I look above

Both sight and sound, must
All peace in Thee be found —
Though service call to paths unsmooth
And life be alien to ought of ease?

"My life I gave for you;
Both lived and died for love,
A sacrifice - that you might know
To follow me, For love of me
. to live for love of these."

A WISE MAN

His tongue is short-
Eyes and ears wide open-
He is joyful of heart-
With a countenance pleasant
As a brook in the meadow.
Beauty surrounds his crown
As his aspirations are centered
On the eagle and rainbow.
He selects the choicest of words
For every occasion.
He meditates on things

Beyond the fleecy clouds-
Tallest of mountains-
And misty seas.
His closest neighbors are
Honor, loyalty and true judgment.
The intent of his heart
Is to polish the stones
That lay in the pathway of life;
While the ignorant and
Unlearned eat crumbs,
The wise man sits
At the table of plenty-
Feasting on the bounties
Of Heaven.

Bob McCubbin

THINK ABOUT IT

I believe that the Lord's promises are to all; those spoken specifically to a people or individual still applicable in principle to all in general, for the Lord is no respecter of persons. In this view the following from a book of daily readings by Charles Spurgeon proved delightful to me and I wish to pass it around.

"Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store." Deut. 28:5

Obedience brings a blessing on all the provisions which our industry earns for us. That which comes in and goes out at once, like the fruit in the basket which is for immediate use, shall be blest; and that which is laid by with us for a longer season shall equally receive a blessing. Perhaps ours is a hand-basket portion. We have a little for breakfast and a scanty bite for dinner in a basket when we go out for work in the morning. This is well, for the blessing of God is promised to the basket. If we live from hand to mouth getting each day's supply in the day, we are as well off as Israel; for when the Lord entertained his favored people, he only gave them a day's manna at a time. What more did they need? What more do we need? (Isn't that beautiful?)

But if we have a store, how much we need the Lord to bless it! For there is the care of getting, the care of keeping, the care of managing, the care of using: and unless the Lord blesses it, those care will eat into our hearts, till our goods become our gods, and our cares prove cankers.

O Lord, bless our substance. Enable us to use it for Thy glory. Help us to keep worldly things in their proper places and never may our savings endanger the saving of our souls."

Isn't that well worth thinking about?

Be patient with every one,
But above all with yourself.
I mean, do not be disturbed
because of your imperfections,
and always rise up
bravely from a fall.

St. Francis de Sales

NOTICE

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,
Isaac Brockman

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Monticello, Utah

Lester Ted Bishop
Ethete, Wyo.

Kathleen Jane (Beaver)
Stephens
Johnston, Ohio

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3242 Upton Ave. N
Minneapulis, Mn.

Stella Fay Beardon
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Betty Beltz
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Gladys M. Bennett
3242 Upton Ave. N
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Elsie Mae Campbell
Hope Road
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Edward R. Blake
Independence, Mo.

Aaron Matther Carney
Rte. 1
Lonedeel, Mo.

Mildred Lucille
Campbell
2337 Adams
Ogden, Utah

Mona Una Carpenter
Rte 1
Dalby Springs, Tx.

PHOENIX REUNION NOTICE

The 1983 Phoenix Reunion will be held November 25, 26 and 27 at the Phoenix Local Church, Phoenix, Arizona. Any one able to come may contact: Jay Moser, pastor, 4062 E. Danbury, Phoenix, Az. 85032, phone 602-971-6697, or Tom Karas, assistant pastor, 14441 N. 36 Pl., Phoenix, Az. 85032, phone 602-867-9506.

Come and join in worship and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. It is also a time to grow spiritually and grow in the love and unity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is our hope that you will each attend.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1984 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 1, 1984. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A. M. Monday, April 2. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 30 and 31, 1984.

The 1984 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 15th, 16th and 17th at Independence, Missouri.

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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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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.

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