

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

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Prayer

What is prayer and why should we pray,
How can it help in this world today?
Why do we fall down on our knees,
Praying oh Lord hear our humble pleas?

Prayer can comfort the troubled soul,
When from our hearts we let it humbly flow.
The Lord listens and hears our every word,
Spoken in joy or when eyes are blurred.

Prayer is communion with our Lord so dear.
Kneeling in prayer we find He is so near.
And communing with Him as friend to friend,
We can find a peace that has no end.

Prayer can bring a glorious healing,
To our hearts it brings a peaceful feeling.
It brings us closer to our Lord above,
It's a communion, a reunion, a fellowship of
love.

So let's remember to bow and pray,
Praising our Lord for each new day.
Communing with Him in fellowship sweet,
Striving to someday our Savior meet.

Janeen Addie

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EDITORIAL

WE HAVE THE DIRECT COMMISSION OF THE LORD

It has been said that many of the prophecies of old are being fulfilled today right before our eyes. This is a day of great moment in the history of the world. Yet only a few are aware of how important world events are to the believer of the gospel of Christ.

The Gentiles' time is fast coming to a close, and soon the gospel will go back to the House of Israel. (Read I Nephi 3:197-200 and 3 Nephi 9:91-93) This prophetic truth is of great importance to the Church of Christ. Every member of the church body should be continually aroused to an awareness of his or her part in the fulfillment of this timely event.

The Gentiles have been greatly blessed in knowledge and in material things, but they, like the Jews of old, have stumbled over the plain truth, the fulness of the gospel of Christ as restored in these latter days. The general consequence of their rejection of this gospel is now being felt throughout the free world. It pains the heart to see the various peoples of the world suffer because of their lack of understanding, when the plain and precious truths, that which would guide them to victory over their enemies, were ever at hand.

The situation is not unlike that which Jesus witnessed when he wept over Jerusalem and said: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they

are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." (Luke 19:42-44)

Some questions keep coming to mind: Has this gospel — the fulness of the gospel of Christ — been preached to the Gentiles sufficiently? Does the Lord yet have a work to do among them before the great destruction comes upon them? Has repentance been preached to this people as the Lord instructed and intended it to be preached? Have the followers of Christ in this day done the work that Jesus commissioned them to do like his followers of old did among the Jews?

Yes, there are many who are preaching to the Gentiles and are warning them of the dangers that exist. But what are they preaching? Are they preaching the fullness of the gospel? Are they teaching them that which would save their souls? Are they presenting the principles of the gospel by which the sinner might truly be born again and come before Christ a new person?

To whom has the Lord commissioned this work:

to those whose creeds are an abomination in His sight, or to his restored church?

The Lord has His own ways and purposes, and He has specifically designated a people and a church to do His work. Yes, much good is being done by other churches, but the good that counts in the eyes of the Lord is that which done through His own direct commands. We have His commandments, and with His commandments, we have His commission. These are the distinguishing factors between us and the churches of the world — the Lord's specific commandments and His direct commission, a ministry called and ordained to do His work. We are not a part of the ministry of a general Christian movement, no matter how much good they seem to do. And they are not a part of this ministry — that which has been restored and specifically commissioned by the Lord.

It is necessary for us to recognize our particular role and not be confused with the general religious practices and endeavors that are stimulating the masses of the many Christian peoples around us. This is not say the we are to sit in judgment upon them, but we are living in the very time when all religions doctrines and theologies will be tested and tried to determine their true values. Only that which has been

given of the Lord will stand the fire by which it will be tested. We must seek and hold fast to the true doctrine of Christ and build upon it with our works of righteousness. Any other foundation will be like building upon sand.

This brings us back to our commission as a church, that particular work that we are to do. We are to continue to cry repentance to the peoples of the world that they might forsake those things that will make them susceptible to sin and deception. We must declare the full plan of salvation to them that they might obey the principles of the gospel and obtain that great hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Finally, I would that each of us pray that we might be worthy instruments in the hands of the Lord to declare His gospel in its fulness to both the Gentiles and the House of Israel as we are directed of the Lord. Let us pray that we be renewed in our willingness and in the true sense of duty that the Lord requires of us. Let us forsake those things of the world that hinder our service before God and man. Let us abandon our fear of man by making our awareness and fear of God a never ceasing reality. Let us strive to make our obedience to God a fruitful service to Him.

R. L. S.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF REVELATION SIX

Part I

BY WILLIAM A. SHELDON

In the revelation given to the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, we have a record given by which we may be profited, as with all scripture. It is written:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.

As with many other prophecies, the whole of this revelation is couched in figurative language with a great degree of symbolism, even as in the parables of our Lord, so that the message is not readily discerned. It appears that He intends for men to earnestly search for the treasures of divine wisdom:

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

This would not be only an intellectual approach, but being "with all your heart", it bespeaks a desire of one's spirit toward the great Father of spirits to truly find Him, or to become one with Him. Further, in a unity with God, one is impelled by the Divine Nature to reach out to the children of men to lift them, and to bear testimony of His great righteousness, which cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance (see Alma 21:18). His patience is revealed in His Word as being almost beyond comprehension, yet it is not inexhaustible; and so it is in the prophecy of this 6th chapter of the book of Revelation.

Here we have a delineation of events in the end time, which culminates with the revelation of Jesus Christ in the heavens wherein every eye shall behold the glory and majesty of Him who will subsequently rule upon earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This revelation of Christ is immediately preceded by the darkening of the sun and the moon and a great shaking of the heavenly bodies as predicted by Christ in Matthew 24:29, 30, which is also preceded by the events incidental to the great tribulation spoken of by Christ. See Revelations 6:12-17. This is mentioned here to set the time frame of world events as herein depicted; to show that they would be of such a nature as to demand the wrath of an offended God in punishment of the nations for their wilfull disregard of divine law and the callousness of man's relations with his fellow man. We are further informed that:

"... Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24:22.

The reason for this interpretive analysis (which I pray is by the Spirit of truth) is to cause us to realize the lateness of the hour, as it were, showing how God has forewarned us that we might seek a greater spiritual preparation, and thus that we may stand, and not fall as these events continue to unfold in that great tribulation (Matthew 24:15-29), which has been in progress for some time, and will continue to inten-

sify so as to be unbearable except for those who are truly trusting in the Lord, and continue to do so.

The events depicted by the four horses with their riders are evidently those of world-wide scope, rather than of a limited nature, or restricted to a few nations as may be found in some of the Old Testament prophecies. They reflect the carnal disposition of mankind being climaxed in the last days to an extent which would ultimately destroy the human race except for divine intervention.

We are not to suppose that the appearance of these horses to John's view, by the successive opening of four of the seven seals of a book, is altogether indicative of precisely defined periods of time. In a general way the opening of one seal after another to reveal the contents of the book may be assumed as a chronological series of events, but being of great magnitude in scope they can just as surely be assumed to overlap adjoining periods of time or to run concurrently. The book with the seals attached, is portrayed to the great wonderment and concern to John in the preceding chapter five. The Lord revealed the contents of the book to John, but with only a limited comprehension of its meaning. Evidently the Lord was reserving until the end-time a fuller (not to say, complete) understanding of the whole revelation. As the various horses with their riders are revealed, it seems significant that the horse, more than the rider, is described, and we may conclude that events are portrayed, rather than particular human beings or nations.

THE WHITE HORSE

When the Lamb (Christ) had opened the first seal, John saw a white horse: "and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer" (v. 2).

The white horse is symbolic of a movement among men which is pure in its nature. Looking forward to Revelation 19:11-13, we may be struck with a similar view which undoubtedly refers to Christ, symbolically astride a white horse, and leading the armies of heaven to war with the nations. This is a later event, for certainly such a victorious battle is not to be followed by world events as are depicted in Revelation 6, with the opening of the second through the fourth seals.

No, the white horse with the rider, and his bow (v. 2), does not represent Christ in His final victory over the forces of evil and with the ultimate establishment of His Kingdom in righteousness as having been an accomplished fact in this particular part of John's vision. Rather, it represents the Restoration Movement, the establishment of this Church of Christ in 1830 for the intent that as the kingdom of God, it should be the means of conquering the willful hearts of men by their humble obedience to the Gospel of Christ. The rider had a bow, a representation of the power of God through faith and the holy priesthood. The lack of an arrow would seem to indicate that at the appearance of this vision, there was not yet the great endowment of power, which is expected when Christ shall appear to His Church in these last days (see 3 Nephi 10:4). Nevertheless, "a crown was given unto him," indicative of

the crown of life to those who believe and obey the Master, and perhaps also of the prospective crowning of the saints who will live and reign with Him for 1000 years. The rider's mission is not completed within the time scope of the vision: he is yet "to conquer."

In this, we are reminded that the "stone" of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which was interpreted by Daniel as a representation of the latter day Kingdom of God, was to smite the image (the latter day nations) and the stone "BECAME a great mountain" (see Daniel 2:31-45). The stone (Christ's kingdom) was truly cut out of the mountain in 1829-30 (that is, a spiritual kingdom has been revealed in the midst of these United States), but it has not yet fallen upon the feet of the image so as to break the image in pieces. This will be done after the great endowment of God's power, when the servants of God shall smite the earth with the word of God, breaking the power of the evil one and the power of nations; and humbling many, causing them to seek the Kingdom of God. The white horse with his rider "went forth conquering and TO CONQUER" (future).

THE RED HORSE

"And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword". Verse 4.

The red horse is indicative of blood, of a terrible blood bath through a time of practically continuous war. The rider was to have a sword; they were to "kill one another". Note that this horse follows the white horse in time sequence, as respecting its initial appearance. This is viewed with the opening of the second seal.

How striking, in this connection, is the revelation given Joseph Smith on December 25, 1832 as found in the larger histories of the Church.

"Verily, thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls;

"And the time will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning at this place.

"For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then war shall be poured out upon all nations."

From the time of our nation's Civil War to the present, there has been war poured upon the nations, broader in scope and practically without cessation; and especially so with World Wars I and II. Can anyone doubt the prospect of a third world war?

In the vision reputedly given to George Washington, he saw three great perils to our nation: one in which his armies were engaged; a second portraying

the Civil War; a third, yet more distant in time, whose flow would almost destroy the nation, within the continental limits, but finally being saved by the intervention of heavenly hosts, coupled with brave human defenders. Granville Hedrick had a vision of similar import.

Both Matthew 24 and Luke 21 give a prophecy of Christ regarding an "abomination of desolation" to come upon the land of Judea, and thus foretelling the destruction of the Jews in 70 A. D., which was fulfilled by the armies of the Roman emperor, Titus, in a terrible siege of Jerusalem. That this was a proto-type of a greater "abomination of desolation" to be revealed at Jerusalem in the last days is more fully detailed in Mark 13, which is a companion of the above texts, all of which treat upon events leading up to the second coming of Christ. Here we are told that this latter day "abomination of desolation" should once more occasion a terrible distress, but evidently of world-wide effect instead of the limited desolation of the Jews as in 70 A. D.

"For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, **neither shall be.** And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom He hath chosen. He hath shortened the days" (Mark 13:19,20).

To further show this application to the last days, He states:

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light", etc. (v. 24).

This "abomination of desolation" is elaborated in chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel as being "Gog" of the "land of Magog", which will "come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days". Ezekiel 38:16. He is also to come to a land of unwallled villages, who are at rest and dwelling safely (v. 11), an evident allusion to these United States. Then in Zechariah 14 we are informed that all nations are to be gathered to battle at Jerusalem, evidently because "Gog", with his allies, shall come from his place "out of the north parts" (Ezekiel 38:15).

It is not our purpose to detail these events which are even now developing, in which we would also include Joel 2, but only to give evidence of the extent of the spirit of war among nations in the latter days so graphically depicted to John in the symbolism of a red horse whose rider had power "to take peace from the earth" by means of "a great sword". The latter day "abomination of desolation" is evidently the communist movement, with Russia in the lead, and we are presently seeing it's preliminary testing of conditions in the Middle East through military pressure exerted by his allies of Syria and Lybia, and others.

Present developments in Latin America of civil war and of threatening international conflict, all of which is an evidence of the world-wide communist conspiracy, and which may well involve the whole of the Americas - all of this, with the above, is a prelude to a hor-

rible conflict of such magnitude as to dwarf, or to render as insignificant any previous international war. In opposition to the development and use of atomic We may be sure, despite the increased demonstrations or nuclear weapons, etc., that the nuclear powers (nations) will use such sooner or later, as they may feel it in their national interest.

How approximately is this era of which we write and in which we presently exist, designated by the symbol of the red horse, as a figure of unparalleled bloodshed among the nations! and again how fitting that the term, "reds" is applied to the communist ideology, the nature of which is virtually synonymous with the shedding of blood. Indeed, "the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way." (See Jeremiah 4:7).

To be continued

ELEMENTARY AXIOMS TO AID SCRIPTURAL STUDY

Psalms 117

O Praise the Lord, all ye nations:
Praise him, all ye people

For his merciful kindness is great toward us:
And the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.

Praise ye the Lord.

Introduction: "Study the shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)."

Since a significant portion of a Saint's time needs to be employed in the pursuit of scriptural truths, I have endeavored to collate a few axioms and basic rules to facilitate that search.

Axiom one: The truth of the scriptures is illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:12-13).

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye should ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things" (Moroni 10:4-5).

The principle of prayer to invoke the direction of the Holy Spirit prior to any discussion or study is of paramount importance. If this principle is not given strict observance the remainder of these axioms fall into a dim view and lax application, placing the intellect of the man as authoritative in conjectural emendations, thus falling prey to the snare of man made doctrinal ideologies. This precept is usually the first to be developed by an aspiring new convert in his thirst for the knowledge of the truth of the word of God. It is the Holy Spirit that is to be your guide through

the application of the remaining rules. It is your duty to willfully and with all earnestness of heart submit to the leadings of the Holy Spirit in all things, so let that principle reign supreme throughout your course of study.

Axiom Two: All scripture is in unified harmony with the total word of God.

"Whom shall teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:9-10).

As the foregoing quote indicates, the more complex scriptural doctrines are to be difficult to assimilate, but if the maturing student is to obtain the truth, great diligence is required to collect and rightly divide the bits and pieces in the construction and establishment of truth. It must be always in the mind of the one laboring over the collection of passages that the entire word of God is unified in every doctrine and that all passages should be harmonized together as well as with the rest of the doctrinal truths contained in the scriptures.

Listed below are some rules to further illustrate the applicability of this axiom.

Rule A: All passages of scriptures pertaining to a given subject should be placed in agreement. If one out of one hundred texts seems to stand apart, do not neglect the single exception for its importance is very great since it is the only one adding new information. Until the resolution of a seeming scripural discrepancy is achieved, one must rely on the bulk of passages that a confidence of belief may result.

Rule B: One passage can establish a doctrine. Although it is desired to have more than one passage to support a concept, the word of God does not require a second. A helpful example might be the single assertion of the bible (KJV) that children are perfect in Christ.

"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake" (1 John 2:12).

This one statement need no further substantiation to establish that **precept**.

Rule C: Every verse or address in the scriptures is limited and circumscribed in application due to the receiving audience. An example can be found in the following famous text.

"Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

What about the exceptions to this declaration exhibited by the next text?

"For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died, not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned" (Mosiah 1:107).

Thus, the statement by John was bounded by his delivery and audience, and we see that any passage must be understood in the light of the context and history with which it is given.

Rule D: Prophetical utterances must be included where they apply.

"Wherefore harken, O my people, which are of the house of Israel, and give ear unto my words: for because the words of Isaiah are not plain unto you, nevertheless they are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy." (2 Nephi 11:5).

Many prophecies are difficult to understand and must make use of the spirit of prophecy for interpretation, and a great store of historical data would be beneficial in establishing that spiritual revelation be for the world.

Rule E: Alleged errors are just that, for the word of God cannot be broken. After sufficient skill and knowledge has been amassed, the scholar may attempt to sort out the difficulties and complexities in the word of God if he has the guidance of the Holy Spirit to touch his research with the light of God. Some of the simple difficulties should be tackled first, such as the explanation of the two differing accounts of the lineage of Joseph, the husband of Mary, given in Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38. On the onset there seems to be a real contradiction even when considering the world's answer that one is the lineage of Mary, but after the proper application of the study criterion we find that both give the exact lineage of Joseph as the **verses** indicate in the two God inspired accounts. A second example is the transcriptional error found in 2 Kings 8:26 and 2 Chronicles 22:2, where the age of Ahaziah is given as 22 and 42 when he ascended the throne. It is obvious that the 2 Chronicles age is in error since it would place him 2 years older than his father Jehoram. Studying the method of writing numbers in the Hebrew language is a good help in understanding how the man-made scribe error occurred.

Axiom Three: The scriptures convey the words of God in pricisional accuracy.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:20-21).

"For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding: for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding" (2 Nephi 13:5).

We must accept the plenary inspiration of God in the scriptures and that God selects the words to be penned or uttered, not man; therefore they are the ineffable words of God. God knows what is being said and selects language that can be understood by the people He is addressing and not necessarily any one else. There is only one interpretation to that message called the truth (all others being false). One problem that arises is due to the rapid change in any given language. We are presently faced with three simular English languages; 1611, 1830, and the present state.

There are basically three types of changes; spelling disappearance, and meaning of words. The first is not a real concern because the correct spelling becomes self evident the second is not difficult if you have a dictionary with archaic and obsolete words given, and the third is very subtle because we currently think of the present common meaning and our minds are set at ease not suspecting and therefore not detecting anything amiss. Some tricial examples are given below.

Spelling	Bible (KJV)	aileth, borne
	B of M	thinketh, breathe
Disappearance	Bible (KJV)	anon, ofor, agone
	B of M	besom, bittern, bestir
Meaning	Bible (KJV)	let = hinder (Romans 1:13, 2 Thess 2:7)
	B of M	fat = mentally slow (2 Nephi 9:10)

Granted the examples are kept simple to exhibit the point, but the real danger lies in words such as 'salvation' and 'damnation'.

A second problem presents itself as a difficulty of transmission of thoughts from one language to another of dissimilar tongue. Mormon wrestled with this problem on at least two occasions as we find recorded in Ether 5:23-24 (awkwordness of hands constraining the writer to concisness in presentation), Mormon 4:21 (the mechanism for faults to enter into the writing - not errors), and Mormon 4:97-99 (states his fear that the reformed Egyptian may not be readable or understandable to men in a later time and then expresses his faith that God would prepare a means for the interpretation). There is no room for error in the Book of Mormon which is the plenipotentary word of God. Mormon states what type of faults the book might contain and never is error mentioned (faults usually lend themselves to error in interpretation by those not heed the information guven by Mormon in the afore mentioned texts). Joseph Smith, Jr., had the prillige of the Urim and Thumim to put any fears aside about translational errors that Mormon expressed; the Bible on the other hand did not, although it was translated by highly qualified men of God who's prayers invoked the Holy Spirit daily for accuracy. Although we may never become proficient linguistic experts, we should make every effort to upgrade our abilities in this area. An example would be the alleged conflict between the Bible and the Book of Mormon as to the birth place of Jesus Christ. Alma 5:19 states that Jesus was to be born at Jerusalem, whereas, Matthew 2:1 records the birth at Bethlehem. To the unlearned there seems to be a conflict but when studied we find that both passages are exactly correct and that the word of God is found unbreakable. Since the scriptures claim plenary inspiration we must assume that they are beyond reproach and authoritative regardless of the subject matter under consideration. It is folly to assume that wherein the scriptures are silent that the silence is also authoritative.

Axiom Four: Expressions of an author's thoughts are questionable.

"When they are learned, they think they are wise,

and they hearken 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 shall perish. But to be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsels of God" (2 Nephi 6:59-61).

When in the scriptures an author speaks his own thoughts or opinions, those commentary words cannot be accepted as having plenary inspiration and must be considered questionable until fully examined in the light of the rest of the scriptures. If the author's expressions are note-worthy, they still must not be given any greater authority than that of a commentary. Certainly no truth or doctrine can be substantiated using such. A couple of examples of this type can be found where Paul speaks for himself (1 Corinthians 7:6) and Alma gives his opinion (Alma 19:55).

Summary: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord:" (Isaiah 1:18).

If these criteria of study are everywhere applied properly it should assuredly lead a student of the Holy Writ toward truth. An added help would be in selecting the broad prospective when studying the scriptures as opposed to the narrow prospective. The student using the broad prospective will investigate all possible meanings and then relax back to the seemingly more logical without constraining himself to that meaning until the entire process of the critical analysis is completed (this allows subsequent passages full weight yielding to modifications as the new information is brought to light). The narrow prospective nails the first most logical meaning and holds to it until new information forces a change of view, thusly, not providing adequate weighting to subsequent passages. Although the broad prospective is the most challenging, it more often than not tends toward truth and the full exercise of the principles of critical review. The narrow prospective only tends toward truth if the initial decisions were accurate and fully contains the principles or critical analysis or any type discussion of doctrinal differences.

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." (2 Peter 3:16).

By Priest Samuel S. Gould

THIS and THAT

Lie down and sleep,
 Leave it with God to keep -
 This sorrow which is part
 Now of thy heart.
 When thou dost wake
 If still 'tis thine to take
 Utter no wild complaint;
 Work waits thy hands.
 If thou should'st faint
 He understands!

CROSS ROADS

SUPPORT THE YOUTH

This article, though it be published in the Cross Roads section, is not directed particularly to the youth, but to the adults. I'm sure most of you agree that we are living in a tumultuous time. As we look around us we see great moral decay, and consequently there are temptations set before us continually.

The youth are especially bombarded by the world and its influences. Sometimes the pressures from school, the media and society in general seem to overwhelm them, but I'm not wanting to imply that there is no escape. I feel that through God there is strength against the adversary. If we regularly worship and pray to our Heavenly Father, study His word, and fellowship with those of like faith we can gain the strength to battle our daily temptations. 1st Corinthians 10:13 says, ". . . but God who is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye maybe able to bear it." I feel that one way our young people can escape temptation, is an active youth group.

I know many adults who testify that if they had not regularly attended a youth group as teenagers, they wouldn't be in the Church today. These activities gave them wholesome fun and association along with services and studies that led to spiritual attitudes. The time these teenagers spent at the young people's activities kept them from possibly spending time with worldly friends and influences.

I hope I have convinced you that because we are living in a day of great temptation, a youth group can give our young people irreplaceable benefits. Therefore, my plea to you, especially the parents of preteens and teenagers, is support our youth and support our youth groups. If you have a number of youth in your local and you do not have a youth group, start organizing one (I feel we also need to make an outreach to the 10, 11 and 12 year olds). Encourage, if not insist, that your children **regularly** attend the young people's activities along with all the Camps and Outings. Start encouraging them when they are young before they have acquired other friends and interests. Help your kids make the young people's activities a number one priority, and don't have extracurricular activities that will keep them away from the times that the youth group meets.

You may ask, "What can I do?" Everyone can help. You can pray for our youth and their youth groups. Invite them to your home for a social or a study. If you are in the ministry you can be ready and willing to lead a study or prayer service. You can donate money, for it takes money to keep an active group going. Most of all, don't be negative. Many times things are not run just like we want it, but be patient and work with the leaders. If you show negative attitudes about the Church, your Brothers and Sisters, or the youth

group, it will have a detrimental affect on your children. Support is the key!

Young people's groups were organized throughout the Church many years ago, but if ever we have needed strong, active youth groups, it is now. Our young people are the Church of tomorrow, but their souls are at stake today. The Book of Mormon, 2nd Nephi 14:12 says, But behold I say unto you, that ye **must** pray always, and not faint: That ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul." Let us pray a similar prayer for our young people, that these youth activities will be consecrated for the welfare of their souls.

Sincerely,
Becky Sheldon

NOTE TO THE YOUTH

Do you ever feel the pressures from school and worldly influences closing in on you and you need an escape?

Attend your Young People's group.

Are you longing for some wholesome fun and friends?

Attend your Young People's group.

Do you pray and study God's word like you should?

Attend your Young People's group.

Do you have a talent (even if it is a smile) you want to use for the Lord?

Attend your Young People's group.

Remember, your youth group needs you! And you need them!

Becky Sheldon

LIGHT UPON THE HILL

There is light upon a hill,
Oh how bright it beams.
Shedding rays of hope
On people like you and me.
Never does its flame grow dim,
It's always there to see.
A guide in darkest hours,
What a blessing to receive.
It's there in times of despair
And moments of greatest need.
The light upon the hill
Is a building, you see.
It is the Church of Christ
Fulfilling my every need.

Submitted by: Mikeal Payne

PRAYER FOR THE HEART'S MOST BELOVED

Oh Father -
 Place Thy healing touch upon
 The pain of aching breast, lest
 Our poor love refuse for our beloved
 That which Thy love dost choose
 For them, of toil or loss or pain
 Forgetting that all which falls is
 But Thy way to eternal gain,
 Let us not seek for heart's beloved
 A service or path of ease -
 But bend our prayers, that they
 Might only their maker please
 And risk their all, Thy will
 And purposes to fulfill
 Content to follow Thy hand
 That leads them on until
 Your cause is served, the victory
 Is won; and as in heaven your
 Will on earth is done; then
 As from Thee nought can ever sever
 To Thee be honor and glory
 forever and ever.

JESUS

His cross now covers my sinning
 For were it not so I'm undone
 His blood now sponges the erring
 From the page of the course I now run;
 For my heart desires no trespass -
 From all vantage of evil would flee,
 Though flesh in it's nature of weakness
 From stumbling is not yet set free.
 My heart loathes the sins that beset me
 That keep my Dear Savior in pain -
 Keep me coming for pardon and cleansing
 Again and again and again,
 Thank God for such a Dear Savior,
 Whose love pays a cost so severe -
 To continually stand as my surrogate
 Else all hope would soon disappear,
 His cross is a present condition,
 His blood a fresh living flow,
 His love is our hope of salvation from self,
 To Him all our being we owe;
 His cross, His blood, His sacrifice,
 From these nought our souls can e'er
 sever,
 And to Him will go all the glory
 Forever and ever and ever!

ANXIOUS CARE

Anxious care for tomorrow?
 Yet I know not if for me the sun will even rise.
 Anxious care for tomorrow?
 When each day my loving Lord supplies.
 Anxious care for tomorrow?
 O troubled heart, why don't you rest -
 Just rest upon the promise of His Grace,
 His strength to meet tomorrow and its test.
 Matt. 6:25-34 Author Unknown

A PRAYER . . .

Heavenly Father up above
 Look upon us with thy love.
 Stretch forth your hand we pray to thee.
 Cause the lame to walk, and the blind to see.
 Guide us through our daily chores.
 Harbor us from the adversaries piores.
 Give us knowledge to understand
 And the wisdom to choose that which is
 right.
 Lend us your watchcare both day and night.
 Help those who have strayed from thy flock.
 Have mercy upon those who are stiff-necked
 and care not.
 Touch our hearts with joy and compassion.
 Humble us to be perfect in thine own fashion.
 These things we ask in your name . . .
 Amen

Submitted by Mikeal Payne

WE ARE THE CHURCH

I thought of the Church as though it were you,
 And I spoke of all the work it should do.
 It's easy to pass the tasks to another
 And wonder why he has failed as a brother.

So I looked at you, and you looked at me,
 And there was the truth to see:
 We all are the Church, redeemed from above
 By the mercy of God and His outreaching love.

And if we are true to the call of the Lord,
 The tasks that are waiting will not be ignored;
 In the paths we follow where the Master trod,
 Love still is the mark of the children of God.

ONE STEP ENOUGH

Whoso draws nigh to God one step through doubt-
 ings dim.

God will advance a mile in blazing light to Him.

PRAYER IS LIKE

A pitcher in which to carry the water of life.
 A chemist that turns all life to gold,
 Incense with which to worship God.
 A bow to carry the arrow of our need.
 A Porter to watch the doors of our lips.
 A guard to keep the fort of our hearts.
 The hilt of a sword, to defend our hands.
 A master workman who accomplishes things.
 A barometer to show our spiritual condition.
 A chariot to hold our petitions, the Spirit being
 the wheels.
 The tuning of an instrument, getting it in tune
 with heaven's melody.
 The key to religion, winding it up in the first
 place, after keeping it going each day there-
 after.

Selected

MEDITATION

The sky . . .
 blue,
 silent,
 peaceful

The sun . . .
 shining,
 warm,
 radiant

The moon . . .
 bright,
 soft,
 still

The stars . . .
 glowing,
 twinkling,
 guiding

God . . .
 Love,
 Creator,
 Heaven ! ! !

Submitted by Mikeal Payne

FAINT NOT

- In prayer - Luke 18:1
- In confidence - 2 Cor. 4:1
- In hope - 2 Cor. 4:16
- In work - Gal. 6:9
- At tribulation - Eph. 3:13
- In well doing - 2 Thess. 3:13
- Under chastening and rebuke - Heb. 12:5

D. L. Moody in Notes from my Bible.

A man is not idle because he is absorbed in thought;
 There is visible labour and there is invisible labour.

Victor Hugo

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• "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.

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MISSOURI REUNION 1983

We have come far enough into this closing era that we are beginning to see more clearly the things that hide beside the path and clutter our way.

The Reunion meetings were anything but grim, though many left troubles at home and brought heart-ache with them. A testimony many times repeated this weekend was how an affliction can be turned into strength and a blessing through the power of Christ. Brother Caviness likened the Reunion to a time for recharging batteries. Maybe, too, it was a time to look more closely at the road map and compare notes on the hazards and rewards of the way. Someone referred to a pinnacle of decision. And so it was we shared, not a pit-stop, but a pinnacle-stop.

At the first prayer meeting, Sister Frances Yates brought up something that was repeated in various ways throughout the Reunion. She testified of how glad and how thankful she was for the freedom within the gospel, within the church, and the land. One speaker said, We are some of the few left who have the freedom to teach this gospel in its fullness. Another admonished us to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. Another warned of the danger of losing this life of freedom to the slavery to things and habits.

The sermons at the Reunion were so full, to condense them even more seems like offering crumbs from our table. That's not right between brothers and sisters. Please look at these few sentences from each sermon as seeds, rather than crumbs.

Brother Hubert Yates was the first speaker and entreated us to be concerned, as Nephi was (B. of M. 165:4) "We're living in the day of the finishing. It will be a time of tribulations, but also a pouring out of his spirit such as never was before . . . They that wait upon the Lord shall increase their strength."

Brother Victor Bates, a new member and a new minister, was the speaker that afternoon. He presented for us some of the views of a naturalized citizen, the things a native born citizen may not notice. He also reminded us that the work of the church is spiritual and advised that we should pray that the gift and power of the Holy Ghost should be given.

The kitchen facilities at Hudson Hall were being remodeled and so we had to cross the street for our meals. The Warrensburg group handles the meals and everything connected with them so well that in two years they have just spoiled us rotten. I'm sure we would ask for them the blessing of Matt. 25:40.

There are some scenes from the dining hall which tell a lot about us, the ordinariness and the specialness of some of our relationships. Three generations crowding one table. A grandmother and her grown-up grandchildren at another. An "old" married couple enjoying breakfast together at one table, a "new" engaged couple alone at another. Early and late arrivals from one congregation sharing news. Discussion of a sermon here, a game of words and jokes there; both

showing and building love and brotherhood. And every meal, Brother Yates entertaining those who pushed his wheel chair to the dining hall and back.

Brother Marvin Ely was the evening speaker on Friday. He spoke of the last days, our preparation and our responsibility. "Ye are all the children of light . . . be sober, comfort yourselves together, edify one another . . . Search diligently in the light of Christ. This is the day of deception . . . iniquity . . . tribulation. This gospel shall be preached in all the world . . . the power of heaven shall come down and I also will be in the midst. And they did obey the commandments of the Lord in all things, and they became like unto one body. Watch ye therefore and pray always."

One of the pleasures of a Reunion is getting there early and watching others arrive. Families with suitcases and briefcases, families with guitars and suitcases, diaper bags and suitcases. On Saturday there is a temptation to watch the doors, waiting for brothers and sisters who are late, sometimes watching for friends who never come.

On Saturday morning Brother Roland Sarratt was the speaker. (None of these sermons were simply speeches. We were being preached to, and it didn't seem one bit foolish.) "If the Lord is going to guide this people, let us give Him the freedom to do so. There is a way that seemeth right to man, but the end thereof is the ways (plural) of death. Let us remove the beam from our own eyes that we can see to help our brothers. Ye which are spiritual restore such as one. In reality we're dealing with a spiritual world. We need to get down on our knees and worship God to survive. Satan would deceive the very elect if possible. Our job is to be the very elect. We haven't learned the real closeness that's going to have to be among this people to finally survive what's coming upon the earth. We have a great calling, a special interest, a special favor. We have to prepare ourselves to receive it. Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion."

Since we used only one entrance to the main room, a nursery grew up among the chairs in that section nearest the door. The little ones, with their parents' help, did a remarkable job of keeping quiet during services. They also, with their parents' help, did a remarkable job in taking part. This parent-child cooperation showed up in a variety of ways. Don and Bonnie Case organized a Sunday School during the Sacrament service in Sunday. Little Oliver Housknecht stood on a table to share a microphone with his mother and sing a special. During the Sacrament service, one child too young for words, lifted his voice in song with confidence and sincerity. In the congregation at least one father bent 'way over to share a song book with two very short sons. In the doorway, a father leoned into the auditorium to hear as much as possible of the service. His little daughter in his arms leaned exactly parallel to see what interested Daddy so much.

Quiet reigned over the adults too during some services. There were times when the whole congregation seemed to be holding its breath, waiting for the next words. When 150 people are quiet enough to hear a pin if it dropped, it is unusual.

The young people were in charge of an audience

participation panel discussion during the afternoon on Saturday. They chose the question of how to convert somebody to the church. Be prepared, pray for the pure love of Christ, live your religion and show that it brings you happiness. Walk with Christ. We sow the seed, God gives the increase.

Brother Tony Grzincic followed this with a sermon on building. Using the story of the Three Little Pigs as an illustration, "Do not build of "straw", the shortcuts, the easy way out. To build of twigs, or the ideas of men, is not good enough either. Build slowly and carefully as the man who built his house upon a rock. But don't rely on yourself, because we are dealing with the cunning one, the wolf. The Good Shepherd will watch over you and rebuke the devourer. What we are building is a reputation, and it will be recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life." There were children among those who surrounded Brother Tony after the sermon.

Brother Yates seemed to be preparing us for a time of loneliness when he said, "I used to feel sorry for old people. I'm as happy now as I've ever been in my life. And I've always been a happy man. I'm not afraid of what's ahead. I've loved in my life. Many people and one good woman. I know the heartbreak of losing someone. I don't want you to grieve. I want you to rejoice when a righteous man goes on." He spoke to us as a father of the young men who would carry on the work. "There are a lot of things undone that I would like to have had a part in doing."

Brother Marvin Case was the preacher on Saturday evening. "The laborer in Zion who does not have charity does not exist. Because save that laborer have charity, he will not be in Zion. That is a virtue that must be possessed by the laborer, that holy person who builds that place. We are building that place now. In our hearts. It is very important that we rely on the word of God, the rod of iron. The adversary does not possess the power . . . if someone is holding fast to the rod of iron. They could proceed along it till they came to that tree of life which was that love of God, that special love of God. We must fulfill His new commandment; we must love each other, not as ourselves, but as He loved us. Read the Books. So that you will know what the rod of iron is telling you to do."

Brother Don McIndoo was the final speaker of the Reunion. He came prepared with the scripture quotations the other preachers and testimonies had used, and so was able to see earlier and emphasize for us the direction of the instructions which had been given. "We are called to a warfare - we volunteered for a warfare that began in the heavens. We need a commitment . . . to put things in their right order, to put on the armour of God. We can not be a part time warrior. Everything we do and say, and all our activities, either magnify the name of Christ, or they detract from it. We can not allow ourselves the luxury of discouragement. our enemy is tireless.

"We've been on a mountaintop for a few days. We have to go back to the battlegrounds. Back to the struggle. He promised us the victory. Labor with your mights. The Lord of the vineyard will be right there with you."

Ella Engle

MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

The Missouri Camp for All Ages, held September 10 and 11 a few miles from Bennett Springs, was exciting as well as fulfilling for those who attended. Brothers and Sisters in Christ and their guests, numbering more than 75, took part in this camp.

There was something for everyone at this Fall Classic. Activities ranged from skits and church services to an organized canoe trip down the Niagua River. The sounds of competition also were heard around a volleyball net and a football was passed and kicked about. And at the usual intervals food was served.

Saturday evening time was set aside to gather around a campfire where skits were performed. Other sources of entertainment were provided by Rodger and Martha Bruner, and Allen and Czerna Kauffman. They sang several songs. At one point in this meeting Roger and Allen were in charge of a discussion and testimony type service that lasted well into the evening.

The hour was late and many retired for the night. Others stayed around the fire in groups of three or four and fellowshiped awhile longer. Problems, some personal, were listened to and consolation and sometimes advice was gently offered. Quite often these quiet times are the most endearing.

Sunday morning came early and the campfire was rejuvenated. The first to gather sought out seats in the shade away from the blowing smoke. (The smoke made it's way around to everyone, so no one felt left out.) Soon all chairs, logs, stumps, etc., were occupied and the service was opened with song and prayer. This service was conducted by Joel Yates and Buzz Brickhouse. How to become more interested in the Gospel of Christ was discussed.

After breakfast a preaching service was scheduled. A sermon by Bob Oldham turned into a question and answer session about readings from the scriptures. Sometimes he asked for individuals in the audience to read. His sermon was informal, interesting and informative.

A special thanks should go to Mike Smith, camp coordinator, and Randy Sheldon, assistant, for planning this outing and keeping it together despite last minute cancellations. John Yates, Joel Yates, and Andy Brown, from Phoenix, Arizona, added to the enjoyment of all. Last, but not least, thank you church locals of Missouri. There were members from the Temple Lot and East Locals, the Warrensburg Local, the Collins and Houston Locals in attendance. Without their support this camp would not have been possible and with it, it was a huge success.

A final note. "The Camp for All Ages" is now held in another state so that is why the name was changed by adding Missouri. Arizona also has a Camp for All Ages and their next camp will be held the 29th and 30th of June and the first day of July. Please support their camp by making plans to attend.

Your Brother in Christ
Larry Sarratt

ALSO!

We would like to thank everyone who came and participated in the Camp. We especially want to commend the youth. All the kids were very cooperative and helpful. Thanks for making it a great Camp!

Mike Smith (Camp Manager) and Randy Sheldon (Assistant Manager).

AVA LOCAL NEWS

The month of August has been uncomfortably warm here in the Ozarks, yet we at Ava have enjoyed the privilege of worship in our meeting house without undo discomfort. We have yet to get over the expressions of pleasure and wonder of our being able to have this home for our church.

Our visiting elder was Brother Leslie Case and his good wife to join us on our dinner Sunday. We had a goodly number of visitors so the little chapel was quite filled up for Brother Case to address. We enjoyed the message he brought for the day and I hope he was pleased with the response.

Our regular business meeting on September 11th made a few changes in the organization. Brother Arthur continues in the pastors position with the added duty of Advocate reporter. We are going to miss Sister Ellas' fine reporting talent for awhile; it may become too apparent, too soon. Our secretary is Sister Barbara Burgin; treasurer, Sister Ella Engle; pianist, Sister Barbara Burgin; and all other offices are to remain the same.

Brother Loren Bryant, his wife and Sister Lois Harris were here for the 18th of September. We enjoyed his message that admonished us to, "Take upon you my yoke" and to abide in the doctrine of Christ. He closed with some references from Thessalonians, 5th chapter, regarding faith and love, and the hope of salvation. His cheerful expression of hope in the Gospel was enjoyed by all, we assured him that he would find a welcome at Ava again.

At the Missouri Reunion Brother Jack Martin was invited to come to Ava for a weekend visit and be our speaker on Sunday. He has made it possible for us to put a heating system in the house and we needed his expert advice and assistance in the planning for the installation. This was done Saturday after lunch and we were pleased that his wife was along. A very nice visit with time to get acquainted followed.

Sunday morning service found him ready to give of his understanding of the resurrection and of the paradise of God, emphasizing that it would be a place of rest. The hope of the return of Jesus Christ continues among us though many we have known have gone to the resting place in paradise. The return of the Lord will usher in the first resurrection of the righteous and the millennial reign of Christ. He closed with the thoughts on the Book of Life that will be opened at the judgement day before God, expressing his hope that our names will be found there. It gives us some sobering thoughts to consider in the days to come.

Advocate reporter at Ava.

FLINT LOCAL NEWS

We hope this report finds all of you well physically and spiritually. We have had some exciting news here recently. On September 22nd, a beautiful and healthy girl was born to Brother Adam and Sue Porter. She has been given the name Heidi Lynn.

On June 26th, Brother Adam was baptized into the church by Brother Robert Jensen. Brother George Brantner performed the laying on of hands. It was a joyous occasion for our congregation. There are several Brothers and Sisters in the need of your prayers. They are our pastor Edward Toulouse and his wife, Brother Orville and Sister Agnes Eddy, Sister Pearl Glem and Sister Filly to name a few. They all have something in common, they are all thankful to the Lord for the church and their many blessings. May you all have a Happy Thanksgiving and may God Bless!

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

I present my news to you on a somewhat empty-handed basis. I've been gone a lot and haven't the report I'd like to send. August was a very busy month for us. The Missouri Reunion, held at Warrensburg, was the main attraction. I'm very grateful that I was able to attend. I heard wonderful, impressive, and necessary sermons. I heard many sincere testimonies from brothers and sisters that I don't get to see very often. I'm glad so many were able to come.

The following Sunday we visited the East Local in Independence. The weekend after, we were invited by Rodger and Martha Bruner to help them and the Glen Gill family to do a gospel music program near Puryear, Tenn. It was a pleasure! The people there made us feel so welcome. They thanked us for coming, but perhaps we should have thanked them for having us.

You know, I used to think staying home and attending my own local was the most important duty I had, but I've been told by a very dear friend that while attending your own local is very important, you can grow spiritually by going other places, doing other things, and sharing this gospel we all hold onto so tightly with other people. I've learned a valuable lesson through our visiting other places. I've met new people, seen new scenery, shared some laughs and fun and shared some problems. I've learned to care more and to pray more earnestly for people in need. I feel like God has to sort of sneak up on me and hit me in the head with a stick to get my attention sometimes, but I'm grateful that He cares enough to do it.

In September the Camp for All Ages was held at Ho-Hum camp ground near Bennett Springs, Mo. We had a nice turn out — even some very welcome guests from Phoenix! There was canoeing on Saturday for the more adventurous and a fun campfire meeting that night. There were skits and funnies, songs and such, followed by a more serious time of sharing testimonies with one another.

We all have our share of problems, but if we can share one another's burdens they don't seem quite

so heavy. I'd like to ask you to remember a couple of people in your prayers. One is my father-in-law, Merl Kauffman, who has cancer. The other is Lynda Yates, who had been battling a health problem for several months. Also Joe and Floralise Yates are in need of your prayers. Floralise has been sick and is yet so weak and Joe is taking care of her as best he can, along with the help of their family. So please, take a minute and ask our kind Heavenly Father for a blessing for these, our brothers and sisters and we here will also remember them and you. God be with you.

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

GREETINGS FROM GRAND JUNCTION

Has it seemed like light years since you've read a report from our local? We have had a very busy summer, and it's nice to see cooler weather coming on, bringing an end to the canning season. Soon, Marvin Ely will be picking his wonderful apples, and the leaves will begin to fly. During the sacrament service this morning, the storm clouds began to threaten and the air became chilly.

In July, Bob Ely told us the story of Rev. Wright father of Orville and Wilbur, the famous pioneers in aviation. Rev. Wright believed that someday men would fly. With a little faith and a lot of work, men have achieved that dream. We have faith to some degree, but are not as faithful and diligent as we should be. Visitors from Missouri in July were Marvin and Edith Case, and their last chick still in the nest, Diane. They got here just in time for a church barbecue at our house, where we ate lots of food and enjoyed good conversation, despite the smoky grill.

On the first Sunday of August, we witnessed another baptism, that of Russell Bell, son of Johnny and Enid. His older brother Jack was baptized during the Colorado Reunion this year, and we are glad to extend the hand of fellowship to these brothers in Christ. Their grandmother, Alvina Bell, had hoped she would live to see the day when all of her grandchildren had entered the waters of baptism. I'm happy she realized that dream. Officiating in Russ's baptism was his uncle, Marvin Case. Confirmation by cousin Ben Case and grandfather Harvey Bell.

The next Sunday, Larry and Pam Shaw and family joined us for services while on their vacation in these beautiful mountains. John Bell brought us the sermon that evening and admonished us that we must not stop to rest where there is not the strength of God; we must not lean on the arm of flesh. The next Sunday his father, Harvey, told us that, although we must avoid man-made doctrine, we must be careful not to throw out the principles of truth. Are we doing justice to the word of God?

On Aug. 24, a special prayer meeting was called in behalf of the many sick and burdened among us. Our prayers have availed much in certain situations, and we continue to remember those who still stand in need of God's great and tender mercies.

Little bits of sermons collected in my notebook: God has not changed nor abandoned us. He warns us of those idols and stumbling blocks we need to avoid. A person who is highly critical of his brothers may be subject to those faults himself. Some have made a career of picking their brothers apart and have destroyed their own faith by doing the same thing to the scriptures. An utter waste of time is an offense to God. How many people do you know who have nothing to do and do absolutely nothing? We can be content without loafing, we can like what we're doing even if it is hard work. Our reach must exceed our grasp - we must reach to heaven and hope for eternal life. We can't reach toward heaven with our hands in the dirt. Do it good, do it right, do it with energy.

You are probably familiar with the poem "Footprints in the Sand", but it was brought to us with new meaning by Ken Oar. He and his family, Marlene and children, had come to visit and camp with Alice Larsen and daughters. He testified to us of the Lord's great love toward us and the Comforter who has been sent to help us through all manner of grief and heartache. Ken spoke of going on unto perfection, not haphazardly, but in real, true earnestness. We must obtain Godliness in our lives and must do it in love, no other way.

More thoughts from my notebook: Are you watching by the wayside for the fainting ones who fall? Have you made a consecration of your earthly time and store? If you are a friend of the world, you can't be a friend of God. Overbearing, belligerent, dishonest, immoral people will carry no weight if they try to represent the church or the gospel of Christ. We must make ourselves available to God, that He will use us. A good man who is not great is one hundred times more than a great man who is not good. Take all of this upon reason that you can, take the rest on faith, and you will be better of here and beyond. Counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and He will direct thee for good.

Shirley Ely has been away in Phoenix helping daughter Patsy McCann with little Jennifer Nicole. We have kept the baby in our prayers over a health concern which is showing improvement now. We're glad to have Shirley back in time to help with the craft fair. I will send a glowing report of the fair later - we are all very optimistic about it!

I missed a good sermon Sept. 25. Leslie and Irene Case were here from Independence to visit Irene's parents, the Harvey Bells. My son Miles had broken out with chicken pox the day before, his 7th birthday, so I was not able to even take notes on Leslie's sermon to report to you. By trading off babysitting with my husband Allen, I attended that evening and enjoyed Harvey's sermon. Part of it dealt with the responsibility of parents toward their children. We must teach our young ones all the gospel we can while they are at home with us, to pray with them, to show them the proper attitude toward church attendance and our duty as members of Christ's church.

Marvin and Hellen Carroll and boys have moved to Grand Junction and join us in services. They haven't lived near a local for some years, and their boys en-

joy the intermediate class in Sunday school. They have purchased property on which to build their home, and we hope that all the technicalities and labor of it will go smoothly for them.

Thanksgiving is a time to remember all our many blessings and thank the Great Provider for his generous providence. We keep all our earthly providers in our prayers, that their jobs will continue in these rather uncertain times and that the livelihood of their families will not be jeopardized.

Yes, Meredyth, I do appreciate reading reports and articles others have taken the effort to present, so I am letting you know. When I brazenly solicited opinions of my Advocate reports, the comments were favorable. In one of my reports I mentioned the talents given by our Heavenly Father and how we should recognize those people and their gifts. We as a people are not into back-patting and ego-stroking, but we should not be highly critical of one another, either. Somewhere there is happy medium which I hope I can reach. A kind word works much good, and we know that a minimum of three hugs a day helps a child grow up better. We lose that closeness with each other when we avoid an emotional "hug" but with a little practice, we will be able to give encouragement and support to even the "thorniest" of God's children. That's not gospel, that's just "me". Our best to you all.

Becky Downs, reporter

HOUSTON LOCAL

Greetings to everyone from Houston. We have had a beautiful summer. The Lord has been very good to us in many ways.

We have had several visitors during the summer. George and Audrew Stancil from Clarksville, Tenn. visited one weekend in July. Alzada Massey from Weatherford, Okla. was here in July visiting her family. Apostle William and Sister Doris Sheldon were here on their way home from a missionary trip.

We have had several visiting ministers and our own ministry here to bring us many important messages. Every speaker has been very concerned about the welfare of our souls.

Some of the things brought to us were the signs of soul sickness. The signs are, No. 1. I'm all right just as I am. No. 2. Lack of consideration for others. No. 3. Selfishness. No. 4. Indifference. Only ourselves can take care of soul sickness. We must heed these signs.

Power and authority was the subject of another sermon. We need to understand this great power that we need daily to help us overcome temptations and guide us in the straight path.

We are here to decide where we want to spend eternity. I'm thankful God has given this time to prepare for eternity.

We are reminded again of the gifts of the Spirit and they are to follow the believers. Our lives must demonstrate that we are followers of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Another cautioned us to always remember that the Lord is our refuge in time of trouble.

I'm reminded of another good sermon at our rally. This question was asked: Are we having a banquet or are we feasting on crumbs? The Lord says, I have given my life that you might have life. What will you place your life upon?

"Behold I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth." (Mormon 4:84).

OBITUARY

EMILIE MARIE OLSON

For a brief moment in this life, we had a glimpse of our little dear One, Emilie Marie Olson, daughter of Rebecca and Rickey Olson.

Her earthly tabernacle was laid to rest on Wednesday, September 14, 1983 at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Independence, Missouri. Her spirit was taken home to the God who gave it. Book of Mormon Page 448, verses 45-44, Page 770, verses 18 & 25. "Now concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection. Behold, it has been made known unto me, by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care and sorrow, etc." Mat. 19:14, "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

To Ricky, Becky and family we share with you your great loss, yet we know that in our meager understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ that it surpasses all human knowledge and that we must say in the finality. Dear God, we do not fully understand but "Thy will be done", and we thank Thee for this brief glimpse of one of Thy Angels from Heaven, Father, we thank Thee and praise Thee.

Shiel Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements and with Elder Isaac Brockman officiating.

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.

YESTERDAY'S CROSS

The cross that pressed so heavy
Is light and sweet today;
It lost its weight this morning
When Jesus came my way.
The cross that looked so dreary
A day or two ago,
Has, with His Presence, brightened,
He helped me lift it so.

It now is light, a feather,
I laugh amid my tears,
And raise, with Him my burden - -
All flown my anxious fears.

The cross that weighed so heavy,
The tears that fell so fast;
Are changed to glorious rainbow
In skies, all blue at last!

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To make oneself a servant for the motive of later exaltation is a farce. One cannot really become a servant in the sense in which Jesus did except from the motivation that moved him, love of those served.

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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"Light of 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.

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"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 95024.

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