

# 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," I Nephi 3:187

Vol. 61

Independence, Missouri, April, 1984

No. 4

## Touch Me

Touch my heart, oh Lord

Make it pure, full of love.

Touch my soul, oh Lord

Cleanse it like Angels above.

Touch my hands, oh Lord

Guide them through thy Holy Book.

Touch my feet, oh Lord

Traversing mountain, field, and brook.

Touch my mind, oh Lord

Fill it with thoughts you'd have me think.

Touch my lips, oh Lord

So I may say the words you'd have me speak.

Touch me, oh Lord . . .

With thy blessings.

*Mikeal Payne*

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# Zion's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL

# TWO KINDS OF SIN

There are two kinds of sin; the sins of commission and those of omission. Briefly these are designated by the commandments, "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not." Generally speaking, the sins of omission are the ones the professing Christians are most apt to be guilty of, though they may well still be tempted by the "thou shalt not." "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

There are two of the Lord's teachings which, it seems to me, emphasize the sin of doing nothing. First the parable of the man who fell among thieves, which Jesus told in answer to the lawyer's question, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-37). The sin of the priest and the Levite was, that confronted with another's need, they did nothing. They hadn't robbed or beat or mistreated the man; they simply omitted coming to his rescue and ministering to his relief. They were not neighbor to him that had fallen into distress.

The second is drawn from the Lord's explanation of the judgment, given in Matthew 25:31-45. This emphasizes the seriousness of the sin of omitting to do what one ought. Those given a place on his right hand received that position because of that which they had done, "...unto one of the least of these my brethren,..." Those placed on the left were placed so, because of what they didn't do. They weren't accused of indulging in the "thou shalt not"; they weren't called

murderers, adulterers, robbers, liars, etc., but because they simply didn't do what the others had done. When, "one of the least of these," was hungry, they did not feed them. When one was thirsty they gave no drink; when one was naked, they did not clothe them; when one was sick, or was in prison, they did not visit them or minister unto them. Like the priest and the Levite they simply did nothing; they passed their opportunity by.

It is a sobering thought. Where do we occupy in the picture of these things? Have we, do we fail to feed the hungry? clothe the naked? visit and minister to the sick? visit prisoners? Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. Who needs the hope of the gospel of repentance and of Christ's atonement for sin more than those behind prison bars? Are the sins of their committing worse and more unforgivable in the sight of God than the sins of omission of those outside?

These needs to which Jesus spoke are very real in the world around us and are sometimes among us; but they are not always or only physical. There are those with emotional and spiritual hungers and nakedness; those with spiritual sickness and prisons, people who need love, understanding, friendship; who need forgiveness simply for being what they are that they might be freed and helped to become what they were meant to be. How long does it take for a stranger to feel one of us?

None has enough to allay all the world's need, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual; only Christ is sufficient for that. We have a responsibility toward that need about which we can do something, to the extent that we can do something, "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." (2

Corinthians 8:12).

We will all be among those standing before that judgment seat to be given our place to the one side or the other according to what we have done, or left undone. Think about it!

A.S.

## GREETINGS FROM WARRENSBURG

Many times I've started this report but never got it finished. We have all been busy, and have taken our turns with colds and the flu.

We had a nice fall but winter hit with a bang. While it was still nice and fairly warm last fall, Don and Bonnie Case hosted an old fashioned cider fest. We all enjoyed taking part in making cider and a picnic supper in the evening followed by many lovely songs. Some muscles complained the next morning, but it was fun. We always enjoy being together.

On October 9, 1983 two of my brothers from Michigan flew down to join with us in a very special and happy occasion. Charles Brantner, my older brother, was ordained as an elder. We have been blessed and God's hand has been protecting and guiding us.

On January 14, 1984 we all gathered together in the chapel on campus to share with Laurie Adams and Keith Bragg on their wedding day. Her two sisters were her attendants. The groom's brother was his best man and a friend was the groomsman. Keith and Laurie Bragg are residing in Warrensburg. It was a beautiful wedding.

We have had many excellent sermons. We always enjoy hearing from our brothers from other locals also. Our pastor and his wife left for Phoenix just before Thanksgiving. They then preceeded on to Florida to do some church work. We missed them dearly. Our travelers have returned finally from work in the south. Good to have them home.

As our conference draws near our prayers are for God's guidance in all things.

*Your Sister in Christ, Jeanee Stephens*

## HOUSTON LOCAL NEWS

Greetings for Houston, Missouri. We are always busy and I wonder just how much I really accomplish that will be worthwhile to mankind. I always remember this little verse (author unknown):

*"A good thing to remember, and a better thing to do,  
Is to work with the construction gang, and not with  
the wrecking crew."*

I pray that God will grant me the privilege to work with the construction gang.

We enjoyed having Gerry Case and family with us in January. He gave us many good thoughts on the Holy Spirit. He reminded us how Mary and Elisabeth had felt the Holy Spirit and even the babes leaped in their wombs. This same spirit can fill our bodies and souls when we are in tune with God.

Through a vision, Nephi saw what his father's vision meant and saw many things down through the ages of time.

Brother John Jones gave us a sermon on happiness. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Happiness is within our reach. Happiness is joy and peace of mind.

Brother Nicholas and Sister Dorothy Denham and Brother Jack and Sister Betty Martin visited here in February. Brother Denham spoke to us on, "Why are we here?" We are here to make a decision. Are we for God or against God? Who is it that bears fruit? What would you give to have oil in your lamp at the time it is required?

John 15:7: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Moroni 10:15: "Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God; neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope; and if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity."

On February 19, family and friends at church

gathered for Grandad Keeney and Eric Hawkins' birthday celebration. Grandad was 90 years old and Eric was 5 years old. Those from out of town to celebrate were: Joanie, Eric, Jeff and Bethany Hawkins of Memphis, Walter and Florence Kommer, Kim, Jane Ann, Justin and Trevor Stancil, Ron, Dee, Grant and Nancy Hutcheson of Springfield, Wilson, Leona Tohlen, Jess and Beulah Fisher of St. Louis, Vera and Clyde Hume of Rolla, Cliff and Roberta McGuire of Mt. View, Vickie Tucker of Columbia and Brother and Sister Schwegler of Vienna.

Brother Jones used this poem in his sermon:

### 'T WAS A SHEEP

'Twas a sheep not a lamb that went astray,  
in the parable Jesus told;

'Twas a grown-up sheep that wandered away,  
from the 90 and 9 in the fold.

And out on the hilltops and out in the cold,  
'Twas a sheep that the good shepherd brought.  
Now why should the sheep be so carefully fed  
and cared for still today?  
Because there is danger if they go wrong  
they will lead the lambs astray.  
For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,  
wherever they wander, wherever they go.  
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long  
till the lambs are as wrong as they.  
So still with the sheep we must earnestly plead,  
for the sake of the lambs today.  
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost  
some sheep will have to pay.

*Author Unknown*

*Mary Jane Medders, reporter.*

## UNSEALED

*by Vida Filley*

"And I saw on the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals: and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"

"And no man in heaven nor on earth, neither under the earth was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

"And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and read the book, neither to look thereon.

"And one of the Elders saith unto me, Weep not: Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof." (Rev. 5: 1 to 5.)

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals..." (Rev. 6:1)

"... And Behold a white horse: and he that sat upon him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer." (Rev. 6:2)

The dictionary defines a seal as something used to secure a letter, lid, wrapper, joint, etc, any instrument that keeps something close, secret, or unknown, or prevents tampering. Only Christ is found to have the authority and power to loose that which has been secured by these seals.

Revelation opens with Christ showing "things which must shortly come to pass." He sends His angel to "signify" future events to His servant, John. (Rev. 1:1)

"Shortly" indicates immediacy, or rapidity, once action begins, also, abrupt, or changing suddenly. Obviously, these seals have been reserved for a time just prior to Christ's second coming. Christ opens them in quick succession, there is nothing to suggest any great

interval between them. They lead up to and encompass Christ's return. There is no indication that one ceases his activities when the next one is loosed. They appear not only consequentially, but once loosed are co-existent.

Horses in the Bible are symbolic of power in war. Colors represent the nature of their mission. Riders are those who direct and control such powers.

There is no consensus as to the identity of the rider of the white horse. Generally, he is believed to be symbolic of Christ or Christians. A very few have ventured to suggest that he represents the Antichrist. I believe the preponderance of the evidence points to him as the Antichrist.

Comparisons between Christ and this rider show many discrepancies. This rider is unidentified, whereas Christ made Himself known to all who would hear him at His first coming. (Matt. 16:16, Luke 24:25, John 8:12; 11:25, 27; 12:13; 14:9; Acts 22:6,7,8.) When Christ returns there will be no doubt as to His identity. (Rev. 19:11, 16.) Christ said, I come in my own name, and ye receive me not: another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. (John 5:43.)

It is surprising how many assume this unknown rider comes clothed in white; when no description whatsoever is given of his attire. He could be anyone wearing any kind or color of clothing.

Christ, however, will come in Vesture dipped in blood, therefore red. "Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I speak in righteousness mighty to save.

"Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?" (Isa. 63:1, 2.)

This unidentified horseman comes wearing one crown. From whom did he receive it? What does it represent?

Christ comes wearing many crowns. He is crowned King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (Rev. 17:14, 19:16.)

Out of Christ's mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress in the fierceness of the wrath of God. Christ's sword is symbolic of the word of God. (Rev. 1:16, Ephes. 6:17, Heb. 4:12.)

The rider of the white horse carries a bow only, for a weapon. This is but one half a weapon; but then, Satan specializes in half truths, and a half truth is still a lie.

Elisha instructed the King of Israel in the use of his sword and his bow, and again, in the use of his bow and arrow. He called it "the arrow of the Lord's deliverance from Syria." (2 Ki. 6:22; 13:15.) On the other hand, archers and bows are often associated with the enemies of God and His people. (Gen. 49:23, 1 Ki. 22:34, 2 Chron. 18:33, Ezek. 39:1, 4) Some are compared to "deceitful bows."

"They return, but not to the Most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt." (Hos. 7:16.)

"Yet they tempted and provoked the Most High God, and kept not his testimonies: but turned back and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow." (Ps. 78:56, 57.)

Satan not only appropriates God's word for his own purposes, he uses his symbols as well.

A recent book entitled, "The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow," by Constance Cumby, documents a "New Age" movement that has taken the rainbow for its symbol. Membership is made up of various groups and societies that form a loosely knit coalition. Ideologies range from Socialistic, Humanistic and Atheistic to outright Satan worship. Many wear or display this emblem unaware of its present significance. The aim of this coalition is comparable to that of the Tower of Babel. They are working for an ideal world without benefit of God or His word.

Sixteen false Christs came before Jesus was born. All were crucified, but none arose from the dead. Satan, knowing the Messiah was to come and die on a cross, made certain that every one of his impostors died on a cross, likewise. Certainly the last Antichrist must resemble Christ in as many ways as is possible. Above all, he must appear to be righteous, or the whole world will not "wonder after and worship him." (Rev. 13:3, 4, 8; 17:2, 8, 15, 18.) His deceptions will be of such a nature that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matt. 24:24, Mar. 13:22.) As with all other false Christs, the last one must come prior to Christ's return or be everlastingly too late.

This rider comes on a white horse as does Christ at His coming. Just as "all that glitters is not gold" neither

is all that purports to be righteous necessarily true.

"And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

"It is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose end is according to their works." (2 Cor. 11:14, 15.)

It may be of interest to note that the United Nations recently adopted a white horse as its emblem!

This unknown rider goes forth conquering and to conquer. One can conquer in more ways than one; by overcoming and subduing by force as in war, or by mental or moral force. Antichrist will likely employ both means.

Nothing is said here of how or whom he intends to conquer. Concerning the Antichrist, we read, "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, tongues and nations." (Rev. 13:7.)

At the time John saw this vision, Christ had already conquered and assured His everlasting victory. He was ascended into heaven and seated on the right hand of the Father. (Matt. 26:64, Mar. 14:62, 16:9) All things are under his feet. (Ps. 8:6, 1 Cor. 15:17, Ephes. 1:22, Heb. 2:8) He has the keys of Hell and death. (Rev. 1:18.) He has the key of David, He that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth. (Rev. 3:7.) All power is given him in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:18.) He has power over all flesh. (John 17:2.) Only Christ has power to bind or loose satanic powers. (2 Pet. 2, 4, Job 1:10, 12, Rev. 9:14; 20:2.)

Satan is a defeated enemy. His eviction notice has been served, but his lease is not yet expired. Christ only awaits his time to come in judgement, claim His inheritance and set up His kingdom.

Christ comes with a visible army, clothed in white. No army is seen to follow the rider on the white horse. The Antichrist will rule over multitudes who will be at his service, but any army he may have is hidden and as unknown as he. Satan always does his best work, incognito!

Of all the evils to come upon the earth in the last days the Antichrist belongs in first place as first cause of the great tribulation that follows after him.

Whenever any nation serves God and honors his word, both history and the Scriptures affirm that they have been blessed with peace and plenty. If these same people forsake God and disobey His work, judgement inevitably follows.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he has chosen for his inheritance." (Ps. 33:12.)

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish, yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." (Isa. 60:12, Jer. 18:7, 10)

Concerning this land the Book of Mormon says, "And now we behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is the land of promise, and whatsoever nation

shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them.

"For, behold this land is a land which is choice above all other lands: wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God.

"And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they will be swept off.

"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye might repent and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, they ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

"Behold, this a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things we have written." (Ether 1:31 to 35.)

Christ compared the last days to the days of Noah. (Matt. 24:37, Luke 17:26.) In Noah's day, "God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen. 6:5)

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (Gen. 6:11). Could there be any better description of our world today? Alexander Solzenitsyn has said of our time, "The fight for our planet, physical and spiritual, is not a vague matter of the future, it has already started. The forces of evil have begun their decisive offensive."

God is long suffering, not willing that any should perish. (2 Pet. 3:9). But his spirit will not always strive with man. (Gen. 6:3). When God reached the end of His patience in Noah's day, He opened the flood gates. When again the earth becomes corrupt and even surpasses the wickedness of Sodom and Gommorah and Noah's day, Christ opens the seals. (2 Pet. 2:5,6).

"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." (Rev. 6:4).

That a red horse signifying war should emerge from under the second seal should come as no surprise. "Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (Jas. 11:15). War with all its attendant evils is a natural consequence of Godlessness. This horse and rider clearly represent world wide conflict.

War generally causes shortages of goods to some degree.

Some of you may remember that during and after World War Two some items were restricted. Ration books, containing coupons, permitted limited amounts of sugar, shortening, meat and gasoline to be purchased

for each person. some things, such as green tea, were unobtainable. Tin cans were flattened and stored in boxes, and every scrap of waste fat was saved to be returned to collection centers for the "war effort."

"And when he opened the third seal . . . I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

"And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." (Rev. 6:5,6).

A black horse represents drouth and scarcities as described by Jeremiah. "The word of God came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth.

"Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish: they are black unto the ground: and the cry of Jerusalem has gone up.

"And their nobles sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits and found no water: they returned with their vessels empty: they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads.

"Because the ground is chapt, for there is no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads." (Jer. 14:1 to 4).

For behold, the Lord of Hosts doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread and the whole stay of water." (Isa. 3:1).

This rider on the black horse measures and sets the price of the grain he carries. The price is exorbitant. Whatever its value in that day, a "penny" comprised an entire day's wages. (Matt. 20:2,9,13).

A "measure" has been estimated to hold a little less than a quart. If it took a day's wages to buy such a small allotment of food, there would be nothing left with which to purchase anything else. Oil and wine would probably be in even shorter supply than grain. If at all obtainable, it would be used sparingly.

Obviously this rider is engaged in commerce. Concerning the woman, Babylon (Antichrist) we read, "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." (Rev. 18:3). Kings and merchants are in league with Antichrist.

"And he (the Beast, Antichrist) causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, bond and free, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he had the mark, or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name.

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the Beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred three score and six." (Rev. 13:16,17,18).

The merchants of the earth are in league with Antichrist, they deal in, "The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and of iron, and marble.

"And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves and souls of men. (Rev. 18:12,13).

They deal, therefore, in necessities, luxuries, slaves and souls of men; indicating traffic in both spiritual and temporal effects.

The cost of privilege to buy and sell is far greater than of temporal goods. The price is no less than a man's soul.

To receive this mark is tantamount to sealing one's soul to the Devil. God's wrath will be poured out on all who take this mark. (Rev. 16:2,9,10).

To risk one's eternal life for such a short term gain (3½ yrs. at the most) would be an infinitely regrettable compact.

"For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26, Mar. 8:36,37).

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall find it." (Mar. 8:35, Matt. 16:25).

The black horse symbolizes spiritual as well as temporal famine.

With such vast control of commerce and religion there is bound to be a spiritual famine. "Behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:

"And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from north even to the east, and they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. (Amos 8:11, 12). This has happened before and can happen again. All History is prologue.

Christ, the Word of God, is the bread of eternal life. (John 1:1,14,33,35). Of all the "bread" Satan seeks to destroy, God's word is his prime target.

*(to be continued)*

## NEWS FROM MARION, MICHIGAN

In spite of a snowfall of from 8 to 10 inches on the first Sunday of the month (February), most of our little flock were able to make it to church. We had about 12 inches of snow in our yard, and our little car literally pushed snow from our back door to the main road. It was necessary to back up for a fresh start several times, but our determination prevailed and we were able to make it. Brother and Sister Addington, also through sheer determination and God's help, were able to make it and bring us the sacrament, which we all look forward to so eagerly. Our efforts were richly rewarded with a wonderfully spiritual and uplifting service. We were delighted to again have with us, Randy and Mary Lee, and little ones Alicia and Christina, from Grand Rapids, who were spending the week end with Randy's parents, Jay and Evelyn Lee.

For his opening remarks, Brother Addington read from 3rd Nephi, Chapter 8, Verses 23-46, wherein Jesus blessed the little children and served the bread and wine to the multitude. He further instructed that they should always do this unto those who repent and are baptized in His name, in remembrance of His blood which He shed for us. Brother Addington also read from the 3rd chapter of Revelation, in which Jesus said:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man

hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

We know, therefore, that if He loves us He is going to chasten us and that if we expect Him to come into our lives we have to invite Him. He does not enter where He is not wanted.

February 12. It's finally beginning to look more like spring than winter here in northern Michigan. Temperatures are in the 30's and 40's, the only problem now being the thick fog that makes driving perilous at times. We had a good turnout, with most all our regulars in attendance.

Brother Addington opened his sermon with the question: "What is a Christian?" The answer, of course, a Christian is one who belongs to Christ. He reminded us that Christ is coming back for His Church - a Church being a body of Christians.

For his text, Brother Addington read from Acts, the 2nd and 3rd Chapters, which tells about the day of Pentecost when all were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues. Even though there were those from every different nation, every man heard them speak in his own language. This scripture records many of the miracles performed by the Apostles and includes Peter's address at Pentecost, which deals with things to happen in the last days.

In addition to having Brother and Sister Addington

with us on the 19th, we were surprised and pleased to have their little grandsons, Chris and Tim. It's such a joy to have little ones in attendance - they really add a lot and liven things up for us "old folks."

Before beginning his sermon, Brother Addington commented on the words to one of our opening songs, "I would Be True," reminding us that we should be "constantly in touch with God." He chose for his scripture reading, the 8th Chapter of Romans. Here Paul tells that in Christ we not only have our sins forgiven, but there is also an impartation of a new life, a new birth. Our natural life from Adam; a new divine life from Christ. He died for us, has forgiven us, and has given Himself to us in the person of His Spirit. If we are His, no power on earth, or in Heaven or Hell can

separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. We were assured that if we have the spirit of God, all the little earthly things are not going to bother us, we are going to have peace. This is one of the most magnificent passages in the Bible, with great promise for those who serve the Lord.

Following services, we enjoyed our usual potluck dinner, as well as birthday cake for young Timmie and Sister Evelyn Lee.

Due to so many of our group being away on the last Sunday of the month, it was decided to postpone services for one week.

Remember us in your prayers. We are a little group of scattered members trying to hold on and serve our God and Master.

*June Haines, Reporter*

*God's grace is always sufficient for the testing process.*

*God doesn't alter the robe of righteousness to fit the man, but the man to fit the robe.*

## COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

It's nearly spring here in the Ozarks. There's a certain little bird that announces this glad news to me every year and I can hear him out there singing even today. After last week's foot of snow the thought of spring sounds even better.

Our guest speaker for the month of January was Brother Loren Bryant from Cowgill, Mo. He began his sermon by telling us that he wanted to talk of salvation and things that might bind us together. He spoke of the mercy of the Lord and how it reaches out to individuals. He read to us from Revelations 2:2-4 and 2:9-11 telling us that we need to understand how serious these few days of life here on earth are. He spoke also of the second death found in Rev. 20:5-6 saying that some will not listen and will be partakers of this second death. We are in possession of the knowledge of good and evil. God doesn't require us to love sin, but to love the sinner. We live in a privileged time. The gospel has been restored and we have a hope of life everlasting. Rev. 3:20-22, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man will hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

An excellent sermon was brought to us January 29th by Brother Oren Caviness. He said we must pick up our cross DAILY. We set an example no matter where we are or who we're with. If you make light of God or morals you cast an image -- an example. If you believe certain things are important you must live a life that reflects such. God doesn't condemn us for falling, but he will for staying there! Christ's gospel is a gospel of action. It takes more than lip service. Loud protestations are no guarantee that we'll have eternal life -- with Christ. The living center of our lives should be spiritual. What makes a man good? The church he belongs to? The number of times he attends on Sunday? What about the "WEAK"-days? Is it, then, the amount of tithing he pays that will make him good? Or maybe the things he DOESN'T do wrong? It's the habit -- the spiritual habit. It's what you do with what you have -- your time and energy. We can't get by on someone else's virtues. When you take part in a good service or purpose, you align yourself on God's side.

On February 12th, Brother Allen Kauffman was our speaker. He titled his sermon, "Living for Jesus", after Olivia Yates had played a beautiful version of that song for us as a special. He said nothing could have been more appropriate. He used Solomon as a reference. What Solomon asked of God was an understanding heart to discern between good and bad so he could

judge the people. Because he didn't ask for possessions and such, he was not only granted wisdom, but also great riches. Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Brother Kauffman had several comments referring to how we can let others influence how we live. That we must not let ourselves be pulled away, but must endure to the end. He listed three attributes of an athlete he heard on T.V. from a sportscaster and applied them to our Christian lives. They were: desire, determination and discipline. He finished by quoting Joshua 24:14-15: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve..."

Brother Leslie Case was our guest speaker for February. He said it was a great blessing to be here -- that obstacles had loomed up, but never materialized. He spoke of a great task that is laid before the people and read Luke 17:20-21: "...the kingdom of God is within you." Then 3rd Nephi 5:60-63 which says we are the salt of the earth, a city set on a hill, a lighted candle. Also he made reference to Matt. 13:44-46 where it speaks of a merchant man seeking goodly pearls and when he found one pearl of great price, went and sold all he had, and bought it. He then asked, "Am I ready to sell all I have to buy that pearl?" Do we have provisions to put on our selling or buying? Can I give God my heart, 100%? He closed with a beautiful reading done after the fashion of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Our Brother Larry Shaw spoke to us the following Sunday on something he says is not very often preached about from the pulpit -- money. He asked four questions: 1. Does God want us to have wealth? 2. Does God want us to be poor? 3. Does wealth guarantee that we'll go to hell? 4. Does poverty guarantee that we'll go to heaven? He said we must define these things. Poverty is not a gift of God.

'Things' are put on this earth to use. (Gen. 1:28-31) If they're used properly God is pleased -- if not??? What does God expect of us? He told us to pray for discernment. He told us God's natural law was that man should have joy and prosper. He said it is a great experience to be able to give -- spiritually or monetarily. Pray always. Matt. 6:31-33, "Therefore take no thought saying, What shall we eat? ... But seek ye first the kingdom of God..."

We have had two baptisms since I last wrote to you. A young man by the name of Don Burnett, a friend of Peter Gould, entered the waters of baptism on January 28th. Following his baptism by Elder Oren Caviness, Don received the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Apostle E. Leon Yates, assisted by Brother Allen Kauffman.

March 4th, being our sacrament Sunday, seemed all the more appropriate for the baptism of Elaine Pinckney, also a friend of Peter Gould. Elaine was baptized by Brother Oren Caviness and received the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Leon Yates, assisted by Brother Caviness. It was a beautiful service and a peaceful spirit joined with us that day as we all partook of the emblems and gave witness to the Holy Ghost's directing power.

Elaine, Don, and Peter are all from Point Lookout, Mo. and, if I'm not mistaken, are attending the School of the Ozarks.

It has been my pleasure, and I'm sure that of others as well, to be able to witness these baptisms and see the honest steps these young folks have taken. Please remember them in your prayers, for as we know, all is not done.

God bless you each one.

*Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman*

## GOOD NEWS FROM GRAND JUNCTION

Just as we are beginning a new year full of great expectations, so we are breaking in a new set of officers. Our local business meeting was held on January 21, 1984, with the following results:

Pastor: Brother Marvin Carroll (elder)  
Asst. Pastor: Brother John Bell (priest)  
Secretary: Sister Enid Bell  
Treasurer: Sister Alice Larsen  
Pianist/ Organist: Sister Jane Bell  
Sister Becky Downs  
Chorister: Sister Enid Bell  
Advocate Reporter: Sister Becky Downs

Reunion Housing Committee: Brother Marvin Ely  
Brother John Bell  
Brother Ron Church  
Building Committee: Brother David Larsen  
Brother Allen Downs  
Brother Bob Ely

Sunday School business was conducted with the following results:

Superintendent: Brother David Larsen  
Asst. Superintendent: Brother Allen Downs  
Secretary/Treasurer: Sister Kathy Larsen

Chorister: Sister Enid Bell  
 Pianist: Sister Joanie Larsen  
 Librarians: Kenneth Carroll, Sister Lois Bell

As is our tradition, the date for the 1984 Colorado Reunion of the Church of Christ, was set for the second weekend in June, which falls on the 8th, 9th and 10th. As usual, the meetings will be held in the church here on Orchard Mesa, but we have reserved brand new facilities in which to serve our meals this year, the Clifton Community Hall. Please accept our invitation to meet with us and share the fellowship that only comes to those who seek the Lord together. Contact any of our three housing committee members for information and advance reservations! Watch for a notice from our local secretary in the Zion's Advocate.

Thoughts from sermons: We are all separate and distinct personalities with individual peculiarities, but we work together as the body of Christ. There's not much entertainment value to our meetings, so we need a common bond to bring us out together. We must have a tolerance for each other and none for sin. We should be orderly about our meetings, control the children around the pulpit area, keep the noise and visiting to a minimum, and be ready for meetings of specific purpose at their regular times.

The January meeting of the United Workers was held at Sister Alice Larsen's home. Her fireplace created a warm, smokey comfort for those of us who had braved the cold night to come and study. Our new course of study, under the leadership of Sister Enid Bell, is taking us through the smaller books of the New Testament. We began with Paul's moving salutation to the saints at Philippi, which speaks of his love and concern for them, his desire that they would be sincere in their fellowship to Christ. The Acts of the Apostles reads like an exciting novel, only the people and places are real, and their wonderful experiences in the service of Christ are true. And some would say the gospel is so boring?!

A few more thoughts: Blessings are available and ready for those who seek in faith. Much diligence in keeping the Lord's commandments is often a requirement for those who approach the heavenly throne. Faith comes by the hearing of the word, and the best place to hear the word is at church, in communion with those of like faith.

Our pastor has invited us to spend the first Sunday of each month in fasting and prayer, not only as preparation for the Sacrament, but to approach the Lord in greater humility, as we seek healings and relief for those suffering about us. Many times in the scriptures, we have been admonished to fast and pray in order to achieve these results, and also to purify our souls of those things that hinder a greater out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

A few more thoughts: The Lord has set standards for everything that we know and do, although we may not see it. When we catch a glimpse of this organization, it makes us marvel at the power of God. There are no secrets; we can almost see another one's guilty conscience.

Sister Alvina Bell hosted the February meeting of the United Workers. Though few in number, the Lord blessed us in our study as we continued in the letter of Paul to the Philippians. He was concerned for those people and warned them to beware of evil workers. "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

We have seen many good things happening in our family this long, cold winter. It's sure nice to see it coming to an end now, although it gave us time to reflect on things that we set on the back burner during our active summer months. Some testimonies I had heard as a child came back to the surface of my thoughts recently, calling to mind those blessings received by the young. I remembered Brother LeRoy Wheaton telling of an incident in his childhood, when he was disobedient to his mother and got into the sugar bowl while she was in another room. She called to him, asking if he indeed was getting into the sugar bowl again, and it made him wonder just how she knew what he was up to. Did she, like the Lord, know the nature of his boyish heart? The Lord knows what we're "up to" and will admonish us to correct our behavior or suffer the consequences of it. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things," to quote from I Corinthians 13. We have much growing to do in the gospel.

*In gospel bonds,  
 Becky Downs, reporter*

*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.*

## A SET OF "COINCIDENCES"?

In Rochester, Minnesota, Ben had decided to abide by the Traveler's Advisory and stay home. Today was to be the March Sacrament Service at the Minneapolis Church of Christ. Snow had begun falling during early morning hours and promised to continue to a predicted six inch accumulation with winds to cause drifting.

Another tall, sturdy man, Michael, (a stranger to us) stood shivering in the cold beside a highway in the Twin Cities area with a shaving kit in his gloveless hand, the snow swirling about him. He bowed his head and prayed, "God, You know I am cold and stranded. What am I going to do? Please help me."

Ben, in the comfort of his home was thinking, "there must be some way to convince my friend of God's power and love" -- and he prayed for God to show him how...for God to give him "something" that would have significance and meaning to speak to his friend's spiritual being and plant faith in God there. (Ben's ministry comes first in his young life, and his ministry bids him bring this friend to know Christ.)

Two minutes after Mike's prayer for God's help, John, with family aboard, stopped and inquired of Mike, "Where are you headed?" "Rochester," was the answer. "Climb aboard! We're headed for church in Minneapolis and will take you along with us. We have a church member who lives in Rochester and can take you back with him. We expect him for dinner at our house after church." On the way, Mike explained that he had been hired to help a man with cargo handling. He had been with the employer, the work finished and pay expected. However, the employer had found opportunity to take off without Mike, whose suitcase containing his clothing, was in the former employer's truck. All Mike had in his gloveless hands was his shaving kit. No pay and no suitcase.

Our Bible study was in progress at church. Mike was introduced and joined in with contributions to the study, in a clear voice with good diction which evidenced knowledge of the Bible and a keen mind, as well as a probable good upbringing. His pleasant smile and somewhat embarrassed chuckle at his predicament caused our hearts to embrace him in welcome.

Ben, from Rochester, was just thirty-five minutes late getting to church. Road conditions added twenty-one extra minutes to the 14-minute late start. Exceptionally good time, considering the snow storm in progress! For one whose intent was to stay off the highways.

We know that some of our families had been having colds and flu; and that Ruth and Tom were visiting family in sunny Phoenix and San Diego. But our congregation was sizeable. During testimony session, Mike told us of his prayer for help. Ben told us of his prayer request for some special witness for his friend's doubting. Fervent prayers both! Neither denied!

Someone commented that Gary and Gloria probably would not make it this day. We missed their family. But they had something else of importance required of them to do: They had started to church. News of road conditions on their truck radio, plus lack of visibility, the thickening snow... caused fear of not being able to get back home after church. Sacrament Service is the life force of the Christian; but God requires a "reasonable" service. To jeopardize family safety was perhaps beyond reasonable service. Already two-thirds of the way to church, they reluctantly turned back homeward.

Out in their snowy path was a lone woman motorist. Her destination was a "funeral" at some miles distance beyond this storm in Minnesota. Maybe she was beginning to hope that a second funeral would not be her own. Her car was stalled. Who can say whether her prayers were sent heavenward for God's assistance? Gary was able to find the trouble caused by the snow, beneath the hood of her car. He was able to quickly take care of it for her, and saw her gratefully on her way.

A Special Spirit was present at our Minneapolis meeting. We renewed our covenant. Prayers and testimonies were good. The "closed communion" had been lovingly explained to our guest who accepted the explanation appreciatively. We appreciated his contribution to the meeting and prayed whole heartedly for his need of employment. There was a confidence that God would so provide. The Confidence Itself was there -- much more than just a "feeling" or a feeble hope! Mike promises to meet with us again upon his return to the Twin Cities and we assured him of a warm welcome.

Ben and Mike had invitation to dinner with John and family. Gary, later in the afternoon explained by telephone to Forest, their absence of the morning.

How come all these "coincidences" during the snow storm on March 4? The only one who could not have stayed at home (and justifiably so) in warmth and comfort was Mike. He sure did need some Fatherly looking after -- And was not given a stone. How come an elderly woman pushed a swollen foot into a big sports shoe to be there? Guess God willed that she act as scribe to tell this true story of how all that we do dovetails into Our Father's purposes and carries with it consequences for either good or ill.

It would be interesting to know how the one who left Mike stranded fared on his journey, wouldn't it?

*Irene Y. Maley*

## ALL RIGHT, LET'S LOOK AT JOB

Every time I have made the statement that God does not put trouble or trials on us, some one says, "But look at Job." This tells me that they have not looked at Job. So let's take a look.

In order to understand Job we must start with faith. One could write pages on faith, but let's keep it as short as possible. Faith is a law of God and it works whether we believe it or not. "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." (Romans 3:3,4) Faith in God does not fail, but we can cause faith to fail as we will see by looking more closely at Job.

The Lord told Peter that Satan "...desired to sift him." The Greek word desired translates demanded. Now the Lord doesn't sift, Satan does.

Many of us think that God puts trials on us, but the truth of the matter is, He gives us the way out. If we feel that God is laying it on us, we will, of course, not resist, for who would want to resist God? Thus we willingly submit to these burdens. Believing that way causes a great blow to our faith. Therefore Satan, the great enemy of our faith, has won another round.

Patience is also a spiritual force. It is the undergirding of faith which helps us to hold the same conviction through the troubles that Satan has brought on us. God the Father is the giver of all good things, and He loves us. However, "The thief cometh not but to steal and to kill and to destroy." (John 10:10)

Now as to Job: "His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east." (Job 1:3).

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

"Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

"Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land." (Job 1:6-10)

Please note that Job had a hedge about him -- he was under God's protection. Job was living and working in faith, but faith can fail. What causes this? Fear.

God did not put Job in Satan's hands, Job did. What happens next? "And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

"And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually." (Job 1:4,5)

Fear! Now Job offered sacrifices "continually" which means he got out of faith and into fear, listening to the voice of Satan. Then things really began to happen quickly.

Verse 16: "While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." (The Hebrew says, a great fire.) But Satan is "prince of the air." Winds, storms, tornadoes and lightning are in his power. So who sent the great fire?

In Job 1:21, Job made a statement: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Now this is not a true statement; it is true that Job said it, but God did not take anything away. Satan took it away and Job let him do it by getting into fear.

Job 3:25: "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me." It took Job nine months and a lot of suffering to overcome, but when he got back into faith and started praising God, he received twice as much as before.

We see by this that faith and fear are opposite forces; they cannot abide in the same place. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7)

God had a hedge about Job but fear broke it down and let in the destroyer. James 1:13-17 says: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

"Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness,

neither shadow of turning."

So let us not be found in the sad state of cursing God by blaming our trials and burdens on Him Who loves us, but raise our voices in thanksgiving for the way out He provides.

*Georgia Tate*

## NOTICE

For the past several months, the editorial staff of "Zion's Advocate" and the Business Manager of the Church of Christ have had our church paper printed by different printing companies in an effort to determine the most suitable and economical company with whom to do business. There have been some extra inconveniences and involvements in this effort, but we feel that it has been worth-while. We pray that our final choice will prove to be satisfactory for all concerned including you, the reader.

*Roland Sarratt, Editor.*

## MISSOURI REUNION

- Date:** Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 10-11-12, 1984. First meeting to begin at 9:00 a.m., August 10.
- Place:** Warrensburg, Missouri at East Hudson Conference Ctr.
- Location:** East Anderson St., east off Hwy. 13 in Warrensburg.
- Lodging:** Rooms are \$14.00 for a single room & \$20.00 for a double room per night. Pay as you enter, linens are furnished.
- Food:** Meals will be furnished, desserts included, donations will be accepted from those who dine with us. We would like to know approximately how many plan on attending so the menu can be prepared. Please notify Jeanette Cunningham, Rt. 5, Warrensburg, MO 64093. There is plenty of room for all, arrangements can be made for disabled if we know ahead of time.

Let us all try to attend and worship and associate together to make this the best Missouri Reunion ever.

## MICHIGAN STATE REUNION

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 16 and 17, 1984, at the Bradley Local, Bradley, Michigan. As usual, meals will be potluck.

Camping facilities are available at Cottonwood Acres (formerly KOA), near Bradley. Telephone number at the campground - 616/792-2725.

Anyone needing housing or other information regarding the reunion may contact:

Elder Laverne Lussenden  
204 Oak

Hopkins, Michigan 49328  
Phone: 616/793-7245

Please make a note of the dates and plan on attending and making this the biggest and best Michigan State Reunion ever. We need you all, and you all need to experience the spiritual enrichment you receive from attending and renewing acquaintance with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Reunion Committee - Norman Trudgen  
Jeff Butts  
Jay Lee*

## THE TRI-STATE REUNION FOR 1984

The Minneapolis Minnesota Church of Christ has obtained the use of the Group Camp at Whitewater State Park, about ten miles north of St. Charles, Minnesota for the 1984 Tri-State Reunion. It is reached readily on State highway 74 which runs through the center of the park.

The dates for the reunion will be August 31 through September 2. Entry into the camp for our use will be from 2:30 p.m. on August 31, and we expect to decamp on the morning of September 3.

We find the camp ideal, with clean sleeping facilities, a new sanitary facility this year with hot and cold showers, and, we think, very satisfactory facilities to meet together and be fed spiritually and physically. Ample space and facility for spare time recreation is everywhere at hand.

Some warm blankets, clean, plain clothes and yourself, are all you need to bring. A nominal park-use stamp must be procured at the park office for each car entering the camp. Inquire for day rates.

We welcome the news if you plan to meet with us. Your card or letter may be addressed to Merlin Eddy, 12115 - Rich Valley Blvd., Rosemount, Minnesota 55068.

We would like to see (and hear) you there.

*The Minneapolis Minnesota, Church of Christ.*

## ERRATUM

Due to a typesetting error, an important reference was omitted from the February, 1984 issue of Zion's Advocate. Under the title, "Where Do We Stand?", on page 45, the reference, "Book of Commandments 40:1-8", was omitted by the typesetter and we failed to catch the error while proofreading it. The remaining references, verses 14-20, etc., are also from the same chapter. We apologize for that error.

*Roland Sarratt, Editor.*

## THE CHOICE

A simple illustration published many years ago at Easter time, seems to be worth the proverbial "One thousand words" in conveying a message.

A lady stands, gazing intently into a show-case window. Two hat stands are the center of the display; One holds a frilly, stylish "Easter bonnet", the other, a crown of thorns.

Vida Filley

## ARE WHITE LIES EVER JUSTIFIABLE?

White lies are so easily detected that I sometimes wonder why any of us ever imagine we are putting something over when we employ them. White lies are meant to conceal something, but they often reveal much more!

White lies. Their oil may be effective for the moment, but what may be called an automatic chemical process sooner or later transforms them into a stinging acid. This acid sears the conscience of the one who tells the white lie, and destroys the confidence of the one or ones to whom it is told, thereby defeating its own purpose. By what process of reasoning, then, may such a practice be called justifiable?

In the few cases where the white lie may never be detected a subtle poison may still be traced, because

any thought or action on the part of the one deceived, based on that falsehood, will eventually lead to situations far less desirable than any which could possibly have grown out of knowing the truth. This is just one of the laws of cause and effect, and is as true as Mendel's Law.

If one's vanity or pride is pricked a little by the simple truth, is it any worse than having his intelligence offended by some flimsy white lie?

However well-meaning the white lie may be, it still can never reach that degree of honor and justification that we so proudly point to in the worthy life of our own "Honest Abe", sixteenth president of the United States.

--Evalena Sills

## COLORADO REUNION

On June 8, 9, and 10, 1984, the Colorado Reunion will be held at the Church of Christ, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. We would like to invite all who can to meet with us on these three days. We anticipate a time of spiritual feasting and fellowship in the worship of Christ, our Saviour.

Our homes are open to all we can accommodate. Please let one of our committee know your plans, so we can find housing for you and prepare for the meals.

Call or write: Ronald W. Church  
P.O. Box 1456  
Fruita, CO 81521  
303-858-7305

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

John E. Bell  
572 - 34 Road  
Clifton, CO 81520  
303-434-7100

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

## ISOLATED MEMBERS

Many different members of the church will become isolated from the church for varying reasons. Perhaps one's work takes them to a place where there is no Church of Christ, or one marries a non-member and doesn't have the chance to attend church all the time, or for any number of reasons, a person may not be able to attend a church. The children of that family still need to be taught of God.

Some families have no problems teaching their children the gospel. Many isolated families, and even those that are not isolated, would like to have more teaching materials available to them. The church needs to have more church approved teaching materials for children of different ages. The smaller children need stories with more pictures to help them understand the story.

I also feel that it would be good if each of the young people in the church could spend some time in the younger children's Sunday School classes. They need to observe the children's teacher teaching the little ones the beautiful stories of the gospel. It would be good for the young men and women to help the children's teacher loving the little ones and caring for them. Each

of the young men and women need to take a turn, because one never knows who will have the responsibility of teaching the children in the family.

People who are isolated from the church often feel very left out. They miss out on much by not having a local church to go to. Some become very discouraged. These people need our prayers and perhaps an occasional letter to help encourage them and help them know the affairs of the church.

Perhaps from time to time the Advocate could publish locations of the locals and the pastors' phone numbers. If an isolated member is near a local church in their travels, they could go to church in that area. The times of services may need to be published too.

In these last days people need to be helped to do God's Will. They need to be helped to be strong. So many things can happen to try one, whether they are near a church or far from one. The chance to tell others about the goodness of God may arise also, so that an isolated member still needs to be in touch with the church.

May God be with you.

Sincerely, Edith Arden.

## A FRIEND

A friend is one whose very presence makes you feel warm and good;

A friend is one who shows you affection, courtesy and respect, even though you feel you are not worthy;

A friend is one who always brightens your day with a smile, even though he may not feel like smiling;

A friend is one who you can always confide in and trust with those intimate and personal feelings you do not wish to share with the world;

A friend is one who will tolerate you when you do foolish and stupid things;

A friend is one who understands when he knows you are doing things that are human, but society may not readily accept;

A friend is one who always shows you respect even though he may not agree with your point of view;

A friend is one who graciously accepts your meager offerings to show your feelings, and returns kindness and understanding;

A friend is one who has a big shoulder to cry on without shame when times are bad, and offers encouragement in return because he REALLY cares;

A friend is one who you can be truly proud to be with in any social circle;

A friend is one who is ALWAYS available in times of loneliness or in times of need;

A friend is one of the most beautiful blessings God can grant you as there are so few TRUE friends in the world.

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 a 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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Send all orders to the Office Secretary, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051. Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except Independence area. Also available is a series of primary Sunday School lessons entitled "We Sing and We Talk about Jesus," and includes teaching helps and taped songs.

We also provide sermons on cassette tape. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, 2929 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

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

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