

# 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

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## The Universe

by Elbert A. Smith

The sun is softly bright today,  
The hazy prairies stretch away  
Unbroken by the forest shade,  
Upturned in spots with plow and spade.  
The clouds above us seem at play,  
They float along, or pause in air  
To look upon the scene below;  
Perchance like us they find it fair.

The soft winds murmur as they blow,  
They stir the leaves, and, loth to go  
They wander through the meadow grass.  
We hear them singing as they pass.  
We only feel, we do not know,  
We feel a soul in everything,  
A sentient life that shapes the tree  
And bids the flowers in color sing.

Our little time and lot are here,  
Our binding horizon is near;  
Yet far the universe outspreads  
Its broad wings o'er our human heads.  
And all the day is bright with cheer,  
Because one spirit fills us all;  
And man, and plant, and star have felt  
God's benediction on them fall.

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# Zion's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL...

## LEARNING THE EVERYDAY LESSONS OF LIFE

Because of our human weaknesses, we need the special guidance of the Holy Spirit in helping us to make decisions. Our natural abilities usually are not sufficient to outmaneuver the evil one; we are too susceptible to his devious ways.

If we seek God's help we will find that He has ways and means to strengthen us against the temptations and wiles of the devil. By looking close at our own personal lives, we can see that everyday events bring about many little trials and tests that will prepare us against the greater problems of life.

We should not hide the fact that we are all looking down the road to the much prophesied time of great trial and destruction. The signs of the time point unmistakably to our day which almost overwhelms us with fear and dread. The nearly impossible chances of surviving the terrible destructions that undoubtedly are coming on the earth make us reflect carefully upon God's promises to His people. His promises are always dependent upon our observance of His laws — our keeping of His commandments.

What we usually fail to realize and appreciate is that God is well aware of our situation and He has already planned our way of escape. But our escape is dependent upon our preparation. He will prepare us now for that time of greater trials and tribulation, but we must be listening and responding to His Spirit.

God's ways of preparing us are not readily noticeable by us or the evil one, for the Lord has all things under perfect control. He is knowledgeable in the ways of the natural man as well as the ways of the devil. So it goes without saying that God can train us up in ways appropriate to the times and problems that we will meet if we will listen to His promptings. He will teach us those things that will give us knowledge and wisdom, but most importantly, He will strengthen us in a will and desire to do that which we have learned is right through His daily teachings.

We have two main obstacles to overcome: one is the persuading power of the devil; the other is our own human ways and wills — the weaknesses of the flesh. It is very difficult for us to distinguish between the two for the devil continually uses our weaknesses to enter in and control us. When we give in to one of our human weaknesses, he immediately strives to take control. When he succeeds he will enlarge that weakness or fault to the point of destroying our courage and strength to do good.

The devil is primarily a destroyer. It may not appear so at first for his leadings are deceptive. But he can only lead us to the same place that he is destined to go himself.

While the Lord will allow us to suffer from our own mistakes or let us endure trials for a time by which we

might remain humble and learn to rely on Him, the devil will use the same mistakes or trials to drag us down to despair or cause us to turn in anger against the Lord. Our reactions, therefore, give us a key to our success. We determine our own direction by how we respond to the trial or situation.

If we look up to God asking His help immediately when trials come, He will give us an inner strength that will match the weight of the problem. If we stubbornly or neglectfully go on our own, we jeopardize our very souls, because the devil can easily get control.

A fact of great importance should be known among us all: when a time of crisis comes and the problem stares us in the face, that is not the time to prepare for it. The time to prepare is already past.

If we have been listening to the promptings of the Spirit all along the way, we will be prepared when it comes. This preparation will be in ways that we never realized until the actual event takes place. This is the mystery and wisdom of God!

Although God's knowledge is infinite and far superior to all other beings including the devil, we must realize that the devil's knowledge is rather vast considering the fact that he is a spiritual being. The devil's plans and works are to draw you and I into the mainstream of death if we will allow him to do so. He is working to breakdown every characteristic of truth and goodness that we have. He cleverly assists us in making us comfortable in the little private sins and thoughts which open the way for larger ones.

It would do us well to take a close look at our private sins and thoughts to see if we can detect the openings by which greater sins can enter and expand our latitudes. It is discouraging to look at our own faults, but if we look at the other side of the situation, we can see that the spirit of the Lord is prompting us to overcome those faults and use them as a foundation of strength against evil. The same weakness or fault that allows evil to prevail can be changed to a righteous bulwark if that weakness is overcome through the strength and guidance of the Spirit of God.

There is one thing we must know for sure: there is no middle of the road or place of compromise where we can be safe and comfortable. We are fighting a continuous battle and it will be so to the end.

Let us also be aware of where the battle is taking place. It is not at church, work, home or some one or two places that we are in, or certain times of our lives. The battle takes place within us — within the individual person. Our thoughts, words, actions, attitudes, emotions, etc. give evidence of the war that is being waged within us between the forces of good and the forces of evil. Our very soul is the prize over which the contending powers are battling. Thank God that the forces of good are still striving to save our souls for we know that the evil one will never cease until he is subdued by a higher power.

It is said that experience is a great teacher. We know that God teaches us through experience. As we indicated before, a small mistake that is of little consequence can effectively warn us against making a much larger mistake and suffer the greater consequence. Of course, we can use our own human judgment in the matter and say that we have learned it by the same means as people of the world learn through experience. But if we consider such learning processes as being directed of God, we will soon recognize His hand in many such experiences and He will manifest Himself in them. He is ever willing to prove Himself to those who believe in Him and seek His help. Just as God is willing to prove Himself to us, so should we be willing to prove ourselves to Him. This often requires a process that brings us right down to the bare facts about ourselves.

Just as experience can teach us certain lessons, so can experience reveal certain things about ourselves that would help us correct ourselves. We need to know just how well our minds are trained in the things of the Lord and just how true our basic desires of good are.

It appears that we are given an opportunity to know this from time to time. On occasion we are left to face a trial or make a decision on our own. We may cry to the Lord to help us, but in His infinite wisdom it seems that He withholds His Spirit for a time using the situation as a test. If we have done our homework beforehand and if we have been listening to Him when He gave us the example problems, we will be prepared. We will have obtained a sufficient knowledge of the truth through His continuous teachings as well as a greater development of willpower by which we might remain faithful. We will have proven ourselves to God just as he has proven Himself to us.

However, if we fail the test all is not lost. It is not too late to seek God. We must let Him know that we are ready to listen by being observant, prayerful and responsive. It may take time but He will prove Himself to be patient with us if we are patient with Him.

God knows how prepared or unprepared we are. He knows the deadline. He can prepare us quickly if we are willing. It all depends upon how alert and how much we are listening to the promptings of His Spirit. Let us therefore seek the Lord in earnestness that we will be ready for the next test.

RLS

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If God has called you, don't spend time looking over your shoulder to see who is following.

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The measure of a man is not the number of people who serve him, but the number of people he serves.

## UNSEALED

by Vida Filley

Part 2

"And I looked and behold, a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth. (Rev. 6:8).

This rider is the only one to be given a name, and it is Death. It is interesting to note that in this case power is given unto "them", for "Death" is an appropriate name for each one of the riders who preceeded him. This rider incorporates all the evils of the first three horsemen. Hell follows with him as it does the Antichrist's mission. Spiritual death is the result of Godlessness. He kills with a sword as does the rider of the red horse. He kills with famine, hunger, both temporal and spiritual, as does the rider of the black horse.

He kills with some unspecified "death." The color of his horse can give us a clue.

I understand that the original word for pale means a pale yellow. Yellow is a term used for certain character traits such as jealousy, melancholy, dishonor, and cowardice. It is also applied to various diseases of plants, trees and humans. A yellow flag means quarantine. Added to spiritual death, war, famine, he adds plagues and pestilences and kills with beasts of the earth.

It is possible that food might become so scarce that animals would attack people, but I'm more inclined to believe that this symbolizes martyrdom as suffered by early Christians, when they were "thrown to the lions." It can also represent death of Christians by any unusual and merciless means.

Since the Communist Revolution in 1917, Christians in the Soviet Union, and in lands dominated by them, have suffered monstrous and inhuman tortures and death. There is considerable evidence that this infection is surreptitiously creeping into this land, where of all places on earth it ought never to be.

The Pale horse also represents fear. Christ said that in the last days men's hearts would fail for fear, for looking after the things which are coming upon the earth. (Luke 21:26).

"And these are the words the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the Lord: we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear and not of peace.

"Ask ye now whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

"Alas for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is

even the time of Jacob's trouble: but he shall be saved out of it." (Jer. 30:6, 7).

"For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that is stronger than he." (Jer. 31:11).

"For the terrible one is brought to naught, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

"That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of naught.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale." (Isa. 29:20, 21, 22).

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the alter the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.

"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

"And white robes were given unto every one of them: and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also their brethern, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." (Rev. 6:9, 10, 11).

We are not to suppose, as some do, that these martyred Christians still cry from the alters where they were slain. This too, is symbolic; the alters representing their testimony for the Lord's words. Their sufferings and death are held in remembrance for the final judgement. They are at rest, clothed in white (righteousness) awaiting the resurrection.

When Cain killed Abel, God said to him, "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." (Gen. 4:4). All injustice, including unfair business practices, "cry out" for redress. "The hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth and the cries of them that reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of the Sabaoth." (Jas. 5:4).

"And God shall bring every work into judgement with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:14.

Some question how a merciful and loving God could possibly permit His own to be killed by the wicked. God must be just as well as merciful, or He would cease to be God.

Bruce Dunn, Pastor of a Presbyterian church in Peoria, Ill. said in a recent radio broadcast, "Far too many ministers today present God as some kind of giant marshmallow in the sky, and say nothing of His

justice.”

Judgement has a remedial purpose. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Per. 3:9). “Some men’s sins are opened beforehand, going before to judgement, some follow after.” (1 Tim. 5:24). Those who refuse to repent and turn to God, will answer for their sins at the judgement. Their victims will stand as evidence, a testimony against them. (Matt. 10:18, Mar. 13:9, Luke 21:12, 13).

When the sixth seal is opened, the scene changes dramatically from symbolism to a graphic portrayal of actual events.

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake: and the sun became as black as sackcloth, and the moon became as blood.

“And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken with a mighty wind.

“And the heavens departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and rocks of the mountains.

“And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev. 6:12-17)

When the first seal is opened, an unknown rider appears on a white horse. He comes to conquer something unspecified.

No symbols are to be seen when the sixth seal is opened, but actual events. Christ returns, clearly identified, to execute judgement. Before the seventh seal is opened God’s servants are to be sealed in their foreheads, that they might be protected from the wrath to come. This is comparable to the passover of the Old Testament, when the blood of a lamb, sprinkled on door posts, protected the Lord’s people from the destroyer who came through in judgement against the Egyptians.

Before the seven last plagues are poured out, John sees, “As it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and them that had gotten the victory over the Beast and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty.

“Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come

and worship before thee: for thy judgements are made manifest.” (Rev. 15:2, 3, 4).

God always sends warning before He executes His judgements. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

“For her (Babylon’s) sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” (Rev. 18:4, 5).

When Christ returns, the white horse and his rider shall be destroyed. And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8). In place of falsehood and deception, the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9).

In that day many people shall go and say, come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob: and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of God from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3).

The red horse and his rider shall be no more. Instead of war there will be peace. For he will judge all nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isa. 2:4). The Lord shall give peace. (Ps. 29:11, Rom. 14:17).

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.” (Isa. 9:6, 7).

Even the animals will be at peace with one another and with the inhabitants of the land. (Isa. 11:6, 7, 8).

The black horse and his rider shall be abolished. In place of hunger, there will be plenty. “And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, and the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, and my great army I sent among you.

“And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wonderously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

“And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: my people shall never be ashamed.” (Joel 2:25, 26, 27).

The pale horse shall be “swallowed up in victory.” (1 Cor. 15:54). “Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed,

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead

shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Cor. 15:51, 52).

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for former things are passed away." (Rev. 21:4).

Satan will be bound and shut up in the bottomless pit, where he will be "sealed" for the 1,000 years of the millenium. (Rev. 20:2, 3).

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." (Ps. 9:10)

"For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, seek me, and ye shall live.

"Seek good and not evil, that ye shall live: and so the Lord the God of Hosts shall be with you, as ye have spoken." (Amos 5:4, 14).

"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:6, 7).

## AVA NEWS

It has been quite a winter for us in Missouri, December's deep freeze was not welcomed but endured for we have faith in the changing of the seasons. The Ozarks will blossom and from forest floor and grassy hillsides will come the evidences of God's creative and redemptive power.

December brought into our group our loved Brother Tony and Sister Louise Grzincic. So our hearts were warmed, refreshed, and fortified spiritually. Our group had no special program since we lack the smaller folks who enjoy the exercises they put on up front; we just sang a number of old familiar Christmas hymns. We shared our dinner and afterwards exchanged gifts. Cathy and Vince Lapona with the boys, Jeremy and Matthew were visitors from Nevada, MO.

Brother John Case and family were with us in January. To hear our young men bear testimony to the truths of the gospel is a good ministry we need more often. It lifts the burden from the pastor, Brother Arthur, who needs to be recharged and encouraged by the testimony and witness of others.

The cheerful and pleasant attitude of Brother Loren Bryant carries into his testimony and messages the steadfast faith he has in his Lord and the gospel message. It is such enjoyable humble messages as his that makes the visits of these elders worthwhile. Brother Loren was a bit apologetic with his admission as not being a "pillar in the church." Brother Arthur pointed out the need for sturdy "posts" to hold up the "rod of iron" to the saints, thus filling a purpose not without

honor. So our February dinner Sunday was well spent and appreciated by all.

Our winter has passed and not without it's blessings. We have had the company of Sister Amy Schrader. Her faithful attendance has been a blessing to Sister Darleen this winter. We will miss her for a few months and hope she will return again next fall. Other visitors have been Sister Lovita Seibel, her daughter, Silvia, Joe Carney and a friend from school.

Here at Ava we are striving to be faithful to the cause of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Pray with us and for us that we may gain the victory and a crown of righteousness in the Kingdom of God.

*Ava Reporter*

## OBITUARY

T. W. Paschall

Elder T.W. Paschall of Whitlock, Tennessee passed away at the Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky, at the age of 72 years on March 15, 1984, after a long illness. He was born Feb. 18, 1912 to the late Wrather and Ella Paschall, in Henry County, Tennessee.

Brother Paschall is survived by his wife, the former Mary Nell McKinney, and one daughter, Jean Tucker of Union City; one step-daughter, Patricia Snyder of Paris, Tenn., and one step-son, Albert Turner of Dexter, KY; two sisters, Hester Tyler and Edith Burnett, both of Puryear, TN; two brothers, Crawford Lee Paschall of Cleveland, OH, and Van Paschall of Royal Oak, MI; seven step grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his first wife, Hazel, who was the mother of his daughter; two sisters, Crystal Snyder, and Myrtle Robertson; and one brother, Heman Paschall.

At the time of his death, and for many years before, he was pastor of the Foundry Hill Church of Christ (Temple Lot), in Puryear, TN.

Interment was at the Foundry Hill cemetery.

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## A MEMORIAL

Brother Paschall committed himself to Christ very early in life through the waters of baptism, and there is no doubt that the resultant influence of the Holy Spirit of promise to those who will obey and serve God to the end was that influence which characterized his attitude of service and love for his fellow man. This was further demonstrated by a divine call and his acceptance of a ministry in the Church of Christ. He was a faithful shepherd of the little flock which had been entrusted to his care.

He was a man of little pretension, if any; yet there was a quiet dignity about him, coupled with a mildness of spirit, and a genuine concern for others which marked him as a friend to man. He was a good neighbor in the fullest sense of that term, imparting to others of the products of his hands, from his gardens, as the Lord had provided. He had compassion for the sick and afflicted, and ministered to their needs as he was able, and prayed for them.

The world will little note, nor long remember the life of T.W. Paschall, but those of us who knew him best, of his family, and to a lesser extent, of friends and neighbors, but certainly of those of gospel bonds, who were his brethren in Christ - these will cherish his memory, and confess that our lives have been enriched by the humble touch of life by this one who passed our way.

## ALCOHOL USE AMONG TEENS—A MODERN DILEMMA

Drinking by teenagers is a practice that is so widespread that by the senior year in high school it is almost universal. In public health terms, the population that uses a drug as extensively as alcohol should know its psychological and physical effects and the risks involved in its use and abuse.

Ethyl alcohol or ethanol — the type in beer, wine, bourbon, gin, etc. — is classed pharmacologically as a depressant drug. It has the power to bring about the feelings of well-being, and to induce sedation, intoxication, and unconsciousness. Ethanol also has the potential for producing toxic effects on the mind and body that are dangerous or even fatal to the drinker.

The immediate effects of alcohol consumption are widely known. By virtue of alcohol's depressant and sedative effects the drinker's coordination is impaired, sleepiness may occur, and reaction time is reduced in complex and dangerous tasks such as driving an automobile.

Other effects or reactions are also widely known. Some persons, when under the influence of alcohol, become overly talkative, loud, reckless or hostile. Others may experience a sense of euphoria, become more outgoing or friendlier.

Some of these behaviors seem contradictory. Though alcohol is a depressant and a sedative, some persons appear to be stimulated by alcohol. In fact, many people believe, mistakenly, that alcohol is a stimulant. Actually, the apparent stimulant effect is the result of alcohol's depressant effect upon one's inhibitions. By virtue of socially acquired inhibitions (or social restraints) we behave in relatively calm and controlled ways. Alcohol reduces or depresses our controls. The outward appearance is that one has been stimulated. One useful illustration is that within the complexities of life we are like an automobile, going down a dangerous hill. To control the situation we have developed certain "brakes" which keep us within safe and acceptable limits. The use of alcohol weakens our braking system and reduces our control over ourselves, resulting in behavior that may be reckless, dangerous or even life-threatening.

Some have called alcohol a "social lubricant" because it makes it easier for people to socialize and enjoy

themselves at parties, etc. The bashful person may be less bashful, the anxious person may be more calm, the frightened person may be less afraid. Unfortunately, as one uses alcohol as a means of dulling various emotions or reducing anxiety, there is always the threat of the practice becoming a habit. In time, the habit may even become an addiction.

Ideally, young people and adults alike would be fully aware of the nature of the drug ethyl alcohol. Ideally we would respect its powers. Roughly one out of ten "social drinkers" eventually develops drinking problems or becomes alcoholic. So the potential for addiction is substantial.

Many more people than alcoholics get intoxicated, or simply, drunk. On the physical side, weight, how fast they drink, whether they have eaten, their drinking history and body chemistry, and the kind of beverage (and mixer) used all influence the degree of intoxication. On the psychological side, the drinking situation and the drinker's mood, attitudes, and what the individual wants or expects to happen, based on previous drinking experiences, all contribute to drinking reactions. All in all, however, there is one sure thing. If a person drinks enough, fast enough to outrun the body's ability to burn alcohol, he becomes intoxicated. When he becomes intoxicated, he has less control of himself in every regard, physical and emotional.

Teenagers are faced with the tasks of developing intellectual, emotional and social discipline. All of this is a part of maturing. Growing up can be postponed, interrupted or incomplete as a result of using various drugs to reduce the realities of life. Growing up, as we call it, is as complex a task as learning to fly a 747 airliner. None of us would expect to master the many skills required to pilot such a complex machine if we deliberately drugged ourselves in the process. One might feel better. One might be less afraid to fly and feel more confident of his ability to fly. But those false feelings would not make him skillful. Similarly, the false feelings of security, happiness and fun that alcohol may bring are fake substitutes for growing up. Would you risk your life in the hands of a drunk airplane pilot? Should you risk your life in the hands of a drunk driver of an automobile? Can we learn to walk or run by

always leaning on crutches? Drugs, alcohol included, can become crutches and their users run the risk of becoming emotional and physical cripples.

*(This article was supplied by AIDS. Alcohol Information Distribution Service)*

## THE WAY BACK TO GOD

Since the early time of Adam, man has turned away from God, being deceived by Satan. Adam was given a commandment or law; he was told not to eat from one of the trees in the garden. Adam disobeyed the commandment of God. This gave Adam the knowledge of good and evil. God had told Adam what would happen if he should eat of the tree. God had told Adam man would not always walk with God. Man now has the knowledge and can make a choice, a choice for good or evil. Thus we inherit a position at the age of accountability, as that of Adam after he had broken the law of God.

However, God has provided a plan of redemption through repentance and returning to the law of God. You can read in Colossians 1:12-18 that God has provided a way for us. It also tells us who prepared that way, Christ. As it is written in the book of Colossians: Christ is the head of the church, no president or pope. Christ is our way. It's Christ, the one who we must follow or we cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Since the Kingdom of Heaven is here on earth, you must enter while you are here on earth. (Matt. 4:17) The death of the flesh takes us from this world and sends us to another. In this state there are two places, one being a state of paradise (Alma 19:43-47) the other state is an endless torment, or lake of fire. The soul doesn't pass to a state of nothingness. Time was given as a measurement for man. Thus time is given for man to repent and return to the law of God. God gives each of us a choice, a choice must be made, if you are accountable. Then you will receive your just reward.

Christ is the way and we must follow his way. The following is a part of his laws and commandments.

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4)

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:10)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15)

"Therefore, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and believe in my gospel, and be baptized in

my name; for he that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned; and signs shall follow them that believe in my name." (Ether 1:115)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

"And they went out, and preached that men should repent." (Mark 6:12)

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matt 22:37, 38)

"Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God." (Moroni 10:29)

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48)

"Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen." (Moroni 7:52, 53)

In ending, it would be fitting to turn to John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

The foregoing has shown a path that God has set before the people. This path gives purpose, direction and understanding to everyone who truly wishes to receive paradise after the death of the flesh.

*R. W. Church*



## JENNIE'S EXAMPLE

A granddaughter brought this poem to me with the request that I send it to the Zion's Advocate. It is one of her all time favorites. Perhaps some of its appeal is due to her experience in school.

Jennie had been accustomed to saying grace at the table, so saw no reason to discontinue the practice in the school cafeteria. As might be expected, other students seated at her table made light of it. This didn't deter her in the least. In time they ceased their disparaging remarks and remained silent when she said grace. When any others noticed her and scoffed, one of them would say, "Shush, Jennie's praying," and they were silenced too.

Somehow, Jennie's Sunday School teacher, who was

also a teacher in a Christian Day School, learned of this. She said that even in a Christian School some of the students failed to say grace, "before diving in." She planned to tell them that if Jennie could return her thanks to God in a public school, surely in a Christian School they should not be ashamed to do so.

Unfortunately, in the eyes of the law, today, Jennie probably would not be permitted to say grace. Somehow, I believe that all the "Jennies" out there would manage to get around that ruling. After all, God knows our thoughts, we can speak to Him with our mind if not with our lips.

*Vida Filley*

## IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -  
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.  
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there -  
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?  
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines and put a Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope he hadn't heard,  
And wish you hadn't uttered the last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly books and put some hymnbooks out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?  
And I wonder if the Savior spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?  
Would you keep right on saying things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?  
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace,  
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?  
Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,  
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,  
Or would you sigh in great relief when He at last is gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If Jesus Christ in Person came to spend some time with you.

*Lois Blanchard*

*Submitted by Jennifer Stevens*

## “WILL A MAN ROB GOD?”

by Elder Gordon McCann

“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?”

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” (Malachi 3:7-9)

Tithing is an ordinance or commandment. Like all commandments given of God, it should not be taken lightly. “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: . . . He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.” (John 14:21, 24)

We have an understanding through the scriptures, by previous examples recorded, that tithing consists of a tenth part of that which the Lord has given you or your increase. Now, as you reason within yourselves as to what constitutes your increase or the “whole” from which a tenth would be given, consider Christ’s words: “. . .and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” (Matt. 7:2)

Another thing which we should consider is that when

we offer our tithe to God that it is possible for us to do so in an unrighteous manner. In Hebrews 11:4 we find: “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: . . .” So when we give our tenth to God remember it is for His work and we do not have the right to dictate what that tithe is to be used for. This is where we must exercise our faith in God that His servants would use wisdom in the distribution of those funds for God’s purposes in these last days, even as Abraham relied on Melchisedec to use that which was given to Melchisedec for the Lord’s work in their day.

There is one more thing we must understand about tithing. There is a difference between tithing and offerings. Tithing is the one tenth part of our increase which we are commanded to give. Money given to miscellaneous funds other than tithing constitutes a free will offering which is above and beyond our required tithe.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalms 139:23, 24)

## THE LORD DOES WATCH OVER HIS CHILDREN

As I look back through the years I can see so many times when the Lord’s protecting hand has been over me and my family keeping us from harm and the evils in the world. Our lives have been spared by his intervening hand.

My husband and I and our young children could have lost our lives in a tragic fire if God had not intervened. We had an open fireplace in our unfinished home, with no hearth, so the floor boards came right up to the firebox, and had become tinder dry from so much heat. During the winter we would keep a fire in the fireplace on real cold nights. Yet I was always worried about this, for fear sparks would fly or a piece of burning wood would roll out onto the floor causing it to burn; and always went to the Lord in prayer for his protection.

I often could not get to sleep but would keep getting up to go check on the fire until it burned real low and there was no danger of sparks or the rolling of burning wood. Then one night as my husband filled the fireplace with wood, I felt extra concern, and worried about it and prayed again for God’s protection from

fire. And this night I dropped off into a sound sleep, when suddenly I was awakened as I was hurrying down the hallway to the living room, and there I saw the floor in front of the fireplace burning. I ran back and told by husband that the floor was on fire. He jumped up and ran down the hallway, saying, “Why don’t you turn on the lights?” I was so surprized for I thought the lights were on.

He got the fire out; and the next day built a concrete hearth and got metal curtains for the firebox. But I know that the Lord got me out of bed and sent me down the hallway before I was even awake, yet I knew I was going to check on the fire, and I was hurrying, sensing real danger.

If the Lord had not awakened me some or all of our family and my husband and I could have lost our lives. Thank the Lord, and praise be to his Holy Name! How can we ever forget what He has done?

Your Sister in Christ,  
Stella Winegar

## THE HUMAN SIDE OF MOTHER

When God made mothers,  
He intended there to be  
Fathers, children, sisters, and brothers,  
Aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, and neices;  
He wanted there to be, many increases.  
God said to the mothers you go right ahead,  
Cook the meals, wash the dishes, and make each bed.  
Clean the house, do washing too;  
Whoa, don't sit down, there's more to do,  
There's quilts to make, and clothing too,  
To keep the family warm when summers through.  
Don't forget to bake some bread,  
Go do the rest, use your head.  
If by this time, you are not dead,  
I give you permission to go to bed.  
God did not leave mothers to keep on in this state,  
In this part, His plan we will try to relate.  
I'll give you strength by night and by day;  
To do every task that comes your way.  
I will answer your call, if to me you will pray;  
But my Commandments you must obey.

*Lucinda Scott*

## DO NOT DESPAIR

Do not despair though black clouds surround you.  
They say there is a silver lining behind every cloud.  
Live each day as if it were the last,  
In truth and humility before the Lord.  
Look beyond the tumult of  
Everyday worries and sorrows,  
Reach out for the Rod that Lehi saw.  
Hold fast, don't let it go.  
The path is straight and narrow  
And few there be that find it.  
Pray for them that hate and spitefully use you.  
Do not despair.

*Mary Hunter*

## BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

If you have a gray-haired Mother  
In the old home far away,  
Sit down and write the letter  
You put off from day to day.  
Don't wait till her weary steps  
Reach heaven's pearly gate  
But show her that you think of her  
Before it is too late.  
If you have a tender message  
Or a loving word to say,  
Don't wait till you forget it  
But whisper it today.  
Who knows what bitter memories  
May haunt you if you wait,  
So make your loved one happy  
Before it is too late.  
The tender words unspoken,  
The letter never sent,  
The long forgotten messages,  
The wealth of love unspent;  
For these some hearts are breaking,  
For these some loved ones wait,  
Show them that you care for them  
Before it is too late.

## WHAT WE ARE IS WHAT COUNTS

Christianity is . . .

Being the person the Lord wants you to be,  
In the place He chooses for you,  
Doing the work He asks of you,  
In the way that He wants it done.

The best assurance of a happy marriage is that each fall  
in love with the Lord first; and then love each other  
in the way that He intended when in the beginning  
He created male and female to become One.

What we are is what counts! To the extent that self gives  
way to the inbiding of the Spirit, and Love, and  
Mind of Jesus, in exact proportion . . . we will have  
influence upon those about us, to turn them to Jesus  
also. When there are those who do not, even He  
did not convert everyone.

## LOOK FOR THE RAINBOW

Have you ever had one of those blue times when things seemed to be closing in and mounting up against you? Nothing at all seems to go right! Not too long ago I found myself in the middle of one of those times. I was having a great deal of health problems that kept steadily growing worse. The kids seemed determined to try what little patience I had. The bills stretched our budget to the limit. Even at church the peace I sought seemed to escape me. Differences of opinion, arguments, and irritations seemed to surround me, and to make things worse the weather was drizzly, gray, and just plain nasty.

Where, I kept asking myself, is God? Why doesn't He step in and set us straight. Every night as I said my prayers I felt as if they were hitting the ceiling. I just felt spiritually void. For some reason, I thought, God must have left me. After all every night I prayed!, "Why me Lord? How long Lord? How much Lord?" My prayers were full of questions.

Then on still another perfectly dreadful, drizzly day I was driving my kids to school when through the clouds and rain the sun peeked through. "Oh kids, look for the rainbow!" Our eyes quickly search the sky, but even before we looked I felt the Spirit touch me and I knew it wasn't a physical rainbow I was looking for. I suddenly realized that even though we couldn't see the rainbow that day because of trees and buildings blocking our view I knew it was there. I also knew that a rainbow represents a promise of God and I believe it because I can see it. That day it was hidden, but I still believed. My heart swelled with the realization that God's promises were there all along, but my view had become clouded by my problems. My mind was so full of my wants and desires I'd built a wall around me so high I wouldn't allow God a way in. I hadn't prayed, "I can't handle this; do it your way Lord; you know what's best." I complained, I pleaded, I suggested solutions I thought best, and not once did I give it entirely to Him.

Then that day, through the drizzle and gloom, through the hectic pace of my life, in spite of my complaining, He touched me. His love shone through the clouds to remind me He hasn't changed. His promises are forever. I just hadn't searched.

My prayer is that I might remember to lay all my problems at His feet, to accept His will, and to let Him do it His way.

*Melissa McGhee*

## AMEN

In the Blue Saint's Hymnal that we used to use is what is called the 'Amen Chorus', one of the most majestically beautiful pieces of melodic harmony. When one considers the depth of the meaning of 'Amen' one finds it appropriate that God's children should sing it with overflowing hearts as well as whisper it in the still watches of the dark nights of sorrow, pain and tragedy.

Literally defined, amen means - so be it. At the close of prayer it is not indicating simply that one is through praying for the time being, or saying in vernacular form, so long for now; it is affirming our communication is, has been with God, that He accepts our praise, our thanksgiving; recognizes our repentance and confession; and that as His love, mercy, and wisdom chooses our requests will be blessed upon our heads.

Amen is an affirmation of faith, trust, expectation and total acquiescence to and in God's will. It is not only a word, it is an expression of an essence of a way of living; joyful surrender to and acceptance of all that God chooses to grant, allow or withhold.

As an example, an American missionary couple were forced to lay over in England on their return home, three of their six children had typhoid, two of them died and the third was so ill the mother couldn't leave it even long enough to attend the burial of the other two. When she was spoken to by way of condolence she smiled through her tear stained face and replied, "It's alright, when God took possession of me He put an everlasting Amen deep in my soul."

May God grant that we each be given the Spirit of Amen, not only deep in our souls for times of great distress and tragedy, but that it might well up in us filling our whole consciousness at all times with a great rejoicing, praising, melodious harmony to carry us singing through all the changing vicissitudes of our daily lives and be a visual testimony to attract others to a life of unconditional surrender to the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

## ARIZONA CAMP FOR ALL AGES

This notice is to invite all to come to the Arizona Camp For All Ages to be held June 30, July 1 & 2 at the Walnut Ranch near Heber, Arizona. The intent of this camp is to further our spiritual growth and to provide a time of fellowship with others in the Gospel Bonds.

For more information please contact Joel Yates, 18819 N. 29 Pl., Phoenix, Arizona 85024. 602-992-3613

## 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.*

## 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.

## 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

# QUITE SUDDENLY

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, . . . we shall be changed.

Quite suddenly - it may be at the turning of a lane,  
Where I stand to watch a skylark soar from out the swelling grain,  
That the trump of God shall thrill me, with its call so loud and clear,  
And I'm called away to meet Him, whom of all I hold most dear.

Quite suddenly - it may be as I tread a busy street,  
Strong to endure life's stress and strain, its every call to meet,  
That through the roar of traffic, a trumpet silvery clear,  
Shall stir my startled senses, and proclaim His coming near.

Quite suddenly - it may be as I lie in dreamless sleep -  
God's gift to many a sorrowing heart, with no more tears to weep -  
That a call shall break my slumber, and a Voice sound in my ear:  
"Rise up, my love, and come away; behold the Bridegroom's here."

*Author Unknown*

# WALKING WITH CARE

And when by faith thou dwellest in Me,  
and I in thee . . . John 14:20

The strength of my presence no longer withheld  
From thee . . . then are ye to walk with care!  
Yea, with fear of misusing the influence  
of this indwelling power;

Yea, great must be thy care lest in even a tiny  
Way, thou misdirect the love and purpose  
of My Spirit within you.

There is a different meaning to fear  
than that often placed . . . a standing in  
Dread of the Lord; scared, tremblingly afraid  
. . . which only the rebellious ever  
need feel of Him —

Is not this fear in truth, rather, such a  
Great love and awed reverence of God, in  
Comprehending His almighty power  
Tendered with mercy and love for each  
Of His created ones? . . . . . John 3:16-17.  
And thus we come to true and full worship  
Of this our Friend . . . . . John 15:13-15.  
And have fellowship with Him, as He makes  
His abode in us . . . . . John 14:21 & 23.

Then it is that concern unto fear arises  
That there be no misuse of the blessed  
Influence of His Spirit dwelling within —  
To any damage of His work,  
or any delay of His purposes  
or to any hurt of His  
dearly beloved ones.

D.S.

# LIBERTY AND RELIGION

*by Dr. Benjamin Trumbull*  
(1801)

Religion has incalculable influence on the government, and happiness of a people. In proportion as men are influenced by the genuine principles of the Gospel, they will be selfgoverned. Crimes will be prevented, even in secret. Faith will give to individuals and to the community at large such security; peace and order as mere law can never afford. Where men feel the influence of religion, mild laws will be sufficient for the purposes of government, and but few restraints on the natural rights of the people will be necessary. But when conscience is lost, and moral motives have no influence, a people must be governed by severe laws and punishments - by prisons, swords and cannon. In just proportion as the influence of moral principles and motives are annihilated, the restraints of law must be increased, and the natural rights and liberties of the subjects be diminished.

At the same time property, character, life and all public and private interests will be less secure. What order, honor, or safety, what liberty or happiness can there be among such a people? It is doubtless the greatest quackery in politics to imagine that free government and liberty can be maintained without religion and morals.

## LETTER EXCERPTS

I'm still trying to learn the lesson of living, one day at a time; I've amply proven his promise of strength for the day, or moment, but fall so often into the haggling worry about next week, next month, year, even though I know there is no need and no way He can give me grace for those demands so long in advance. Today I only need grace to meet today's requirements.

I'm so glad the Lord doesn't require us to be great, just to be yielded, which is all most of us will ever achieve anyway. The human ego does not find humility a desirable trait for one's self even though admirable in others. Who wants to be servant to others? Oh, there have been a few extra humble people who have given themselves in this manner, but I'm afraid such moments are few in my own life. I guess I'm just too big a coward to go where the need is greatest. Or does the Lord fit the requirement to the individual, asking only little services of little people? Some of us could never be a Daniel or a Paul, a Hudson Taylor, Brother Andrew, David Livingstone or Amy Carmichael. I love the Beatitude which says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Inspired Version) If being poor in spirit means not being among the world's great, or bold, or talented, or courageous, but being among the world's nobodies; still by coming to Christ we too can be of the kingdom. The requirement of the kingdom is to become pure of heart, not great. If we only have two mites worth of service and we give it, it counts for all.

What a merciful Father we have. I am so glad that He is our judge. Not only for my own sake but that I don't have to try to judge any other. What a relief that all that is asked of us is to forgive, and that we can ask him to forgive others also. On the other hand if we don't forgive, how terrible to have to stand and be the accuser of those we should have loved enough that they could cause no umbrage in our feelings, regardless of how or where they failed in living up to our expectations of them.

When I think of all the people throughout the land where I am welcomed with open arms I feel I must surely be among the most blessed of all people. If only my heart could some way return only the half of it. It seems I am always on the receiving end and I don't have any way to return in kind, so all I can do is pray the Lord return to these through whom He blesses me, over and over again of his own love -- the blessing of his choosing -- and that they be made aware of his covering about them for being the instruments in his hands in blessing to others such as I.

## THE MAN AT THE FORK OF THE WAY

Of all of the objects pathetic in life  
that have come to my view, I will say  
The ONE most supreme, as I see it, at least,  
Is the MAN AT THE FORK OF THE WAY.

His course in past years has been reasonably straight;  
He has formed many friendships, you'll find;  
But now he has come to a place where it turns,  
And "for conscience" he must leave them behind.

It may be in business, in church or in state,  
And his oft' traveled paths are well known,  
But then all at once there turns up a cause,  
Where INTEGRITY, in it's true sense, MUST be shown.

To the folks who just casually notice this man,  
And his feelings, perhaps think that they know,  
We'd advise, from experience, for them to refrain,  
Or in passing their judgment, GO SLOW.

We have stood with this man at the fork of the way,  
Where beyond the path surely divides,  
We have felt with him keenly the sorrow ahead,  
Which his following either, decides.

We assure you, kind friend, it is no idle task  
For one to whom old friends are most dear,  
After years of their friendship to then have to part,  
And to leave them and stand without fear.

It may not be hard for those younger in years,  
To whom life has not yet become REAL,  
To switch, with a fancy, and follow like sheep  
After those who may lead, as men deal.

But to those who have "Seen for themselves" many times,  
And the OLD PRINCIPLES know to be true,  
Who cannot be moved by vain glory of men,  
This worship of "idols" won't do.

So the REAL MAN at the fork of the way must decide  
Between pleasure and comfort and ease,  
Or the path that is rough and thorny and hard,  
With no thought but his Maker to please.

And there comes often, too, the temptation to quit  
And let things all go as they will;  
And it takes lots of faith and courage and grit  
To keep straight and go on up the hill.

Oh, here's to that man... may God bless him with grace!  
As he stands at the fork of the way,  
That such choice shall be made, without turning or fear,  
That will prove WISE in that Great Judgment Day.

*Signed... an Ephramite.*

Do good with what thou hast or it will do thee no good.

*Wm. Penn*

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1985 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, March 31, 1985. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 29 and 30, 1985.

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.

WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR "ZION'S ADVOCATE"

Articles, sermons, poems, news items, letters, notices, etc. which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible they should be typewritten on one side of 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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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Address label for ZION'S ADVOCATE with postage information and a postmark from Fruitport, MI.

AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee. Unless specified otherwise, write to Elder Gary Housknecht, 2901 S. Norwood, Independence, MO 64052.

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" (39 minutes) - Illustrates how modern archeological finds in North and Central America lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continent's former inhabitants.

"Out of the Dust" (45 minutes) - Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon. Also available is a 35 minute version directed toward Indian viewers and entitled "A Lamp Unto My Feet."

"Light at Evening" (27 minutes) - Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

"The Return" (12 minutes) - Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the dedicated Temple Lot.

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.

Bible New Testament on Cassette Tapes

Complete set narrating the King James Version available to visually-impaired members.

Sermons on Cassette Tape

Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, 2929 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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

Table with 2 columns: Title and Price Each. Includes items like Primary, Volume 1, No. 1 Childhood of Jesus (Out of Print) N/C, Primary, Volume 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry (Out of Print), etc.