

# Zion's Advocate

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

Vol. 61

Independence, Missouri • September, 1984

No. 9

## If This Were All

If this were all of life we'll know,  
If this brief space of breath  
Were all there is to human toil,  
If death were really death,  
And never should the soul arise  
A finer world to see,  
How foolish would our struggle seem,  
How grim the earth would be!

If living were the whole of life,  
To end in seventy years,  
How pitifully its joys would seem!  
How idle are its tears!  
There'd be no faith to keep us true,  
No hope to keep us strong,  
And only fools would cherish dreams—  
No smile would last for long.

How purposeless the strife would be  
If there were nothing more,  
If there were not a plan to serve,  
An end to struggle for!  
No reason for a mortal's birth  
Except to have him die —  
How silly all the goals would seem  
For which men bravely try.

There must be something after death;  
Behind the toil of man  
There must exist a God divine  
Who's working out a plan;  
And this brief journey that we know  
As life must really be  
The getaway to a finer world  
That someday we shall see.

— Edgar A. Guest —

## — CONTENTS —

The Way (Apostle Ely) . . . . . p. 131	Count Your Blessings . . . . . p. 138
Arizona Bound . . . . . p. 134	The Endless, Suffering Love of God . . . . . p. 139
Path Lights . . . . . p. 136	Grand Junction News and Reunion Reporter . . . p. 140

# Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000)  
Official publication of The Church of Christ  
Headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd.  
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472  
Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

## EDITOR

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

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Gary Housknecht, 2901 S. Norwood, Indep., MO 64052 — 252-8702  
Diane Brockman, 201 S. Crysler, Indep., MO. 64050 — 252-0320

## BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(Temple Lot) 200 South River Boulevard, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Zion's Advocate  
(USPS 6993-0000), P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472.

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

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

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

Attn.: Alvin L. Harris, Business Manager, General Church  
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Secretary, Council of Apostles: William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Secretary, Council of Bishops: Leslie P. Case, 8312 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, Missouri 64139.

General Church Representatives in the Office: James M. Case, 1106 E. Guggell, Independence, Missouri 64055.

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

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

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

### 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. The deadline for each month is the 7th of the previous month.*

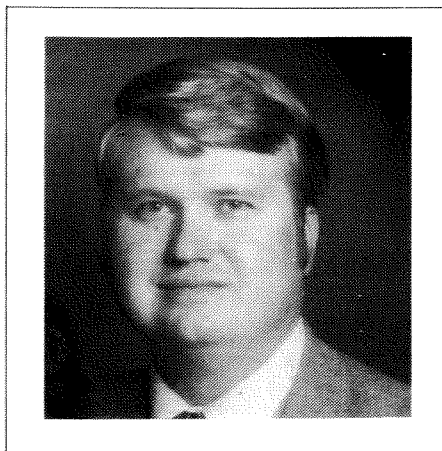
Editorial . . .

## Unnecessary Burdens

In an observation penned by Martin Buxbaum appearing in a recent *Reader's Digest*, a certain less-than-courageous knight was described as preparing for a long journey by trying to anticipate every conceivable problem or obstacle he might encounter and pack accordingly. Besides armour and a sword in anticipation of meeting an enemy, he carried ointment for burns and poison ivy, an ax for firewood, a tent, blankets, cookwear, feed for his horse, etc. So much did he carry that he was like a "clanking . . . tinkling . . .

junk pile." Part way into his journey and halfway across an old wooden bridge, he, his horse, and all his gear fell through weakened boards into the river and drowned.

Mr. Buxbaum's moral to the story is that "when we overburden ourselves with the anticipation of trouble,



Fate is laughing her head off." His conclusion, however, is what I want to enlarge upon, as he said, ". . . that he who travels with faith, travels lightest and safest."

Each of us may apply a different set of circumstances to this principle since our individual lives are so diverse, but the application I want you to dwell upon is something that should be common to all of us; man, woman or youth. The scriptures speak in numerous places about each of us having the responsibility as "hearers" of God's word

to also be "doers" of what He says. With that thought, then, we may properly assume that each of us are called to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Though the Priesthood may carry the heavier load to that end, including the preaching of the fullness of the


Gospel to all of the world, each baptized member has the real responsibility of carrying the principles of God's law, of shedding God's light and love, upon their own particular corner of the world. So, in the pursuit of that just cause, we all will travel upon lives "highways" to some extent, and, even though to some that highway may only take us as far as our immediate neighbors or our place of employment, the same kind of dangers lurk for us to stumble over. But, if we devote most of our energy in the wrong type of preparation, we will fall through the first weakened board (like the knight did) and fail.

Apply Buxbaum's theory, now, to this task. Will you pack a revolver to ward off potential psychopaths, mace spray for vicious dogs, three spare tires, a bottle of No-Doz, and a spare can of Gas? Being more realistic, will you maintain a small library in your desk at work so that you can quickly read up on Episcopalians, Methodists or Lutherans should one of them approach you with questions? Will you arm yourselves with every available concordance, commentary, study guide, topical Bible and reference book so that you will have at your fingertips the answer to every conceivable question about your religion? If you do, you may find yourself in the same predicament as our knight, for surely a question will be asked that you are not prepared for and you will fail. The most studied Apostle or prolific Evangelist in The Church of Christ hasn't the answer to every question, yet they don't fail because immediate knowledge of the scriptures is neither their first nor their last resort. Arm yourself, then, with faith and a good portion of God's Spirit. Christ said, "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." Luke 21:14-15.

Certainly, study is essential and many times various reference works can help us in a thorough study of a given subject. But over and above all that study is the very necessary aspect of prayer and fasting for understanding; the use of our individual faith in God's word; and a close walk with His Spirit. James (1:25), speaking of the "doer" of the word and the work it requires, said that "this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Truly, we can burden ourselves unnecessarily with concerns, fears and apprehensions about living our religion to its fullest — being doers of God's word — to the point where it fattens us and our spiritual health suffers. Let us take away the "fat" of those burdens by believing in the good news Isaiah brings (40:28-31): "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Let us pray for one another, especially your Priesthood, that we may "mount up with wings as eagles," free of unnecessary burdens, in pursuit of establishing the cause of Zion.

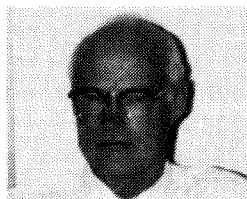


Gary Housknecht

Conclusion of:

## THE WAY

Sermon by Apostle Marvin Ely



I want to touch more fully on the thing called faith. It is an important thing in our lives. It is one of the spiritual gifts. Moroni gives not only faith but exceeding great faith. And then it is one of the fruits of the Spirit that each of us can have. Not each one will have exceeding great faith because to some it is given as a gift to be used by the power of God. Each can have faith as a fruit of the Spirit in your life. It is one of the fundamental principles of the gospel. I won't go into the others but I want to read about this one. Unto every man, and I don't care who it is, is death a measure of faith.

Turn to Romans 12, verse 3, "For I say, through the

grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;" This is a human failing. Sometimes we think of ourselves more highly than we ought. If the Lord would use you, don't think it's of yourself, for it isn't your power that does it. It isn't my power when I do something for the Lord. It's because we have come down in humility and yielded to him. "... but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." So we can be thankful, to every man, every woman, every child a measure of faith hath been dealt. Now lets back up and read verses 1-2.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1. Now that says *holy* and acceptable unto God. Now note verse two, "And be not conformed to this world:" I think that one of the things that's hurting mankind as much as any single factor is conformation to the ways and things of this world. It's

plainly said that we must not be conformed to this world. No, if there is vile language, we don't have to speak vilely, or use profanity. This is too much a part of the world in which we live. I'm literally amazed at the language that is used by those in places of leadership; and in books and on T.V. The Apostle Paul said, to not be conformed to the ways of the world, "but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." You can prove it by your study of the scripture which you should search diligently; by your prayers in your private places; by your worship in Church; by your Godly walk of life; by your example before your fellowmen.

In Luke 18: 8, just part of a verse, Jesus Christ had this to say: "... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Just think on that for a few minutes. When He comes, shall He find faith? He was concerned. Why? Because of all the things that were going to happen that would be very trying to the faith of the children of men. It behooves us to exercise our faith, to diligently follow God and Jesus Christ.

I want to touch on some of the things that were to happen in the last days, because I earnestly believe that we're going to have to have faith to stand. I know that. Turn again to the 24th chapter of Matthew, this wonderful prophecy of Jesus Christ. A lot of it pertains to events that will happen shortly before and just preceding His second coming. We find the disciples asking him the question, "... what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?" They wanted to know, maybe a bit prematurely, but they wanted to know. And the number one thing He mentioned (and I want you to notice this, I want to impress it upon you) says, verse 4, "... Take heed that no man deceive you." He was aware that deception would be rampant upon the face of this earth. There would be those who would be teaching without the authority to do it and would be teaching other than the true way. And He said, "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." There would be those who would even stand in the pulpit saying Jesus Christ is the one you should follow, that He is the way, and shall go on to deceive many. Verse 11: "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Verse 24: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.-- Now Christ foretold that of a certain day, and I believe we've entered a part of that era of time. It isn't completed yet; you haven't begun to see nearly all. Verse 21: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." I believe we've entered the fore part of that tribulation, but we've not nearly begun to see all the trying events that will take place.

I want to encourage each one of you to increase your faith, for most certainly with faith you can stand.

We need the gift of the power of the Holy Ghost in our lives. In the 12th chapter of the book of Daniel, Daniel looked down through time and saw this day: a time of trouble such as had never been. He saw it accurately. Turn to another statement of Jesus Christ in Luke 21: 25, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity;" That's uncertainty, and if ever there was a day of uncertainty, it is today among people of the earth, and a bit of it flows over into those who are a part of the body of Christ. Uncertainty, but it really need not be if we reach out in that humble faith. "... the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Yes, there is a fear of nuclear warfare, and hydrogen bombs and rightly so. I have no way of knowing how those will go, but I do know that God, all by himself can accomplish more than all the hydrogen bombs together. We mustn't underestimate the power of God and he is going to do some great and marvelous things. Fire and brimstone was rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah. There couldn't be found even ten righteous souls, and they were destroyed. Don't underestimate the power of God. Neither underestimate the power of God in the blessings he can bestow upon the children of men.

Now to go back to the question I read earlier: "When the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?" I turn to Moroni 7 and read the 35th verse: "And Christ hath said, If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me." If ye have faith ye shall have power to do it. Now turn to Ether 5: 28-29, "I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble;" So don't feel bad if you're weak creatures, "and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me ... and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them." We really can't lose. "Behold, I will shew unto the gentiles their weakness, and I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity, bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness." There the way is outlined so clear that each one of us should understand.

Now to verse 46 of Moroni 7: "How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope? And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you, that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal; and this because of your faith in him according to the promise;" The promise is there. What a fortunate people we are. The Apostle Paul said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Corinthians 15: 19. But he said that was not the case, because Christ died and was resurrected that men might live. Continuing in Moroni, "Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope; for without faith there can not be any hope." Faith and hope tie together, and note closely in verse

49: "And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart;" Make a mental note of that and don't forget it. You want to know the way? This servant is explaining the way, that's the way it is, meek and lowly of heart. "If so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity." And further on it says that charity is the pure love of Christ. There we have it in a nutshell. In order to have faith and hope we must have charity, and in order to have charity we must have faith and hope.

Now to 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8. Part of this is the same as verse 51 of Moroni, but I choose to read it here because of the part that isn't in the other. And I want to impress upon each the importance of this charity; this pure love of Christ in your lives. It is vital. It is the WAY, and I want to impress upon you how you might know if you have that charity, and how you might arrive at it. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." Without charity these don't amount to one thing. "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." And now read verse 13 out of place and then go back to verse 4, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Charity, the pure love of Christ, is the greatest. But let me tell you, you can't have it without faith and hope; and also you cannot have it save you are meek and lowly of heart. What is charity? Why is it so important? It says, verse 4, "Charity suffereth long . . ." Another place says longsuffering. So these with the pure love of Christ in their hearts are those who are willing to be longsuffering. "And is kind;" I like the scripture, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4: 32. That is the way we are to be, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. ". . . charity envieth not;" We don't envy what another has. Make mental notes of this, come back and read it, and the way it is written in Moroni: "charity vaunteth not itself," means to brag or boast. Jesus Christ never bragged or boasted. He was the greatest man that ever walked the face of this earth, yet he was meek and lowly of heart. We are to be a meek people. He said, "Come . . . learn of me . . . and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11: 28-29. So when you are troubled, learn of Jesus Christ. When everything goes well, learn of Jesus Christ, and you will find rest for your soul. We're going

to have trials that we can't even imagine in the days ahead, but with Jesus Christ you'll be able to be the victor. James 1:3 says that "the trying of your faith worketh patience." Be patient with your brothers and sisters. Those with charity are "not puffed up." They're not proud. Yet the Lord has given each of us certain talents, certain abilities. Use them in a humble way to give honor and glory to God. If you're more talented than another, don't be proud or puffed up about it but be humble, and I admonish you to use your talents.

"Doth not behave itself unseemly . . ." Unseemly means improperly. ". . . seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;" We'd better watch our thoughts. You are not hiding one thought from God. He knows what everyone is thinking as you're listening to this sermon. I hope you are paying close attention.

Before I go into the rest of this I want to go to the book of Mosiah chapter 2, and read verse 49, the plain language of King Benjamin: "But this much I can tell you, that if you do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish." That's as plain a language as can be read.

Let's go back to the scripture in Corinthians where it says not to rejoice in iniquity, yet there are those today in this land that do rejoice in iniquity. They even rejoice in those that perform iniquity. What a sad thing. Rejoice in the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ that can lead you in the way to eternal life. Be willing to bear with whatever becomes our lot. Apostle Paul said, "I glory in affliction:" Why? That's a strange statement. Because it works patience. He knew this. Believe all things, and certainly that's goodly things, not lies. Hope all things, endure all things. "Charity never faileth:" This charity will never fail.

Turn, once more, to Moroni 7, and you will notice that at the end of verse 51, it says, "for charity never faileth." Now verse 52. I want to impress this upon you: "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."

I hope I've outlined THE WAY, but add one more responsibility from verse 53: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren," and I want to speak to you the same as he spoke to them of old, "pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love" (or charity) "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." And how do we become the true followers of his Son Jesus Christ? In John 14:15, Jesus Christ said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

# Arizona Bound



Prior to our trip to the Arizona Camp for All Ages, I wrote the following:

Be with us, Lord, to guide and direct;  
Steer us safely through on this long trek.  
As we journey far away,  
We ask you to bless us every day.

Be with the leaders as they try to teach,  
Our children, every one and each;  
Stir their minds and imaginations  
That they might see the beauty of this nation.

Lift their hearts and renew their souls  
That they may know who is in control.  
Let fellowship and spiritual sweetness abound;  
Lead us all on to higher ground.

This, our prayer, our all would be  
That we might ever dwell with thee  
In understanding, truth and love.  
We thank you, Heavenly Father Above.

I feel the Lord was with us each day, due to the fact that we had only one malfunction of the bus and no major injuries to anyone. Also the attitude of everyone was pleasant, excited and interested.

My two weeks as a chaperone on this journey to Camp for All Ages in Arizona was a learning experience. I was able to see many sites in the various states which I had never seen before: The Rocky Mountains, Pike's Peak, Mesa Verde, The Grand Canyon, and the Great Sand Dunes, to name a few. I also had a chance to share a small time period in our teenagers lives to get to know them a little better. I want to thank them for allowing me to travel with them and to participate in their various activities.

Our young of today are the leaders of our Church tomorrow and I feel we have a group of young people that we can be proud of. If they are as willing to take part, in the future, as they were on the trip, the Church will surely continue to grow.

The leaders started out by telling the kids that this was their trip, so for one thing, they would be handling

the devotional service, morning and evening. The first person was appointed and after that they chose each other to be in charge. Their topics were as varied as their personalities: baptism, faith, good and evil spirits, blessings, God's love, Mark of the Beast, doing good, tithing and "murmuring."

The second night we were sitting around the campfire, deep in a discussion on baptism when we looked up to see a deer standing in our camp, listening intently. There was total silence as we just gazed at the deer. We continued the discussion as the deer slowly walked away. This event truly made us very aware of God's love for us and for all His creation.

Another day, we had traveled quite far. Everyone was tired, dirty and thirsty so there were complaints, questions and restlessness. The person in charge of services read to us from John 6:43: "Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves." We had to smile because it was so apropos of the situation. It was a very short service but the message stayed with us throughout the trip. Whenever we would become discontent with the travel, or heat or each other, someone was bound to say, "murmur, murmur" and that scripture would be recalled.

The Camp itself was an enjoyable experience. It was basically primitive: no running water, outdoor privy, tents or the ground to sleep on. All this made us feel closer to God as there were no radios, tv's or phones to interrupt our meditations or thoughts or activities.

Our brothers and sisters did everything possible to make us feel at home. The services were beautiful. Around the campfire, sitting on logs under the trees, all the testimonies, prayers and songs had more meaning. God surrounded us with His Spirit and His love.

This was an experience I'll never forget. I believe this journey brought our young people to a better understanding of, and closeness to, God and each other and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of it.

Diane Brockman  
Independence, Missouri



**Editor's Note:** The following are testimonials by several of the youth attending the Arizona Camp for All Ages from the Independence area.

*What I liked best about the trip was the bus ride and the camping and the fellowship! Well, I liked almost everything! The best scenery was the Grand Canyon. I also liked the meetings that we had every morning and every night. The kids were in charge! The Grudge Match was the best! I also felt the Spirit with us. I really loved the trip and I hope we get to go again!*  
Greg Brickhouse

*One night while we were on the trip to Arizona, I got a real bad earache so my Mom put olive oil in my ear. But in the middle of the night, I started to cry because the pain was so bad. I woke Cheri Pennington up because she was sleeping next to me in the tent and my Mom went and got me some aspirin and water. Still, I cried. So Mom and Cheri prayed for me and shortly afterward, I fell asleep. The next morning when I woke up, the earache was gone and did not return for the rest of the trip. A couple of nights later, Tricia had an earache and everyone prayed for her around the evening campfire. By the next morning she was well, too. I feel these were blessings to both Tricia and me.*  
Aimee Brockman

*The trip was fantastic! We had so much fellowship, love, and no fighting. It was nice meeting new people or people I haven't seen for a while on the bus and at the Camp For All Ages. Another thing that made it special was a devotion done each night by a different person—on varied topics—baptism, murmuring, the mark of the beast and so on. This trip helped many people to learn more about the Bible and quite a few have decided to get baptized. The trip was a wonderful spiritual time. I loved it and hope to go on another one soon.*

Thanks a lot,  
Michelle Brockman

*When we were at Monument Valley we were climbing a rock mountain and I slid down part of the hill. I scraped myself and it hurt real bad and that night I put some consecrated oil on it. The next morning it did not hurt and I would have not known I had hurt myself if I had not remembered. When I was down at the Camp my throat was hurting and I was sitting by Darrin Malone and he noticed that I was not singing and I told him why I was not singing. He told me to ask God to bless me and I said a prayer. The next song I could sing perfectly, even better than before. I am real thankful God is always with you!*

Nancy E. Case

*I liked going to the Sand Dunes the best because of all the deer. I liked the little shops along the road. I*

*liked the city the Indians built under the rocks. We stopped at a campground at Monument Valley and two little Indian girls came up to us and asked us if we wanted to buy necklaces. At the Camp For All Ages I liked the rocks and all the fun we had. I liked all the sermons and all the laughter we had and most of all that God was watching over us.*

Jason Christian

*I think that coming to the Camp helped me make a lot of decisions. I made a big decision about getting baptized. When I get back from the Missouri Reunion I'm going to get baptized. The scenery was real great and I want to thank all the people in Phoenix for having us.*

Cory Geier

*I thought the trip was really neat because I got to meet new friends and old friends. The Grudge Match was real fun but cleaning up wasn't. I feel all of us were really blessed. One way we were blessed was we didn't have any bad problems with the bus. The way home was very long.*

Jeff Oldham

*I think it was a good experience for us. It was also fun. I liked having meetings with the kids in charge. I'm glad everyone got along (no fighting). I loved the Grudge Match too, and the big rocks. I thought the whole trip was a blast.*

Love, Tricia Pennington

*The one thing I liked most about the trip was the Grudge Match. I never realized what a mess 25 lbs. of flour and water could make! The other thing was the love and fellowship we had on the way there, and on the way home on the bus. And especially once we got to the Camp. I also enjoyed the meetings we had on the way down with the kids in charge. I thought the chaperons were great. We all really had a good time.*

Thanks for a great time,  
Wendy Smith

*What I liked most about our trip to the Arizona Camp For All Ages was all the sights we visited. I liked Mesa Verde the best, because you could see very old artifacts of the Indians. We had lots of fun at the Camp and on the way there. I also liked the Grand Canyon because it was so big and beautiful.*

David Taylor

*We had fun going to the Camp. We stopped at a lot of fun places that were scenic. I think the Grand Canyon was the best because we had the Grudge Match with flour and water and we got to go shopping. We did a lot of fun activities at the Camp and I think we all had fun.*

Kyle Temple

# Path Lights

## TRUST GOD

On a spring coat I wear, a small silver tone pin carries a two-word message.

Recently a young woman "bagger" in a grocery store smiled up into my face. Her dark eyes were luminous, and I smiled back, charmed with her youthfulness and surprised by her unexpected interest. She exclaimed, "What a nice way to speak up!" She referred to the words shining from my lapel — "TRUST GOD."

Something descended upon me as though I were aflame! In this busy store in a city full of strangers a divine spark had ignited and warmed our small world. We both experienced JOY! How do I know? It beamed from her young face. She asked excitedly, "Do you listen to Christian Radio?" And I answered, "Yes, I do!" . . . Immediate close Bond! . . . Amazing!

The conveyor belt was supplying other's groceries for her to bag. I went my way, somewhat misty eyed you might guess. I knew that the two words on my lapel are power packed. That's why it pleased me to wear them there above my heart. Nevertheless, I marveled at their power to turn a mundane encounter into a shining Christian fellowship, though momentary in nature.

I share this incident with you, my friend, because I found it full of encouragement to speak out about the Faith and Trust which transform life and give it meaning. Never forget the importance of the light from just one lamp: Yours! Mine!

Irene Maley

## COMMITMENTS

*This is a testimony that I wanted to give on the weekend that my daughter Diane was baptized, but I was not able to talk because of the tears in my voice. I would like now to share it with all readers of the ZION'S ADVOCATE.*

Thirty-eight years ago, my Mother said to me, "Gale, do you think its about time for you to be baptized?" I said, "yah, I guess so." So on the following Sunday, I was baptized. I obeyed one of the commandments of God. As you can see, I didn't make very much of a commitment, but never-the-less, I WAS baptized.

Two weeks ago, on June 16, 1984, my daughter Diane obeyed that same commandment of God; she was baptized. This is where the similarity of these two baptisms stops. You see, Diane made a commitment to God and to her baptism. She read and studied and prayed until she was convinced that she MUST be

baptised, and that it MUST be done in the CHURCH OF CHRIST. She, further, made this commitment against the will of her husband, and against the will of her husband's minister, and against the will of her mother. I believe Diane received an immediate blessing after her baptism because of this commitment on her part.

The point I would like to make, and the reason I'm telling you this story, is that several months ago, I made a similar commitment, only in my case it was about 38 years after I was baptized. Never-the-less, I also received a blessing, one of which was the baptism of Diane, and another, is that others of my children are also reading and studying the Word of God. Also I am back in Church and have found Brothers and Sisters with love and compassion even for a prodigal son.

I know that it is a very beautiful thing, for a person to make a strong commitment to God before or at the time of Baptism, but I know this also: some of us need the help of the Holy Spirit abiding with us after baptism so we can make that commitment. It is a matter of how well we listen and how willing we are to follow that determines the length of time between baptism and our commitment. Some may take 38 years! I know this, that had I not been baptized 38 years ago, I never would have been baptized. So I am thankful to my Mother for leading me to baptism and I am thankful to the Holy Spirit for being patient with me all these years. I would like now to make a plea to all people who read this testimony: If you are baptized and haven't yet made YOUR commitment—MAKE IT! If you are not yet baptized—DO IT! You must take the first step in order to travel any journey. So TAKE THAT STEP! After you have made that commitment or taken that step, keep your heart and mind open, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you gently home. Do not procrastinate or be prodigal for 38 years like I was. There may not be 38 years left before the coming of Christ. There may not be 30 years left. There may not be 8 years. THERE MAY NOT BE 8 DAYS. No person knows! This much we do know, however: God said there would be signs before the coming and He told us what some of these signs would be. Brothers and Sisters, the world is ripe with signs and these signs are getting stronger every day. We each must make our own decision; a decision that will effect us for all eternity. That decision must be made before the return of Christ. My prayers go out to all who will read this, and especially to those who haven't yet made THEIR decision.

With love thru Christ,  
Gale I. Brantner

If there is a testimony in your life I can use in this series, please send it to:

Path Lights  
c/o Melissa McGhee  
2533 Glen Lane  
Independence, Mo. 64052



## Sermon Excerpts

I want to commend my Brother on the comments he made just before the last song, in requesting that we refrain from criticizing other churches. There was a revelation given in the early days of the Restoration when the Church of Christ was newly organized, that warned we should not contend against other churches, with an exception: the church of the Devil. We've got to contend against Satan and his determined efforts which are bold today, even coming out with a church in his name. We are admonished that we should not contend against other churches, and to "contend" means to criticize them. As our Brother has said, and I was happy to hear him say it, we can hold up our responsibilities affirmatively. We don't have to tear down anybody else to do that.

I think back to when I was a young boy, new in the church, although I had been raised up in it. I had not long before seen the need of putting Christ first and requested that I might enter into that relationship with Him. Can I bring something that will cause us to think and feel just a little bit more fervently than we have ever felt before? Can I bring something that will be challenging? The Lord has said, "Preach nothing but repentance to this generation," and I certainly can't improve on the Lord's program.

I turn to Peter's writings. We find Peter (chapter 1: 1-2) was addressing, "the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied." And they've been handed down to us because they are full of important things for us to be ever aware of. Starting with the 3rd verse, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope . . ." We were begotten once, and we can go back to the first chapter of Matthew and find a great listing of generations beginning with Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac, and Isaac begat Jacob, and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs, etc. Earthly fathers, but this is a little different, being a spiritual birth; a spiritual bringing forth, and there's where we find ourselves. Where do we go from there? "Unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

When is the last time? "Time only is measured unto men," Alma 19: 38. There is time and then there is eternity, and they are two different things. And the "last time" is the end. Do you have any idea what the Lord has in store for those who serve him? What he has in

store for you . . . in eternity, after time has ceased? I can't comprehend eternity. Can you? I can comprehend a few years, say seventy. I think I can comprehend a hundred, but I can't comprehend eternity. Let's get into mathematics now because eternity and mathematics are related. Mathematicians talk about infinity, but where is that? Well, it's out there, it doesn't cease. It's beyond comprehension. So is that which God has prepared for those who diligently serve him and keep his commandments. What is it worth to attain it?

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." I Peter 1: 6. Are any of us beyond temptation today? I'm not. I stumble and I have to get up and try again. I have not reached perfection. Maybe some of you have. We're called to it; it's our responsibility to meet it, but I lack. I don't know about you. Why don't I know about you? Because I can't see into your heart. God can. What do I see? I see the outside; I see what appears to be, what appears to me to be doesn't necessarily appear to my brother to be. We might look at you and I might see one thing and he might see another. Why? Because we're imperfect. We're not looking as God looks.

We run into manifold temptations and oftentimes we yield to them, so we're told that we should meet together often to confess our faults one to another. Do we do it? Do we have any to confess? Well, if we didn't, the instruction would not be that we confess, so I presume that we have them. I hope there are those among us that have reached that stage of perfection. I hope that I reach it, but I'm quick to tell you that I haven't reached it yet.

I want to tell you something that has been on my mind almost continually for some time. I heard about a dream that a sister in the church once had. I think this sister has gone on to her reward, I'm not real sure about that. This sister had a dream or vision, let it be either. Some one came to her and gave her an object, it looked like a beautiful white egg. She was told not to let it go, to hold it, take care of it, not to let it go! She walked into a building and was given to realize that the building was the church, and when she walked in, it looked neglected: Cobwebs, unkept, and she was upset and thought, "Oh! I've got to get in and help to clean this up." So she laid the object down so she could get busy and help clean up and she was rebuked right then. "You were told not to let it get out of your hands. Hold it, hold it faithfully, You can't clean this up, but I in my own due time will clean it up." Think about that.

Now I want you to think about the egg. We've all seen eggs. We crack an egg and there is a little orange yellow substance in the middle, a little nucleus. And

around it is another substance all contained in a membrane, a shell to protect it. What is an egg? An egg is a cell in which there are all the elements to make or form a complete being, be it a bird or whatever. Now think about that a moment. Do you see the beauty of this thing that she held in her hand, and was told never to let it loose? It had all the elements in it to make a perfect being. You and I have in our hands, if we have made a covenant with God, all the necessary elements to become that perfect being that God would have us to become, that we might dwell in His presence

through the endless reaches of eternity. You and I have something to develop. When I take that egg and hold it tight and let it develop, all the cobwebs are going to be cleared out by a power higher than mine. All the dirt and all the disorganization, or whatever you want to call it, is all going to be cared for and straightened out because I've done my part and let the egg develop into the beautiful creature that God wants it to be. That's in keeping the commandments of God. The more I've thought about that dream the more joy and happiness it has brought to my soul.

---

## Count Your Blessings

*By Edna R. Smith*

To count the grains of sand on the sea shore or the drops of falling rain would be an impossible task, yet our blessings are as numerous. God has showered blessings on mankind for many years, and I very much fear that we do not stop to count our blessings nor offer to God our heart felt gratitude and praise as we should.

Take the great blessings of sunshine which we take for granted never bothering to say thank you to God who sends it to us to enjoy. The many beauties of nature all about us that cry aloud of His goodness and tender care. We should be ashamed for our laxness in giving praise and glory to God. He justly deserves our praise because He has blessed us so abundantly.

The very fact that we are alive to enjoy the world about us is a great blessing from His hand; yet we take everything so much for granted. The food we eat to sustain life is another blessing from His bountiful hand, yet there are those that never give thanks for these blessings. A few words of blessing and thanksgiving at the beginning of the meal pleases our Heavenly Father very much, but so many fail to do this simple thing.

When the storms howl about us, how quick we are to grumble and fret, failing to see and realize God is only feeding His world and making it more beautiful for us to enjoy by such a cleansing. He paints a beautiful world for us to enjoy by such a cleansing. He paints a beautiful world for us to enjoy if we will only open our eyes to behold His wonders.

This morning I arose early while it was still dark outside and as I sat here in my home and listened to the world outside awaken to another day, with the birds sending their songs on high, I felt I was in a great church for all was serene and so peaceful. It is no wonder the Lord chose so often to preach and teach in the great outdoors. All our churches with their beautiful adornments can not compare to the beauties of nature, nor become any more sacred than an

awakening day. How anyone could believe there is no God, or that He does not rule this great universe, has and will always be a big mystery to me. I have been taught all my life to appreciate the beauty of nature and worship the great God who has made it all possible.

To have eyesight to see it all and hearing to hear it speak as it does if we will only listen is one of the greatest blessings God could bestow on mankind. I have seen the blind and hard of hearing in their little closed-in world give thanks to God for being alive. I have often wondered what they get out of life, but they are happy and they radiate that happiness to others. They in themselves are part of God's blessing to us teaching us appreciation of all that we have. Their very happiness which radiates from them to us is a blessing that no money can buy. Happiness in itself is contagious. I know of myself when I feel blue and down in the dumps a happy person helps so very much to lift my own spirits. For these blessings I give thanks to God.

The greatest gift and blessing that God has given us is the beautiful Gospel of Christ which was restored in these latter days. How bleak many lives would be without its warmth and comfort. God surely gives us so very much even sending His only begotten son to earth to die upon the cross that our souls might be redeemed from the fall of mankind. What greater blessing could there possibly be. If we view God's handy work then and turn our backs and deny Him, we are worse than the ostrich which buries its head in the sand. We must acknowledge the power and love that brings all this beauty into view.

There is a song that goes something like this, "For the beauty of the hills, for the vales between we see God." How true it is — a great and lasting blessing to all if we only will open our eyes to see what He has in store for us.

## THE ENDLESS, SUFFERING LOVE OF GOD

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Lord told me one time after much prayer asking what I could do, to do the things that came to hand, with an eye single to His glory; and at another time, to pray for Zion.

I do pray that we will become the children of Zion; that I will be a true child of Zion each day, living in love toward all people. I know, of myself, I cannot be this. I must have Jesus. I must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to have this pure love towards others. And I must forgive, forgive and forgive, always. We cannot love if we cannot forgive. If Jesus' example is the measure of the meaning and requirement of forgiving, it means to put oneself in the place of the one being forgiven, accepting the responsibility, remorse and pain into one's self. This Jesus did for us.

The very essence of Jesus' love for us is a "oneness" with us. As long as we whom the Lord created for love's sake must suffer, then the tying of himself to us by His love makes it impossible for Him to allow us to suffer anything without him suffering it too.

The whole body of mankind is suffering so dreadfully from the disease of sin and all its terrible consequences; and He who loves mankind must suffer it all with them. Ever since the first sin took place the Love of God has been, as it were, upon a cross of suffering. For the sake of the lost souls who could not be redeemed from this horrible disease of sin, the Son of God came to earth as man, was crucified by the sin of man, suffered and overcame it all, and took upon himself the whole sin-sick suffering race of mankind, that through Him they could be delivered from the disease of sin.

### GOD IS LOVE

God is love; his mercy brightens all the paths  
in which we rove;  
Bliss he wakes, and woe he lightens;  
God is wisdom, God is love.  
Chance and change are busy ever, man decays,  
and ages move,  
But his mercy never waneth; God is wisdom,  
God is love.  
Even the hour that darkest seemeth,  
will his changeless goodness prove;  
From the gloom his brightness streameth;  
God is wisdom, God is love.  
He with earthly cares entwined hope  
and comfort from above;  
Everywhere his glory shineth; God is wisdom,  
God is love.

We could never have known love, or loved, if Jesus had not so loved us. "We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4: 19. It is claimed that in the earliest translations this verse simply read, "we love, because he first loved us." For all outside of the love of God and Christ is sin and tends to selfishness, greed, hate and all the sickness of body and soul that accompany these things. All the painful things that mankind does to one another is the result of sin, for love cannot sin. Love is longsuffering, forgiving, not willing that any of His creation should perish. Jesus is love, so enduring; everlasting. None escape the all-encompassing reach of that wondrous love. Even those who must suffer the pangs of Hell because of their rebelliousness cannot escape His everlasting, endless, enduring love.

"This God is the God we adore, our Faithful, unchangeable friend, whose *love* is as large as his power and knows not beginning nor end. 'Tis Jesus, the first and the last, whose spirit will lead us safe home; We'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come." Zion's Hymnal, no. 217.

With So much love, Stella Winegar

---

### COURAGE

It requires much courage to be alone with God. It is then that all of self, all subtle egotism, is searched and hunted out of the soul. Selfishness cannot live in His presence. The praise of men becomes as dust beneath the feet, and the soul trembles even to receive honor of men, or to be recognized in this world as of any worth.

Jewish Hope

---

Courage is faith that has said its prayers.

#### Sunday School Supplies

Please note the updated "Sunday School Supplies" announcement on the back page of the Advocate. Watch for an article to appear soon which will more fully describe these materials. Also to be included will be the announcement about a new set of quarterlies by Sister Darl Temple.

—Editor

## TEMPLE LOT LOCAL NEWS

The Temple Lot Local proudly announces a 1984 one-per-month average increase in beautiful baby girls. The following is our who-begat-whom list. Gary and Janice (Sprague) Welch had the last baby boy before the little girls began arriving. Seth Michael Welch was born Sept. 1983. They took their brand new boy to a brand new home — along with a seven, four, and two-year old. It was a hectic Fall! The first of the baby girls was also the first grandchild for Tony and Louise Grzincic. Mandy Lynn was born to Mikeal and Connie (Grzincic) Payne in February. March gave Marvin and Edith Case a Florida vacation, thanks to Leanne Marie, born in Pensacola, where Scott and Marie (Case) Hale are stationed in the Marine Corps. Marie and Little Annie keep their feet on the ground while Scott flies jets and helicopters. March also brought Rachele Lynnette to Robert and Danielle (Sprague) Bruner. Jack and Judy Sprague are veteran grandparents, but this is the first for Rodger and Martha Bruner. April 13th was a very "lucky" day for Jim and Paula (Case) Morgan. That was the Friday Megan Leigh arrived. Alvin and I are *sure* we are too young to be grandparents; however, our fifth grandchild arrived, in spite of that fact, on June 2nd. We told Scott and Catherine they could keep Jessica Lynn, even though she didn't have the red hair we ordered. Sometimes you just can't get these young folks to cooperate. Since Jessica's other grandparents are even younger than we are, she is only the third grandchild for Al and Joy Leighton-Floyd. There! That's IT!! At least for the next few days, when we find out what July brings us . . . or maybe early August.

Two souls were added to the family of Christ in our local. Carmine Case, Jim and Bonnie's daughter, made her covenant with the Lord in May, and Raymond Roberts made this same commitment in June. We were visited in May by a young couple from the San Antonio area. John and Judy Jeschke wanted to know about the Church of Christ. We recently received the happy news that they too are now baptized members of our family, with local membership in Phoenix.

On February 18th two local "kids" we've watched from cradle to college became husband and wife. Becky Fann and David Rudd were married at the East Independence Local in a beautiful candlelight ceremony before a smiling packed house. Because I have known and loved their parents, Fran and Carolyn (Nast) Fann and Virgil and Grace (Bryant) Rudd, since I was a "kid," this was an especially sentimental service for me. Becky and David are the good young people every family prays to have. They and their families are a blessing to our church. We trust them to raise their own family in this same spirit.

In January and February two men accepted priesthood responsibility. George Adams and Scott Harris were each ordained a priest. Scott and George are blessed to have wives who support this responsibility. They also add another tie to the relationship their husbands have had since their teens because Scott's wife, Catherine, and George's wife, Sheri, are sisters. We are blessed in this blending of our families.

We have a "Share The Home Fires" project we would like to share with you. Some of our members have moved, because of work, all across our big land. We mail cassette tapes of our Sunday services, using label strips of ten addresses to a strip. After the first person receives the tape, they pull off the next label on the strip and mail the tape to the next person. If we have news and there is blank space at the end of the tape we add that. We encourage each person to add news too, but I think they must be "mike shy" because I haven't heard any added voices as the tapes make the rounds and then return to us. Perhaps your local has members whose work has taken them far away. You might like to bring them close to you in this way.

This may look like a semi-annual statistical report, but it is a brief overview of only a few of our many blessings so far this year.

Your sister in Christ,

Joyce Harris, Reporter

---

### Grand Junction News and Reunion Report

In preparing to write a report for the Advocate about the Colorado Reunion, I thought of how important these reports become to people like me, who are not privileged to travel and experience other reunions first-hand. So, I will attempt to highlight the services and hope that you may be here some day to see and hear for yourselves.

The Orchard Mesa Local of the Church of Christ was organized in 1952, due to the efforts of missionaries steadfast desire of local church members. Meetings were held at Ted and Sybil Ely's for some years before the local built a church nearby in 1962. We continue to meet here, greatly missing those who had been instrumental in those early efforts.

During the first meeting of the 1984 Reunion, there were moving testimonies given about those whose lives of dedication have continued to inspire us today. It would be wonderful if we could all be remembered that way, for our loving kindness, our seeking to further the gospel in the world, our efforts in the church to serve the Lord and set a good example. We remembered their favorite hymns and the love of music which the Lord gave them. Sometimes one would be able to call for a song that would voice their feelings they were unable to stand and bear. Our songs of praise become so dear, when we've found our hearts and voices lifted together to God.

The "special" music before the Friday afternoon message, a quartet sung harmoniously by Joel, Hube and Jim Yates and Don McIndoo, was a good introduction to the thoughts brought to us by Brother Allen Kauffman, as they sang "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth, and on the earth again shall stand." Christ lives here in our hearts. If we can't take Christ with us wherever we go, then we should take a closer look at our lives. Could we buy a ticket to attend a function and feel right about Christ going with us?

During song service Friday evening, we sang those beautiful hymns of praise, each calling for his favorite. Our chorister pays particular attention to the little hands waving for their request to be recognized. God seems to have given a particular love of music to them, and they retain sweet memories of these reunions. It was good to hear Brother Rhondal and Sister Irene Shaw together, as they have shared so many old gospel songs with us over the years. Joel and Wanda Yates sang one of my boys favorite songs, "How Great Thou Art."

Our speaker Friday evening was Brother Jay Moser, just beginning his life-long duties as an elder. Our younger ministers have a big task ahead of them, taking up the burden as the older ones lay it down. They deserve our prayers, that the Lord will sustain them in the years ahead. Sister Chris Moser, wife of Jay, sang "Rock of Ages, cleft for me." We have a rock to cling to in times of trouble.

It is our custom to gather quietly for prayer services, giving us a few moments to seek the Lord and His peace. During the organ prelude Saturday morning, Brother Hube Yates had the congregation sing as the church filled with brothers and sisters who had come from near and far. Each brought a testimony in his heart of the goodness of God. Some we heard, some we will yet hear, and some we saw glowing on the happy, sometimes tearful faces. Tears are not always a sign of a sorrowful heart. They can also be evidence of a greatly moved, uplifted, penitent heart.

We were privileged to hear Brother Marvin Case on Saturday afternoon. His ministry as a servant of the Lord has grown over the years, and we profited by those things he has learned. Marvin is a visiting

missionary and keeps in touch by phone with many members. His efforts to keep us aware of the needs for prayers help to make him a valued friend. The John Bell family, together for a short time, sang "Dear Lord and Father."

The Saturday evening song service was provided by the Bruners and Kauffmans. Their gospel music has kept us inspired to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We thank them for sharing their form of praise with us, for sharing their special gift so freely.

Introduction to the evening sermon was provided by twelve grandchildren of Brother Harvey and Sister Alvina Bell, so aptly termed the Dozen Cousins by one brother. They sang "The Unclouded Day." The speaker, Brother Marvin Ely, is the oldest son of Ted and Sybil, whose memory we cherish. When Marvin is not home tending his orchard, he is in the missionary field, visiting scattered members and those who are interested in the gospel, or taking care of his duties as an Apostle. He has told us many times of his experiences on the road and how the Lord protected and directed him.

It was good to share the sacrament Sunday morning with friends of Jesus. Brother Don McIndoo and Brother Marvin Ely presided over the meeting. It was particularly fulfilling to one of my children when he experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit during a sister's testimony concerning the raising from the dead of her little son, who is now grown and has children of his own. It is hard to explain the rush of feelings when the Spirit enters your heart, so now we have no need to further explain to him. Aric is ten and beginning to recognize his need to serve God, so this was a timely testimony to him. Two sisters from Phoenix testified of the uplifting missionary feeling they had experienced. We do have a story to tell to the nations, and the Lord will direct those who carry it forth. One brother from Independence told of his lack of spirituality, of his need to be more spiritually minded, to recognize the workings of Satan for what they are and rebuke him. It was good to hear of the healings and helps sent by God for the edification of the saints. Those things that discourage and hurt us are more than outweighed by heavenly blessings.

The music was especially good on Sunday evening (you can tell I truly enjoy others musical gifts!). The song service included special talent offerings by the Phoenix Ladies, the Phoenix Kids, the Grand Junction youth, to name but a few. Johna Ely sang "Somebody Knows". He knows and has graciously invited us to know Him.

Brother Don McIndoo was the final speaker, leaving us with a message to ponder on until we meet again. He has a special feeling for this local, having been here many times before. We never seem to greet a stranger when he comes. Too soon, it was time to bid farewell to our friends and pray for their safe return to

homes all over the nation. We sang "God Be With You Til We Meet Again."

Things have been quieter since then, but by no means on a downhill slide. Some visitors stayed to enjoy camping in these beautiful mountains, and my family went along. One afternoon was spent in scripture study, and there were many opportunities to talk about the church and the gospel.

Some sermon gleanings: We must abide in Christ's love and bear that good fruit, which is the product of worshipping in the spirit. Special love is required of the Lord's people. He was sent to hold out salvation to all, and sometimes we need a time of agonizing to become the beloved of the Lord. We must maintain faith to obtain the strength to endure, for Satan will exert his strength against those who would seek that Rod of Iron and hold fast to it. The truth of the gospel will bring us joy.

Our nation has made errors that have become stumbling blocks. People are pleased with themselves and do not have concern for the common good. We cannot travel very far alone, but must be fellow beings in the service of God. We care about each other to a degree and must strive to increase in brotherly love and kindness, for we injure our own soul if we do not care for others. The Lord is pleased with good manners and consideration for others. Repentance is necessary for those who would be purged of sins.

God does not change, and if we do not change, then we can stay with Him. He does not force us to believe, but encourages us to be honorable. He has called us to better things, but we become dimayed when feet of clay disturb an orderly world. We are sometimes confused and in need of calming reassurance. Yet, we still have a testimony which cannot be taken away. It can be *thrown* away, but never *taken* away from us. Jesus himself was kindly and gracious, leaving us the instruction to study His word, so that we may know His commandments and endure to the end.

We have begun a new course of study in the mid-week study class. The Fruits of the Spirit and the Spiritual Gifts could be examined for some time and we could never find a really good stopping place. Our pastor has drawn out comments and encouraged us to share our references, in which we gain much from the notes and insight of others. We sometimes find that the needs of the early church were very much like our own, which brought good instruction from Paul, Nephi, and other men of God. They understood that the Lord is not bound by the laws of nature and will work according to our faith in Him. That thought sustains us in mid-week prayer service, where we unite in behalf of those whose needs are so great. We hope to hear that our prayers are answered in marvelous ways.

In gospel bonds,  
Becky Downs, reporter

## East Independence Local News

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters everywhere from the Little White Church at the crossroads. It has been quite some time since I have written for the Advocate in this capacity.

The road leading to our little church has been torn up by the county to improve the corner. This inconvenience has not seemed to hamper any of us in getting to church services even though we must go a little farther to gain access to the church.

Some of our young people and adults went to the "Camp for All Ages" in Arizona. They went by a bus which was purchased for the occasion. Brother Randy Sheldon drove the bus most of the way and all report they had a very good time and no trouble.

Our chapel on Sunday mornings has been well filled. All our ministry plus the visiting ministry have given us much food for thought. The theme running through all our services seems to be the "Second Coming of our Lord and Saviour." We must make a greater effort to cleanse from our lives those things of this world that draw us away from God and not toward Him. God has set the Gospel plan in scripture by which we must govern our lives. We must become that peculiar people by the way we live, not by manner of dress. Our apparel is what shows to others, but we are a peculiar people because of our belief and by the lives we live.

May 29th we held our annual business meeting and the following officers were elected:

Pastor: Elder Robert Oldham; Assistant Pastor: Elder Gary Housknecht; Secretary: Sister Darl Temple; Treasurer: Sister June Sarratt; Auditor: Brother Steve McGhee; Advocate Reporter: Sister Edna Smith; Collection Supervisors: Brother Rick Olsen and Brother Steve McGhee; Social Committee: Sister Pat McGee, Sister Melissa McGhee, Sister Diane Brockman; Dinner Sunday Committee: Sister Jennifer Oldham, Sister Susan Brickhouse, Sister Becky Sheldon; Inside Custodian: Brother Jim Smith; Outside Custodian: Brother Calvin Randall; Chorister: Sister Neva Housknecht; Assistant Chorister: Sister Melissa McGhee; Pianist: Sister Darl Temple; Assistant Pianist: Sister Kim Oldham; Sunshine Person: Sister Michele Fisher; Flower Arranger: Sister Sharon Liekness; Librarian: Teacher Ron Temple; Recorder: Brother Kyle Temple; Maintenance Committee: Priest Isaac "Bick" Brockman Jr., Brother Paul Liekness, Teacher Ron Temple; Junior Young People Leader: Sister Cheryl Taylor.

May we all strive harder than ever to become God's children here on earth. Our daily newspaper gives so much that verifies the prophecies of both our books of scripture that govern our lives. This old world seems to be pulling us into paths that are foreign to God, making some things look good, but in truth are evil.

Until next time, we say "see you then,"

Your Advocate Reporter — Edna R. Smith



## COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Another month has slipped by and our summer here in Missouri is nearly over. Already the days are getting shorter as the earth turns on its axis and gets ready for another season change. It's amazing to consider the completeness of this vast universe that God has put into motion.

On July 8th, our pastor, Brother Jack Martin, gave a sermon on faith. He gave the definition as found in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." He told us that faith must be worked (or contended) for as stated in Jude 1:3. You can not come to a plateau and just sit there or your faith will dwindle away. Faith must be cultivated, worked with, much as a plant in your garden. It must be exercised or, as a muscle unused, it will dwindle away and become useless.

The following Sunday Brother Nicholas Denham and his wife, Dorothy, of Independence were our guests. Brother Nicholas was our speaker. He asked the question, "Why was I born?" Then gave the answer that all were born for the same reason, that we might make a decision: Will I obey my Heavenly Father or will I rebel? How many times have we rebelled against that which God has given us to do? He used for example, Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:11-19. Brother Denham then read Matthew 5:48 and 6:1-15 which included the Lord's Prayer; making comments as he went along. It was an easily heard and easily understood sermon. The hard part is to apply and do it.

Brother Larry Shaw was our speaker July 22nd. Since he and his family have returned from vacation our congregation has increased almost by half. They certainly have been missed.

Brother Shaw made comment on a very interesting book he has been reading called *The Source* by James Michener. It tells about the Jews and why they are what they are and how strictly they obeyed their laws. He went on and asked if we were satisfied with our relationship to God and is God satisfied with our relationship to Him? Our responsibility to the law (Mosaic) doesn't stop with just obeying the law, but Jesus came and taught that we must not only love God, but our neighbor, must deal justly with family, friends, employers, etc. He closed his sermon with some verses from II Timothy which I'll give and you can read on your own. II Timothy 1:1-7; 2:15,23; 3:1-7; 4:7-8; and a wonderful promise in Psalms 23:6.

Brother Allen Kauffman spoke to us July 29th about the Holy Ghost. He read many scriptures and made comments I can't even touch on. He read from I Corinthians 3:16-21, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Then I Corinthians 6:19-20, "... ye are not your own ... ye are bought with a price ..." He asked what the purpose of the Holy Ghost is? John 14:15-18, "... I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever ..." Why do we need it? I John 2:20-27, "... the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you ..." How do we receive it? Acts 19:1-6, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost come on them ..." Brother Kauffman closed his sermon by asking, "Do you use this gift? And how?"

We still have some vacationers absent from us, namely, Rhondal and Irene Shaw. I think they're still gallivanting around Colorado and are to come home around October. I hope they know they're missed—even Rhondal!

Sister Floralise Yates has been back in the hospital and is home again. I would ask that you remember her and Brother Joe in your prayers. Also Lynda and Oreta Yates, though they're better, still need your prayers, as we all do. Good news! Brother Oren Caviness is back with us and doing very well. It is such a pleasure to have he and Esther join our services again. Thank you for your prayers on their behalf.

You know, a few months past, Brother Rodger Bruner of Independence gave a sermon here at Collins on "attitude." I've thought about it quite a lot (Maybe it was given for me). In either case, it kept me awake last night. Sometimes I am misunderstood in something I've said or done and probably everyone can relate to that. Often I feel that I must be super careful of what I say for fear that anything I say can and will be held against me. I guess that all relates back to "attitude". So, while I considered these things I thought how helpful (and possibly discouraging) a 24-hour looking glass would be. Not that we could see our outward appearance (hair, clothes, etc.) but that we could see the inside, our attitude, the way we sound and appear to others. Just a thought I had last night and since it kept me awake I thought I'd bother you with it too. May God bless!

Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman

---

## Collins Local Rally

The annual Collins (Missouri) Local Rally will be held Saturday & Sunday, October 20th and 21st. Services begin at 10:00 a.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday. For more information or for housing arrangements call: **Jack Martin** at **417-275-4608**. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending to join with us in fellowship and worship of our Lord.

