

Zion's Advocate

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

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Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They Are Prayed

Life without purpose is barren indeed —
There can't be a harvest unless you plant seed,
There can't be attainment unless there's a goal,
And man's but a robot unless there's a soul.

If we send no ships out, no ships will come in,
And unless there's a contest, no one can win.
For games can't be won unless they are played,
And prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed.

So whatever is wrong with your life today,
You'll find a solution if you kneel down and pray.
Not just for pleasure, enjoyment and health,
Not just for honors and prestige and wealth.

But pray for a purpose to make life worth living,
And pray for the joy of unselfish giving,
For great is your gladness and rich your reward
When you make your life's purpose the choice of
the Lord.

Helen Steiner Rice

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Zion's Advocate

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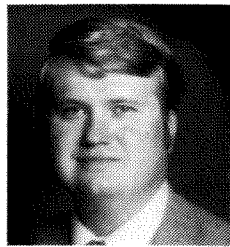
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Editorial . . .

The Case of the HIDDEN DIARY

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, the beasts and fish and fowls of the air. Man, He created, then woman, Adam and Eve. God made a simple rule by which the man and the woman should abide. But an angel, turned prideful and rebellious, led the woman, then the man, to break the rule. Thereupon, man was made to blush and all sorts of interesting things began to happen.



This prompted the creation of the Diary, on which all men and women would record their goings-on and innermost thoughts and feelings.

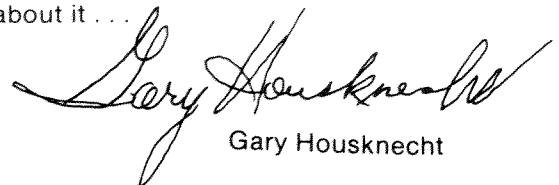
God decided to make a way such that mankind could have eternal life with Him in Heaven, but it meant having to obey all His new rules. Later, He even sent the very first of His creation, His son Jesus Christ, to live among men and be crucified and die for the sins of all of Adam's children. Jesus rose from the dead, though, which, in part, signified mankind's ability to rise above themselves (and their occasional mistakes)

and earn that reservation in Heaven through belief on Jesus Christ and repentance.

Now imagine Fred. Fred is one of Adam's descendants living in our day. And, being the faithful soldier that he is, Fred has kept his diary all throughout his life. But why does Fred keep his diary hidden? I wonder if Fred knows that when God said, about the end of time, the book of life would be opened and Fred would be judged from it — the "book" God was talking about was Fred's diary?

Now you won't find anything in the creation story about diaries. But you know about diaries. You may even keep one. And if not, think for a moment, what would be written in it if you did. Columnist Robert Orben said to "live your life so that you don't have to hide your diary." Would yours be the case of the hidden diary?

Think about it . . .


 Gary Housknecht

“GIFTS” (use or lose)

I ask for your prayers and His strength and direction that I might bring something that the Lord desires to be brought to you this night. And I feel what I've prepared probably is least suitable for this group here, but so be it.

Now if you detect a quiver or stumble in my voice, it's not because I'm nervous, I'm just trying to play on your sympathies.

I would like to take the liberty of telling a little about myself and bear a testimony, because outside of my immediate family here, very few of you know of my younger days. I was born and raised in the Rockford/Cedar Springs area of central lower Michigan. I am the oldest of six children born to George and Sarah Brantner. My sister Jeanette and I were baptized on Mother's Day in 1944, in a small creek near our home by a dear brother, Elder Lewis E. Welch; a man who had more of the Holy Word committed to memory than the most modern versions of the Bible have in them. I believe that. A lot like our brother, James Maynard Case, or my brother, Isaac, here, and others I won't name at this time.

I joined the Army in 1947, spent most of a three year hitch in the Panama Canal Zone; came back to the states for a discharge in 1950, just a few days before the servicemen were frozen into the service for the Korean conflict. Some of you older ones will remember this period of time. I had planned to re-enlist, but something kept telling me, "take your discharge. Go on home." And although I didn't realize it at that time, the Lord sure was looking after me. I was in a position to be one of the first ones that would have been sent over there.

I met, courted, and married my wonderful wife, Jeanne; to us were born three children. Our two daughters, married, live in Michigan, and son Andy lives near Centerview with his wife and children. They are here tonight. And we have seven beautiful grandchildren.

Now this was the easy part to tell. What I'm going now to say isn't so easy. This isn't easy to confess to at all, but I allowed the evil one to control much of my life. Always finding excuses to keep from committing myself, always working on jobs that kept me busy on Sunday, keeping me away from church.

Even up to four years ago, and my wife reminds me of this every once in awhile, we were trying to meet and talk about starting a local or a congregation in Warrensburg. I said that I would go but I didn't want to commit myself to anything. In other words, the old evil one was still working on me. He didn't want me to say "yea" or "nay." I didn't want to lay anything on the line,

so to speak. But even before this time, I felt the Lord had a plan for me; even way back at my time of baptism. This I had totally forgotten, but later on it was brought back to me, that if I did the things that I should do that I would be standing up in this position. And if it weren't for the love of the Creator and His instructions I'm afraid I wouldn't be here. I might still be floundering around in that apathetic state.

But through an instrument not of our faith (and what he was saying was repulsive to me), as I was in a church with my son-in-law, I was told that it was time for me to carry my share of the load. And I wondered at the time why it wasn't someone that I knew or someone in the church, but God in His wisdom knew that if it had been, I'd have rejected it. And I thoroughly believe in that 10th Article, in the Articles of Faith and Practice. I think the Lord will use whoever He will whenever He will, and wherever He will to instruct those that He wants instructed.

By preference I would be seated out there with you folks and listening to somebody else up here. I'm a whole lot better at listening than I am at talking. But as Brother Ike (Brockman) related, I was called as an Elder in September of 1983. He knew not of these inner struggles of mine. I was ordained in October of 1983 by Apostle E. L. Yates and my dad. The witness I had to this calling is quite involved and I'd rather not go into it here.

Have any of you heard the saying "Use it or Lose it?" Anyone here work for Civil Service or the Post Office? This term is used in my place of work. I work at Whiteman Air Force Base as a mechanic and a machinist. Anyway, this term is used regarding our vacation time. You build up so many hours per pay period and after it hits a certain number anything you build after that you lose. Needless to say, nobody loses any vacation time. My question is, "Why don't we guard those spiritual gifts that the Lord gives just as close?" We are told that they'll be taken away from us if we don't use them. There are many other things that we stand to lose also if we don't exercise them, but the spiritual gifts are the ones mainly of concern.

I'd like to read the 4th chapter of 1 Timothy: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." This tells me if we can close our eyes, we can eat anything that God puts on this earth, if we need it, if we

ask His blessing on it. It doesn't say you can't eat fish or you have to eat fish on Friday, and that you can't eat pork. "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things." You know everytime I read this, I think of those people out there in their sweatsuits running off the miles, running off the pounds, and really they wouldn't have to do that if they'd stop bending their elbow at the supper table. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." And here is another word that's mighty big, that word CHARITY. Do we have charity? That charity that we should have?

This is Paul talking and the instructions were for Timothy, but they're for us also in this day. Verses 13-16: "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto thy doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." And again, that 14th verse, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee." This is the all important admonition in these scriptures.

Now I'd like to turn to 1 Corinthians 12. Let's see what these gifts are. This is Paul talking again. I feel you all know what these gifts are but let's bring it back to memory again. I'm going to read down through the 11th verse. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away into these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to

another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." This tells me that a person can have — could have — none to nine of these gifts. I would think that most have several, as it says here. And if a man has knowledge, he'd better pray that he has wisdom to use that knowledge. Many persons are offended by those that are knowledgeable. And I would relate, if I've got the right quotation — Proverbs 18:19, where it says that if you offend your brother he's harder to win than a strong city. I think we of the Church of Christ probably are guilty of this because of our strong belief and conviction in the truth therein, that we are the one true church. Sometimes we come on so strong that we do scare those away that we try to approach. So let us gain knowledge by this word. And I believe that if I had that knowledge I would sure be praying for wisdom to use it.

In the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians, we are told that charity is the greatest of all. I'm not going to turn to it, but we know that all things are by that charity, by that love of our fellow man. Of course, Jesus admonishes us to love our fellow man as ourselves.

And again in the parable, let us turn to Mark 4:24-25: "And He said unto them, take heed what you hear; with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath." It's a little bit of a tongue twister there, but if you don't use what you have, you're not going to have it.

Divine economics baffle us until we realize that gifts wasted deserve to be taken from us. Good trustees deserve having more entrusted to them. Remember 1 Timothy 4:14, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee." Use the talents you have and more will be given you. Some people fail because they refuse to try.

Now I'd like to bring another thought with these gifts and talents. In that light I'll turn to Romans 1:16, 17: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." What I want to bring out here is: "For it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

The Church of Christ is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. I think we all believe that. It's mission is to carry the gospel — (the gospel is the good word, and the *good* word can only be good if it's the *full* word) — to the world. This makes us a missionary church, although if we would look at the recorder's record over the last few years, it would be hard to understand this. With a declining membership, how can we feel that we are doing God's will? It's time to take heed, that we don't lose that which we have. The

obligation rests upon all of us here, and all those who are members of *HIS* Church. Everyone, to the extent of his or her talents or gifts and opportunities, is to fulfill the Savior's commission. This is so near to me because as I stated earlier in my testimony of my rebellious, earlier life, I could have lost it all. I pray continually to God that I do not fall back into that way that the Adversary so dearly loves.

Here again, the old adage is so true, "Don't point a finger at anyone because three will point back at you." But many have excused themselves from rendering their gifts to the service of Christ because they feel others have superior endowments and advantages. The opinion has prevailed that only those who are especially talented are required to consecrate their abilities to the service of God. Do you believe that? I do. I've seen it happen. I've had it happen. But this is not so stated in the parable. When the master of the house called his servants, he gave "... to every man his work." Mark 13:34. With a loving spirit we may perform life's humblest duties "... as to the Lord." Colossians 3:23. If the love of God is in the heart, it will be manifested in the life. We are not to wait for a great occasion or to expect extraordinary abilities before we go to work for God. If our daily life is a testimony to that purity and sincerity of our faith, and others are convinced that we desire to benefit them, our efforts will not be wholly lost. We have only to go forward quietly, doing faithfully the work that God has assigned and He will take care of the rest. When the Lord gives a gift to mankind, He also gives power to put it into effect. And I am sure glad He does. If a person places that gift on a shelf, so to speak, the power of it will become weak as far as that person is concerned. And when that God-given power in a person becomes weak, it becomes shaken. Then their critics will say, "Where is their great power, where is their God?" If we take a jar of honey, and liken that jar of honey to those spiritual gifts that God has endowed us with, and we put it in the refrigerator, don't try to spread it on your pancake the next morning. That's the same thing with these spiritual gifts. If you put them in storage they will not be useable when you want or need to use them.

I'd like now to read some words of Moroni, page 775. This is the 10th chapter of Moroni, 8th verse: "And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them. For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the

word of knowledge by the same Spirit; and to another exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit." These are very nearly the same as we read in Corinthians, but the wording is slightly different. "And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues. And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they will come unto every man severally, according as he will. And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember every good gift cometh of Christ. And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and for ever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men. Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the Kingdom of God." That's only one of the requisites; there are many others. "Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope; and if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair, and despair cometh because of iniquity. And Christ truly said unto our fathers, If ye have faith, ye can do all things which are expedient unto me. And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth, that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief. And wo be unto the children of men, if this be the case; for there shall be none that doeth good among you, no not one."

This is a terrific promise, but if we don't cultivate these gifts, and hold to this faith, and have great charity for our fellow man, and become a true missionary church as we should, then these things are going to be lost to us. And along with those come the rest of the condemnation.

I would have you all keep in mind those things that I tried to bring forth, that maybe it's time that we, as a church, do get ourselves together, and bring this Word to the people that we're supposed to.

Remember, exercise those gifts.

In Gospel bonds,

Charles Brantner

Path Lights

MIRACLE OF THE ELECTRIC BILL

June, our daughter, was a small baby of about three months when God came to my rescue in the time of need.

We were living in an all electric home and the wages weren't very high, so at times it was hard to meet our bills. We had been notified that if our electric bill was not paid by a certain date our electricity would be shut off. I had been praying over this matter for some time and Ken was trying in every way he knew to raise the necessary money to pay this bill. We would not ask for help of our brothers and sisters for we were too proud to let our plight be known.

On the day the electricity was to be shut off, I was in my kitchen praying and caring for my family. Ken had gone to work and I thought it odd he didn't take the car, but there it was in the garage. My neighbor, Mrs. Rice, came over and as she always came in the back door I was rather surprised to have her come in the front door. I'm making this point for a very definite reason: Had she come in the back door I would have given her the credit for what happened and not the Heavenly Father as I should.

As was my due I offered her a cup of coffee and going to the cupboard for a cup, there on the shelf was the exact amount of our electric bill — not a penny less or a penny more. Thinking Ken had left the money after all and not told me I asked Mrs. Rice if she would go with me to help with the children while I went to pay this bill. It was a distance of about three miles from our home.

When I got back I called Ken and said, "you left the money after all." He told me he hadn't and said the car wouldn't start and he walked to work because he had no money for car fare.

"The car started for me," I told him. "Mrs. Rice and I went out and paid that electric bill." He couldn't understand how it could have started as the gas tank was dry.

That evening when he got home he tried to start the car, but as in the morning when he had to go to work, it would not start. God heard and answered our prayers and came to our rescue. Doubt God? No never! He is too real and He does keep His promises for which I'm a living testimony. My fear is that I'll not be as faithful as I should be for He has watched over me and mine over fifty years and myself for 70 years.

Edna Smith

Edna Smith

CONSTANTLY ABIDING

"... Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required. . ." Luke 12:48. What an awesome statement; especially to someone like me, the recipient of so many blessings. So much is required of me, yet how little I give. I do feel quite strongly that we should give our testimony of God's goodness at every opportunity. So this is my abbreviated testimony of His blessings to me.

As I look back on my life (at my advanced age —Ha!) my blessings began at birth, specifically, with my special parents. They are two people who devoted their lives to giving me the best in life, spiritually and materially. What's more, they worked at setting a good example for me to live by. In a time when parenting is considered a minor role in life, I hope I can be as unselfish a parent as they have been.

Another special blessing was that I was born into the "Gospel Bonds." I received such a marvelous heritage in the Church of Christ (this, thanks to my Grandmother Anna Keeney), and the support that only a family in the Gospel can give. From the time I made my commitment and was baptized, and received the Gift of the Holy Ghost, I have felt His presence with me at *all* times. In times of doubt, turmoil, fear — anytime I called out to the Lord — He always responded with just what I needed! I credit the Lord for helping me avoid all the mistakes I could have made, all the right decisions I did make, and all the good in my life! What a tremendous testimony of the Lord's love for me.

When the most important decision in life was mine to make, choosing a mate for life (I must be careful how I word this or someone I know could get puffed up! Ha!), here again, I received the blessing of the Lord's help. I believe the Lord brought Kim and I together; that it is His will that we share our lives. This knowledge has given our relationship added strength during the "rocky times." It would be very frightening for me to make such a serious commitment, such as marriage without the Lord's direction.

I suppose I can say the greatest blessing of all in my life is my sons, Justin and Trevor. They have brought so much meaning and joy into our lives. I feel my acute responsibility toward them and I pray constantly for the Lord's direction to raise them to be His servants in whatever capacity He will call them.

Last, but not least, is the blessing of our little local we have just organized here in Springfield. This is truly a DREAM come true. It continues to be a wonder how the Lord supplies our every need. We are all so very excited and proud and ask that you all continue to pray for us that we will become a productive and spiritually alive local.

My testimonies of the Lord's blessings go on and on. There is no end to how He has blessed me and my family. From the expressions of His love through our Brothers and Sisters in the Gospel, to the obvious touch of His hand in our lives. I want to thank the Lord and praise His name for these blessings and all those to come.

In Gospel Bonds, Jane Ann Stancil

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

Baptism of Julie Ann (Maley) Tansey

On August 26, 1984, as near sunset turned the waters of a lake in Evansdale, Iowa, to gold, a small group of people stood at waters edge as a silver-haired servant of God escorted his youngest daughter into waist deep water. Prayer had been offered, and two verses of "Just As I Am" were sung. Elder Ben Case had read from both the Bible and Book of Mormon —John 3:1-8 and III Nephi 5:18-28. The servant's hand was raised and the familiar words were spoken. Julie was buried for that fraction of a second, in obedience to her Creator, the waters of the lake coming together over her and obscuring her from our sight. Then God's servant and their Father's new, freshly washed "child" walked supporting each other, back to the lake's edge. The handful of witnesses returned to higher ground where lawn chairs had been set out. One witness who was not able to negotiate the steps to the lake waited there. The three remaining verses of "Just As I Am" were sung. Elder Ben Case offered prayer of blessing and thanksgiving.

The lake where the baptism took place is adjacent to the residence of Gail and Virginia Tansey, parents of Julie's husband. The senior Yanses and daughter Colleen invited us in. We shared cold refreshments and, oh, such warm fellowship, in mutual recognition of the deep significance of the baptism of our beloved Julie. At water's edge Virginia had been first to extend her hand to Julie, with a kiss and words of love and thankfulness. No report of the event would be complete or right without this observation of the loving care of Julie's "other" mother.

It is necessary to tell you here that Elders Benjamin Case and Forest Maley didn't schedule this baptism together. Our all-knowing Father had looked into several hearts and said, "The time is *NOW!*" — "GO!"

Her parents had not known until they telephoned their intent to visit, that Bro. Bennie had made an appointment with Julie to come and talk with her concerning her need and wish for baptism. Then Ben was requested by his employer to work Saturday; so it

was necessary to shift his appointment to Sunday afternoon. Julie has only every other weekend off from her work. Her parents had discovered that they could get away "this" weekend and had come Friday night. Remarkably, the weather of Saturday and Sunday was perfect in Iowa. On Monday the heat of August resumed! Ben arrived on Sunday afternoon with no thought that Julie's baptism would take place immediately following their talk together. The request for baptism had gone unfulfilled for over a year. Suddenly *NOW* was the time! A friend had borrowed Ben's truck for some hauling needs. Ben had driven his friend's car for this interview of Julie. Wisdom dictated that he return his friend's car and get his truck, since evening was well advanced. Now, plans to care for the confirmation, the laying on of hands, at Julie and Rick's home had become a problem. Julie was apprehensive because of her long wait for baptism, of waiting until another time when there could be a second Elder to share in the confirmation. Forest suggested that we go to the Lord and ask His advice. The four of us, and not-quite-three-year-old Stephanie, who played sweetly about us, held one of those precious times of sharing Faith. Then we knelt together in prayer with all participating. "*NOW*" was the time for the confirmation. It was done. The words were beautiful and are recorded in heaven. Perhaps it is recorded there that another Powerful pair of hands were laid upon Julie's head.

We were so very few to offer the hand of fellowship. We missed the loved and familiar ones we saw in memory who had been present at the baptism of our other children, but were grateful for the loving and joyful kindness of those who shared in Julie's entrance into the Kingdom. Our Father provides bountifully for our spiritual needs. We thank Him and praise Him.

For those who might like to rejoice (by mail) with Julie and Rick, their address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Tansey
530 California
Waterloo, Iowa 50707

Irene Maley

Sunday School Lessons

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the annual Church of Christ General Sunday School Association meeting this past April, it was agreed that the seven local Sunday Schools represented at the meeting would each contribute two Sunday School lessons for publication in the *Zion's Advocate* this conference year. The seven locals represented were the Temple Lot; East Independence; Warrensburg, Mo.; Bradley, Mi.; Flint, Mi.; Phoenix, Az.

and Grand Junction, Co. The deadline was to have been June 30, 1984. The following lesson was submitted from the Grand Junction, Colorado, local Church of Christ. This lesson and others that may appear in this series are not necessarily the teaching of the Church but are written and printed here as suggested material for use in Sunday School classes.

The Creation

What does creation mean? The word *create* means to originate, to bring into being from nothing, to cause to exist. When we speak of *the creation*, we are talking about the beginning of heaven and earth and all things that are in them.

Mankind is proud of the marvelous things they invent and manufacture, some of which are beyond the imagining or understanding of ordinary people. But man cannot create anything at all; he can only use what God has created.

All things were created by the power of God through Jesus Christ, who was his first creation. "—These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;" (Rev. 3:14). John 1:1-3 calls Christ "the Word", and says all things were made by him. Read also Col. 1:15-19 which states that the Son of God "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature" and that "by him were all things created." Hebrews 1:1-3 repeats this information and says Jesus is the "express image" of God's person. The Nephites heard Jesus say, "Behold I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are." (III Nephi 4:44) Ephesians 3:9 explains "—God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

The awesome power of God displayed by the vast scope of the creation is matched only by the exquisite completeness of his plan for composition and order of all things. It is beyond our comprehension, and impossible to express in our poor words if we could comprehend; but we know it is true, and that all these things were done in six days. People who disbelieve God seek to explain creation as a series of accidents of the forces of nature; ask them who created matter and the forces of nature to act upon it.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Heb. 11:3)

As we read the first chapter of Genesis, the simple truth of the account pictures in our minds those marvelous happenings as they were caused to occur.

(Read and discuss the entire chapter.)

Now, in the light of this record which the Lord told Moses to write, let us consider some of the ideas put forth by men who consider themselves wise. First is the theory that the earth was formed by a space accident. In the Lord's account we read that God created the earth *before* He created space — that vast crystal-clear firmament which separated the waters of the earth from the waters above the firmament. Why do astronomers with huge telescopes claim to see other "galaxies" (a word they use to denote the earth and the sun, moon and stars as they are set in order) far beyond our "space"? Some of them even say the positions of the various bodies in those "galaxies" are in reversed position to ours. Is it not because their powerful lenses make visible the reflection of the earth and heavenly bodies in the waters above the firmament?

Another theory is that all life forms evolved from a one-celled organism. The Bible clearly states that each fish, bird, plant or animal was created "after their kind". A cow that Adam saw that sixth day was the same kind of animal as the cow we see today. The serpent that crept into Eden was like the serpents we abhor now. And so it is with each kind of plant and each kind of animal life.

The holy scriptures and world history also refute the idea that the earth is millions of years old. It is less than six thousand years since the creation.

Did God's creating end on the sixth day? No, new souls are still being created (Psalms 102:18), and not only mankind but also animal life (Psalm 104:27-30). Also it is prophesied that a new heaven and new earth will be created (Isaiah 65:17-18)

When the heavens and earth were finished and the earth was filled with all things beautiful and useful, God was ready to create man. Have you ever thought how wonderful it is that God told Christ, "Let us make man in our image," (Gen. 1:26) and gave us rule "over all the earth" and everything on the earth? How much we have to live up to deserve this! But He did not stop there. He gave us souls (which no other earthly creature has) and intelligence, and a plan and covenant whereby, if we only love and obey our Heavenly Father to the end of this life, we are assured an immortal life of eternal joy as children of God.

Like Christ In Suffering Wrong

It is in connection with an everyday matter that Peter gave utterance to those weighty words concerning Christ as our Surety and Example. He is writing to servants, who at that time were mostly slaves. He teaches them to be subject with all, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For, so he writes, if any one do wrong and be punished for it, to bear it patiently is no special grace. But, if one do well, and suffer for it, and take it patiently, this acceptable with God, such bearing of wrong is Christlike. In bearing our sins as Surety, Christ suffered wrong from man, after His example we must be ready to suffer wrongfully too.

There is almost nothing harder to bear than injustice from our fellow man. It is not only the loss of pain, there is the feeling of humiliation and injustice, and the consciousness of our rights asserts itself. In what our fellow creatures do to us, it is not easy to recognize the will of God, who thus allows us to be tried, to see if we have truly taken Christ as our example. From Him we may learn what it was that gave Him the power to bear injuries patiently. Christ believed in suffering as the will of God. He had found it in Scripture that the servant of God should suffer. He had made Himself familiar with the thought, so that when suffering came, it did not take Him by surprise. He expected it! He knew that He must be perfected, and so His first thought was not how to be delivered from it, but how to glorify God in it. This enabled Him to bear the greatest injustice quietly. He saw God's hand in it.

Christian, would you have the strength to suffer wrong in the spirit in which Christ did? Accustom yourself in everything that happens, to recognize the hand and will of God. This lesson is more consequence than you may think. Whether it be some great wrong that is done you, or some little offense that you meet in daily life, before you fix your thoughts on the person who did it, first be still, and remember, God allows us to come into this trouble to see if we shall glorify Him in it. This trial, be it the greatest or the least, is allowed by God, and is His will concerning us. Let us first recognize and submit to God's will in it. Then in the rest of soul which this gives, we shall receive wisdom to know how to behave in it. With our eyes turned from man to God, suffering is not so hard as it seems.

Christ also believed that God would care for His rights and honor. There is an innate sense of right within us that comes from God. But he who lives in the visible, wants his honor to be vindicated at once here below. He who lives in the eternal, and as seeing the Invisible, is satisfied to leave the vindication of his rights and honor in God's hands, he knows that they are safe with Him. It was thus with the Lord Jesus. Peter writes that he committed himself to Him that

judgeth righteously. It was a settled thing between the Father and the Son, that the Son was not to care for His own honor, but only for the Father's. The Father would care for the Son's honor. Let the Christian just follow Christ's example in this, it will give him such rest and peace. Give your right and honor into God's keeping. Meet every offense that man commits against you with the firm trust that God will watch over and care for you. Commit it to Him that judgeth righteously.

Further, Christ believed in the power of suffering love. We all admit that there is no power like that of love. Through it Christ overcomes the enmity of the world. Every other victory gives only a forced submission, love alone gives the true victory over an enemy, by converting him into a friend. We all acknowledge the truth of this as a principle, but we shrink from the application. Christ believed it, and acted accordingly. He said too, I shall have my revenge, but His revenge was that of love, bringing enemies as friends to His feet. He believed that by silence and submission, and suffering and bearing wrong, He would win the cause, because thus love would have its triumph. And this is what He desires us too. In our sinful nature there is more faith in might and right than in the heavenly power of love. But he who would be like Christ must follow Him in this also, that He seeks to conquer evil with good. The more another does him wrong, the more he feels called to love him. Even if it be needful for the public welfare that justice should punish the offender, he takes care that there be in it nothing of personal feeling, as far as he is concerned, he forgives and loves.

What a difference it would make in Christendom and our churches, if Christ's example were followed! If each one who was reviled, reviled not again, if each one who suffered, threatened not, but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously. Fellow Christians, this is literally what the Father would have us do. Let us read and read again the words of Peter, until our soul be filled with the thought that "... if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." I Peter 2:20 In ordinary Christian life, where we mostly seek to fulfill our calling as redeemed ones in our own strength, such a conformity to the Lord's image is an impossibility. But in a life of full surrender, where we have given all into His hands, in the faith that he will work all in us, there the glorious expectation is awakened, that the imitation of Christ in this is indeed in our reach. For the command to suffer like Christ has come in connection with the teaching that Christ also suffered for us, so "that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness." I Peter 2:24

Beloved Christians, wouldst thou not love to be like Jesus, and in bearing injuries act as He Himself

would have acted in thy place? Is it not a glorious prospect in everything, even in this too, to be conformed to Him? For our strength it is too high, in His strength it is impossible. Only surrender thyself day by day to Him to be in all things just what He would have thee to be. Believe that lives in heaven to be the life and the strength of each one who seeks to walk in His footsteps. Yield thyself to be one with the suffering, crucified Christ, that thou mayest understand what it is to be dead to sins, and live unto righteousness. And it will be thy joyful experience what wonderful power there is in Jesus' death, not only to atone for sin, but to break its power, and in His resurrection, to make thee live unto righteousness. Thou shalt find it equally

blessed to follow fully the footsteps of the suffering Saviour, as it has been to trust fully and only in that suffering for atonement and redemption. Christ will be as precious as thy Example as He has ever been as thy Surety. Because He took thy sufferings upon Himself, thou wilt lovingly take His sufferings upon thyself. And bearing wrong will become a glorious part of the fellowship with His holy sufferings, a glorious mark of being conformed to His most holy likeness, a most blessed fruit of the true life of faith.

Henry E. James

Huntsville, Texas

Referendum Report

The referendum Committee has reported as follows:

August 6, 1984

To the Council of Apostles:

The Referendum Committee met on this date along with the Church Recorder to count the ballots of the 1984 referendum. Following are the results:

- Bill No. 1: Yes, 432; No, 33.
- Bill No. 2: Yes, 437; No, 29.
- Bill No. 3: Yes, 248; No, 218.

Respectfully submitted,

Referendum Committee:

- (signed) Isaac Brockman, Jr.
- (signed) Ray W. Hunholz
- (signed) Steve W. McGhee

Bill No. 1 is approved by the Church. This bill provides for the maximum aid to an individual from the Church to be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500, if approved by the Apostles.

Bill No. 2 is approved by the Church. This bill rescinds all previous action by the Church regarding a Working Harmony agreement with the RLDS Church.

Bill No. 3 is not approved by the Church, lacking a required 2/3 majority. This bill would have provided for Elders' Conferences instead of the present type of a General Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Sheldon, Secy.
Council of Apostles

CUT FROM THE ROUGH

As announced in the August *Zion's Advocate*, this book is the life story of Apostle James E. Yates (1874-1954) as told by himself and his daughter, Evalena Sills. He is also the father of the late Apostle E. Leon Yates.

The book sells for \$11.00 per copy postpaid, to any place in the United States, or \$10.00 per copy if picked up in person from any of the following persons:

Evalena Sills
4056 E. Danbury Rd.,
Phoenix, Arizona 85032

Randy and Becky Sheldon
Rt. 1, Box 315
Grain Valley, Mo., 64029
(Independence, Kansas City Area)

Allen and Czerna Kauffman
Rt. 1, Box 8
Collins, Mo., 64738
(Springfield, Houston Area)

The story may bring both smiles and tears—and hopefully renew your faith in the Restored Gospel and set your feet a little firmer in its "old, old path."

Go nowhere you would not expect God to Accompany you; Do nothing you could not expect Him to help do; say nothing you do not want Him to hear.

The Cherry Bush

by Enid E. Bell

Early in June, I walked to the mailbox one day and noticed on the cherry bush in the front yard some very dark red things. I went closer and, much to my surprise, I found there was a fairly good crop of cherries on that bush. This may not sound remarkable but it is; because in approximately 12 years I have had that bush, this is the first crop it has borne. Every spring, there were the most beautiful white blossoms on it and it gave great promise, but, for reasons I did not know, the bush never put forth fruit. When my son would till around it, he would urge me to destroy it as it became a nuisance in spreading over the surrounding vegetation. I told him I would prune it some day, but I would leave it because it had been free on a seed order and it did, after all, bloom beautifully in the spring. Finally, this year, it fulfilled its promise of some fruit to use for jelly.

As I picked those cherries, I began to think about the Church, and it occurred to me that we are often like that bush because we put forth a great deal of promise but often bear no fruit. In reading the Conference minutes, I see we have committed ourselves to printing our own Book of Mormon and to drawing up plans for a new General Church building. Wonderful! These are two things we have put off too long. Are these beautiful blossoms without fruit? I hope not. I hope everyone at that Conference and who reads these minutes will resolve to help in these plans — with their offerings.

You know, tithing is a commandment. The Lord commanded it in the New Testament and also told the Nephites of this necessity in 3 Nephi 11:10-13. If it hadn't been meant for us, Christ would not have taught it. Listen to what we promise when we take the Sacrament: "and keep his commandments which he hath given them," and then we must try to honor that promise.

In Verse 11 of the foregoing Scripture, the Lord speaks of "offerings." I, personally, feel this is separate and above the paying of tithing. Local Churches depend on offerings, as do Sunday Schools. I believe, also, that these special projects of General Church should be supported with offerings other than our tithing. I know this is not always the case, as much tithing money has to be used for these special purposes, because the offerings are not forthcoming. In the Conference report, one of the speakers said he was excited about these Conference actions, and hopes we will be willing to sacrifice to make it possible.

Now we know tithing is one-tenth, but what is an offering? We, an offering can be the "... cup of water to drink in my name. . .", (Mark 9:41) or any help we can give our fellow man in the service of God. Mosiah 2:43

gives us admonition to "... impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath. . ." This, then, might be our guide, to give offerings according to that which we have. Some will say, I know, that they do not have it to give. Let us be honest with ourselves. If you can afford to eat at a restaurant or to entertain yourself or your family in some worldly way (a movie, perhaps), then you have it to give. Deprive yourself once a month of some pleasurable thing and give that money for an offering to one of these General Church causes or to your local Church.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9. Maybe we need to repent of our lack of dedication to the commandments concerning tithes and offerings. I would like to cite some of the Lord's promises to us. In 3 Nephi 11:13-24, we may read of the promises, which are the words of Christ as He taught the Nephites. "Bring ye all the tithes. . . if I will not open the window of heaven, and pour you out a blessing. . . And I will rebuke the devourer. . . ye shall be a delightsome land. . ." These few promises should be enough for the Lord to do for us, but he has made others. Read Isaiah 58:8 for the promise that "thine health shall spring forth speedily." This is a treatise on fasting, but it definitely includes the dedication of material things to the good of our fellow man. How about dedicating ourselves to fasting from a few pleasures of the world and turning those funds over to the Church for the publishing of the Book of Mormon, or to your local storehouse to help the needy?

Let us suppose the Lord was as quick with His retributions as our utility companies. Once, I neglected to send in a payment for the water for two months. At the beginning of the third month, I received a notice that the water would be shut off if I did not remit in 10 days. One of our Church sisters works for this company, and she told me that, if water is shut off, there is a sizeable fee for reconnection. I paid that bill promptly!

What if the Lord said He would strike us with some dread disaster if we did *not* pay our tithing or offerings? Would we remit more quickly? Some people would, I suppose. Why, then, can't we believe His promises to see to our needs promptly when we are keeping the commandments? In the second epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 3, our Brother Paul states that the law is "... not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." Is it written in our hearts, so that we can give from the heart and not grudgingly, as Mormon admonished in Moroni 7:4-7?

Frequently, our family quotes a Church brother who said, "You can't take it with you, but you can sure send it on ahead." This is just a variation of our Lord's admonition in Matthew 6:20: "But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven. . . where thieves do not break through nor steal." The earthly offerings we make are counted as treasures before the Lord.

As an example, I am going to use our Grand Junction Local Church to look at what "might have been." We built our Church in 1962 and had to take out a loan at the local bank to finish paying for the materials. We were a faithful group and soon had that loan paid off. Unfortunately, we did not provide ourselves a dining facility because we had a dear brother and sister who opened their home to us for this purpose at Reunion time, and for other functions. None of us could foresee the rise in costs over the years, and we did not immediately set about looking forward to our future needs. We are in a position now where we need these dining facilities. Many of our families have homes to pay for and our building fund does not grow very much in a year, so we face the necessity of renting a place to eat or for other Church activities. If we had been faithful with only \$20 a month per family for those 22 years, we would now have most of the substantial amount needed for this purpose. Where did we waste that \$20 per month? Each one of us has to answer for that, but we each could make a vow that it won't happen anymore.

Our inclination is to look at "pie in the sky" too much. We may say to ourselves, "If I had a million dollars, I would give 20 per cent to the Church." Well, we aren't going to have that million dollars, so let's be faithful over a few things. In the parable in Matthew 25, the man who did not return profit to the Lord was afraid and hid his talent in the earth, and the Lord called him wicked and slothful. Are we classed this way, also? Do you promise yourself you will give next month, and never come through? Will our Lord ask you for an accounting before you get around to fulfill this promise? Let us realize that the Lord knows our wages just as much as he knows our hearts.

With baptism we take upon us certain responsibilities. The Commandments pertaining to our spiritual lives are of primary importance, but there are certain temporal responsibilities, too. Do you vote in the General Church affairs, or your Local Church actions? Many of these concern money. One of the referendum issues this year pertained to an increase in aid to our needy members, or friends. If you were asked at the time you vote how much you will pledge to make this action a reality, what would you say? We should each be willing to make that pledge to God, as we do not have to answer to the Church officers for the lack, but only to our own conscience.

Perhaps you are a teenager with your first part-

time job. If you have been baptized, you are just as much obligated to pay your tithing and make offerings as your parents are. Now is the time to be "faithful over a few things," and receive this promise: ". . . I will make thee ruler over many things. . ." (Matthew 25:23). We may never become rulers over earthly things, but the spiritual rewards are more important, and they also hinge on our keeping *all* the commandments.

We all know the story of the widow's mite, which was her whole living, and it was counted as more of an offering than all that came from the rich people. In conversation with a treasurer of a Local Church, I was told of a widow who gave \$7.20 a month for several years and raised her offering each time her pension was raised. Her offering represented a larger percentage of her living than many with large incomes, and she gave consistently.

I want to give my personal testimony. We have paid tithing regularly since 1956. My husband and I desired to keep this commandment the same as we have promised to keep the commandments to not lie, cheat or steal. In June, 1956, we moved to Colorado from Missouri and had received a rather large check from a Church brother in Missouri who owed us some wages. That summer, our income was usually \$1.00 an hour, and work was not always readily available. We needed that money when we received it in the mail, but the tithing was paid *first*. I feel it was a direct result of our fulfilling the commandment to pay tithing that a good, steady job was made available that fall. We stayed over the winter in Brother Ted Ely's bunkhouse, paying a minimal rent, and by the next July, were able to have our own trailer house. In 1960, we bought our present home, and I give God the credit for fulfilling his promise. We have kept up our end of this bargain, and He certainly has kept up His, to overflowing, with innumerable physical, temporal and spiritual blessings.

Take time to study the Conference minutes and note the many opportunities we can be part of if we dedicate ourselves to this commandment. Also, think of your own Local's needs and put a few dollars there. We would sometimes get the feeling that our members think that once a fund is started, it is self-perpetuating. This is not true. There is no Church that will be able to support its activities very long without some kind of regular income. Does it come from you, or are you the blooming, promising cherry bush that never comes through with the fruit?

Enid E. Bell

Enid E. Bell

Unchangeable Always True

by Edna Smith

As a needle becomes stuck in a broken record causing that portion to repeat over and over again, so am I about the wonderful Old Jerusalem Gospel. It must be repeated and drilled into us lest we forget it. Our youth especially should be taught it repeatedly for they live in a very trying world.

There is a way that seemeth right unto man yet it leadeth his soul down into hell. I don't know where this statement is found but I've heard it expounded from the pulpit several times in my lifetime by the old time ministers. I've thought about it a great deal lately in the light of what we see happening in the so-called religious world of today. Man is seeking for something lasting and true to hang onto, an anchor for his faith, in this sin sick, hectic world of ours. The devil also is aware of this fact, therefore, he is blinding man with what has the appearance of right in the new religions. They will not last, but the gospel of Christ will.

I've often heard my Dad make the statement that the Devil is very clever and will tell you one truth so he can get you to believe several lies. So we have to be careful of what we hear and believe.

I remember years ago when I was a teenager living in Madison, Wisconsin, one such religion came to town and held a series of revival meetings. It was one of those flash in the pan religions, out after all the money it could get. The leader used to say when the collection plate was passed that she only wanted the soft kind of money, not the silver for it jangled her nerves.

At this time there was a young couple living across the street from us that was pretty wild and very worldly. The man drank to excess, abusing his wife and children. Many times the police were called to their aid because of his drunkenness. Someone persuaded this couple to attend these meetings and a change for good was wrought in this couples home. The man quit his drinking, cleaned up his life, took good care of his family, got a good job and settled down to raise his little boys. Well, I saw all this and being a young teenager I went to Dad about it. This about-face made quite an impression on me so I thought there must be much good in that Church, just as our youth today are being led astray by such a show of goodness. I recall what Dad said, "Edna, I'm very glad to see Ted and Daisy changing for good and sincerely hope it will last." Remember what the Angel told Joseph Smith, "with their lips they do honor me, but their hearts are far from me." I was troubled for I wanted Ted and Daisy to get on the right path not only for their own sakes but for their little boys. I baby sat for those children and they needed to be taught the right path to take. I also learned right then that kind of religion threw up a wall so that the gospel would not be listened to, and

wouldn't mix any more than oil with water. This couple wouldn't listen to the Jerusalem Gospel as I was taught for the shallow gospel satisfied and closed their ears to the truth. They were assured they had the truth and that was all there was to it.

Years later, after I was married, I went home for a visit with our oldest son then a child of about two years. I inquired about this couple wishing to visit them. What a shock I got when I found where they lived and how they lived. Dad's council of what I might find came back to me and how true it was. This couple had reverted to their old ways, things were run down, not progressive and kept up and I learned Ted had returned to drinking again although he was sober the day I visited them. I asked Ted why he and Daisy had gone back to this awful way of life after what I had seen in their lives years before. Here is what he told me: "That religion stuff is all bunk, for when the going really gets rough it folds up like a wet noodle. There just isn't any staying power, nothing to hang onto. I lost my job and went to the heads of the church for help until I could get on my feet again. I'd heard them preach all the time about helping one another, but those holier than thou Joe's turned their backs on me. I was not asking to be kept by them, just a little help until I could get on my feet again. When everything was going great and I was dumping plenty of money in the old collection plate I was a great fellow but not now. All they want is your money and when there's no more to get they kick you out. I'm through playing the fool, I've had enough of that stuff."

I began to talk to them about how the church I belonged to operated. The souls of men were what we were interested in and that we teach the plan of salvation that would bring us back into God's presence that He Himself had restored to earth in 1830. Ours was a message about the complete redemption of man. They listened while I talked, but I could see they had become so bitter and disillusioned about anything religious it would be a long, long time before they could be reached. It is to such as these my heart aches for because the religion they had come in contact with had fed nothing but husks.

That experience years ago taught me a valuable lesson, and has always been a big help to me to evaluate the religions that are springing up today. They are mere flashes in the pan only lasting a few years then dying out; then something else springs up to take their place. They too are after the money they can get. They aren't interested in the broken hearts and lives that they leave behind. They have no lasting, spiritual food that sustains life to give to the poor souls that knock upon their door.

I've heard recently from some of our own church people, "Oh, how much good they do," Do they really? I'm afraid I'm like one of our ministers who lately in a sermon branded them as spiritual cowards. I say amen.

Today they aren't quite as much in the forefront as they were. The Internal Revenue has begun to search their financial records and are finding things aren't on the up and up as they should be. Do you, as an honest thinking person, believe God would bless and give sanction to a group doing such things? I do not, but do believe their author is from the evil source. By their fruits ye shall know them.

To the law and the testimony, if they preach any other gospel than that which Christ restored through

His Holy Angels, let them be accursed, they are dead and there is *no light* in them. They just won't mix with the true Gospel anymore than oil with water.

Our time to perfect our lives grows shorter by the minute. We better be mighty careful that we don't follow every wind of doctrine that blows; but earnestly seek the old Jerusalem Gospel and find the Old Paths and walk therein. It and it alone is lasting and a mighty anchor with power to save our souls if we remain true and faithful to the end.

Let us as a united family of God press ever forward, watching carefully for the pitfalls and warning our brother, "don't step there." Pray for God's spirit to guide us in the way He has plotted for us.

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 — 417-275-4608.

Please mark your calendar and plan on attending to join with us in fellowship and worship of our Lord.

Phoenix Reunion

The 1984 Phoenix Reunion will be held November 23, 24 and 25, 1984 at 2929 E. Seista Lane, Phoenix, Arizona. We are looking forward to your fellowship with us.

If you desire to attend please contact:

Jay Moser (pastor)
4062 E. Danbury
Phoenix, Az. 85032
(602) 971-6697

Gordon McCann (Assistant Pastor)
18808 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Az. 85024
(602) 867-7681

Don McIndoo (Apostle)
18830 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Az. 85024
(602) 971-1208

ARS AMANDI

(Art of Loving)

Latin is known today as a dead language because it is no longer used as an everyday means of communication; but some of its phrases suggest profound and living truths.

Such a one is *ars amandi*, interpreted to mean "art of loving." And what is art? Among its many definitions we find the words "skill," "craftsmanship" and "unusual perception." Those last two definitive words, "unusual perception" seem especially applicable to the Latin phrase, *ars amandi*, art of loving.

Admitting that there may be both lovable and unlovable traits in us all, the definition "unusual perception" implies the ability to discern, to recognize, to evaluate, to appreciate the good qualities in everyone. Such an enviable "art" brings to mind the assessment of one who said something like this: "We don't love an individual *because*; we love him "although." In other words we don't love because we see perfection; we love despite imperfection.

It has been observed that in the case of certain individuals we cannot help but love them; with others we have to work at it. (And maybe *they* have to work at loving us!) But every person on this earth has it within his or her power to cultivate and master *ars amandi*!

There is much truth in the old saying, "We see what we are looking for." If we look for the good, we will find the good. If we cultivate *ars amandi*, we will become masters in the art of loving; and, like bread cast on the waters, we will be surprised at the abundance of love that comes back to bless our own lives!

"... see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (I Peter 1:22)

We are all students in the University of Life. Let us work hard at cultivating the art of unusual perception, and win a Masters Degree in *Ars Amandi*.

—Evalena Sills

1984

Northern Michigan Campout

Almost as if someone had waved a magic wand and said "abracadabra," Jay and Evelyn Lee's 80 acres near Marion was transformed into a city of campers, motor homes, trailers, and tents when there gathered saints from around the State, as well as out-of-state, for the annual Northern Michigan campout. Ken and I were the early arrivals, as usual, pulling in with our trailer early Friday afternoon (July 20). Most of the others arrived at various times during the day Saturday, with the last one, Brother and Sister Lussenden, pulling in after most of us had turned in Saturday evening.

Saturday, as usual, was spent in various forms of fun activities, the most popular of which was volleyball. Due to the tremendous heat and the fact that quite a few of our most active participants were among the missing, Saturday was rather quiet with more time being spent in visiting, eating, and later swimming at Sunrise Lake.

Saturday evening, following the traditional weiner and marshmallow roast, we gathered around the campfire for a singout, during which we had several specials by Evelyn Lee and Opal Adams; Al Bergey and Evelyn Lee (with Al on the guitar); Ken and June Haines; Marion Sprague, Opal Adams, Evelyn Lee, and June Haines. When it finally became too dark to read the words from our Hymnals, we moved into the garage for viewing the very interesting tape program MEXICO, LAND OF CONTRAST. The program is excellent and was very well received. For those interested in how archaeology supports the Book of Mormon, this is highly recommended viewing. Following the showing of the tape program, we said our "good nights" and turned in.

Sunday morning dawned beautiful as we gathered in the Lee garage for preaching service under the direction of Elder Conley Addington. The service was opened with the singing of "I am Thine, O Lord," followed by prayer by Brother Addington. For our second song, we chose "Jesus is Always There."

Our speaker for this service was Elder Ed Podhola, who began his sermon by emphasizing that young people must make the decision for themselves as to whether or not there is a God as they are not taught in schools. It was pointed out that if evolution is true the Bible and Book of Mormon are false; if creation is true, then the Bible is true because it was given under the direction of the Holy Spirit and the Book of Mormon is true because it is an added witness that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Further, actions of parents, by those who believe in Jesus Christ, are an example to those

who follow after. Jesus Christ is our hope.

Brother Podhola used only Hebrews 11:1-6, which reads in part as follows, for his scripture reference:

1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

6. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Brother Podhola placed special emphasis on verse 6, urging us to read it every day of our lives, and assured us that if we go out fortified with it nothing is impossible for us.

We were also assured that there is nothing wrong with education that the word of God cannot correct, but parents need the truth and need to *share* the truth with their children — you can't force it on them. Words properly spoken at the proper time (when they need it).

In closing, Brother Podhola stated that no one needs to be lost, but that only those who accept and believe in God are going to be worthy, the others are going to be rejected.

We closed the service with the singing of "One Sweet Hour With Jesus," followed by prayer by Brother Addington.

Following this inspiring message, and after an hour or so of visiting and getting reacquainted, we nourished our bodies with the food prepared by the ladies, under somewhat more adverse conditions than at home but delicious nonetheless. Finally, after bidding our fond farewells, we again went our separate ways for another year.

Before the weekend was over, approximately 60 people had taken part in the campout. In addition to our regular campers, we were really pleased to see some new faces: the Johnny Reeds, the Rolland Spragues, the Ed Podholas, the Gale Brantner family, the Glen Adams family, Mark Kirby, and Brother Orville Eddy. We were also very pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. McManamey and their little family with us for Sunday services. We really missed several families normally with us and hope that they will be able to make it next year.

Thanks, again, to Jay and Evelyn Lee for their wonderful hospitality and all the work that went into making the annual campout a very special occasion.

Reported by June Haines

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 1985 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 14th, 15th and 16th at Independence, Missouri.

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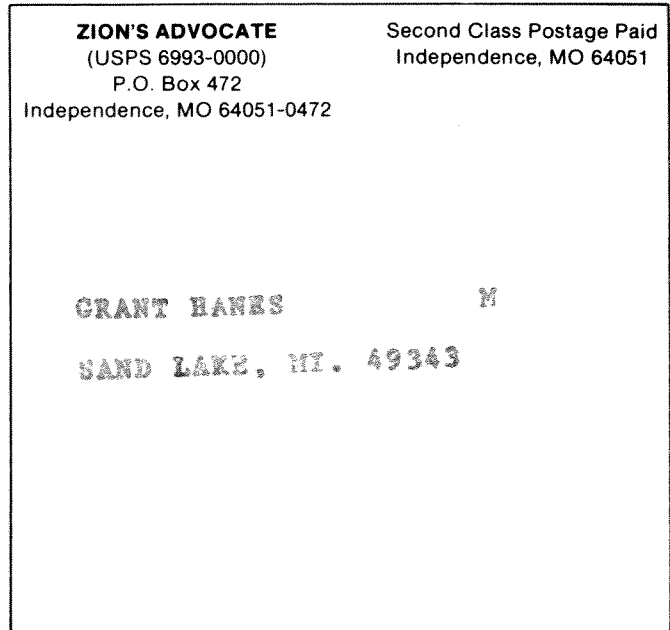
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