

# 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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## Mini-Christians

More and more the secular mood is tragically transforming Christians into mini-Christians. The fruit of the spirit seems to be mini-love, mini-joy and mini-peace, because in small doses spirituality is acceptable, especially when we are allowed to make our own definitions. Today, Christians make mini-sacrifices which don't hurt too much and exercise mini-faith which doesn't necessitate their going out on a limb.

Eternity Magazine

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# Zion's Advocate

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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## Guest Editorial . . .

# Your Life: The Trial of Your Faith

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, thought it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (I Peter 1:7)

We have an understanding through the written word that without faith it is impossible to please God and that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). How, then, will God know of our faith when we stand before Him and His Son at the Bar of Judgment? In revelation 20:12 we find "that books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." The answer must lie, then, within our works, which are recorded in the Book of Life. It is our works of righteousness which demonstrate our faith in God.

Before we go much further there is one more element or piece to the puzzle which is very important to understand. What is this trial of our faith that Peter spoke of? I feel that we can find the answer to that question in Jeremiah 17:10: "I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according

to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." So, we find that the Lord will try our faith, and that trial comes by way of our daily walk in this life here on earth. It should not be mistaken as being tempted of God because the scriptures plainly state that God tempts no man, but that man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed (James 1:13-15).

We who are alive now are in the days of our probation. ". . . after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit, they were driven out of the garden of Eden, to till the earth . . . And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh; Wherefore, their state became a state of probation. . . ." (II Nephi 1:105, 107-108) Our trials come from this life which has been prolonged for a wise purpose, and it is those choices we make and works we perform that will substantiate or refute our claim of righteousness and faith before God. As in the words of Joshua (24:22,15): ". . . "Ye are witnesses against yourselves . . . choose you this day whom ye will serve . . ."

Elder Gordon McCann Phoenix, Arizona

# Spiritual Gifts

FROM A SERMON BY APOSTLE MARVIN ELY



I have chosen a passage from the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, some advice of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian people. He felt rather strongly concerning this, and it was written for the benefit of each one of us, that we too might have this valuable advice. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." He wanted to elaborate on and explain to them the value of spiritual gifts. He says, "Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led." He is going back into the past lives of these people. At one time they were idol worshipers. Now they were converted unto the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they had put off the old man and had put on the new man, even the man of the spirit after Jesus Christ, and he did not want them ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. "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." So we know, or all men know, that Jesus is Lord, by the Holy Ghost. And so I want to touch not only upon the spiritual gifts but on the power of the Holy Ghost and its value in our individual lives.

We find Nephi, in 2 Nephi 14:6, was fullwell aware of this, saying, ". . . if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do." And we must not underestimate the importance and the necessity of the function of the Holy Ghost in our individual lives. It is a valuable part of our lives; it is received after baptism, by the laying on of hands. A literal gift by the power of God, through those given authority to bestow it. Its value in our lives we must not underestimate! "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost," (John 14: 26) can bring things to our remembrance; by it we can make decisions wisely.

Going on in Corinthians, "Now there are diversities of gifts", there are different kinds of gifts, "but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord," They function differently, they are administered differently. "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." Different ones down through history have valued this Spirit. They've

known what it is to be profited by it; Nephi, and we find this on page 26 of the Book of Mormon, was fullwell aware of the importance of the power of the Holy Ghost in his life. He was desirous to see and hear what his father Lehi had had in that marvelous vision. In verse 26, page 26, he says, "I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost," he had confidence that he might know, "Which is the gift of God unto all those that diligently seek him." Now it is given by the laying on of hands after baptism, but there still must be a continuance and a diligence on each one's part. "As well in times of old as in the times that he should manifest himself unto the children of men." He was looking down upon a time, approximately 600 years after this when Jesus Christ would be born and walk upon the face of this earth and lay down guide lines for you and I and all other peoples to follow. And we have in the scripture laid out before us, the words of Christ and God. We must not underestimate their value. And they accomplish their end regardless of what men may or may not do. We cannot frustrate the work of God, it is only man that can become frustrated.

And we read here, "He", this God, "is the same yesterday, today, and forever." And for that you and I can be very thankful. God does not expect any more of you than he did of Adam or Nephi, or Lehi, or Abraham, or any one else who ever has been or any one who will follow us. He is no respecter of persons, "And the way is prepared from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him:" The way has been prepared for man to obtain salvation, by repentance and walking that path, clinging to that rod of iron, which is part of that marvelous vision, which is a representation of the word of God. It is an invaluable tool, for you and me, in approaching the tree of life which is a representation of the love of God. "For he that diligently seeketh shall find; And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in this time as in times of old; As well in times of old as in times to come;" So we are not left without this opportunity, the same opportunity that Nephi had, to function under the power of the Holy Ghost. "Wherefore, the course of the Lord is one

eternal round." And for that you and I can be very thankful.

Turning to the book of Moroni, chapter 10, we find another function of the Holy Ghost in the lives of man. Moroni is writing to his brethren the Lamanites, verse 3, "Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things," and that is this book from which I read, the Book of Mormon, "if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts." And I'll tell you, you and I can be very thankful for the mercy of God. A scripture came to remembrance here that I would like to turn to, showing that God does reach out his hand unto the children of men. It is in Isaiah 9:21; it relates indirectly to this, and it involves Manasseh and Ephraim. "Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah." Now God was not happy that Ephraim and Manasseh were against Judah, for it says, "For all this his anger is not turned away," he was angry because of the problems they had one with another, but I wanted to show, it says here, "but his hand is stretched out still." And for that you and I can be very thankful. Because of the imperfections of man and their stumbling in their walk, he can become angry with man, but his hand is stretched out still to mankind.

Let us go back to this reading in Moroni, verse 4, "And when ye shall receive these things," this Book of Mormon, "I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things." How thankful we can be that there is this Holy Ghost that can function in the lives of men. By the power of the Holy Ghost you may know all things. Even as Nephi was desirous to see and hear about this vision by the power of the Holy Ghost, so you can have things unfolded to you, even the promise here that those who read this book can have the truth of it revealed by the power of the Holy Ghost. "And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is. And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; . . ." So you see how important it really is.

When I read over some of these things, earlier, I didn't realize it was mentioned as much as it is. I've had that experience a number of times on preparing for a sermon, and then, coming into the pulpit I am amazed how some of these things fit together. And so we see how God's work is one eternal round reaching out unto the children of men, whom he cares about, all mankind; even as Christ after the time of the crucifixion and

the darkness upon the face of this land spoke to the people of this land. He said, "How oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens, and ye would not." And, ". . . how oft will I gather you. . . ." So his arm is reached out still to the children of men even though they stumble in their walk. But he desires the obedience of each one of us. Yes, we each have a reasonable service to render to God.

In Romans, chapter 12, verse 1 and 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." Paul spoke plainly to the Romans concerning their service, "And be not conformed to this world" And that is one of the great problems today, upon the face of this earth and throughout the breadth of this land, would be followers of Jesus Christ being conformed to the ways of the world. And he says, "Be not conformed to this 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." So we each have that duty to prove what is the good and perfect and acceptable will of God. And we can know these things by the power of the Holy Ghost.

I want to finish reading the 7th verse on page 775 of the Book of Mormon, "And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow and forever." Here we see another very important ingredient coming into this. He worketh by power according to the faith of the children of men. Faith is very important in the lives of men. Faith is one of the spiritual gifts, even exceeding great faith, but all will not have that type of faith. Faith is also a fruit of the Spirit. It is one of the principles of the doctrine of Jesus Christ along with repentance and faith and baptism, the laying on of hands, the resurrection and eternal judgment. They all go hand in hand, so faith is very important in our lives. As Paul said, "And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." Faith is an invaluable tool that we must have, and so he worketh by power according to the faith of men.

Back to the 12th chapter of Romans, a related reference, starting with 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;" so be careful in your evaluation of yourself. Don't be lifted up in pride. Great nations upon this same land that we live upon fell because they became lifted up in pride. "But to think soberly," we are to think soberly and humbly before him, "According as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." This important ingredient is coming in again; he has dealt to every man the measure of faith. Now what are you

going to do with that measure of faith that has been dealt to you? It can lie dormant, or you can use it. It can become a working thing in your life. These gifts and the power of the Holy Ghost can function more fully in your lives if your faith is functioning as it should.

We've got to use our faith. Our faith will be tried, for wise purposes, by our heavenly Father. The trying of our faith, we're told by James, worketh patience. And so if we wonder about some of these trials, all the Master and his Father are trying to do is help us to become a patient people. Maybe some of Apostle Paul's words are strange to the world, when he says, "I glory in tribulation," I believe it is found in the 5th chapter of Romans. A man glorying in trials, to many people would sound strange. But, tribulation worketh patience and patience, experience. And so by tribulations and trials we gain the patience and experience that is important for us in facing life.

The 4th verse of chapter 12 of Romans, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: "so not everybody has the same responsibility or office. And not everybody has the same spiritual gifts, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of one another." The important thing is that we might function in oneness even as God and Christ. And I like the beautiful prayer of Christ's in the 17th chapter of John when he prayed concerning the glory which he had with him before the world was, and then he prayed for his Apostles, that they might be one even as he and the Father were one, "even as we are one", he prayed to his Father. And then he prayed not alone for them but for all those who would believe in their words, that they might be one even as God and Christ were one. I believe that more fully explains everyone as members one of another. We're really a part of each other even though we are not the same person. It's like a man and wife, "for this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they twain (two) shall be **one** flesh; even though they are twain.

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophesy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith." Now is faith important or is it not? In all the working of this it is invaluable. But there are a lot of other things that are invaluable as well. Let us turn back to chapter 10 of the book of Moroni, and pick up with verse 8, "And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God," plainly stated, "for they are many; and they come from the same God." Now this is very much the same as the reading I was bringing from chapter 12 of 1st Corinthians. I want to read the way they are mentioned in the Book of Mormon just a little differently and then I want to bring them out as in the Bible. "And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God that worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the

Spirit of God unto men, to profit them." Now these gifts are given for the **profit** of men. "For behold, to one is given by the spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom;" and we could preach a whole sermon on the importance of wisdom. When I think of wisdom I always remember in chapter 3 of the book of Proverbs, It is more to be desired than silver and gold and rubies and all things thou canst desire is not to be compared unto wisdom in our lives. Now I want to note on spiritual gifts, I believe anybody can have wisdom, but unto some is given a special portion. In other words, they have a gift of wisdom, and this says, to teach the word of wisdom — as a gift. "And to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;" I believe this means a more apt understanding, more full and complete, of the scripture, and some have that gift.

"And to another exceeding great faith;" I brought out earlier that to every man is dealt a measure of faith, and that God even prophesys according to the proportion of our faith, but not every one of you is going to have exceeding great faith. We've read of a man who had great faith and that was the brother of Jared. But I doubt that Jared did; he went to his brother and said, "Now you pray to God and ask him. . ." Jared had confidence that this man of God had faith enough to do that. And I'm confident that he had the gift of faith. He was a man that said to a mountain, remove and it removed. That takes a lot of faith. He was one that saw the finger of Christ; because of his tremendous faith, Christ not only showed himself to him, but He also showed him all things from the beginning of the world to the end thereof. But not everyone has faith to see this. They were written and one day in the righteousness of the people they will be had, and these words of the brother of Jared will be read from the housetops by the power of the Holy Ghost. That time may be closer than we think.

Let us read on, "And to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; "Those are gifts, "and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits;" in the Bible it mentions the discerning of spirits which it doesn't happen to mention in what I have just read, "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 come to every man severally, according as he will." not as you will, or I will, but as **He will**. "And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ." We have some important things brought to our attention here.

Let us turn again to 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 7: "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." I want you to keep that in your memory, because it is given for a wise purpose;

for your profit, for your benefit, to help you in your walk of life. Then it goes on with the spiritual gifts that I just read so it isn't important that I reread them all, with the exception that after prophecy, it says in verse 10, "... to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:" it's worded just a little differently, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." These are all for a very wise purpose with God. There is so much I could bring out in this chapter, and I invite you to read what I'm skipping, from that point down to where I'll pick it up again at verse 28. "And God hath set some in the church, first Apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly

teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." Again these have been set in the Church for a wise purpose, And then the question is asked, "Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gift of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" And we know the answer would be, "No". Not everybody is going to do all these things. Do all do it? No. But various ones do it, and when we function as a unit, then we have them all. That's the way it is. Everybody isn't going to be an apostle, neither does everybody have the gift of healing, nor the gift of miracles. Neither does everybody speak in tongues. Keep that in mind.

*(To be continued)*

## A Different Vision

*by Nana Gill*

Why? What purpose have I on this earth? To perfect myself. To be a good wife. To be a good mother. To follow Christ.

These thoughts and others came as I lay quietly contemplating what the Lord has in mind for my husband and I? In what direction should our service be? Where are we as a church? How can we as a people best serve God? Praying before falling asleep I asked the Lord to guide and direct us to the work we should do.

When I awoke in the morning I knew I had had a dream of important significance but I could not recall it. I prayed that if it were important to recall it that God would bring it to mind.

Sitting down to breakfast we bowed our heads to pray for the blessing of our food. In that instant my dream was restored. I wept.

As I walked among the starving children of the world, my voice joined theirs in their desperate cry. "Can't you hear our cry? Why have we been passed by?" I held the starving children, tears flooding my sight; my soul groaned in agony at their unwarranted plight. How can we be so blind to those who stand in need? How can we close our ears, as they so desperately plead?

It was as if the Lord spoke thusly: "Oh my people, don't close your eyes to my children in despair. Oh my people, don't close your ears to those in need of your care. What profit the city on the hill if my children are unfed or of your safety secured when my children are naked, destitute. And you have closed your ears. You seek a Zion city that cannot be, until your hearts have been made right. So open your eyes, your heart, your ears to those who cry in the night."

### Lovest Thou Me?

I heard a cry, a cry of despair.  
A cry of souls in the still night air.  
It echoed through the hills from the  
mountains to the sea.  
Begging to be answered by you and by me.

Did anyone see our tears?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
Did anyone hear our cry?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
Does the world have deaf ears?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
Is that why we've been passed by?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
It was a cry of sorrowing and suffering.  
The earth seemed to shudder as if in answering.  
A cry of souls seeking and searching.  
For the meaning to life, the reason for living.

Did anyone see our tears?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
Did anyone hear our cry?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
Does the world have deaf ears?  
(Feed my sheep!)  
Is that why we've been passed by?  
(Feed my sheep! Feed my sheep!)  
"... lovest thou me?... Feed my sheep." St. John 21:17.



# A Great And A Marvelous Work

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

## PART TWO



As previously noted or indicated, the Restoration of the fulness of the gospel (through Joseph Smith and others) and including the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, are preliminary and incidental events to the reign of Christ upon the earth in the presence of the sanctified nation of Israel and those of the gentiles accounted worthy of it, the whole body of His saints.

Whenever God has undertaken a major effort to recover the children of men from their fallen and destitute state, whether in spiritual or temporal bondage (or both), He has made it known through His servants the prophets. Through their words, also, He has previously warned of His judgments to come because of their disobedience, and has entreated them to remember His commandments which were ordained unto life and well being; and to assure them that His loving kindness endures forever toward those who trust Him. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7).

Just so it has been regarding the "great and marvelous work" He was to do in the last days. God sent a prophet, yes, prophets, beginning as early as July 1828 in preparation for this work. The world was ripening in iniquity even then. Ripening indicates a full fruition, ready for the plucking. Who would deny it? And if this were so then, can it be supposed better now? Hardly. Any who have a degree of discernment and are concerned for spiritual values must acknowledge that "evil men and seducers" are waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (II Timothy 3:13), that perilous times *have* come (ibid 1) and that the various signs of the coming of Christ are being literally fulfilled today (see Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21).

We can see these things, even to the release of Jerusalem from its down-trodden state of centuries duration; and yet, how many of us are saying within ourselves, whether consciously or not: "My lord delayeth his coming" (Matthew 24:48)? How many are as "foolish virgins" with no "oil" (gospel light; righteousness) in our lamps, and may be found wanting when He comes? (see Matthew 25:1-13) How many are "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage," etc. with little concern for matters of the spirit (Matthew 24:37-39)? And heaven will not help us if we have become as those at Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Lot (see Luke 17:28-30), and which is increasingly, brazenly evident in our society today: homosexuality in its varied, sordid forms.

God saw that even as in Noah's day, it should also be in *our time*, the last days; that "wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," that "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (see Genesis 6:5, 11). Evidently, the cup of iniquity is not yet filled; but how far distant is the time?

The Lord has not said in vain:

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

"Behold, this is the choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written." (Ether 1:34, 35).

While the evidence of wickedness mounts at an alarming rate, and is the principal reason why this nation is headed for divine chastisement, it is also revealed in the current political "flap" regarding admittance of religion in the branches of our government. Much can be favorably said as for the separation of Church and state, but may we not go too far in this, so as to rule God out of our national life? Much is said about a belief in God, while many others deny a supreme being. But even in a perfunctory "confession" there can be no official acknowledgement of the God of Israel, or Jesus Christ as the God of this land among our officials.

For these reasons has the Lord reached out since the spring of 1820 to begin the "restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). Then it was that the Father and Son appeared in glorious personage to Joseph Smith and informed him, in answer to his question, that he should join none of the churches of his day; their creeds were all wrong; their professors drew near to Him with their lips, but their hearts were far removed. Later, he was told by an angel that he, Joseph, would be used of God to bring forth the ancient record we know as the Book of Mormon. Still later, he and others were commanded to organize the Church of Christ according to the ancient pattern. Here is God, beginning "a great and marvellous work," preparing the way whereby a people might escape the

desolation to be visited upon the wicked, but more importantly, by obedience to the gospel of Christ and endurance to the end, they would have eternal life secured to them.

Why is it, then, that men will continually tempt the Lord God by their idolatries, their slothfulness and disobedience, until there is no remedy? When, because of His holiness, in that He cannot continually overlook, or patiently forbear man's transgression, He must visit him in wrath?

We wonder how it is that God could do such wonderful things with a people called out to be saints of latter days, and has vouchsafed great truths unto them with many infallible proofs of His nearness; has enlightened their minds, spoken to them by the Holy Ghost, given dreams and visions, healed their sick and afflicted ones and comforted their souls in distress—and yet many have committed two evils as did Israel of old:

... they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13

Have any of us turned our back upon the Lord, forsaking the fountain of living waters, as though He did not see and hear? Or have we hewed out cisterns for water, fashioned unto us a god of our own choosing

which will avail us nothing but emptiness?

Where are we at the hour of private prayer or scripture study which ought to be our daily devotion? Or, where have we taken ourselves when possible to meet with saints in worship?

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

"Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." (Malachi 3:16-18)

Again, regarding broken cisterns: These have been hewn, also, in the forsaking by some of Restoration distinctives which have clearly shown the departure of the Christian sects from the ancient order of the kingdom of God and the pure doctrine of Christ; and even as in times of old, the Church of Christ is not entirely free from such. If this be so with the body of Christ, it is abundantly so with the Restoration sects.

Let him that has eyes to see, perceive, and who has ears to hear, let him hear.

*(to be continued)*

# Path Lights

## Having Faith In Our Lord

I have a testimony to give. I have never done this before, but I hope I can put a smile on your face and an uplift in your heart.

Five years ago I was blessed with a beautiful baby girl. Her birth was difficult, but we didn't realize how difficult until nine months later. She was diagnosed as having cerebral palsy. I dislike putting words on handicapped children. Some of them can be so harsh. It was a struggle for her to do anything: Lifting her head, sucking her bottle, rolling; things that are so easy for most of us were hard for her. In the past two years she has been administered to twice. Since, she has turned into a bright, beautiful, cheerful little girl. She is very smart, although a lot of people could not tell it by just looking at her. I have prayed for strength and courage throughout the years. Never doubting, the Lord is there everyday for her and me.

Recently we took a trip to Michigan. During that trip, on a Saturday before going to an open house our family had planned, we were walking out to the car when a wonderful thing happened. We were standing in the driveway deciding who would ride with who and

my daughter, Vanessa, took five big beautiful steps to me. As I kneeled down holding her I thanked the Lord, my God, for all His love and help. I really felt she was healed for those few seconds. I felt there was a meaning for this, not only for me, but for a few others standing nearby. I felt the Lord was telling me to keep having faith and that this was just the beginning. On the way to our family gathering the sky was cloudy all morning; yet driving down the road the sun broke through the clouds for just a few seconds and shined brightly. I know I was high from this, but I know God was there so very much. I know for a lot of people this would not mean that much, but to me it has been a long awaited day. To see someone who has struggled for so long, walk. I'm glad I have faith and that I believe in the Lord's teachings. I'm glad I could share this with all of you and I pray for all people out there that could use the Lord's hand to give a spiritual uplift.

A member of Christ's Church and a believer, I "Thank-you," Lord.

Carol Brantner  
Centerview, Missouri



## Pathlights (continued)

### On The Way Back

Soon after I was baptized into the Church of Christ (November, 1983) I was caught up in an experience that I hope no one else has to go through. I'm not going to get into details but I soon was entangled back into my worldly ways. The Elders had warned me to avoid this path and also that the Devil would attempt to use my past against me. Did I listen, though? No! I don't even know if I was able to.

Anyway, I began to have signs and inspirations and things like ESP. Those things were leading me to sin, yet in my foolish mind I *thought* they were of God. Even when I was in the midst of sin, and knew it, I still was so blinded that the signs kept coming, and I grew more and more confused. Then I figured it was time to call the Elders.

Three days before they came over I had a dream in which they would explain my problem in such clarity that I would say, "Of course! How stupid of me!"

Three days later the Elders came and they did explain it all to me which led me to sore repentance and the depths of humility. The signs were of the Devil and no matter what sign of apparent justification I had, I had no right going contrary to the scriptures. The Elders administered to me for forgiveness and said I was "blessed," but I still didn't feel forgiven.

At that time I had a roommate who was a bit of a sinner (though not as much as I) who owed me a large amount of money, about \$1000. I had kicked him out for that, and so I might pursue my sinful ways. He had left a terrible mess, and to top it off he stole \$700 worth of checks. I was furious and immediately called the police.

Then I wondered what God thought about this, so I sincerely prayed and opened the Bible. This is what I found:

"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" (1 Cor. 6:7)

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Mat. 6:14,15)

I felt I had done much greater sin than he, because I had the light of the gospel. So I called him up and got my unused checks back and told him not to bother

paying me back and that I would like to totally forgive him. Also I called the police and told them the situation was taken care of.

Soon after that the spirit of the Lord rested upon me and told me I was forgiven. He also strongly rebuked me for my past sins — the scriptures pouring through my head as fast as I could think. Then the Lord told me to obey *all* the scriptures and deny none of them.

Later on while doing my now normal reading I ran across a scripture that was very convicting and frightening if I had not forgiven him.

"And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought to him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." (Mat. 18:24-35)

I thank God that He had enough compassion on me to lead me on the right path. I hate to imagine what the "Tormentors" would be like.

Your brother in Christ,  
Mike Kelley  
Phoenix, Arizona

*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, Missouri 64052

## Zion: Are You Longing For It?

Zion! Do you ever think about it? Are you longing for it? Are you regularly praying for it? Do you ask the Lord to help you so that you might help to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion? Have you read and studied the scriptures concerning it?

I asked myself these questions about a year ago and unfortunately the answer to most of the questions was "no." Since that time, however, I have determined to renew my interest and concern for the cause of Zion.

The belief that Zion will be in this country (more specifically that it will begin at the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri) is a part of this restored gospel of the Church of Christ. Some modern day churches are now proclaiming to believe in prophecy and spiritual gifts, but the understanding that there will be a Zion in this country and not just in Jerusalem is only found in the restored gospel (see Isaiah 2:3, 18:1-7, 31:9). This hope for Zion is an important part of our spiritual heritage. We should not be lackadaisical in our concern and desire for this wonderful event. The Book of Mormon speaks against those who are at ease in Zion and those who are fighting against Zion (see 1 Nephi 7:30,42; 2 Nephi 5:33; 7:30,33; 12:25,30).

On our *Zion's Advocate* every month is quoted this scripture from 1 Nephi 3:187, "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost;" If we want to heed that scripture and help to bring forth Zion we must at least be thinking about it, praying for it, and teaching our children about it. Are your children familiar with the belief of Zion? We can encourage the Christ-like attributes of meekness, patience, gentleness, etc., in our children by explaining that these virtues will also help build Zion. We can encourage them and ourselves to become Zion builders.

Surely, now is the time to be concerned about Zion. The ministry sound the call that the day is late; we are entering the tribulation; the second coming of Christ is near. They also admonish us to rise above unbelief. Let us revive our belief in the angel message and in our hope of Zion. Let us not be hesitant to pray and talk about the bringing forth of Zion. I thank God we have that hope. The scripture says it will be a place of deliverance and refuge; a city of the Lord and a holy people; a city not forsaken. It also says it will be a time when Christ will teach us of his ways and we will walk in his paths; when we shall see eye to eye; a time when the Gospel law will go forth (see Joel 2:32; Obadiah 1:17; 2 Nephi 8:67-69; Isaiah 60:14; 62:11,12; 2:3; 46:13; Micah 4:7).

### TO HELP ZION ON ITS WAY

Who am I that I can say  
What great things I've done today?  
Who have I helped along the way?  
What have I done today?

To help Zion on its way, oh Lord, (chorus)  
To help Zion on its way.  
What small thing I have done today,  
To help Zion on its way?

My love for others have I shown?  
Have I made thy purpose known?  
Give me the courage that is thine own,  
To help Zion on its way.

Have I brought one soul to Thee?  
Have I offered ministry?  
Have I thought of other than me?  
Help me to truly see.

Help me to serve you, Lord I pray,  
So that I can humbly say,  
"One small thing I have done today,  
To help Zion on its way."  
Jackie Hampton

Indeed, wonderful things are spoken of Zion. As the poem states, let's ask ourselves daily, "What have I done to help Zion on its way?"  
Becky Sheldon

### KEEP ME NEAR THEE

Keep me near Thee, dearest Jesus,  
Always in Thy holy sight.  
Draw me ever closer to Thee  
Till the coming of the night.

Hold my hand and lead me onward  
Through the trials and stress of day:  
Let me see Thee, hear Thee, feel Thee —  
In my daily toil and play.

Hand in Thine I can not falter  
Thou art ever at my side;  
And my heavy heart seems lighter  
When it in Thy heart confides.

Author Unknown

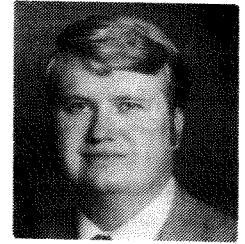
## Lincoln's God-Given Wisdom

America gives recognition to former President Abraham Lincoln by the celebration of his birth each February 12th. Truly, this great statesman left this nation much to be thankful for and leaves a warmth in my heart as I recall some of his wisdom.

One of Lincoln's quotations, in particular, carries with it a special meaning to me. It is special because it is one of the foremost goals and most used slogans of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, of which I am a member and employee. The bitterly fought civil war was nearly at an end, and Lincoln had just been re-elected as President — even after four years of being America's most reviled and hated and bitterly denounced leader. The country had experienced great struggle, suffering, agony and bloodshed, yet the sea of humanity, stretching as far as the eye could see, stood in rapt anticipation of hearing the inaugural address of a man who had not even expected to be re-elected.

On the occasion corresponding to this (inaugural address) four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war . . . All knew that slavery was, somehow, the cause of the war . . . Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained . . . Each looked for an easier triumph . . . Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other . . . It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged . . . The Almighty has His own purposes . . .

## Rings Eternal



by Elder Gary Housknecht

The crowd was struck silent, awed by the eloquence, the compassion, the truthfulness of this speech which was obviously from the heart of a man full of love and understanding of a people and a nation. Perhaps as significant, this speech contained not a word or a hint of political phraseology; this was not your typical party language. No boasting of being re-elected, no praise for the administration, not even a hint at self-glorification. This was a literal *Union* address, aiming toward a strong, united nation with no malice — above all, no malice! Mr. Lincoln closed this stirring message with these infamous words:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to the finish the work we are in; to bind up the nations wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Could it be that we, as the nation, are still striving to accomplish Lincoln's high ideals? And, should it rightfully be that we, as Christ's church on earth, adopt the same honorable aspiration? I believe, yes.

## Collins Local News

Greetings to you all in this brand new year of 1985! I'd like to wish you all a BLESSED new year. We may not all be happy every single day of this new year and I expect we'll face problems and various unpleasanties, but if we are "blessed" by God with wisdom and guidance then, indeed, we will have a happy new year.

Our Collins Rally was held October 20th and 21st and what a wonderful rally it was! We had people come from Independence, Warrensburg, Springfield, Houston and Ava. Why, our little church was almost completely full! You know, it wouldn't have been much of a rally if no one had come and I'd like to thank you all for your support and for the good spirit you brought with you to share here. You made it a success. Thank you.

We had several speakers at our rally. Brother Gary Housknecht of Independence gave the neatest comparison of our spiritual lives to the fall trees and the

way they lose their leaves; showing that eventually the trees are left bare of leaves—comparing that to our spiritual humility before God—being cleansed so that in the spring we may put forth "new leaves." He told of the primary function of a local which is missionary. That it takes EACH of us to help spread this gospel.

Brother Arthur Smith of Ava gave a powerful sermon on repentance. He said he believes there will come a time when we will offer not a "rally," but a spiritual sacrifice. We need TRUE repentance and will have to DO it, not just mouth the words. Along with our repenting we may need to do some fixing of some changes we have made. We have not fit ourselves to the pattern. We have the potential, yes, but are we working with it? One hundred fifty four years and some of the polish and shine has been tarnished—by who? We have need to repent. Need a rally—need repentance.

Another speaker at the rally was Brother Roland Sarratt of Independence. His text was taken from Psalm 121 with particular reference to the first verse which says, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." In the scriptures, "hills" means governments. Government is the word of God. Lift up our eyes to the "word of God." Speaking of the Book of Mormon, these records must be a treasure to us; not just to "look to" (as the hills) but to LIVE by. Later on he said, after several references, the key word is to "watch." What for? Jesus Christ. Strengthen those things that are ready to die. Mark 13:37, "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Our last sermon of the rally was given by Brother Leslie Case, also of Independence. He asked, what it is people are looking for when they look for religion? (Read Matt. 11:3-15.) Do we know the God we worship? (John 6:66-68) There is no giving up, even when you've reached "the end of your rope."

Our guest speaker for November was Brother Loren Bryant of Cowgill. Brother Bryant said, "I am not the giver of peace and hope, only the delivery boy." God has provided a sure hope for the salvation of our souls through Jesus Christ. What manner of men should we be? Do we take seriously this life? Read Revelation 22:10-21.

We had our annual Thanksgiving get-together with the Baptist and Christian churches here in Collins. The weather turned bad and kept most of our people from attending, but there were a few of us who live close that were able to attend in spite of the weather. It was, for me, well worth the effort. We felt very welcome and were glad to be able to share such a time of year in "thanksgiving."

Speaking of Thanksgiving, thank you to all who made us feel so welcome again this year at the Phoenix Reunion. Several of us from Missouri were again fortunate to attend. My aunt, Norma Cook, from Collins along with my family, the Bruners of Independence, and my uncle, Brother Roland Sarratt, all flew out to Phoenix. What an experience! Some of us had never flown before so, as the jet took off, there were some nervous titters and several flat noses as we peered out at the ever increasing distance between us and earth. What an incredible sight! Thanksgiving took on a little different meaning. Boy, were we "thankful" to get to Phoenix!

Back home again on December 9th, our Brother Oren Caviness brought to us a Christmas sermon. He said the remarkable thing about Christmas is that Christmas takes us OUT of ourselves. Christmas brings alive a feeling we should keep all year. Christ WAS born—that's important, whether we know the exact date or not. Mankind has set a day aside to worship His birth. Christ was God's gift wrapped in human flesh. The only true gift we can give is a portion of our self, a gift of love, kindness, joy, understanding

and, perhaps most of all, our time. We give love; we receive blessings. Enjoy Christmas every day of the year.

Our guest speaker for December was Brother Marvin Case from Independence. He also delivered a Christmas sermon. I must apologize because we were gone and I have no report to share with you other than I was told that it was a wonderful sermon. However, I knew that without being told. Brother Marvin always brings a message filled with love and hope.

December 19th was our Christmas program here at our church with the Baptist and Christian churches at Collins. We had a wonderful evening together sharing the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. The program ranged from solemn and thoughtful readings to funny and light-hearted songs, all tied together by a sermon given by our own Brother Oren Caviness.

On December 23rd we had our own Christmas program in place of the Sunday School hour. Though there was very few of us, we still celebrated Jesus' birth and heard the Christmas story read by Brother Allen Kauffman as he gave his sermon. He finished his sermon with a little poem, much to my surprise, that he wrote himself. I'd like to share that with you in closing my "news" for this time.

Christ was born in humility,  
And set the example for us to see.

Christ lived a life of peace and love,  
He came down from Heaven above.

Christ died with pride for you and me,  
Let's take the time to bow the knee.

Christ rose from the grave and took away the sting,  
Are we to set back without doing a thing?

He's up in Heaven at the Father's right hand,  
Don't you think it's time that we take a stand?

Let's go from here and testify,  
And tell the world what Christ did for you and I.

A note of rejoicing to share with you: A young lady, Neta Annette Snider, from southern Missouri entered the waters of baptism Sunday, December 30th, and was baptized by Brother Jack Martin. She received the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Apostle Roland Sarratt, assisted by Brother Allen Kauffman. The baptism was followed by a sacrament service with prayer and testimony. This was one of the prettiest services I have witnessed. Everything went together; from the songs to the scripture readings right on through to the testimonies.

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

## Warrensburg News

Brother Bob Oldham, on November 18, 1984, was our speaker, and brought us many words of wisdom and much food for thought. He reminded us that we are blessed every day of the year, not just at Thanksgiving time.

Brother Bob and Sister Jo Eddy welcomed their daughter home on Sunday, November 18, 1984. Sister Sharon has been serving with the Peace Corps in Senegal, Africa, for the past year or so. After a few weeks furlough, she will return to Senegal to complete her tour of duty.

Those spending their Thanksgiving holiday with various family members in Michigan, include the Eddy family, who were in the Flint area; and the Andy Brantner and Charles Brantner families, who were visiting in the Grand Rapids area.

You've probably read of God's marvelous blessing to Vanessa Brantner, daughter of Brother Andy and Sister Carol, and also our grand-daughter. While in Michigan and since, she took her first steps—something we've all been praying for, for so long. We do thank thee, Lord.

Brother Glen and Sister Mildred Adams were in Hot Springs, Arkansas over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our Sister Jeanette Cunningham spent her Thanksgiving at the Phoenix Reunion, her first flight by commercial airline. A pleasure for her, yes, but not nearly the pleasure that was hers to be able to fulfill a long time desire, to attend the reunion with her beloved brothers and sisters.

Ably filling in at the pulpit while so many of our people were traveling, was Brother Leslie Case, on November 25. We've been told that we missed a wonderful and inspiring sermon.

Prayer, testimony and sacrament service on Sunday, December 2, found our little local filled almost to capacity. With vacations and travels safely completed, we give thanks to the Lord for the loving and protecting care He has shown us. Our pastor, Brother Bob Eddy, occupied this day, bringing us a message from the Book of Mormon.

The following Sunday, our Brother Charles Brantner preached to us, reminding us that we have standards to live up to, as members of Christ's Church.

Coming from Collins, Missouri, Brother Allen Kauffman delivered the words of the gospel to us on December 16.

Our Sunday, December 23, services were of a special nature. Our Sunday School was held as usual. Then our pastor, Brother Bob Eddy read a scripture telling of the birth of Christ, interspersed with the congregation singing the appropriate songs. Two seasonal songs were sung by the Primary Class, and several of our congregation offered readings fitting for

the season.

After a bountiful carry-in dinner, an enjoyable afternoon was spent by all, listening to Sister Sharon Eddy relate her experiences in Africa. Many had questions about the area and the people, their dress, their ways, the language, etc. We certainly admire Sister Sharon for her dedication to and love for the people of Senegal, with whom she lives and works. Our love and prayers go with her as she returns to her field in Senegal on December 31.

May God be with all of you.

Reporter, Jeanne Brantner

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## Temple Lot Local News

As you all know, December was a busy month for us all. The Friday before Christmas, the childrens choir visited the "shut-ins" with sweet music and treats supplied by the United Workers. The children were assisted by Manon Chapman and Marcia Christian. I know we all appreciate the efforts of the children and all the ladies involved in this program.

Sunday, December 23, the two locals met together for the morning service and enjoyed a cantata on the Christmas story, as told in the Scriptures. Martha Bruner directed, accompanied by Mary Lois Bryant from Cowgill, Missouri.

In the evening of the same Sunday, we had another program by our local. Each Sunday School class was represented by song and prose praising the birth of Christ. Later, treats were passed to all.

Ben Case visited from Rochester, Minnesota. Warren and Mary Johnson from Placentia, California were here. Many were here for various meetings and family gatherings; just like a family reunion. We have been having visitors from other Churches, also.

Isn't it wonderful to be able to get together, see the babies and children grow, and praise the Lord?

Your Reporter,  
Kate Moyer

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## Oklahoma News

Greetings to all of you of like faith and in the words of John, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3 Jn 1:2) May the year of 1985 bring these gifts to you.

Our little group continues to meet together often. We are very thankful that we can do this and are very appreciative for our pastor, Elder Larry Beem and his sweet helpmate, Jewel.

The folk in Independence continue to visit us and they'll never know how much we enjoy them. When we express these feelings, they always respond, "You help us. It is our privilege and honor to visit you!" I guess the bottom line is, we all help each other.

In October, Brother Tony Grzincic and his sweet wife, Louise, were our guests. Brother Tony spoke to us about our enthusiasm, our attitude, and our responsibility. He reminded us that Jesus can change us. We have this promise. The scriptures give us this "light." The people who are in darkness don't want any part of this "light." We have a responsibility to live the gospel and we can't be neutral.

The month of November brought us the Marvin Case family. Brother Marvin reminded us that we present the ideas of the gospel by the things we do. The spirit of God does not dwell in unholy temples. Live in such a way that you can feel the Holy Spirit. We must pray so we will not be led astray. We are coming to a day when our faith is all we have to hang on to.

In December, we celebrated Christmas at the Elwell home in Edmond. We were small in number, but big in love. Instead of Sunday School, we each presented something for our Christmas program. It is always so sweet to hear the young children give what appeals to them. After our talents were exhausted, Brother Larry spoke to us. As usual, he gave us a good sermon, in fact, it was one of his best. It was a most touching sermon. You see, Brother Larry has just lost his mother. It was through this loss that he realized how powerful the love of his friends can be. We need God and we need each other, he told us. To him, Proverbs 17:17 sums it all up. It reads, "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

We enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and after our meal, we had fun exchanging gifts. We surely do enjoy each other and miss those who can't attend for whatever reason.

Our sister Barbara Kimball has had health problems and we have missed the Kimballs. We hope her bronchitis is all gone and that she will be bringing her "cheery voice" back again. Besides, we miss our Sunday School superintendent, Mike, and those handsome teenagers they bring with them.

In the words of King Benjamin (Mosiah 3:21), "I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him, who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen."

Your reporter

for Oklahoma,

Alzada Keeney Massey

## East Independence Local News

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

1984 was a very busy year at the East Local. We started a building fund to add an addition to the basement of the church and to put a handicap ramp on the front entrance. We had several fund raising activities: a box social, a white elephant auction, and a pancake breakfast. These activities provided money, but also a great deal of fun and fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

We have, thanks to some hard working people and many generous donations, the amount necessary to begin building. We certainly wish to thank each one of you who helped us in this endeavor.

Becky and Rick Olson were blessed with the birth of their son Joseph Anthony. Their beautiful little bundle, (almost too pretty to be a boy) was born on October 19, 1984. He weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and was 20" long. On Sunday, November 4th, we joined in the happiness of his parents as little Joseph was blessed. The ordinance was performed by Brother Isaac Brockman and Brother Eugene Gould.

Saturday, December 3, at 7:00 PM we were privileged to witness the joining of Karey Tillman and Steven Sarratt in matrimony. They were united in marriage by Steve's father Brother Roland Sarratt. It was a lovely ceremony in a beautiful setting. The church was decorated in boughs and wreaths of pine which filled the room with a wonderful, almost forgotten, aroma. Large red bows and candles lighted the windows and isles making a yuletide scene complete for the entrance of a truly radiant bride. We certainly wish the couple a long and happy life together.

We were excited about a special service that was to be held on New Year's Eve, but due to a sleet and snow storm we were unable to have it. It was disappointing, but it doesn't dampen our enthusiasm for serving our Lord and Savior. We only hope we can double our efforts to do His will and serve Him more faithfully in this New Year.

Please forgive me for not having more information to give, but I just recently took over as reporter and my memory is very poor. I will try harder next month.

May God bless you all.

Your sister in Christ,  
Melissa McGhee

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**Cheryl Taylor**  
1210 W. Waldo  
Independence, Missouri 64050



## Sunday School Lesson

### ZION

**For Teen to Adult Classes. Contributed by the Independence East Local Adult Class. Teacher: Elder Gary Houseknecht.**

One of the more significant lessons we gleaned from this study, which was simply done by examining all scripture references to Zion in the order they appear (Bible first, then Book of Mormon, then latter day revelation), was what actual facts about Zion can be drawn from the Bible alone. This is important, especially when dealing with skeptics of "Mormonism." The matching of corresponding scripture will be yours to discover as you proceed, but here are some of the more significant facts that can be found in the Bible by itself:

Zion is . . . a place and a people  
 dependent upon righteousness to prevail  
 first  
 to have its beginnings prior to Christ's  
 second coming  
 to be the cause of fear to heathen  
 and kings  
 to be built up by the Lord  
 to be honored by the appearance of  
 the Lord  
 a place in which we will be taught all truths  
 a place of "deliverance" (both Old and  
 New Jerusalem)  
 to have the "law" go forth from it  
 a place to exalt God and preserve unto  
 Him a people

From the Book of Mormon, you can obtain these additional facts:

Zion is . . . in the America's  
 during a time when the Jews will be  
 converted to Christ  
 a place where laborers will perform  
 during a time when the Abominable  
 Church will fall

From latter day revelation you will learn other specifics, but especially significant is that the "center place" of Zion will be in Independence, Missouri (Jackson County). Of course, you will discover that the Book of Mormon and latter day revelation will expand upon and make more clear many Biblical passages in addition to new facts brought out. Throughout the study, try to be especially aware when a scripture answers one of these questions about Zion: What, when, where, how, who and why.

Psalms 15:1-5  
 24:1-6  
 87  
 91  
 102:13-16  
 132:13  
 Isaiah 2:2,3,11  
 4:1-6  
 24:1-6  
 26:20-21  
 28:16  
 31:4-9  
 35:8-10  
 46:13  
 51:1-11, 16-23  
 52:1-12  
 59:19,20  
 60:12-14  
 62:1-12  
 Jeremiah 31:1-14

Hosea 6:1-3  
 Joel 2:30-32  
 3:10-17  
 Amos 6:1  
 Obadiah 1:17  
 Micah 4:1,2,6,7  
 Zephaniah 1:17  
 2:1-3  
 3:8-20  
 Zechariah 2:10-13  
 8:1-3  
 Malachi 3:1-6  
 Matthew 13:38-43  
 21:42-43  
 Acts 2:36-47  
 4:29-37  
 Romans 11:13-32  
 Hebrews 12:22  
 Revelation 14:1  
 21:1-4

I Nephi 3:187-188 (front page of Zion's Advocate)  
 7:17-58

II Nephi 5:22-45, 70-91  
 7:12-32  
 8:54-70  
 11: 106-109  
 12:22-30

III Nephi 9:57-59; 69-79; 86-93  
 10:1-5

Ether 6:1-11

Book of Commandments:

5:2-3  
 11:3-5  
 22:8-9  
 30:8-9  
 37:8-17, 26-28  
 40:15-17, 22-27  
 44:9  
 48:57-69  
 59:1-15,62,70  
 62:17  
 64:25-38  
 65:44-46

Doctrine & Covenants 57:1a-g (This revelation not in Book of Commandments due to divine instruction to keep such information from going to the "world" at that time.)

You will find, as we did, that many thought-provoking, inspiring and beneficial discussions will transpire throughout the course of this study. May God bless your efforts.

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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.

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Priesthood, Divine Authority . . . . .	N/C
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