

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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Victory

And sitting down they watched him there,
The soldiers did.
There, while they played with dice,
He made his sacrifice,
And died upon the cross to rid
God's world of sin.
He was a gambler too.
My Christ,
He took his life and threw
It for a world redeemed.
And e'er his agony was done
Before the westering sun went down,
Crowning that day with its crimson crown,
He knew
That he had won.

G.A. Studdert Kennedy

— CONTENTS —

What is Success?	p. 50	Path Lights	p. 56
God's Love	p. 52	Sunday School Lesson — Book Of Mormon ...	p. 58
A Great And A Marvelous Work	p. 54	A Voice Crying In The Wilderness	p. 59
Bible Stories To Grow By	p. 55	Love Of Christ	p. 60

Zion's Advocate

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

All individual articles published in this paper are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the Editorial Staff. All authorized declarations and notices coming from the General Conference, the Council of Apostles or the General Bishopric reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

Editorial:

What is Success? (. . . for the Church of Christ)



As you read this, the General (people's) Conference of the Church of Christ will have just concluded, or may even still be under way. If you were not fortunate enough to have actually been there, you were probably "there" in Spirit, by your hopes and prayers for a successful conference. Later, when you read the minutes of the conference and the Conference Reporter's write up of the proceedings and services, by what measure will you determine its degree of success? In other words, what would a truly successful conference of Christ's Church be like?

Perhaps a more appropriate way of looking at this would be to ask ourselves if, by the time the next conference rolls around, the Church of Christ has had any real, measurable success in accomplishing some of what the Lord has required of His people in these latter days. Considering the fact that the few days in April once a year is the *only* time Christ's Church has to conduct business and legislate itself toward the accomplishment of the Lord's will, when the answer to

the foregoing proposed question is "no," or "not enough," at least part of the blame must fall on the General Conference—and the General Conference is you and I. But it is not my purpose, here, to establish blame.

A few years ago one of our Apostles wrote a prophetic guest editorial for *The Hand of Fellowship*, the subject of which was the General Conference. He pointed out that a complete revolution in our conference proceedings must take place before real success could be realized — success gauged by what God expects of His people.

I have labored these past few months over the minutes of Conferences past. A vague uneasiness permeated my mind and soul. I have seen, to an extent whose magnitude I can only estimate, man's incessant efforts to legislate, improve upon, expand, and speed up God's work. Days, yes, and even years, are spent laboring over a resolution which, within a few more years, must

be rescinded. All the while, the real work of the kingdom is left undone!

After describing an experience involving an attempt to generate greater conference involvement by our brethren in Mexico, the Apostle confessed that "there is no way our Mexican brethren can even vaguely comprehend the kinds of business that are conducted at Conference."

One reason I chose to have this editorial appear *after* conference rather than before, is that I am convinced that if a Spiritual revolution is to occur in our General Conference (the August Minister's Conference also) and the Church, it will certainly require more than a couple weeks or a couple months of our time: to consider — to fast and pray — to prepare our individual selves for what a true business session would be like were it truly the Lord's business and destined, by the enactment of its resolutions, to accomplish the Lord's will. Perhaps a giant step to that end *could* be made in one year — from now until April 1986.

We are an "honest-in-heart" people endeavoring to do the right thing, and I am encouraged by the portions of good that take place at Conference (for much of what takes place is, to some extent, necessary). However, just as with any work, the workers need to periodically stop and measure what

has been done by an acceptable standard to see if they are reaching their goal, whether that goal is constructing a skyscraper or building a Kingdom. If, after measuring our work by the acceptable standard (God's instructions to His people in His restored Church for this last dispensation of time), we find we are not accomplishing God's will — not reaching the goal of the Church of Christ — then we should accept the "fact" that our work habits need a change; that the body that legislates our actions needs an overhaul — and that body is the General Conference.

To further quote from the previously mentioned editorial:

This which I now accept as fact causes me to generalize — if these brethren (in Mexico) are devoting their lives and energy to preaching and spreading the gospel, and the things which are enacted at Conference are completely irrelevant to them, their experience and their efforts, then just maybe the bulk of our Conference work is, in reality, irrelevant to the real work of the kingdom.

If it is possible for us to retain a thought in our immediate memories for twelve consecutive months, let us retain the foregoing and endeavor, through individual preparation, to truly become Christ's Church and then by our deeds earn the name, not just by default.

G.H.

In Memory Of A Loving Father

December 1, 1984. Daddy, Archie Downs, has **been dead for ten years.**

In 1974, when Granddad and Grandma, Ted and Sybil Ely, picked me up from the Grand Junction airport, it was hard for me to understand that Daddy was really going to die. He wouldn't see my first baby, who would be born four months later in California where I lived. How strange it would seem to go on without him. For he had always been there. He and Mama, Margie Downs, had always been good, loving parents.

Daddy would stop what he was doing when my brother, Allen, or I had a question and would give us an answer. Many times, our whole family would gather around Daddy as he would go to his Book of Mormon or Bible to teach us many wonderful stories.

As a child, we were on the poor side, so we didn't have a television. But we were never bored. Mama and Daddy and we two kids would spend our time talking, often telling the beautiful stories or God's word and stories of events in the Church. We learned of many blessings of the church people.

At times when we didn't want to go to church, Daddy would encourage us and before long we were talked into wanting to go. We were usually glad that we went.

Daddy never seemed to tire of listening to our happy stories. His advice was always good. He always helped us through our times of trial with his love and concern.

Daddy would have loved seeing all of his grandchildren and giving them his attention as he did his own children. He did enjoy my brother's oldest son, Aric, who was just a baby when Daddy died. He also loved my two stepsons, Hank and Danny, who were four and three years old when he died. He talked to me on the phone about the baby I was soon to have and we looked forward to the baby's arrival. He missed Thomas Arden born April 6, 1975; Miles Downs, September 24, 1976; Nathan Arden, February 4, 1981 and Amy Downs, July 21, 1982.

With my memories of my good, loving parents, I feel very blessed and happy. I look forward with joy to my life with my husband, Lloyd and my sons. I'm thankful that my mother still lives and I'm also thankful for my brother, his wife and their beautiful family. I've been blessed with such a beautiful family, now and then.

I pray that all of us as Church brothers and sisters will be blessed with the strength and ability to be good parents.

Your Sister in Christ, Edith Arden

God's Love

by

Priest Isaac Brockman, Jr.

We all know that we are living in the last days but I wonder if we realize a lot of things that are happening around us. It's important for us to keep our eyes open today. I believe we should pray constantly, each one of us, for spiritual discernment. So that we may know right from wrong. In II Timothy 3: 1-7, it tells about the last days. See if this doesn't sound like the days we are living in. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The time we have here has been given to us as a probationary time, a time to prepare. Knowing this, I wonder if we really realize what the Lord has done for us or how much the Lord loves us. This is what I would like to bring out. How much the Lord does love us. III Nephi, chapter 4 - verse 44, states, "Behold I am Jesus Christ, the son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are." We can see the love that Jesus has for us, in that He created us. And in verses 51 and 52, we read that His love went further. He gave His life for us. It was not taken from Him but He gave it. "Behold, I have come into the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin: therefore whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive; for of such is the kingdom of God. Behold, for such I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again, therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved."

John 15: 12-17 says, "This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have

called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." We are reminded of the great love that the Lord has for us in that He has given His life for us. Further on in John 14, verses 15-17, He said, when He left, He would not leave us alone but would send His Comforter, His Holy Spirit. "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

He also has given us the avenue of prayer so that we may go to Him in our time of need. We must go to Him not only in our time of need but also to give Him praise and thanksgiving for the blessings which we have received. We have the Bible and Book of Mormon, His Holy Word, to help guide and direct us in our everyday lives. And He has restored his ministry to help us prepare and teach us in these last days. In Ephesians 4: 11-13, we see why He gave His ministry back to us. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

The list of God's love could go on and on. Have you ever sat down and counted all the blessings which the Lord has given you? If you did, I am sure you would see a miracle. One great blessing which I have had in the six years since I was seriously injured is that I have not missed one day of work because of pain or complications. I pray each day as I go to work that I will be able to make it through that day and the Lord has heard and answered my prayers. I am thankful that we have the opportunity to worship God together and that

we are able to share His love together. When we lived in Wisconsin, we are more or less separated from Church brothers and sisters, so I really appreciate the closeness we feel here.

There are many things which we should be doing for the Lord. One is that we should be putting all of our love and trust in Him and serve Him with all our heart, mind and strength. On page 94, II Nephi, 3:57-63, it says, "O Lord, wilt thou make a way for mine escape before mine enemies? Wilt thou make my path straight before me? Wilt thou not place a stumbling block in my way? But that thou wouldst clear my way before me, and hedge not up my way, but the ways of mine enemy. O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm." Here we can see that we must trust in Him and not man. We must give Him the praise in all things and put Him first in our lives, and be about the work which He has given us to do. In I Thessalonians, 5:9-24, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

We need to set an example of our love for the Lord in the way that we lead our daily lives. We need to have love for each other and show it. We must help those who are in need and be of service to each other. We must be a prayerful people. The Lord has given us this opportunity of coming to Him to testify of His goodness and to ask for His mercy. In Galatians 5:6, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Verses 13-16: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one work, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour

as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." The 14th verse brings one good thing, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. If we do this, we will take very good care of him. Verses 22-26: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 6:9-10 says, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

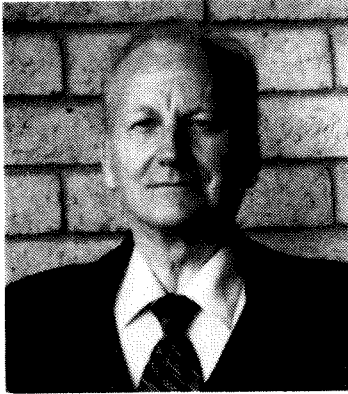
We must be a prayerful people and a watchful people so that we are not caught up in the things of the world. We should not put the Lord's work aside but we must go to the Lord when we are doing His work and pray for His guidance. We need to rely on His guidance and direction so that it is His will which is done and not try to force our own will. Ephesians 4:29-32 says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Also Ephesians 5:1,2 says, "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

Hopefully, this will bring to our remembrance, the love which the Lord has for us and the love we should have for our Lord and our fellow man. In closing, I would like to use the song, He Lives. This summarizes everything which I have been trying to say. "I serve a risen Saviour. He's in the world today. I know that He is living whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy. I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him, He's always near. In all the world around me, I see His loving care and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair. I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast. The day of His appearing will come at last. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian. Lift up your voice and sing. Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King. The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find. None other is so loving, so good and kind. He lives, He lives. Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives. Salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives. He lives within my heart."

A Great And A Marvelous Work

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part Four



It is not intended to portray, in this treatise, the incidentals of prophecy relating to the famine, pestilence, and bloodshed of a third world war, which seems imminent. The first two items are already in

process, and destined to reach world-wide dimensions, also. Some may wonder why the necessity of touching upon matters repugnant to human wishes and desires. If all mankind lived in harmony with the Spirit of Christ, there would never have been utterance of such prophecy. Sad to say, there are even those within the Church who will not conform to the way of peace and righteousness, and these, too, should repent, for humility and repentance and faith will save the people of God. The plain facts are, however, as said by Christ:

"Behold, I am he of whom Moses spake, saying, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me, him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

"And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that prophet, shall be cut off from among the people." 3 Nephi 9: 60,61)

It appears that, though a way of escape has been prepared through a divine establishment of the kingdom of God in these latter days, the bulk of humanity do not want it, will not seek to find it, and rejecting the fulness of the gospel. Incidentally: who can reject it more than those who have received it?

At some point, because of gentile rejection, it shall be taken from them; that is, the burden of the work will cease among gentiles; and then shall the greater emphasis of labor and conversion return to the Lamanites and then to all of Israel.

"And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you, At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations;

"And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them;

"And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them;

"And I will shew unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you, but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel." (III Nephi 7:34-37)

A reading of the last part of III Nephi 9, and continuing into chapter 10 will show that a significant conversion of Israel will only follow the great tribulation, not precede it. It appears that all nations must experience the tribulation before there is sufficient humility to enable the Spirit's work to fully establish the Kingdom of Christ.

It also appears that there will be a final effort by God in proclamation of the gospel of repentance, before the nations are subjected to His great wrath. This is in the future, but possibly nearer than we may realize. It will be concurrent with the Lord's efforts to Zion-ize His people, when the nations are embroiled in war, and when the remnant of Jacob is to go through the gentiles as a destroyer.

This last call to repentance will be spear-headed by a servant of God, who in the course of his ministry, will be injured, or "marred", and yet they will not be able to kill him. Some have supposed this to refer to Christ, himself, as is indicated by Bible students, referring to Isaiah 52:13-15. However, the Book of Mormon clarifies and amplifies the reference; and Christ, in speaking of it, refers to him as His servant, and that He will heal him.

A detailed analysis of this significant development would seem worthwhile.

In almost identical language to Isaiah 52, we find the Lord crying out to his called ones of latter days, beginning with III Nephi 9:74:

". . . Awake, awake again, and put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city, for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit down, O Jerusalem; loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive

daughter of Zion." (Verses 74, 75)

What is the strength of Zion? The answer is found in Isaiah 26:3, 4: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:"

Here the Lord calls upon Zion (His Restoration Saints) and upon Jerusalem (the Jews) to put their trust in Him, for He will not fail them! But to do this, they must shake off the dust of slothfulness and unbelief. They must arise from it and then "sit down" at the Master's feet; they are called into Zion.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that my people shall know my name; yea, in that day they shall know that I am he that doth speak." (Verse 77)

But why the following, as found in Isaiah 52:8, in a follow-up statement, is not included in verse 77, is a mystery. It is so wonderful, so illuminating!

"Behold, it is I."

Here is the personal appearance of Christ in the midst of His saints. Of course they shall then know Him, and know His name. He will speak to them!

"And then shall they say, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings unto them of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Verse 78)

And here again is an important deletion as found in Isaiah 52:8:

"Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion."

Yes, the servants of God shall be *one* at that time, because of the personal, corrective ministry of Christ.

A digression is in order here, but we will later return to more fully consider the coming marred servant, and concurrent events.

(to be continued)

Bible Stories To Grow By

New Sunday School Materials (For Ages 5-7)

To Order, See "Sunday School" Supplies On Back Page.

The objective of the Sunday School class is to acquaint the children more fully with God, the Father, and Christ, His Son. Jesus is their most loving friend and Savior. He cares for us. He hears us when we pray. His Holy Spirit helps us. He taught us those things God wants us to know. They are written in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

In this series of 52 lessons we have tried to bring out those objectives. There is a particular purpose and lesson to be learned from each of the stories. We try to help the children understand that these true stories in the Bible were written so that we can learn how to be more as God wants us to be.

The lessons are divided into 12 different themes, yet all tying into the same pattern of God's dealing with, and His love for, all people. It starts out with the birth of Samuel, and how God used him as a prophet to the people. Then it goes into stories of David and the purpose of John the Baptist's birth and life, and the events leading up to the birth of Christ. It tells stories of Christ's life, ministry, and teachings, and how His disciples worked for Him. It culminates with stories from the Bible emphasizing worship and growth in the knowledge of Christ.

Along with the guide, we have printed suggestions and hints for helping the teacher, extra-time activities, and gift ideas. There are also songs and patterns. The songs, patterns, and some of the activity ideas come from other sources.

Each lesson takes two weeks to complete, the second week being a review. So it can be a one-year program using just the first Sunday, or it can be a two-year program using both the first and second Sunday of each lesson.

Although the stories and other parts can be read directly from the lesson, it is given only as a guide. It is advisable to teach these lessons using your own words. The teacher will have better attention from the children when her eyes are on them rather than the reading. In some cases, it is suggested that the teacher read the story from the Bible as a review, stopping to explain whenever necessary. This helps the children know that these stories actually do come from the Bible.

I do not pretend to be an authority on the subject of teaching children, but I have felt the need for lessons such as these for our children, eliminating as much as possible the influence of the churches of the world.

I would especially like to thank those who have given their time and talents to this effort: My husband, Ron, has supported me with his help and encouragement, Sister Ruth Randall helped in writing the stories, Sister Marlene Cobb drew the story pictures, and Mary Lois Bryant. It has truly been a blessing to have them work with me on this lesson guide. I have thanked the Lord many times for His Holy Spirit that has directed throughout.

Darl Temple

Path Lights

Reunions Are A Blessing

The first time I went to a reunion I really enjoyed myself. After that I wanted to know what reunions were like in places other than Phoenix and Colorado. Well, I kept that thought and desire. I thought for a long time that because of money and time I couldn't go, but I proved myself wrong. I finally got to go to the Missouri reunion. To me that was a wonderful trip. I feel I learned some things and I was able to meet a lot of wonderful people. Meeting all of those people meant a lot to me, but the purpose for which we met meant even more.

Your sister in Christ,
Val Starvo
Phoenix, Arizona

(I recently received the following testimony. It was written in 1957, but never sent. After reading my plea for testimonies, she felt touched to send it.—M.Mc)

Determined To Share God's Word

About four years ago I asked the Lord for wisdom and knowledge, since I had studied in the Bible that he said to ask and ye shall receive.

After that it came to me, after reading and studying the Bible, that the church I was attending wasn't doing and teaching as the Bible teaches. I thought that out of the many churches in the world that there should be one that taught and did as the Bible teaches. I pondered in my mind what church that might be, then I asked the Lord to show it to me.

It was only a short time after that I started talking to Katy Moyer at the telephone company where we worked together. She told me about the Church of Christ and gave me a Book of Mormon to read. I thought it was so great I couldn't understand why I had never heard of it before. I continued going to the Methodist church where I had been attending because I wasn't able to get to the Church of Christ.

Then one Sunday, two years ago, I asked the Sunday School leader of my class if I could read them a chapter from the Book of Mormon. He said I could. I read the 5th chapter of Ether to them because I thought it fitting, for it is mostly to the Gentiles.

I had never gotten up before a big class before to read and know I couldn't have done it if I wasn't sure Jesus was with me. They did listen, for it was so quiet other than my voice that you could have heard a pin drop. The teacher got up after I finished and tore down what I had read. Now I wish I could do it again.

Sister Hellen Roberts (Carroll)
Grand Junction, Colorado

Dad's Final Work

I write this in loving memories of my father, George Brantner, who has been gone from this earth for a long and lonely year.

This was a testimony he related a few years ago in a Sacrament service at the Temple Lot Local. During an operation he had in 1978, he felt his body lifting off the table and was suspended in mid air. He looked down and saw himself laying there, and he could hear the doctors talking and see them working on his body. He continued moving up and away toward a bright light, brighter than any on this earth. In this light he saw the form of a man with outstretched arms. He felt a beautiful peace and love surround him. As he started to go into the light the man spoke and said, "No, it is not time for you to enter. You have a work to do yet." He then turned and returned to his body still laying on the table.

When we moved down here from Michigan there was not a local in this area. After visiting different groups, we started attending the Temple Lot Local. When Dad bore this testimony we didn't know what was in store for us. Since then a local was started here in Warrensburg, my older brother Charles has been ordained as an Elder, and many of my family have been baptized and are very active in Church. In Gods wisdom we now see the work he had to do and he did accomplish it, and the work continues. We remember his dedication to his God and know he is with Him now. We all miss him, but are comforted in the knowledge that he is now in the light.

In loving bonds with Christ,
Jeanee E. Stephens
Warrensburg, Missouri

Path Light Testimonies—A Real Lift

There are not too many members that know me. I was recently baptized in July, 1984. My husband, Dennis, and I have been living in England since this past September. In the past 2½ years we have lived many miles away from any Church of Christ, because of work. It makes it very easy to fall away.

Since we've been here I felt I had lost a special feeling — the feeling of the presence of God and the Holy Ghost. I felt so all alone. I prayed hard every night that he'd stay in my heart. I had done some things I knew were wrong. I said I wouldn't do them anymore, but still I felt nothing. I didn't know what else to do but keep on praying.

A couple of days later I got the Church paper in the

mail. I sat down and flipped through it. The headline "Pathlights" caught my eye. I read the testimonies, then went on with my housework. I started singing to myself while I worked. I suddenly realized what I had been singing, "He lives . . .". That meant a great deal to me. To think he put that song in my head, to make me realize that he was alive in my heart.

Please don't stop writing your testimonies in the paper. They mean a lot to those who are unable to go to church.

Sister Betsy Trudgen
England

The Unforgettable Hug

I was baptized June 16, 1984; a decision I thought and prayed about hard and earnestly; a decision that was against the will of my loved ones. I felt strongly this was what I was to do, so it was done. What a truly wonderful experience, too glorious to put into words. I attend the Church of Christ in Bradley, Michigan, with Elder LaVern Lussenden as our Pastor and truly enjoy the sermons, testimonies and fellowship with my brothers and sisters.

My life was changing and I knew times would be difficult because of the conflicting beliefs between my husband, John, and myself: A wonderful man and truly a blessing to our children and myself. I had to take one day at a time with study and prayer.

Things were going pretty good, then my husband was transferred to St. Clair, Michigan. We expected a transfer with his type of job but I was angry. Not at him, just angry. I had just found my church. Now, I'd be leaving my family for the first time and the closest church was a two hour drive away and would be very difficult for me to attend. As I was caught up in these worries, other cares of the world piled on top, one after another.

One sacrament Sunday I sat in church for two hours and all I could do was cry, uncontrollable at times. The warmth and love that poured out of my brothers and sisters testimonies and prayers were overwhelming. There was nothing I could say in return.

Driving home that day my Dad said: "You know, they had a lot to say to you today." And I said: "I know."

The good Lord knows barely a moment goes by that I don't think of Him and what He would have me do. But I was finding it more and more difficult to study and pray. I received a very inspiring letter from Apostle Robert Jensen concerning my problems and needs, once again grateful but still weary.

One morning I awoke before daybreak and sat at the kitchen table enjoying the peace and stillness around me. I folded my arms around myself and prayed: "LORD, I NEED A HUG." Once again the words can't describe the warmth and closeness with the Lord I felt at that moment.

I'm still moving away from my family, friends and church. The cares of the world will still be there but I KNOW the good Lord will be with me, as He is for all of us who will only ask.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for the kind testimonies and prayers; brother LaVern, for all the inspiring messages, warm smiles and beautiful voice you always share. Thank you, brother Jensen, for the many heart-filled, inspiring letters; Dad, for the many times of sharing your tender feelings and letting me share mine.

Thank you, dear Lord, for bringing these people into my life and bringing your message to me through them. Thank you for that unforgettable hug.

Diane (Brantner) Raymond
Port Huron, Michigan

I wish to thank all of my Brothers and Sisters who have responded to my request for testimonies. I have received many letters of support and encouragement. To each one of you who have written or sent your testimony, thank you! To all of you who have thought of sending one, please do so. I have received letters from scattered members who have not had the opportunity to partake in weekly prayer and testimony services and each have expressed how glad they are to hear of these blessings. They can only have this opportunity if you write.

If you have 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

Sunday School Lesson

[Warrensburg (Missouri) Local]

Book of Mormon —

Additional Witness to Bible Prophecy

I Nephi, chapter 1, verse 3: "For it came to pass, in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah (my father Lehi having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed."

Verse 12: "Yea, and many things did my father read concerning Jerusalem — that it should be destroyed, and the inhabitants thereof, many should perish by the sword, and many should be carried away captive into Babylon."

Verse 26: "And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness."

Verse 28: "And it came to pass that he departed into the wilderness."

Verse 61: "For behold, Laban hath the record of the Jews, and also a genealogy of thy forefathers, and they are engraven on plates of brass."

Verse 165: "Wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household from perishing with famine."

Verse 167: "And thus my father Lehi did discover the genealogy of his fathers."

Verse 168: "And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph, wherefore he and his fathers had kept the records."

Lehi Confirms Bible Prophecy

I Nephi, chapter 2, verse 2: "For it sufficeth me to say that we are a descendant of Joseph."

Verse 19: "And if it be so that we are faithful to Him, we shall obtain the land of promise; and ye shall know at some future period that the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled concerning the destruction of Jerusalem; For all things which the Lord hath spoken concerning the destruction of Jerusalem must be fulfilled."

Lehi and Family Reached Promised Land

I Nephi, chapter 7, verses 15-16: "And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered."

Verses 17-18: "And after our seed is scattered, the

Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders."

Verses 19 and 20: "And it shall also be of great worth unto the Gentiles: and not only to the Gentiles, but unto all the House of Israel, . . ."

Verses 24 and 25: "And they shall be brought out of obscurity, and out of darkness; And they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the almighty One of Israel."

Lehi Speaks Before He Dies

II Nephi, chapter 1, verse 4: "For behold, said he, I have seen a vision, in which I know that Jerusalem is destroyed."

Jeremiah, chapter 39, verse 1: "In the ninth year of Zedekiah King of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it."

Verse 2: "And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up."

Verse 6: "Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah."

Verse 7: "Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon."

Verse 8: "And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem."

The following verses will show that besides Lehi and his group, at least one other group came out of Jerusalem to the promised land.

Omni, chapter 1, verse 26: "Behold, it came to pass that Mosiah discovered that the people of Zarahemla, came out from Jerusalem, at the time that Zedekiah, king of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon."

Since Lehi's group came out of Jerusalem in the first year of the reign of King Zedekiah and Zarahemla's group came out in the last year, it seems obvious there was a space of 10 or 11 years between the beginning of each expedition. This excludes any possibility of both groups coming from the same expedition; however, it does not exclude the possibility of other groups, though we have no record of any other except those who came from the tower of Babel about 2000 years B.C. We are informed of them in the following words from the Book of Omni, chapter 1, page 202.

Omni, chapter 1, verse 35: "And it came to pass in the days of Mosiah, there was a large stone brought

unto him, with engravings on it; and he did interpret the engravings, by the gift and power of God."

Verse 36: "And they gave an account of one Coriantumr, and the slain of his people."

Verse 37: "And Coriantumr was discovered by the people of Zarahemla; and he dwelt with them for the space of nine moons."

Verse 38: "It also spake a few words concerning his fathers."

Verse 39: "And his first parents came out from the tower, at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people; and the severity of the Lord fell upon them, according to his judgments, which are just; and their bones lay scattered in the land northward:"

A Voice Crying In The Wilderness

by Edna R. Smith

There is only one way the night of the dark ages could be broken that God would accept. He has told us in the Bible how it was to be done. God had taken His authority to minister for Him from the earth and then when His timetable was right, He again returned that authority to the earth.

In Revelations 12:1-8 God tells us how and why He took His authority to minister for Him from the earth. Also In Revelations 14:6,7 it relates how He would restore that authority again to the earth never to be taken away.

We who accept the restored Gospel believe that the young man of Palmyra, New York, Joseph Smith, Jr., went to God in prayer as he felt led to after reading James 1:5,6, fully believing that God meant what He said there. Through that young man God again restored His priesthood in power and authority for man to function in His church. By following His guide and precepts man can come again into His divine presence.

We believe that no other church has the authority to conduct men and women into God's sheep fold, because they have not been so endowed from on high. At that time in history the authority to work and minister for God was brought back that man again might have God's pattern by which to govern their lives. The fulness of the gospel was again had among men. His church was organized as it was in days of old with apostles, and all the officers that Christ deemed necessary for the church here on earth with Jesus Christ, Himself, being the chief corner stone. We are His church only if we follow his teachings.

In the Book of Mormon when the people were asking what they should call the church they were told in this wise: "For if a church be called in Moses' name, then it is Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel." (3 Nephi 12:20) Thus we see that being able to say we are Christ's Church we have to be built upon the gospel of Christ which is first of all faith-believing that God is, second repentance, and

that doesn't mean just to quit your meanness but a true Godly sorrow for our sins. Then there is a very important part: we must be baptized to become a true follower and member of His sheep fold. The rest of the gospel ladder being the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement. All these principles are very necessary to follow if we are indeed Christ's church and true followers. We can not deviate one iota or we are not true followers of Christ and His gospel.

We are told also many will come in the name of Christ saying that they are Christ. Jesus has said to not believe them for with their lips they do honor Him but their hearts are far from Him and that they deny the power of His gospel.

The Bible also tells us to test the spirits so that we can discern those that are of God and those that are of the Devil. You see the Devil has mighty power to deceive and we are living in the day when the Devil can work and does work his power to destroy men's souls and lead them down to Hell. He knows his time is so very short for the time will come when He will be bound and thrown into the bottomless pit where he can no longer deceive the people. His presence will be revealed showing all his vileness and he will no longer have power over man.

We therefore invite you to search the scriptures prayerfully to have God's spirit to lead you into all truth. Our mission is to rightly divide the word of God and hold up the beacon that will light the way to peace and the rod of iron to cling to when destruction shall come upon the earth as it surely will come. God's promises are sure and His truth will light up the dark places of the earth. Christ himself makes this statement: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39)

We have an opportunity to either accept or reject the fulness of the gospel as spoken of in the Holy Word of God. We still have our free will agency and we are told what our choice will lead us into, either joy or sorrow.

Love Of Christ

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." I Corinthians 13:1-3.

We could possess all the gifts of the Spirit, give all that we have including our lives, but if we have not the pure love of Jesus Christ in our hearts we are nothing. Without charity we are empty and do not have the full measure of the Spirit dwelling in us. Without charity we are ineffective as servants and laborers for our Master. Without love we cannot serve, this gospel will not go forward without the pure love of Jesus Christ in our hearts. We can have all the gifts and be carriers of the pure gospel of Christ but unless we carry it in unfeigned love we are unprofitable servants.

With these few thoughts in mind let us examine, briefly, "charity" as found in the scriptures. Charity as stated in the Book of Mormon is the pure love of Christ, and whosoever is found possessed of it at the last day it shall be well with them. It is interesting that the terminology "possessed of it" was used, as if it would possess us or have complete control of us. Let us honestly examine ourselves, and in our evaluation see if we possess, or are possessed by, all the characteristics of charity. So often we read and what we see are words which we agree with but sometimes we do not stop and dig a bit to get the full impact of the message.

It is not my intention in this writing to expound or give any interpretation, but only to bring forward some definitions that may be helpful in our understanding of our subject. Definitions used are from *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary* (Unabridged). Keep in mind, also, that not all definitions for the words are used. The scripture reference used is from Moroni 7:51, with reference to I Corinthians 13.

And charity:

suffereth long- undergo, endure, to bear; to allow, permit, tolerate; to bear up under; and is kind-sympathetic, friendly, gentle, tender hearted, generous, cordial.

envieth not- a feeling of discontent or ill will because of another's advantage or possessions, resentful dislike of another who has something desirable; desire for some possession or advantage of another; to regard with a covetous spirit.

not **puffed** up- undo or exaggerated praise; inflate with pride; to praise unduly; vain.

seeketh not her own- to try to find; search for; look for.

not easily **provoked**- to stimulate to action; to move; to excite or arouse; to instigate; excite to anger or passion; exasperate; irritate; engage; to stir up.

thinketh no evil- bring the intellectual faculties into play; use the mind for arriving at conclusions, making decisions; meditate; judge; to conclude; to decide, to believe.

rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth— to experience joy and gladness to a high degree; to be exhilarated with lively and pleasurable sensations; be full of joy.

beareth all things- carry or sustain a heavy burden; endure or be patient; be fruitful.

believeth all things- to accept as the truth, expect or hope for with confidence, have confidence in a promise or statement of another; to have faith.

hopeth all things- desire for some good with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it; highest degree of well founded expectation of good; trust; reliance.

endureth all things- stand; bear; undergo; put up with tolerate; to last.

vaunteth not itself- to speak vainly of oneself; to boast; to brag.

does not behave itself **unseemly**- not seemly; not fit; not decent; not becoming; uncomely; unbecoming; improper; indecent; indecorous (unbecoming, inappropriate).

Brothers and sisters, this gospel can only go forward in love and in the Spirit of the Lord. We must labor for Zion or perish and we can only labor in love.

Priest Ken Oar
Phoenix, Arizona

Easter Message

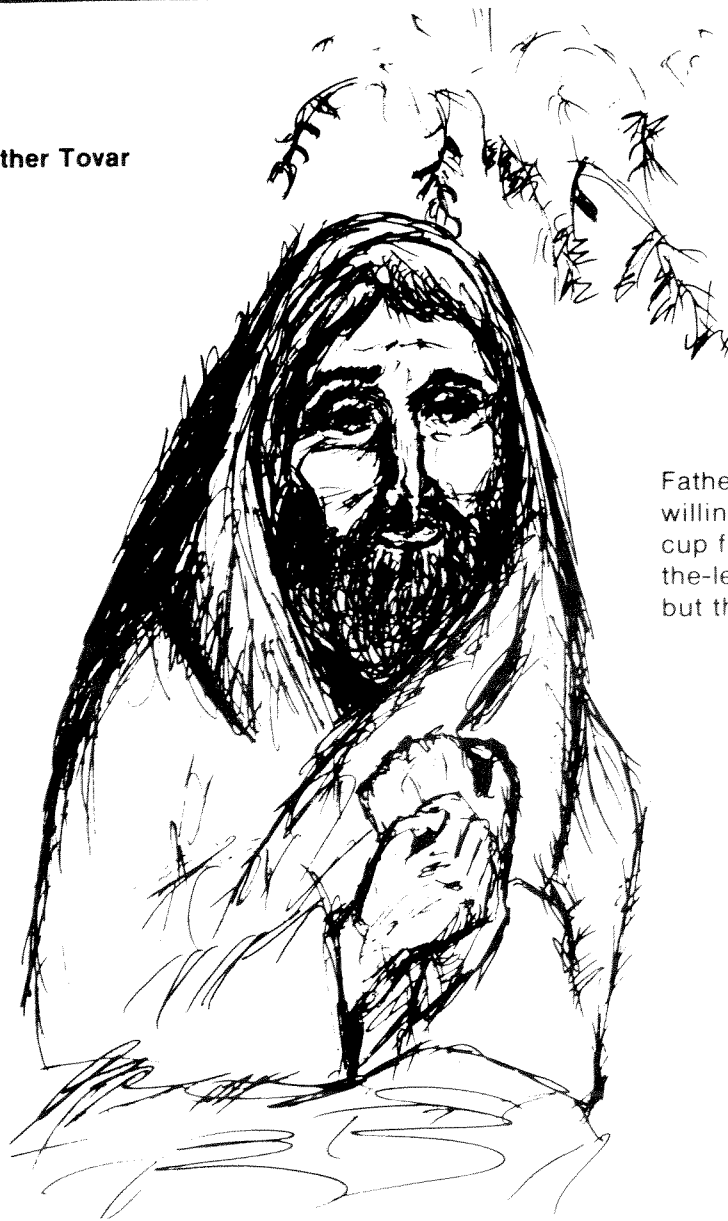
After the night, comes the day;
After the darkness, comes light.
After the storm goes away
The rainbow gladdens our sight.

After the cloud, comes the sun;
After the pain and the grief—
When today's suff'ring is done,
Tomorrow brings full relief.

After the toil and the strife,
The Veil falls silently down.
After the tomb, endless life,
And after the cross, the crown.

—Evalena Sills
1985

art by Esther Tovar



Father, If thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.

St. Luke 22:42

TEMPLE LOT NEWS

After the mid-winter holidays and all the resolutions of the new year, there came a lull in the way of things, and along came preparations for our annual luncheon for the United Workers from both locals. It was good to get together again, and everyone really put forth an effort to make it a success.

We had quite a time fo prayer and deep concern for Sister Joyce Harris as she went into the Hospital for an operation upon a malignant growth during the month of February. We held a special prayer meeting for her that was well attended by both locals here in Independence. She is now healing well, is home, and needs no chemotherapy. What a wonderful blessing.

Sister Silva Rudd has been in the hospital, also, with respiratory trouble. There were many prayers for

her also. She was to have been home the second week in March. Continued prayer for these two would be much appreciated.

Brother Ben Case was here from Rochester, Minnesota, on business, so we took advantage and he became our Sunday morning speaker. This was added to our other good and instructive sermons of the month. Prayer meetings are profiting also.

Spring is just around the corner, and soon the children will be playing outside after church, while we all chat and say "Hello" again, and smile in Christian Love.

Reporter, Katy Moyer

(Editor's Note: Sister Silva Rudd passed away March 16.)

MINNEAPOLIS NEWS

(Written March 3, with snow storm in progress)

We were hoping for an "Epidemic of Enthusiasm" to catch fire from the Winter Workshop held on February 23, at the Gill Farm. The day was one of discussion and planning of the year. Unfortunately, it was the hay in the barn which caught fire from a light bulb going for the benefit of twenty young turkeys penned in a section of the barn. The fire was discovered early on by Sister Nana Gill, who went to supply fresh water for the turkeys. Firemen were able to remove the smouldering hay. The turkeys were lost; but the barn stands and houses seed for the coming growing season on the farm. Insurance will provide repair.

The "epidemic" was in the nature of a virus, which each family present shared in through the week following Winter Workshop. Benny Case and Johnny and Barbara Case and family, not on hand for Winter Workshop, were planning to attend Sacrament Service with us (today, March 3) — their boys having recovered from chicken pox. But a count of well noses was hastily made (in minority for sure). Snow had come in sideways during the night on a stout east wind and promised to continue. It was wisely decided that the church doors stay closed. The storm has worsened and obliterates our view. A foot of snow today and tomorrow is forecast. We have just enjoyed a whole week of heavenly sunshine before this rude catapult back into bleak winter.

The "Minneapolis Reporter" publication will continue and increase circulation. A change of name was suggested to "The Northern Light" or "Polar Star". We are mulling these names over in our minds. What is your opinion in the consideration of the possibility of a new name?

Early August will find The Church of Christ Fair Booth being set up and staffed. Tri-State Reunion's date is to be August 30 to September 2, at White Water State Park east of Rochester and north of St. Charles, Minnesota.

This may seem like a gloomy report to some. It is in fact a happy report! The barn which has stood for many years did not go up in flame. The barn's owners proved their Christian resiliency. Children and adults have survived the mean virus. — And we look forward to spring and the year's activities with hope and interest.

You have received a factual, nothing withheld report, surely "a rare bird" in the field of Christian reporting where we prefer to put our best foot forward. Real life, even for the devoted Christian, does not always allow a "best foot."

Irene Maley, reporter

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Good morning! What a beautiful day! Here in the Ozarks the little "spring birds" are singing their songs. I've been waiting and listening because when I hear them it means spring is just about here. Spring is a brand new beginning—sort of like our sacrament services—a clean, fresh start.

We had a little business meeting here a while back. We voted to insulate the walls and ceiling of the church and also cover the outside with an energy shield which helps insulate, but mostly is a wind barrier. Then on top of that we're going to install all white, paint free, vinyl siding! We've taken out a small loan and have received pledges from some of our members to help pay back the loan. It's been difficult for us to make too many improvements on the church. With such a small group, it's been all we could do to keep up the utilities sometimes. The sidewalk in front has been replaced with a new concrete walk. It's much easier (and safer) to enter the church now. Also the back steps have been replaced. I'm afraid our little church has been the "eye-sore" of the community. A boy from school said to one of my kids that he thought our church was just an old barn. He didn't know it was used for anything. I realize that outward appearances aren't always what counts, but this is the CHURCH OF CHRIST. The building isn't "the church" but when left to such sad neglect causes me to wonder about our spiritual lives as well. Are we in need of such repair as our poor old church building? Perhaps we should pull out our "mirrors" again and take inventory.

Please remember the people here in the Collins area in your prayers. We're weak and need your strength through prayer that God can inspire us to get up and be about the work He has called us to do. And please know that you also will be held up in our prayers. We NEED one another.

Our guest speaker for the month of January was Brother Tony Grzincic of Independence. He came to be our speaker when the roads were bad because of snow and it was so cold that the other churches here in Collins had cancelled their services. One lady in Collins said she didn't know why we were still having a service with the weather so bad and Sister Betty Martin thought that if that lady only knew what we get when we go—she'd be there too!

Brother Grzincic began his sermon by cluttering the podium. He said he had something to read to us from the scriptures—if he could find them. Of course, the point was that he had put a lot of "things" between him and the scriptures. We must not put "things" between us and God.

Brother Gerry Case, also of Independence, came to speak to us in February. He spoke on charity—the pure love of Christ. He said the way you learn this gospel (love, charity) is through example—doing. WE

preach a sermon—our actions—everyday that is guaranteed to be believed. The way we treat others, as spoken of in Matthew 25: 31-46 (. . . inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the last of these my brethren) is what is important.

Other "sermon thoughts" over the past couple of months are: We are the light of the world. If we hid our light under a bushel it will lose oxygen and go out. "What you see is what you get!" What DO people see? Our physical goals are dependent upon who we are, where we are, etc. but our spiritual goals are not. What is important is the condition of your soul. We are sons of God and He expects us to DO something for Him. God has lengthened our days that we might repent and come to Him. II Peter 3:3-11 ". . . what manner of

persons ought ye to be . . ." and James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Don't partake of things you know to be wrong—be peculiar, different. We need to fill our lives (our minds) with the word of God.

One more thought to consider before I close for this time: We're trying to do away with the bad in our lives without going on to be good—lukewarm. It's springtime—a new beginning—let's start again; let's "go on to be good". We need one another. We need to share our trials as well as our blessings. God bless you.

Czerna Kauffman—reporter

COLORADO REUNION

The annual Colorado Reunion will be held at the Church of Christ, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, on June 14, 15 and 16, 1985.

Everyone is invited to meet with us and partake of the spiritual feast that can be ours. If you are not able to come, please remember us in your earnest prayers.

Please contact one of the committee to let us know how many we should plan to accommodate with housing and meals.

- Call or write: Marvin E. Ely
 236 - 32 Road
 Grand Junction, CO 81503
 303-434-8149
- Ronald W. Church
 322½ - 27 3/8 Road
 Grand Junction, CO 81503
 303-241-5372
- Robert L. Ely
 3201 B½ Road
 Grand Junction, CO 81503
 303-434-8090

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

TRI-STATE REUNION NOTICE

The Minneapolis Local is pleased to announce the Tri-State Reunion dates of August 30 to September 2, 1985. We will meet again at White Water State Park east of Rochester and north of St. Charles, Minnesota, where we have enjoyed our past two reunions.

MICHIGAN STATE REUNION

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 15 and 16, 1984, at the Bradley Local, Bradley, Michigan. As usual, meals will be potluck.

Anyone needing housing, information on camping facilities, or any other information regarding the reunion may contact:

- Elder Laverne Lussenden
 204 Oak
 Hopkins, Michigan 49328
 Phone: 616/793-7245

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

- Reunion Committee: Norman Trudgen
 Jeff Butts
 Jay Lee

MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

The 1985 Missouri Camp For All Ages will be held Labor Day weekend, Saturday, August 31st, Sunday and Monday, September 1st and 2nd. The location will be announced later. Please plan to attend.

CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Our cookbooks have arrived! All your favorite recipes! Perfect gift for: birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and Christmas. If you would like one, or more, mailed to you, please send \$5.50 plus \$.75 postage (for each one you order) to:

- Cheryl Taylor
 1230 Baker Drive
 Independence, MO 64050

