

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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No. 7

LOOK UP

O, look not back at all the wasted years,
The fruitless hours, the failure and regrets.
Leave them with Him who wipes the record clean
And lovingly forgives and then forgets.

Look not around; let not fears and doubts assail:
For storms and tempests rule upon life's sea,
So dark the night; so filled with sin and woe,
That vain's the hope of comfort there for thee.

Look not within; for wretched thou shalt be.
There's naught in man wherein to put thy trust,
Tho' he perchance appears both great and wise,
He is a broken reed, creature of the dust.

Look up to Christ. He is the One to trust.
No one will fail who leans upon His breast.
He rules the sea; the wind is in His fist.
He'll comfort thee and give thee blessed rest.

Mary M. Bodie

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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 . . . Zion's Advocate Editorial Policy

I wish to utilize this column to explain the editorial policy of the *Zion's Advocate* and its staff. I occasionally have the unpleasant task of having to advise someone that I am unable to use their material — and more often than not, I am unable to write at all. I hope this will help explain our thinking.

The policy statement that follows is rather straightforward and brief and may not fully explain why some material may not be used. For example, we occasionally reject something due to our feeling that the subject matter is personal or directed to only one or a few, and not broad enough in its scope to be beneficial or meaningful to the majority of our readers. We do not normally reject an article due to poor writing style, poor grammar, spelling, etc., as we try to make necessary minor changes to make the article easier to read and understand. This is not a journal of professional writers — and while we recognize that fact, we still must occasionally reject poetry or other articles due to its requiring too much correction and editing in order to make it readable and understandable. Please remember that it is policy not to return unusable material and to not respond by acknowledgement to material sent in. Though I occasionally make exceptions, I do not do

so normally.

Incidentally, the best length for an article is from two to three typed (double-spaced) pages, though there is nothing wrong with shorter or much longer ones.

EDITORIAL POLICY: THE ZION'S ADVOCATE IS:

- A. To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour and His teachings;
- B. To promote His church, the Church of Christ;
- C. To be a voice of warning to His people;
- D. To be Zion's advocate;
- E. To be an organ for the Church of Christ for official pronouncements, bulletins & notices;
- F. To avoid primarily negative articles;
- G. Not to be a platform for debate over any subject;
- H. To avoid slanderous or defamatory remarks about any person or persons or organization.

This, we believe, is an important work. Please remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

Gary Housknecht

THE NARROW GATE

SERMON BY ELDER GEORGE BRANTNER

January 13, 1960 (condensed)

I would like to read from Ecclesiastes, chapter 2, part of the 8th, 9th and 11th verses, "... I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." We have just closed out the old year. I wonder how many of us are worried, worried about financial difficulties through out this year, worried about the Iranian crisis? If we stop to look back on all this as we've stood through this last year at the edge of the unknown, and have great concern in our hearts about what is going to take place, I would make this statement: the stage is all set for the imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I'd like to read out of the 12th chapter of John, verses 24-26; Jesus speaking, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." We find promises within these words of Jesus, that if we follow him his heavenly Father will answer us; and we find in following Jesus in this sinful world today, that it's no small matter, that it can't be taken lightly, nor for granted. We cannot follow Jesus haphazardly. One of these days we must keep his commandments if we expect to reap the final reward of eternal life.

One of the very first truths that Jesus revealed as he opened up his ministry, we find in the 4th chapter of Matthew, the 4th verse. I'll use just the last part of the verse, wherein he emphasizes, "... It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." I'd like to go over to the second book of Nephi, the 13th chapter, verses 21 through 24; "And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved; Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen, that your Lord and your Redeemer should do: For, for this cause have they been shewn



Elder
George
Brantner

unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost."

I'd like to talk about that narrow gate because many of us have different views. We believe that we are traveling that narrow road. Science is a narrow and exacting road; mathematical laws are narrow; chemical laws are narrow; and what did Jesus say? Jesus said the road to heaven is narrow. He laid it out just as specifically as you would the multiplication tables. Some of us may say, "I'll get there, but I'll get there in my own way and in my own due time." When that rich young ruler, Nicodemus, was confronted with this same subject he made the same answer, but what was it that Jesus told him? "Ye must be born again." So that path is narrow. In order to get within the narrow bounds we must obey the law which the Master of men has laid out from the beginning of time; we must choose the narrow way; we can't be tolerant like the world is today and go along with every wind of doctrine. Jesus drew a fine distinction according to the 8th chapter of John, verses 31 and 32, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Those same words hold true today. Go on over to the 51st verse, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." This is a promise that he holds out today. This has endured down through the ages and it behooves us to do our best to try to follow the commandments which the Master of men has laid down for us.

Let us go to the 15th chapter of John, the 5th verse, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." How many of us realize that without Jesus as our personal Savior we can do nothing? Then go on to verse 6, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." This leads me to believe that we shall be rejected by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, unless we obey his

commandments. And I believe if we keep his commandments we can have salvation, we can have transformation, and we can have glorification through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has no other way to instill his substance within us, only through his life which he has presented to us on the cross, and only through the principles of truth which he's revealed to us in the Bible and Book of Mormon. You know we can confess our sin with our mouth every minute of every hour, but unless we totally surrender ourselves to him, we become as a tinkling brass and a sounding cymbal. Unless we totally surrender ourselves to Him we're nothing more than hypocrites. Going back to the 8th chapter of John, verse 31, Jesus said, "... If ye continue in my words ..." and I would emphasize here, 'in his words'; not follow in man's misconceived ideas no matter how wonderful they seem. Jesus said, in John, the 6th chapter, verse 63, "... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." I hope we can digest these words.

In Psalms 102, read the 16th verse, "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory." How many believe that? I do. I hope all of us are looking forward to that time. In the 17th chapter of John, verses 20 through 22, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as we are one." I think that this is the goal that we should work toward, that we might be one in our thoughts and deeds in what God would have us to do. I don't believe that we've understood the importance of Zion. I'd like to bring it to your mind; I believe it's a place that we should set our goals toward; and I believe we should start within our family life to create that Zion condition. Some of those who have gone on before have shed tears over the way things have gone. I believe when this gospel was restored it was time then, but we hadn't prepared our lives. We must become one in purpose. I believe it's time now that we should step forward and put these things into action. Until they're fulfilled, the Lord can't return. Now, this is my opinion. I believe there's a principle involved and I believe it's an order of security. It's the only place that we can have assurance of that security that God has promised us from the beginning of time; that if we keep his commandments and obey his laws he'll be with us and protect us. And I believe it's a certain kind of people. We, ourselves, have to so order our lives that God can work in us and through us. I think it's a physical condition, and it's a spiritual condition, and that's the greatest of all, that spiritual condition.

I don't believe that there are too many people today who want Zion enough to pay the price. Now these are harsh words. But in order to redeem Zion we will have to lay our all on the altar of sacrifice. We can't go just part way with it. You know as well as I do what we must do so that we might become that delightful people called Zion. A lot of people would say, it can't be done because of the complicated society we live in. I say to you, I believe it can, if we are willing to yield ourselves to the principles of Jesus Christ. I believe when this gospel was restored in 1830, if we'd gone on and obeyed the laws he gave us, Zion would be a reality today. The only thing we can be thankful for is that God is full of love, and he is merciful; and he is willing for each of us to fill our cup.

The last time I spoke here I mentioned the revelation of Joseph Luff given about 1906, wherein it was said, "The flood gates are lifting. . ." I want to say with all the sincerity of my heart that the flood gates have lifted; it's time for us, now, to set our house in order that we may be able to hear and understand when God speaks to us of the things that are coming upon the world today. We think these things that are going on with Russia and the Iranians are terrible, but that's all in the plan to show us that God is watching over us and he is speaking to us today; and the only way that we can survive is to repent, and return unto God. I don't care how big an army we have. I don't care how many missile sights we have, if we don't humble ourselves and get down on our knees and yield to our Lord and Master, we're going to lose out. It's just that simple.

I believe that before God can fully lead us and rule over us that there are some basic principles that we must respond to, found in these two books, and if we respond to them, God will be able to work in our midst. The first is the principle of hearing. Go to the 7th chapter of Matthew, the 24th verse where Jesus is speaking. Listen and hear what he has to say, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Another principle is of examination. Examine these books and see what our Savior has to offer us. Third is the principle of believing. Believe these words, especially those that are quoted of the Master of men. I believe that when Jesus gave us our choice, to rightly divide the word of truth, that we should choose whom we should serve: I believe he knew what he was up against, but he had so much love for the human race, that he gave us our choice. That is why we are here today that we can make a choice whether we're going to serve satan or whether we're going to serve our Lord and Master. And after that choice we must surrender; we must surrender to whom we're going to follow. And after our surrender, we must be obe-

dient. I want to impress upon your minds, he said, "Those things I have declared shall come to pass in their own due time." This is the thing we should be concerned about, that we prepare our soul; and prepare our lives so when God speaks we can move forward as a people. I believe that if we do this it will be a blessing to our Father. Then there's the principle of faithfulness, to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, and I believe that if we inherit these seven principles in obedience we'll have no apathy in the body. We'll have peace and harmony.

I hope we can open up our minds and evaluate

our lives, that we'll be receptive to the words that the Lord and Master has given us to follow. I want to emphasize a point here, that Jesus is going to be King of Kings And Lord of Lords. He is the vine, and from and through Him flows that divine power to lead and direct us in that straight and narrow course to eternal life. I hope I have brought some things to our mind that might enlighten us; that might give us a greater desire to study the word of God, that we might so order our life that one of these days we can see Zion become a reality.

A Great And A Marvellous Work

By Apostle William A. Sheldon

PART SEVEN

Precedent to the day of the Lord (II Peter 3:10), which is the time of His direct visitation by wrath upon the earth, as we have already discussed, the servants of God, including the "marred" one, will have proclaimed the gospel of repentance with great power and conviction unto the nations. At this same time, the saints having been called out of "Babylon" will come to Zion in its embryonic state; they will be covered in the shadow of God's hand.

"And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people." Isaiah 51:16.

The scattered saints will be gathered together as "eagles" in search of food, and will feed upon the "body", the "carcase" of those sanctified saints who had previously come to Zion, or had been nurtured there from youth. Of course this is figurative language. The Lord will have gathered "out of His kingdom all things that offend (false doctrine), and them which do iniquity." See Matthew 13:41. The pure light of Christ will be revealed in the body of Christ, and those who love the light will come to the Church of Christ to be identified with it and to receive the pure gospel of the kingdom. They will be known by their fruits, and unto such will be given the full manifestation of spiritual gifts, and also the greatest gift of all, the personal ministry of Christ according to the divine will. Thus shall the saints be nourished and thus shall they be spared and kept, while the wicked shall destroy the wicked.

There could be, at this juncture, a rather lengthy

rehearsal of the elements of the tribulation — of the famine, pestilence, and of a third world war, but this is beyond the intent of this treatise; these things have been covered in the past, and might well be included in a book if warranted by circumstances. Our main intent in this effort is to honor the Lord in His matchless power to save His people while at the same time He becomes sanctified in the eyes of the nations by destruction of the wicked through a direct manifestation of divine power, for it is only thus that righteousness and peace may reign for a thousand years.

It may suffice to say concerning the length of time for this tribulation, at least so far as a third world war is concerned, that in the use of the standardized system of reckoning as shown by McGregor in his book (A Marvellous Work and A Wonder), the time is given as three and half years. By prophetic measurement, in which days are given for years, we conclude that the 3½ days in which "two witnesses" are to lie dead in Jerusalem, is the time in which the nations of Israel (primarily Israel, Britain and the U.S.) together with other gentile nations, will be subdued by the heathen conspiracy led by Russia in the battle beginning at Jerusalem. This is depicted in Revelation 11. There are some (even most students) who believe these two witnesses are two men (prophets) whose lives will be taken there in Jerusalem. This cannot be so, for verse 3 tells us the length of time of their prophecy is 1260 days (really, years). This is the exact length of time of the apostasy from



Apostle
William A. Sheldon

the true faith which McGregor so ably covered, and indeed, must be the same period. Therefore, the term, "witness" does not apply to individuals, but must be applied in a broader sense: it refers to the gospel having been delivered to the Jews and also the gentiles, and how, in the end time, these nations will be wrought down. The reason for this general misconception is a failure to realize that, in prophetic terminology, days are given for years.

It will likely be at or near the close of 3½ years of tribulation, when the "marred servant" and others of the ministry will bear a final testimony of the gospel of Christ, a message of repentance to the nations before the "Arm of the Lord" shall fall upon these

nations; they will have rejected the fullness of the gospel and His wrath must come. At that time, the heathen nations, including Arab nations, will be humbled because they had fought against Zion and Jerusalem, and had taken many into captivity. Russia, referred to as "Gog", will take captives. This time of heathen domination through a third world war is detailed in Ezekiel 38 and 39, Zechariah 14:2 and Joel 2. It is the latter day "abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:5), a "consumption" (Isaiah 10:23; 28:22), an "over-flowing scourge" (Isaiah 28:15), but it "shall overflow with righteousness" (Isaiah 10:22).

(to be continued)

Why Apostles Without A First Presidency

*Jesus Christ is a High Priest after
the similitude of Melchisedec.*

(This series of articles is written with the intent of explaining why the Church of Christ does not have a First Presidency or High Priests as ordained officers within the church.)

When Jesus Christ gave the Law of Moses (3 Nephi 7:6), he also must have called Aaron and instituted the Levitical priesthood. Was this the same priesthood order that he held?

No. Jesus Christ was not of the tribe of Levi, but he came through the tribe of Judah and his priesthood was after the order of Melchisedec, which in reality was after his own order, the order of the Son of God. Jacob prophesied while blessing his son Judah: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen. 49:10) Isaiah also foretold of what line Christ would be: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: . . . And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:1,10) Jesse was the father of David and they were of the tribe of Judah (Matt. 1:2,6)

Paul verified that Christ was not of the tribe of Levi or after the order of Aaron: "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of

Part 3

By

Apostle

Roland L. Sarratt



Aaron? . . . For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest." (Heb. 7:11,14,15)

Who was Melchisedec and why should Christ be called a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 5:10)?

Paul tells us that Melchisedec was the ". . . king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all." (Heb. 7:1,2; see Gen. 14:18-20)

Alma, who lived approximately one hundred years before Paul, apparently had information that verifies that which Paul tells us: "Yea, humble yourselves even as the people in the days of Melchisedec, who was also a high priest after this same order which I have spoken, who also took upon him the high priesthood for ever." (Alma 10:7)

Alma goes on to tell us why the name of Melchisedec became associated with the high priesthood:

"Now this Melchisedec was a king over the land of Salem; and his people had waxed strong in iniquity and abominations; yea, they had all gone astray: they were full of all manner of wickedness; but Melchisedec having exercised mighty faith, and received the office of the high priesthood, according to the holy order of God, did preach repentance unto his people. And behold, they did repent; and Melchisedec did establish peace in the land in his days; therefore he was called the prince of peace,

for he was the king of Salem; and he did reign under his father. Now there were many before him, and also there were many afterwards, but none were greater; therefore of him they have more particularly made mention." (Alma 10:11-15)

Exactly what priesthood and position did Melchisedec hold?

Alma said that Melchisedec received the office of high the priesthood (Alma 10:12) and that he "... was also a high priest after this same order which I have spoken. . ." (Alma 10:7)

Earlier in the chapter Alma says: "Now as I said concerning the holy order of this high priesthood: there were many who were ordained and became high priests of God." (Alma 10:1)

Again Alma was referring to his former explanation which I can only give in part due to its length:

"And I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after his holy order, which was after the order of his Son, to teach these things unto the people; and those priests were ordained after the order of his Son, in a manner that thereby the people might know in what manner to look forward to his Son for redemption . . . And thus being called by his holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest, this high priesthood being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world: or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things." (Alma 9:63,64,69-71)

Thus we find that Melchisedec held the high priesthood and occupied the position of High Priest, that high priesthood being after the order of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Therefore, when Paul tells us that Christ was "... called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec" (Heb. 5:10), we understand that Christ was called to the same priesthood order (his own order) and held the same position, High Priest, as did Melchisedec.

Of what importance was this to Alma?

Alma, himself, was a High Priest as was his father, Alma, before him. Of Alma, the father, we are told:

"And now Alma was their high priest, he being the founder of their church. And it came to pass that none received authority to preach or to teach, except it were by him from God. Therefore he consecrated all their priests, and all their teachers, and none were consecrated except they were just men." (Mosiah 11:17-19)

Alma, the son, received the office of High Priest through his father just prior to his father's death:

"And it came to pass that Alma was appointed to

be the chief judge; he being also the high priest; his father having conferred the office upon him, and had given him the charge concerning all the affairs of the church." (Mosiah 13:63, see verse 66 & Alma 2:5)

Alma explains the extent of his position and his authority: "I, Alma, having been consecrated by my father Alma, to be a high priest over the church of God, . . ." (Alma 3:3) "And after he had eaten and was filled, he said unto Amulek, I am Alma, and am the high priest over the church of God throughout the land." (Alma 6:30)

Was Alma the only High Priest during that time?

No. Ammon, one of the sons of Mosiah, was also a High Priest: "Now this man (Korihor) went over to the land of Jershon also . . . But behold, they were more wise than many of the Nephites; for they took him, and bound him, and carried him before Ammon, who was a high priest over that people." (Alma 16:20,21)

There was also a man by the name of Giddonah who was High Priest over the land of Gideon (Alma 16:23-27). Helaman and his brothers, who were the sons of Alma, were also High Priests over the church (Alma 21:34,73).

It is evident by this that there was more than one High Priest in the church at a time depending upon the need. The Levites had only one High Priest at a time.

Did the office of High Priest continue down to the time that Christ came to the Nephites?

Yes, but the record indicates that those who held that position had become wicked and had rejected the prophets: "And there began to be men inspired from heaven, and sent forth, standing among the people in all the land, preaching and testifying boldly of the sins and iniquities of the people . . . Now there were many of the people who were exceeding angry, because of those who testified of these things; and those who were angry, were chiefly the chief judges, and they who had been high priests and lawyers. . ." (3 Nephi 3:22,24,25)

When the great destruction came upon this land during the time of Christ's crucifixion, only the more righteous were spared (3 Nephi 4:41). We have to suppose that those High Priests referred to were destroyed; there is no factual statement that tells us that those who survived that time of destruction held the office of High Priest.

Did Jesus give any commission designating High Priests in the church while he was among the Nephites?

No. There is absolutely no indication that the office of High Priest was continued or reestablished among his ministry in the church during or after Christ's mission to the Nephites.

(to be continued)

Conference Report 1985

The Solemn Assembly convened on a cold, rainy Friday but the prayers of the goodly number in the "little white church" on the Temple Lot were filled with warmth and thanksgiving for blessings received.

The elder in charge of the meetings informed the congregation by the reading of a paragraph handed to us on paper as we came through the door, "PURPOSE OF THE SOLEMN ASSEMBLY MEETINGS" which is as follows: The purpose of our present Solemn Assemblies is to allow the gathering together of the saints (not as in a reunion or conference, or even in a Wednesday night prayer service) but for the express purpose of humbling ourselves before the Lord in mighty prayer and fasting, seeking not just His blessing on the conference, or deliverance for ourselves, but more especially to seek specific spiritual guidance as to the work of the gospel and how we may be better able to carry forth this work in these last days. In addition, we need to be diligently seeking for a greater outpouring of His Spirit upon our labors.

"Resolute", a word Mr. Webster defines as meaning determined; having a fixed purpose; firm. Following the second season of prayer during this first meeting, Brother Roland Sarratt gave an admonition that the Lord had impressed upon his mind that this people were not "resolute" enough. He said, "When the Lord gives us an option to make a decision — when we make it, do it. Await the hand of God to see us through the chastening process through which He is taking others."

In another service, it was touching to listen to a man, usually eloquent with words, humbly pray for "words to pray." Another asked that "Zion become a reality."

Saturday, another cold, rainy day found our number in attendance on the increase. "Thou my everlasting portion, more than friend or life to me, . . . Savior, let me walk with Thee. Close to Thee," was sung like a prayer from the heart. Brother Marvin Ely read, "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! . . . Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud," from Proverb 16:16-19.

Brother William A. Sheldon called the gathering to order in the afternoon with the singing of all of, "We Thank Thee, O God, for Thy Spirit. . . we feel it is a pleasure to serve Thee." Brother Sheldon continued to say that the success of our meetings depends upon the degree of singleness of our eye. His comment on Galatians 6: 7 & 8 was, "If desire and love does not go out to God then we cannot expect anything back and He returns double or more than we send up."

A light snow had fallen in the early hours on the last day of March and our people from far and near

gathered through snow flurries into the Mid-America 4-H University of Missouri Extension Center Building on Highway 291 in Independence for the Sacrament Service in anticipation of communing with the Spirit of God.

Brethren Robert Jensen and Marvin Ely presided over the assembly with Brethren Alvin J. Moser, Smith Brickhouse, Nicholas F. Denham, and Charles Brantner assisting.

"With thankful hearts we meet, O Lord, to sing Thy praise, to hear Thy word, to seek Thy face in earnest prayer, to cast on Thee each earthly care," extolled our reasons for assemblage, before Brother Jensen's remarks concerning the emblems. "Partaking of the emblems is a renewal of the covenant through baptism."

Sister Beaver from Ohio and Sister Mable Bergey from Michigan received administration for relief from illness and fatigue, then the emblems were served by the four assisting elders to a room filled with our people from Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Texas.

Brother Jensen testified that in his travels he had dozed at the wheel of his car and narrowly escaped an oncoming truck — how he had the strength to recover from shoveling snow that had buried his car — God gives strength beyond our deserts. He led in a season of prayer then, in which several responded with thankfulness for the blessings received. God's guidance was asked for the young and the plea for a greater missionary effort was made.

We sang, "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us," then Sister Doris Sheldon shared with us that she had proved the Lord many times. In one instance, the float in the gas tank on their car malfunctioned and it was going to cost \$45 to fix it. She went to the Lord with the problem and He corrected it. She owed much praise and thanks to the Lord.

Brother Tony Grzincic was told by "that still small voice" to change from lane one to lane two as he was traveling. He didn't question, but obeyed and averted an accident. The loss of some wrenches and a six-inch scale became quite a problem and although he had searched for them they were found only by a plea to God.

"God Lifted Me To Heights I'd Never Known" was heard by Sister Vida Filley, in her mind being beautifully sung by a heavenly chorus, and she testified that she believed it will be the theme when Christ comes — the song of the redeemed. Health problems threatened to keep her from coming to the conference. She was diagnosed as having a brain tumor above one eye. She sought the Lord in prayer and the next visit to the doctor revealed that the tumor was no longer there.

Praise God!

The little foster child in the Pennington home testified that she loves to sing, "Jesus Loves Me," and really feels that she is sitting on Jesus' lap when she sings.

Sister Mary Lois Bryant testified that, after administration a year ago in a like meeting, she received much strength. "I know that this is the Church of Christ — the Book of Mormon is true." She appealed to those who had not yet taken the step into the waters of baptism that they might belong to the family of Christ.

"I have been through a trying time but a blessed time," testified Sister Joyce Harris. She was overcome with fear at the report of a malignancy then remembered that her son, Mark, had said that fear was not of God, which he had learned from an experience of his own. She was thankful for that attitude. The support she received from the church was "unbelievable" and it seemed that she had to go through the experience of cancer to learn this. Ever her anesthesiologist in the hospital told her to pray, which gave her courage.

Sister Becky Sheldon told that her little boy fell against a kerosene heater and was blessed through the use of consecrated oil. The little son asked that this blessing be shared with this people. Becky was thankful that he remembered the blessing and gave the Lord the credit.

Sister Joyce Lussenden didn't resort to administration when a young person so hadn't availed herself of the privilege of the blessing that comes through that avenue. Her daughter-in-law prayed that her mother-in-law might have the courage to ask for it. The prayer was answered and as a result she had excellent tests and had not taken medication for diabetes in over a year. She had faced heart by-pass surgery and the people in the church held a special prayer service for her. In the tests, nothing wrong was found. She testified that God does not let her down but she realizes she must praise Him always.

"Praise God for His mercy and great love," from Brother Leslie Case. He received strength through the loss of a grandchild. The doctors had done all for their daughter, Linda, that they could — only God is to be praised. Linda asked of God, "Why the pain?" She was told, "So you will know I blessed you." Brother Leslie further testified that God had allowed them to visit the western part of this great nation and meet saints on home ground, and "I do rejoice."

Brother Glenn Gill remembered his choice to be baptized. As an answer to prayer, the Glenn Gill family had recently moved from isolation in southern Illinois to North Kansas City, Missouri. Glenn told how his sister-in-law (Mary Lois Bryant) had given him information on a job opening. Another sister-in-law (Joyce Harris) requested prayers for the interview. He was hired for the job and "more and more each day, I realize there was a reason which has not all been revealed yet." He asked for prayers for the saints in Puryear,

Tennessee.

"I give thanks because you are my brothers and sisters," said Brother Marvin Case. He then related an incident where he was meeting a young mother driving on a two-lane highway. She attempted to correct some small children in her car and turned her vehicle into his lane. Marvin prayed and at the right moment she swung back and avoided a collision. He went on to testify that when the ministry tries to carry the gospel to those who have been hurt, the Holy Ghost comes to help them realize the need to do something. He asked for prayers for the ministry that they may be able to reach those in need.

To cause us to think about it, Brother Roland Sar-ratt asked, "Why the blessing of little children?" He had found evidence of his blessing among his mother's effects after her death. In his growing years he had experienced a rebellious period and tried strong drink and came to realize that his blessing helped him to resist temptation. He expressed the thought that we need more to utilize the ordinance of the blessing of little children.

While tables and chairs were being arranged for seating for partaking of a sustaining midday meal, folks were extending greetings with handshakes and hugs and learning from each other what had been going on with them since a year ago. This was interrupted by a call from the kitchen that the meal was being served. There were volunteers and recruits who assisted the dining committee with the serving and clearing away the dishes.

After the morning service and dinner we were back in our places to hear the choir in its presentation of Easter music in a cantata which had been arranged by Sister Manon Lawrence. The choir was under the direction of Sister Manon with Sister Martha Bruner at the piano. Soloists were Sisters Janice Welch, Margret Gill, Neva Housknecht and Brother Daniel Hedrick. Brother Marvin Case did the narrating. The voices in the choir came from the Georgeville and Independence Locals.

A few moments were left before time for the evening service so the Gill family favored us with "Come Morning," featuring Donald singing the verses, and "Fill My Cup Lord," with Glenn and Margret soloing on the verses, to the accompaniment of Brother Glenn on the guitar and Donald on the mandolin.

At the evening preaching service, Sister Janice Welch gave a beautiful offering in the song, "Let Us Pray For One Another," accompanied by the cadence of a snare drum in the hands of her mother, Sister Marion Sprague, and the piano played by Sister Martha Bruner.

Brother Warren Johnson introduced Brother Don McIndoo to deliver the evening message, who told us that the saints in Yucatan extended their greetings to us in conference assembled. They

wished the church in the United States happiness. They were thankful for the economic aid sent to them and for the Gospel we took to them and "may the blessing of Christ be with you."

Brother Mcindoo commented that unless a backsliding Israel repented, Christ would leave them behind, for he said in Luke 3:7, 8, "... God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." The Gentile nations are as dead, or stones and raised up. II Nephi 12:77, 77, "... That as many of the Gentiles as will repent, are the covenant people of the Lord. ..." A spiritual division is going on now. 95% of the world envies the 5% in this country. There is a power on the earth offering anything and everything that is wanted, the same the old devil offered to Christ. Nothing in the Scripture offers these things — Scripture offers only Spiritual things. II Nephi 12:90, "... the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people. ..."

The conference business sessions began on a mostly sunny day and that evening the assembly proclaimed to all who might be listening that "The Lord Jehovah Reigns," under the direction of the chorister, Sister Martha Bruner. The little children's choir demonstrated their talents when they sang, "The Lord Is Risen." The sweet voices of little Megan Welch and Elizabeth Smith favored us with "Pass It On."

The preacher of the evening was Brother Marvin Ely. Before he was introduced by Brother James E. Yates, Sr., Sister DeeAnna Hutcheson gave a beautiful offering in song, "O Jesus I have Promised," then Sister Mary Lois Bryant received administration.

Brother Ely used John 15:1-3, "I am the true vine ... ye are clean through the word I have spoken unto you." He said that if ye be in Christ, seek the fruits of the spirit.

Tuesday, April 2, dawned sunny and beautiful. Brother Eugene Gould was in charge of the morning prayer service assisted by Brother Charles Brantner. Our minds were brought into the solemnity of the hour by "Sweet Hour Of Prayer" and Brother Brantner read from III Nephi 8:47-51. Those added to the prayer list were Sisters Cheri Pennington, Shirley Ely, Louise Yates and Mable Bergey. We were also asked to pray for Berchie Welton suffering from heart disease and who has since succumbed to that ailment. Our prayers have continued for the family. A long season of prayer followed the naming of those in need. One young man pleaded for the virtues mentioned in the sermon of last evening. One prayed for our outreach to Israel. Another gave thanks for the Book of Mormon.

Brother LaVerne Lussenden testified that although he has but one hand, he received two testimonies where two men said that they felt two

hands upon their heads under his administration. Brother Lussenden believes that we are very close to the second coming of Christ.

There was no Elder in the area where brother Samuel Gould lives so when his little son, Joshua, fell from a table he used consecrated oil on the bump. It kept the swelling down and the baby's crying stopped. Brother Thomas Maley told of a non-member who spoke of the "sacred oil" and put it on a woman's shoulder and pain was relieved. It is an example of how faith works, and the finger of God IS working. Sister Ruth Maley also told that her son, Charles, used the oil on his foot to relieve distress.

"Why the laying on of hands?" asked Brother Jenkins. "It is the Divine touch all the way from our Master. I believe Christ laid His hands with the man of only one hand. I'm glad to be a member of this church — the only one of 13 children."

Brother Robert Oldham was "thankful to be able to attend some services. I have attended two more than usual." He testified that he had gone into homes where the people had no idea of the contents of the Book of Mormon and were reluctant to bring it out, although they knew of the love in this church. "We are a privileged people but don't use that privilege. We can take the guilt trip but we'd be in an awful mess without Christ. Together we will spread Christ's Gospel among our people."

Sister Martha Bruner brought the assembly together at 6:30 P.M. for a song service. Brother Gary and Sister Neva Housknecht sang "Ivory Palaces" and "His Name Is Wonderful," as a special offering. It had been awhile since the Harris sisters, Mary Lois Bryant, Margret Gill and Martha Bruner, had sung for us. Their offering was "Let There Be Peace On Earth." The Hampton sisters, Eva Cartwright and Neva Housknecht, sang for their offering, "Hasten The Day Of Endowment," the last number of the service.

Brother David and Sister Becky Rudd sang, "Surely The Presence Of The Lord Is In This Place," the special offering for the evening preaching service and Brother Robert Jensen introduced the preacher, Brother Frank Fann. He asked, "Has our enthusiasm waned since baptism? That's enduring." Matthew 24:4-13, this is all about enduring to the end. "He that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved." Doing His will is enduring. To endure we resist evil. Be sober, be vigilant because the devil seeks to destroy you. The peace Brother Fann referred to in the reading of a poem comes only through "God's Love", the song sung to close the service.

The last day of the conference was another bright sunny day. The morning prayer service convened with Brethren Jay Moser and Kenneth Oar. Brother Oar said, "Our meetings of devotion are just

one more shovelful of coal to stoke our furnaces, like those of a ship."

The season of prayer expressed thankfulness and pleas for discernment as well as healings for our sick and afflicted. Brother Brickhouse was suffering pain in one hand because of an accident with the family cat and received administration.

Brother Loren Bryant testified that sin was among us. As a prisoner of war he felt a ministry to be a living witness of the goodness of God. There is too much sin among us. Let us turn to our God.

Sister Mary Lois Bryant testified that when she asked for administration the evening before that she was having trouble breathing. She expressed thankfulness to a loving God because under the hands of the Elders her breathing became easy and she also received an uplift in spirit.

Appreciation was given in the morning conference business meeting to Sister Sharon Smith for the beautiful cake she decorated and presented in the dining room. It was a chocolate cake iced in white on which was written "The Legend Of The Dogwood," an appropriate contribution for the Easter season. The four white petals of the flower resemble the cross as two petals are longer than the other two. The stamen represents the crown of thorns and the small red splotches on the petals appear to be drops of blood resembling the Savior's blood shed for us.

We gathered again at 6:30 p.m. for the last song service of the conference and acknowledged that the Lord is "A Shelter In The Time Of Storm" and gave a tribute to our nation under God with "America The Beautiful!" A special offering was "Jesus, My Savior," by a men's quartet from Phoenix, Breth-

ren Hubert Yates, Joel Yates, Don McIndoo and James E. Yates, Sr. Another special offering by Brother Robert Oldham and Sister Wanda Yates was "There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit." Sister Nana Gill wrote the words and melody to "A New Day And A New Life," and Sisters Janice Welch and Martha Bruner arranged music that the song might be played on the piano. As the last offering to the service, Sister Janice Welch sang this new song while Sister Martha Bruner accompanied on the piano. Beautiful!

The Harris sisters sang, "I'm Not Alone," as a special offering before Brother Bates introduced Brother William A. Sheldon as the preacher for the evening. Brother Sheldon began with Isaiah 11:10 which speaks of a "root of Jesse in Christ to be presented in the latter days to all people," in Brother Sheldon's words. Isaiah 5:26, tells of the Lord lifting up an ensign from afar upon this land. I Nephi 7:43-46: The Holy One is the standard upon the earth and this latter day work is that through which Christ will be revealed to the world. The Gentile nations, of which the United States is composed, have rejected the Gospel. There are many outward signs of wickedness and rejection of the Gospel, the Church of Christ and the Book of Mormon.

Where do we stand in the sight of God? Isaiah 5:11-15, we are to go out from the midst of all uncleanness and the God of Israel will be our reward. He will gather us up.

"Take My Life, and let it be consecrated Lord, to Thee," a prayer in song, closed the service and placed another conference in history.

God be with you till we meet again.

Your conference reporter, Lois Harris

New Zion's Advocate Staff

At the April 1985 conference, a new editorial staff was elected. I have been selected to replace Apostle Sarratt as the Editor, while Diane Brockman remains on as an Associate Editor. David Rudd joins the staff this year as an Associate Editor.

NEW ADDRESS: Please observe the paragraph on page 98, headlined, "Written Material For Zion's Advocate Requested." This paragraph appears at that location in each issue. Henceforth, please send all materials (other than news type items) to:

Elder Gary Housknecht
Editor, Zion's Advocate
2901 S. Norwood
Independence, Missouri 64052

NEWS: Send all local news, obituaries, announcements, reunion notices, reunion news reports, etc., to:

David Rudd
1009 E. Stone
Independence, Missouri 64050

I would like to mention, here, others that contribute to producing each issue of the Advocate: Doris Ratterree and Scott Harris work hard at addressing and mailing, and Melissa McGhee puts together the popular "pathlights" testimony section.

Though our typesetters and printers get paid for their part, never-the-less, they deserve recognition for their talents, help and fine quality work. They are members of the RLDS Church: Don and Leona Small of Frontier Typesetting, and Jack Small of Arrow Printing.

Most importantly, special recognition goes to all contributors of material used in the *Zion's Advocate*. Without you, we would not have a paper! Please keep the material coming. The editorial staff is always open to your ideas, suggestions, complaints, etc. We may miss a typesetting error now and then, but we do try to produce a quality paper. It is *your* paper, so please don't be shy about submitting suggestions; there is always room for improvement.

Gary Housknecht

Path Lights

THE POWER OF PRAYER

The following event took place on Tuesday, January 22, 1985. School had been closed due to heavy snowfalls and some impassable roads. I was able to get out and go to town, so thought I'd stop at the school on my way back and pick up my grade book.

The school building is three stories high. My room is on the top floor. Two Principals were standing in the hall as I entered.

They asked, "Are you going to use the elevator?"

As it is my custom to do so, I said "Yes."

They said it was loaded with 2,000 lbs. of paper and was to be tested for weight capacity the next day. I asked, "Are you sure it will work all right if I get on it?"

They said, "Yes." Then, I asked if they would come to my rescue if it doesn't. Again they said, "Yes."

I proceeded to get on the elevator. The door closed and I pushed the button for the third floor. Nothing happened. I kept pushing the button with no results. Finally, I thought I'd better get out of there, so pushed the open door button. The door wouldn't open. I stood there, alternately pushing the open door and third floor buttons for 3 to 5 minutes. The door wouldn't open and the elevator remained stationary. I pushed the emergency bell so they would come and get me out. No one came. I kept pushing the alarm for another 3 to 5 minutes, and still no one came.

I didn't panic, but I knew that I had to think of some other way out of this situation, so I began to pray. I realized the oxygen was limited, that there would not be enough to keep me alive if I was left there overnight. I prayed, then pushed the open door button one more time. The door opened immediately. I stepped out, feeling quite relieved and very thankful. I went to the office to see why no one had responded to the alarm. I found that everyone had gone home, except a few custodians working in the far end of the building, who would not have been able to hear the emergency bell. I don't know whether or not, when it came time for them to leave,

they would have realized I was still in the building.

Two days later, I met one of the Principals in a restaurant. I thanked him for leaving me in the elevator. He started to laugh and asked, "Do you know what happened?"

I said, "No." He said, when they returned the next day, they found the elevator had sunk, and it took 3 hours to open the door. They were afraid I was still inside, until they thought to check and saw that my car was gone. Then I realized how very fortunate I was!

The next day I met the other Principal. I said, I really appreciated your leaving me in the elevator. He laughed and asked, "How did you get out?" I said I prayed. He asked how I really got out. I said I prayed. I'm not sure he accepted that answer.

When school finally re-opened the next week, I asked a custodian what happened. He said that when I got on the elevator, it was already over the limit and it blew the circuit breaker.

I said, "Yes, but doesn't it take electricity to open the door?" He said it did. I told him that when I pushed the buttons they didn't light up, but the overhead light stayed on. He couldn't explain that, but he knew the circuit breaker had flipped and was the cause of it not working.

Later, I spoke to another custodian. "They told me that when I got on the elevator, that blew the circuit breaker, so how did I get out?" He said, he didn't know how I got out. I said, "That's okay, for I know how I got out."

I'm still not sure they accept or believe my reasoning, but I know it was only by the grace of God that the door opened.

Later, I asked if there was any trap door or emergency door at the top or any air vents in the elevator. The answer to both questions was, "No."

I know it was only the power of prayer that opened that door. If the Lord has all power in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18) He is surely able to provide any power that may be needed in answer to prayer.

Bonita Hunt
Michigan

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

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

Temple Lot Local News

Since conference closing in April, we have all been busy getting our homes, yards, and gardens ready for the summer, and to also take advantage of the pleasant weather.

Forest and Irene Maley from the Minneapolis Branch were here for a few days for just that purpose. They are thankful for all the good help from friends and relatives repairing their home on Norton, also painting, etc.

Alice Larson and Daughters Jean and Joan were here for a short visit. They attend the Grand Junction Branch.

Jim Moyer and son Larry were here over Decoration Day, visiting at the home of Jim's Mother, and also the Ray Adams residence. It's so good to see all the visitors again. The Gospel is a wonderful bond.

The young people have been busy preparing for their garage sale. It's a good way to get rid of things you don't need also.

Bible and Book of Mormon school will soon be here. The two branches here combine in the whole plan, and program following. The children just love it.

Doris Ratterree will soon go into training for the new business office computer. Al Harris and maybe more will also be trained.

Brotherly love, forgiveness, and appreciation for the true gospel are a few of the thoughts expressed in sermons and testimonies, also the privilege to worship as we please in this country of ours, and my thoughts are, "and may it so continue." May we not take it for granted.

Reporter, Kate Moyer

RHYME AND RHYTHM

A small volume of poems by Evalena Sills, mostly Gospel themes; some just human sentiment; a little humor. Thirty-nine small pages; three photos. Yours for the asking while the supply lasts. Small contributions accepted but not required. (Five dollars or less suggested.)

Evalena Sills
4056 E. Danbury Road
Phoenix, Az 85032



**What large western city
was founded July 24, 1847,
and by whom?**

(Answer Next Month)

Independence East Local News

The first Sunday of May was a banner day for the East Local. In place of our regular Sunday School that morning, we gathered in the church basement to witness the baptism of our Sister Shirely Baily of Lamoni, Iowa. Following this was a short confirmation service after which all went forward to extend to our new Sister the right hand of fellowship. What joy prevails at such a time, when another soul is added to the Kingdom of God.

At the eleven o'clock hour, Elder Robert Oldham lead us in our regular sacrament service. His scripture text was from the third book of Nephi where Christ visited those on this continent, centering on the occasion where he told them to bring their little children to Him; and as He prayed over them, with words that could not be written, they were encircled about by fire. In his remarks, Brother Oldham stated that we too are God's children, and should come to Him as such in faith and submission, with expectation of that 'burning fire' of the Holy Spirit to surround and fill us. This I'm sure was felt to a marked degree as the meeting progressed in prayer and testimonies, and the administrations which were asked for and performed. Then all too soon it was time to bring the service to a close. This was especially needful for the benefit of our out of town guests, both from Lamoni, Iowa, and Warrensburg, Missouri. A delicious dinner was then served in the church basement, mingled with that special fellowship.

Our branch business meeting was held the evening of May 6th, and Elder Smith Brickhouse was elected pastor and Elder Eugene Gould as assistant pastor.

Sermons for the month were brought to us by Elder Smith Brickhouse, Elder Gary Housknecht, and guest speaker, Elder Rodger Bruner from the Temple Lot Local. Each in his own way and style brought us a message of counsel and instruction.

Brother Bill Nast has recently undergone by-pass surgery, and though recovering, he is still in need of prayers.

From the pen of an unknown author comes these picturesque and touching lines.

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the window sill of heaven
And gaze upon thy God.
Then will the vision in thy heart
Turn strong to meet the day.

Helen Taubert,
Reporter

News From Puryear, Tennessee

Since there hasn't been a report sent in this year, we have quite a bit of news. I'll start in January. We had a lot of snow and very cold weather. This hindered us from holding our study sessions on Sunday. We decided it would be warmer to meet at each other's home. Sister Nell Paschall and Sister Katherine Cox, opened their homes for our meetings. Apostle Sheldon and sister Sheldon, visited with us in January. The weather kept us from meeting but we did enjoy their visit and we want to ask them back, this summer. We promise no snow this time.

Jim and sister Carol Lowery, would like to express their thanks to the local church and to brother and sister Sheldon, for their support during the loss of Jim's father. On January 20, Burlene Lowery passed on after a long battle with cancer. He had been in the VA hospital in Memphis, for six months. The church sent a beautiful plant and their prayers. Brother Sheldon, preached at his funeral. Even though he had never met Mr. Lowery, he was able to help the family with comforting words from the Lord. Again, thank you.

My memory fails me on the events of February. Nevertheless, the Lord knows and we are thankful for His blessings.

Sister Hester Taylor, had a small accident which left a big sore on her leg. Even though the doctor was treating her, the leg wasn't showing much improvement. Elder Glenn Gill administered to her, and the Lord was truly with them. In the next couple days, you could really see the improvement. She is doing very good now, her leg is healed.

In March we had several visitors. One Saturday we were the audience for some songs performed by some gifted singers, Elder Glenn Gill, sister Gill, brother and sister Kauffman, brother and sister Bruner, brother Donald Gill and Benjamin Seibel. The words were beautiful and they really made you proud to be a child of the Lord. Also brother and sister Shaw were with us. On Sunday, we had sacrament service and then preaching by brother Shaw. We want to invite them all back.

We are still holding our Sunday morning study meetings on the Bible and also the Book of Mormon. We ask you to remember us and our local in your prayers.

During the month of April, sister Nell Paschall married Jimmy Raymer. We ask that they be in your prayers. Sister Nell will always be a part of our lives and in our prayers. Sister Nell and Elder T.W. Paschall, had a good Christian life and marriage

together, but each of our lives have to continue on after the death of a loved one.

Our next visitors were Elder Gill and sister Margaret Gill, Elder and sister Tony Grzincic. We had service Saturday night and Sunday morning. Everyone enjoyed the sermons.

Our last visitors were Elder and sister James Case and Elder and sister Leslie Case. Again we had services Saturday night and Sunday morning. We had an uplifting testimonial and sacrament service Sunday. We all enjoyed them visiting us.

We are like children, when it comes to having visitors from the Church. We want to welcome and invite more to come.

I hope that we will be able to host a reunion again like we have in the past. The more church involvement, the better. We pray daily for our local members to start back worshipping with us each Sunday. We need them.

We are small in the sights of man, but we are great in the sight of the Lord. Let this be your prayers for us.

Sister Carol Lowery

Missouri Reunion

DATE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 9-10-11, 1985. First meeting to begin at 9:00 A.M., August 9.

PLACE: Warrensburg, Missouri, at East Hudson Conference Center (the same building as the past two years).

LOCATION: East Anderson Street, east off Highway 13 in Warrensburg.

LODGING: Rooms are \$14.00 for a single room and \$20.00 for a double room per night. Pay as you enter. Linens are furnished.

FOOD: Meals will be furnished, desserts included. Donations will be accepted from those who dine with us.

We would like to know approximately how many plan on attending so the menu can be prepared. Please notify Jeanette Cunningham, Rt. 5, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093.

There is plenty of room for all. Arrangements can be made for disabled persons if we know ahead of time.

Let us all try to attend and worship and associate together to make this the best Missouri Reunion ever.

Donald Matthew Hitt

Donald Matthew "Matt" Hitt, 21, Anderson, Missouri, was pronounced dead at 4:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Golden Triangle Hospital, Columbus, Mississippi, as a result of injuries suffered in a one-car accident.

Matt was born October 21, 1963, in Joplin, Missouri. He had lived at Anderson, near Pineville, for the past three years. He was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Pineville. He attended McDonald County High School, graduating in 1982. He played on the basketball team for three years and attended Crowder College on a scholarship.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hitt, of the home; two brothers, Mike Hitt, of Goodman, and Mark Hitt, of Jane; and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Leighton-Floyd, of Anderson.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, at Anderson Ozark Funeral Home. Elders Howard Leighton-Floyd and Al Leighton-Floyd, officiated. Burial was in Peace Valley Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Mike Hitt, Mark Hitt, George Adams, Toby Roach, Randy Sutton and Bill Hanke.

FORGIVENESS

(Copy of a note found in Matthew Hitt's Bible following his death)

1. Confess the sin of unforgiveness.
2. Forgive
3. Believe that we receive our forgiveness and our cleanness.

In the name of Jesus, before God, I confess the sin of unforgiveness. For you are faithful and just to forgive me of this sin, and I thank you for it.

I commit myself to be a forgiving heart in the name of Jesus. I forgive every person that has done me wrong. I count it as nothing.

Please forgive them, and forgive me. I forgive them, Father.

As an act of my will I have forgiven, I am forgiven. I believe that I receive my forgiveness, and the purging of my heart and the renewing of my mind.

In the name of the Lord.

OUR DEEP APPRECIATION

To the many lovely people, friends of Matt Hitt who lost his life in an automobile accident May 18th, on his way home from Florida: your expressions of

love, sympathy and concern, as well as the beautiful flowers, food and gifts were deeply appreciated.

Words can't adequately express our heart felt appreciation to each one. Please accept our sincere thanks, and a prayer to the Lord that he will richly bless each one, and bring comfort to you, in your times of need, for we all need Him and kind friends too.

Donald Hitt family and Leighton-Floyds

This poem, by Edgar Guest, was read in Anderson in memory of Matthew Hitt.

I'll lend you for a little while,
A child of Mine, He said.
For you to have the while he lives
And mourn for when he's dead.

It may be six or seven years —
or twenty-two or three,
But will you, till I call him back,
Take care of him for Me?

He'll bring his joys to gladden you
And shall his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories
As solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay
Since all from earth return;
But there are lessons taught down there
I want this child to learn.

I've looked the wide world over
In my search for teachers' true;
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes
I have selected you.

Now will you give him all your love,
Nor think the labor vain,
Nor hate Me when I come to call
To take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say:
Dear Lord, Thy will be done.
For all the joy Thy child shall bring,
The risk of grief we'll run.

We'll shelter him with tenderness,
We'll love him while we may;
And for the happiness we've known,
Forever grateful stay.

And should the angels call for him
Much sooner than we've planned,
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes,
And try to understand.

