

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;" I Nephi 3:187

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I WISH HE WOULD COME TONIGHT

Marjorie Lewis Lloyd in Quiet Hour Echoes

*I look about
At the storm without
That breaks on a weary world;
And I think as I watch the winds that blow,
'Tis time for the Master to come, I know —
I wish He would come tonight!*

*For the road is long;
It has lost its song,
And its last dim lights burn low;
But I think of the Master's promise to come,
And I know that the waiting is almost done —
Oh, I wish He would come tonight!*

*But as I see a task,
And I do not ask
Why the Master so long delays;
For the work that I see is not yet done,
And I know that the Master cannot come —
He cannot come tonight!*

*Long years ago
It was time to go
To that promised city of light;
'Tis a task - not time - that keeps Him away,
And it may be that I have caused the delay —
Though I wish He could come tonight!*

*So I find a place,
And I set my face
To the work that is mine to do;
For I'm weary of colors that always fade,
And I want to go home to the land He has made —
I wish He would come tonight!*

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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.

Guest Editorial . . .

Are We Diligently Seeking?

We are admonished to diligently seek our Heavenly Father, to seek His ways, His guidance, His direction. Hebrews 11:6 states "But without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." To diligently seek someone is to look for, try to reach, or inquire for that person with painstaking, careful attention, steadily, energetically, striving to find and follow that person.

If we believe that God is, we must also believe that He is a God of miracles, that He possesses all power and authority, that He is, in fact, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

James 1:17 states: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." If all good gifts are from our Heavenly Father, if he is unchangeable, if he is a



God of miracles, if he possesses all power and authority and we believe that He is, it is necessary that each of us seek Him in our daily lives. With full purpose of heart we should seek His council and commit our lives, our time, our talents and resources to His work.

I challenge each of us to examine our lives.

Can we say that we are diligently seeking Him? Are we actively pursuing his commandments? Are we energetically studying the scriptures, God's word, looking with a humble, broken heart and a contrite spirit for His understanding, or are we using these scriptures to prove our beliefs? Are we giving God time to work in our lives or are we dictating when we will allow Him in? Have we put our trust in His son, Jesus Christ, or in possessions and objects of this world. Have we accepted the fact that God has all wisdom and all power and that we cannot comprehend all that He can comprehend? Have we strayed from the

path He has set for us and put our own understanding to use instead of His? Have we taken our trials, concerns and decisions and turned them over to Him that His will might be done?

We profess to believe that the scriptures have been preserved for our edification. Are we holding fast to these truths and seeking to implement them into our daily activities? Christ, when asked, "Which is the great commandment and the law?" responded, in Matthew 22:37-40, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

In the 16th chapter of Alma, we are admonished not to procrastinate the day of our salvation and are reminded that this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God. Can each of us honestly say that we are taking every opportunity to humbly search and seek His ways? Are we using the time here on earth wisely or are we procrastinating, using the time to contend one with another on our interpretations of the scriptures while promoting our own thoughts? Brothers and sisters, its time we yield, its time we commit ourselves to forget OUR ways, thoughts and beliefs and to accept the will of our Heavenly Father. If we

hope to obtain our goal, eternal salvation, we must remember to diligently seek Him in all that we do.

I ask each one of you to take action this day, to ask yourself how you have used your time. Have you used it to serve God? Are you pressing forward with a steadfastness in Jesus Christ, feasting on His words, obtaining nourishment and strength from them?

We have a work to accomplish and we must continually strive to move forward. Let us not forget the plainness and simplicity of the gospel of Christ. Nephi aptly states, in Second Nephi 13:27-30, "And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save; Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life."

Elder Smith "Buz" Brickhouse
Pastor, Independence East Local

Given December 1933
by Elder Lewis E. Welch of Farwell, Michigan . . .

Does It Apply To Us Today?

Hearken, oh ye, my people, and give ear to the voice of my Spirit, for my word is to all that have taken upon them my name, even Christ, your Lord, which is the Only Begotten of the Eternal Father.

Have I not said, "Except ye are one ye are not mine?" And lo, there are divisions, contentions and strife, and some have desired vain glory and praise of men.

Behold! I speak unto my disciples, the Twelve: you who have covenanted with me to prune my vineyard for the last time, and behold, all these things of which I speak have found lodgment in your hearts. Think ye that ye are greater than my disciples that were with me in my ministry? I say unto you, Nay. As I sent them out without purse or script, so I have designed my ministry to go in these last days. In this you have murmured and complained, and have sought to dwell in homes of your own making and

my people have been scattered by the evil one. Have I not said, "the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head?" Is the servant greater than his Master?

Behold, I said, "Faith, hope and charity would qualify you for the work for which you are called, and because these things have not been found among you, your ranks have been broken, and will continue to be broken; as some have caused to be brought among you false doctrine and theories, and my people languish in fear and doubt. Those that will not repent and turn unto me, must be cut off from among you, and let their places be filled according as I gave commandments to my servants Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer.

Ye have not exercised faith and confidence in mine elders and because of this many have withheld

their support and many of my people have withheld their substance and because of this my work is delayed and my house lies waste and my Zion is not gathered. Behold I have set you as watchmen on the towers of Zion.

Now behold, I speak unto the seventy elders; ye who have embarked in my service: think ye, that ye can stand idly by and my harvest go ungathered? I say unto you, Nay. Except ye thrust in your sickle and reap, you shall be visited with judgments not a few, for I have said, "Take no thought of what ye shall eat, or for raiment; for as I have cared for others, I will care for you. As I speak unto one I speak unto all my servants." Behold, my people have sought to be fed, but because of strife and envies, they have been led into dry pastures and have not been fed on my word. Many have sought to fashion your services after the manner of the world and have sought to teach from the learning and wisdom of man, and not from my words contained in the Bible and the Book of Mormon wherein I have said is contained the fulness of my gospel, and some have thought to gain favor of man through secret orders, combinations and governmental affairs. I sent you out to preach my gospel by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, and yet ye have resorted to these ways of which I speak.

Therefore I say unto you, except these things are put away from among you, I will sift you out from among my people; for I am about to perform my act, my strange act. As I spoke by my servant of old saying, "Children will be thine oppressors and women would rule over them;" because of this evil I rebuke you, Oh ye my people of this day. You have

allowed your children to follow forbidden paths and many have wandered away from my fold; and women have sought to rule in your assemblies.

Oh ye daughters of Zion, arise, put on your beautiful garments; and ye mothers in Israel, many of whom I am displeased with, for you have sought occasion against your companions, my servants and have hindered them in laboring in my harvest field; and because of this the judgments of the earth have come upon you and many are left in want. Have I not said, "The earth is mine and the fulness thereof;" and have I not said, "Not by promise but by sacrifice, yea by sacrifice, shall my house be built and ye redeemed"?

Therefore, I say unto all: Arise, gird up thy loins, and put on the attributes of holiness, for ere another harvest you shall witness the fulfillment of many of my words. Have I not said you would be as 'little Joseph'? Yea, you who have been given corn but have failed to return the price thereof; as I spoke unto mine Israel of old by my servant Haggai, I now speak unto mine Israel of this closing day: Will you dwell in your ceiled houses and work for money to put into bags with holes, and feast on the fat things of the earth, and let my house lay waste? And because of these evils among you the angels of heaven weep and mourn.

Therefore, call your solemn assemblies and establish storehouses among my people and make your consecrations that my house may be built, and my Zion redeemed, lest another arise and occupy. Amen.

Submitted by
Sister Sarah Brantner

Why Apostles Without A First Presidency?

Jesus Christ chose twelve apostles from among the Jews to lead the ministerial affairs of the Church.

(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.)

Who did Jesus choose and ordain as his twelve apostles according to the New Testament account?

The following scripture gives the names of the twelve apostles that Jesus chose:

"And it came to pass in those days, that he (Jesus) went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was

By
Apostle
Roland L. Sarratt

PART 5



day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Phillip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Called Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor." (Luke 6:12-16. Also see Matt. 10:2-4 & Mark 3:13-19)

How many apostles were with Jesus at the last supper?

There were twelve apostles: "And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him." (Luke 22:14). See Matt. 26:20 & Mark 14:17)

After Christ's resurrection, how many apostles were privileged to see him before he ascended into heaven?

There were eleven; Judas Iscariot had hanged himself after he had betrayed Jesus (Matt. 27:3-5): "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and unpraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen." (Mark 16:14)

When Matthias was numbered with the eleven apostles, who were those apostles?

They were named as before with the name of Judas Iscariot omitted: "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James." (Acts 1:13)

How many apostles were there on the day of Pentecost?

Again we find that there were twelve—Peter with the other eleven: "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them..." (Acts 2:14)

Did Jesus give the apostles specific instructions concerning their ministry?

Yes. Jesus addressed his apostles on various occasions teaching and instruction them. The first time he sent them out, he told them, among other things, to go without purse or scrip: "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, no scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere." (Luke 9:1-6. See also Mark 6:7-13)

Later Jesus gave the twelve apostles permission to take both purse and scrip on their travels: "And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." (Luke 22:35, 36)

At the last supper (passover), Jesus instructed

his apostles concerning the emblems of His body and blood: "And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: for I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:14-20)

There are many words of counsel and instruction that Jesus gave to his twelve apostles (disciples) which would be too voluminous and not appropriate to quote here, but some of the references are as follows: Matthew 16:24-28, chapters 18, 24 & 25; Mark 10:23-31, 11:20-26; Luke 17:1-10, 17:22-37, 18:28-34; John 13:12-20, 31-38, chapters 14, 15 & 16.

After Jesus' resurrection, he gave some last instructions to the remaining eleven apostles which might be well to quote here: "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:16-20). See also Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:4-8

Were Peter, James and John ordained or set aside to another priesthood office or position when Jesus took them upon the mountain and was transfigured?

There is no indication in either of the three accounts of this happening (Matt. 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36); that an ordination or setting apart to another office or priesthood took place. Although they were highly privileged and favored by having experienced the vision, there is no commandment or statement made that can be interpreted to mean that they received an additional or special commission. But we will let the record speak for itself:

"And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered,

and his raiment was white and glistening. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen." (Luke 9:28-36)

Was Peter promised a special or exclusive commission as might be interpreted from the statement that Jesus made: "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."?"

Let us read Matthew 16:15-19 from which the statement is taken:

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Although Peter was exceptionally active in his ministry and appeared to be favored of the Lord through the Holy Spirit according to the first part of the book of Acts, there is no record nor indication that Peter was ever given a special commission or office separate from the other apostles. Peter was known to be rather impetuous and quicker to speak than the other apostles while Jesus was with them, but this didn't always bring favors - sometimes it brought rebuke and correction. As a matter of fact shortly after Jesus had made the above statement to Peter, he addressed Peter in quite a different manner:

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto

Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." (Matt. 16:21-23)

Looking again at the previous statement concerning the keys of the kingdom of heaven quoted above, we find that there are three parts each connected to the other with a colon (:). This means that each part has direct reference to the following part. In other words when Jesus would give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Peter would have the power that what he would bind on earth would be bound in heaven, etc. However as we look further in the scriptures we find that that power was not given to Peter exclusively but was given to all of Jesus' apostles. (See Matt. 18:1, 18)

So we can see that although the promise at that moment appeared to be made to Peter personally, it did not mean that he was the only one to receive the keys to the kingdom of heaven. As a matter of fact, if Peter was the only one to receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven, he would have been the only one who would have had authority to conduct others into the kingdom of heaven (to have power to baptize and bestow the Holy Ghost). We know that was not true; Peter was not the only one given that authority. (See Matthew 28:19 & John 4:1, 2)

Did Jesus ever indicate that one of the apostles would be given a position or commission greater than the others?

No. But Jesus did answer query of that sort on one occasion:

"And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Luke 22:24-30)

Is there any information concerning the twelve apostles judging the twelve tribes of Israel elsewhere in the scriptures?

Yes. We find in Matthew's recording that Jesus specifically stated that they would sit upon twelve thrones: "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have foresaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of

Man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Matt. 19:27, 28)

Another witness to this was the angel in Nephi's vision: "And he said unto me, Thou rememberest the twelve apostles of the Lamb? Behold they are they who shall judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Wherefore, the twelve ministers of thy seed shall be judged of them; for ye are of the house of Israel; and these twelve ministers whom thou beholdest, shall judge thy seed." (1 Nephi 3:115, 116)

Mormon also gave witness; "Yea, behold, I write unto all the ends of the earth; yea, unto you, twelve tribes of Israel, who shall be judged according to your works, by the twelve whom Jesus chose to be his disciples in the land of Jerusalem. And I write also unto the remnant of this people, who shall also be judged by the twelve whom Jesus chose in this land; and they shall be judged by the other twelve whom Jesus chose in the land of Jerusalem." (Mormon 1:83, 84)

Again we find no mention of any other than the twelve apostles at Jerusalem and the twelve Nephite disciples who served directly under Christ. There is no indication that Jesus established an office or special commission resembling the first presidency of high priest over his church when he was here on earth to occupy in his place after he ascended into heaven.

Did Jesus indicate his personal choice in the selection of the apostles?

Yes. On one occasion he made this statement: "Have not I chose you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve." (John 6:70, 71)

Later Jesus made this statement after Judas had gone out: "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." (John 15:16)

Was Jesus' choice approved of the Father?

Jesus offered up a prayer in the presence of his apostles in which he made reference to the men that the Father had given him out of the world:

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me: and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them." (John 17:6-10)

It was made known to Nephi through vision that Jesus was to have twelve apostles at Jerusalem (1 Nephi 3:78, 88) and twelve disciples among the Nephites (1 Nephi 3:113, 114). Also he was told that one of the apostles named John would see that which Nephi saw and would write it (1 Nephi 3:239-253). That which John saw is in the book of Revelation. What did John see that represented the Church of Christ?

John saw a woman: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." (Rev. 12:1)

The interpretation generally given to this scripture is that the woman represented the Church of Christ, the sun was the gospel of Christ and the moon was the law of Moses. Again, most significantly, the crown of twelve stars represents the twelve apostles.

(conclusion to this series next month)

THANK YOU!

We wish to thank everyone for their love and support during David's hospitalization. Our faith is strong from David's experience, and our love, and friendship, deeper to our friends and relatives who supported us.

Much love to you all,
David and Kathy Larsen
Grand Junction, Colorado

NEW DEADLINE

Due to a tighter production schedule, the deadline for each issue of the *Zion's Advocate* is now the 5th of the preceding month. This means that in order to have material published in a given month, it must reach the Editor in double-spaced typewritten format by the 5th of the previous month.

The deadline for news related items to reach David Rudd, News Editor, is still the end of the month, two months previous.

A Great And A Marvellous Work

By Apostle William A. Sheldon

PART NINE

Christ, in continuing His prophecy of the remnant of Jacob, reiterates in III Nehpi 9:100-106, their destructive mission upon the gentiles.

Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off. Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds; And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away. For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

The remnant of Jacob are to "destroy the chariots" (car, etc.), cut off the cities and military installations. The Lord is to put away witchcraft (Satanic power to deceive) and bring to naught the predictions of the astrologers, etc. He will put down the idols erected in the form of magnificent temples, cathedrals, etc., and their statuary honoring the virgin Mary, the saints, etc. And thus will He bring His wrath upon the gentiles, *even as upon the heathen*, as never before known.

During 3½ years of tribulation by war, all nations which have come up to battle against Jerusalem (or in the battle which will begin there and will spread also to Zion, which, broadly speaking, is the U.S.A.) shall be brought down. The northern confederacy, led by Russia shall prevail for a time. The two witnesses (gentiles and Israel) will be rendered impotent for a time (figuratively lying dead upon the streets of Jerusalem for this time).

"And they that dwell upon the earth (of the northern confederacy, W.A.S.) shall rejoice over them, and make merry and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented



Apostle
William A. Sheldon

them that dwelt on the earth" (Revelation 11:10; see also Micah 4:11). They are tormented with envy because of the economic superiority of the western nations.

In this subjection of the Jews and gentiles (including those of Israel/Ephraim):

"Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure. For they are *gone up to Assyria...*" (Hosea 8:8, 9).

Many of them are destined for a relatively short period of captivity, not exceeding 3½ years. Ezekiel 38:11-12, 14-16:

Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages;

I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates (this refers to the U.S.-W.A.S.), to take a spoil and to *take a prey*; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land... Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shall come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Ezekiel refers to this latter day abomination of desolation as "Gog," but Isaiah refers to the nation

as "Assyria." Gog is identified as the "chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; and is in the "land of Magog" (Ezekiel 38:2). Smith's Bible Dictionary tells us this is the Scythian race, now known as Russia. The latter day invasion of Israel (which will include the U.S.A.) by this northern confederacy of communism will be something of a repeat performance by Assyria of ancient times in her conquest of Israel. The difference is that the latter day "Assyria" will ultimately be overcome and Israel be released from bondage, to the glory of God. To get the full scope of this, it will be necessary to quote rather extensively. Following is a quote from Isaiah (10:22-27):

For though thy people Israel will be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord God of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the Lord of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. And

it shall come to pass in that day that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Here we find reference to the latter day consumption, the abomination of desolation, but in verse 24 we find the Lord comforting Zion, urging her not to be afraid, though Assyria (Gog) will smite "after the manner of Egypt" (in the Israelite bondage from which Moses delivered them). The "indignation" shall cease after a "very little while" (3½ years); see verse 25.

In this deliverance, the Lord is to "stir up a scourge" against Assyria (Gog) according to the ancient "slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb". (verse 26): "And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host..." Judges 7:22.

The Midianites, in confusion, slew their own fellows. Now we read similarly concerning Gog: "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother" (Ezekiel 38:21).

This refers to a general confusion within the ranks of the armies of the northern confederacy; they will slay their own troops thinking it is the enemy. This is the Lord's doing.

(to be continued)

When Thou Passest Through The Waters. . . (They Shall Not Overflow. Isa. 43:2)

by Vida Filley

The blessings I'm about to relate have been shared already with many on a one-to-one basis. I believe the time has come that I must share them with all of you, that there may be no misunderstanding.*

I experienced no sudden miraculous healing, but, in my view, miracles nevertheless. Though we know God has all power and could heal in an instant, He does not always choose to work that way. I believe He works more often in quiet, consistent miracles than in great dramatic displays of power. Alma 17:35-36. I believe we experience small miracles daily, that often go unrecognized. Is it any less a miracle when God works through His creation, to whom He has given intelligence, ability and desire to help his fellow man? Many physicians recognize that their knowledge and abilities are of God, and depend upon Him for guidance in their work. And so it should be with everyone, in whatever their work

may be. Col. 3:23.

If everytime we called upon the Lord, we received instant deliverance, where would be the trial of our faith? Where the experience by which to grow spiritually? Rom 5:3-5. Trials come as a refining process. Zech. 13:9; 1 Pet. 1:7; 4:12-13. Through suffering, we are enabled to comfort others with the same comfort by which we have been comforted. 2 Cor. 1:3-5. Even our Lord learned by the things He suffered. Heb. 5:8. Someone once said, God is not a vending machine, but an educator. He does not promise clear sailing, but to be with us in the storm. Ps. 37:5; Pro. 3:6; Matt. 28:20. Like Paul, we may learn to glory in tribulation. 1978 was to see the beginning of a series of health problems in my life. First, a heart problem was diagnosed as mitral stenosis. My doctor informed me that this was usually progressive and could lead to congestive heart failure. I was put on heart medications. 1979 saw yet

another health problem develop. This was resolved the first week in March of 1980, when I underwent gall bladder surgery and removal of a damaged liver section. Thankfully, a biopsy showed no cancer of the liver. I was greatly blessed in that three weeks after surgery, I was able to attend conference with some help from others in handling my luggage.

Before 1981 arrived, another chapter in health problems had begun. I was in and out of the hospital like in a game of musical chairs. I was beginning to feel some affinity to Job. My doctor was at a loss to diagnose this last problem. Realizing that he had reached the end of his resources, I knew I must find someone competent, who could determine the cause of my illness. I had not the least idea of how I could go about finding such a person. I prayed for guidance, and shortly afterward two separate individuals recommended the same doctor. Never having heard of him, I asked, who and where is he? I learned that he was moving into a nearby clinic and would be opening his practice here soon. I saw him for the first time in January of 1983. He was surely the answer to prayer, for in May the same year he solved my dilemma. He remained here for less than one year, but long enough to "see me out of the woods." A neighbor remarked that it looked like he had been sent here especially for my benefit. However, I happen to know there were many others who benefited from his services, also.

For three years, 1981 to 1983, I suffered difficult, intermittent symptoms that always seemed to intensify as conference time drew near. Every year I prayed for healing and every year the symptoms abated so I was able to go to conference and be relatively symptom-free for the duration. Invariably, after returning home, my problems recurred. So it was in 1983, after I came home from conference, I became quite ill again. The doctor wanted to put me in the Hospital to catherize my heart. Somehow, I did not think my problem was due to the heart condition and I did not want to go. The doctors asked for a little time to review the records. If he found no other possible cause, I would have to go for the catherization. To his surprise, he found that no one had ever sent me for a Cat Scan. He arranged for one immediately. That was all that was needed. There it was, a tumor the size of a lemon behind my right eye. He couldn't believe that I'd been going about with this time bomb in my head and had suffered no dire consequence. He said the tumor could have caused a massive, fatal seizure anytime. He marveled that it had not already happened. He lost no time in arranging for the earliest possible appointment with a neurosurgeon. Then he pressed for and got an even earlier one.

Before this illness, where the tumor was discovered, the doctor had called a heart specialist to give

me a stress test with thallium. When they realized the risk they had taken, they were extremely grateful that I'd come through the test safely. However the test resulted in good news. It revealed that I did not have mitral stenosis as originally diagnosed, but rather I had a mitral valve disorder. The specialist said if it had been the former, I would have needed open heart surgery long before this time or I would have been dead.

As I was leaving to keep the appointment with the neurosurgeon, my doctor shook his head and said, "Here I am, sending a 70 year old lady for brain surgery." I wondered if he thought he was sending me to my doom. Afterwards, he told me they hardly ever send anyone in my age bracket for this kind of surgery; it is too risky. Mine was further complicated by the heart problem.

Before entering the hospital, I had prayed that God would help me to be of help and encouragement to others. My prayers were answered. He opened up many opportunities to do so. I still correspond with two ladies I met there.

It was necessary to take many tests before the surgery, among them two tests with iodine. Previously, I had been given a test with this dye and had suffered a severe allergic reaction. My doctor, then, said one thing was sure: I'd never be able to take that test again. However, this test was absolutely necessary, so the neurosurgeon prescribed medication to be taken beforehand that would, hopefully, prevent a reaction. As he administered the anesthetic for the first test he said, "You know the Lord is our strength," I replied, "I concur with that 100%." I came through both tests with the dye, with no problem.

The night before the surgery was to take place, all my symptoms struck with a vengeance. The doctor on duty was called and prescribed a shot to stabilize my heart. After a short night's sleep, I awoke feeling quite rested, took my shower, was given an initial sedative and hooked up to an I.V., all ready to go. When the neurosurgeon came and learned of the difficulties of the night before, he deliberated as to whether they should proceed or reschedule the surgery. I lay there silently praying that the surgery would not be postponed. At last, he said he thought it best to go ahead as scheduled, for if they didn't, no telling what would happen. My prayer was answered as those were my sentiments exactly.

Afterwards, he was delighted. He said, I'd "come through with flying colors." I was in intensive care for just one day. The next morning I was able to take my own bed bath. I was moved to a regular room by noon that day. I thank God that the tumor proved to be benign.

I shall never forget and always be thankful for the many prayers that were offered for me during

that time. Brother Toulouse came from Flint to administer to me. My brothers and sisters in the church were united with my family, friends and neighbors in remembering me in prayer. I am most thankful for my natural family and my spiritual one.

I would like to share a few of the scriptures and words of songs that the Lord brought to my mind to comfort and strengthen me as I awaited surgery. One was:

Be careful (anxious) for *nothing*; but in *everything* by prayer and supplication with *thanksgiving* make your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7. This was most fitting in my case, for my heart and my mind were literally at risk.

Another Scripture came with much meaning to me... When He putteth forth His sheep; He goeth before them. Jhn. 10:4; Ps. 139:2-3; Matt. 6:8. How often, in retrospect, have I seen that God had made provision for my needs long before I could even guess what they might be.

The following are from songs heard over the local gospel radio station. The verses of one tells the stories of the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, the Israelites at the Red Sea and Daniel in the Lion's den. The chorus says:

When everything looks hopeless, my God
delivers again.

And when it seems that all is lost, He reaches
down His hand.

When everything looks hopeless, my God
delivers again.

The chorus of another says:

Do you have any rivers you think are
uncrossable?

Are there any mountains you can't tunnel
through?

God specializes in the impossible.

His power can do what no other power can do.

In retrospect, I realize more and more, how great a blessing was given to me in 1981. That was two years before anyone knew of the tumor that had the potential of writing "finis" to my life at any time.

Just before the 1981 conference, Brother Orville Eddy called me to ask if I planned to go to conference that year. He had decided not to drive and, instead, take the train. He had not been on a train in many years, and knowing that I'd been accustomed to going by train, he thought it would be a good idea to arrange to go on the same day. So we did. All went well until Sunday, the day before we were to leave. All day Sunday I had intermittent symptoms that threatened to keep me from making any trip, especially one as far from home as Missouri. My better

judgement kept telling me that it was pure folly to even consider such a trip under the circumstances; that I should call Brother Eddy and tell him to not look for me on the train in the morning. Nevertheless, I repeatedly went in prayer for the Lord to lift this affliction from me. Each time I experienced a measure of relief, only to have the symptoms recur later.

Evening came and my daughter and son-in-law stopped in to say, "good-bye" and inquire if there was more I could think of that I might want them to look after in my absence. I said nothing to them of how I was feeling.

The clock pointed to bedtime and I was still struggling over a decision to call Brother Eddy. In my prayer before retiring I was still pleading for the Lord to lift this affliction. As I knelt there I could hear distant, but beautiful singing. I thought, "I've left the radio on." Often when anyone comes in and the radio is playing, I will turn it down rather than off. I thought that is what I'd done. Finishing my prayer, I returned to the living room to shut it off. It wasn't on! I could still hear the singing. I went back to my room and sat on the side of the bed, listening. It continued on for a long time. The melody repeated over and over with an occasional variation at the end. I began to feel a concern that I must get some sleep if I was ever to be able to make the trip in the morning. I lay down hoping it would stop. It continued. Then I thought to pray and ask God to let me hear the words they were singing. The voices became more distinct and I heard the words clearly. They were, "God lifted me to heights I'd never known." This was repeated over and over. At the last, it was as though I heard my own voice among them. This continued for a short space, then stopped abruptly, and I slept.

When I awoke early the next morning, I was rested and symptom-free. Always before I'd stopped in Chicago and stayed overnight with my daughter there. After a good night's sleep, I would continue on my journey. This time I made the trip in one day with no problems. I'm not likely to forget the date we arrived in Kansas City. Bob, Jo and Sharon Eddy met us at the station and we learned, for the first time, that President Reagan had been shot that day.

I had simply assumed that the singing I heard that night was that of angels. On my way to conference this year, this incidence came to remembrance, and my mind was opened to understanding. I realized that angels cannot sing this song. They are already in heaven and dwell in God's presence. They have no need to be lifted to heights they do not know. It is man who needs to be lifted into God's presence, and only God has the power to know of those things that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 1 Cor. 2:9.

I thought I'd never forget the melody of this song. The first 4 notes have remained clear in my mind from the beginning. Sometime afterward, I found that the words, "God lifted me, fitted exactly with the first 4 notes of the song, "I Would Be True." But from the beginning I have never been able to recapture the notes that harmonized with, "heights I'd never known." I only know the first 4 notes were on a descending scale, whereas the notes that harmonized with "to heights I'd never known" were on an ascending scale.

I believe I was given a preview of the theme of the new song the redeemed will sing at Christ's coming. Until that day no one can know the song. Rev.

14:3. We might expect the song to be one of thanksgiving, praise and rejoicing. But I have no doubt it will concern much that is beyond our comprehension at this time.

I wonder who were all those people I heard singing in that choir? Perhaps your voice was among them. I hope and pray this may be so.

*Editor's Note: It was reported in the July 1985 Advocate (Conference Report 1985, p. 104) that Sister Filley had a brain tumor and that during a subsequent visit to the doctor, the tumor was not found. This may have been misunderstood by Advocate readers, and it is hoped that this testimony will clarify the manner of the working of God's Spirit in this blessing to Sister Filley. G.H.



"Red skies in the night, sailors delight; red skies in the morning, sailors warning."

We know for sure that this weather forecasting statement dates at least as far back as the early days of the Church in New Testament times, when Jesus said to the Sadducees and Pharisees, "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: For the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: For the sky is red and lowering." Jesus continued on to chastise that "adulterous generation" of Jews for having asked Him for a sign from Heaven to validate the claim of His disciples that He was the Son of God. Read Matthew 16:1-4.

However, it is apparent from this quotation that this method of forecasting weather dates well back in the history of the Jews. In 400 B.C., Aristotle wrote intelligibly about atmospheric phenomena, which leads one to the conclusion that this knowledge of weather forecasting by observing cloud formations was known then, and probably dates back to mankind's first encounter with overcast skies - and you can figure out when that was for your self.

Have you ever been confronted with a paperboy collecting for a month's worth of newspapers - or by a nagging desire for a Milky-Way chocolate bar - and then find that the only money in the whole house is in your little boys piggy-bank? ... the kind *without* the convenient opening in the bottom!

Well, don't feel that your frustration is either uncommon, or new. **Do you know who made the very first "piggy-bank" and why?**

(Answer next month)

Pathlights

A "SWELL BLESSING"

I remember as a child, my Grandmother (Sister Anna Keeney) would repeatedly tell us to share our testimonies with our church family. I always felt like mine were small and sort of silly. I didn't realize that *not being* seriously ill or in a traumatic accident was as much a blessing as being in one and God helping you survive.

This time God saved us in a big way. We left yesterday (August 3rd) intending to go see Granddad Keeney, then attend the Missouri reunion.

About two and a half hours on our way we had a car accident. My daughter Beth hit the windshield and buckled it out about half the size of a basketball. I grabbed her on her way back expecting her face to be full of blood. Our first blessing was that her face was sprinkled with a few pieces of glass. She wasn't even crying. She just replied "Oh! Boom Mama!"

Upon examining her forehead, I found a small scratch and no bumps. Being a nurse, I knew the lack of a bump in the case of a severe blow to the head could only mean the swelling was inside the skull which is more dangerous. We rushed her to the hospital by ambulance. The doctor was outside the hospital waiting for us expecting a baby with severe head trauma. They rushed her to x-ray and checked her over thoroughly. All the Doctor said was, "Do you believe in Miracles?" I said "yes" and he replied "You've got one!"

Thank you, God!!

Now I am unable to attend the reunion in body, but the devil didn't win: I will be there in spirit and mind.

God bless all of you,
Your Sister,
Joanie Hawkins
Annitson, Alabama

Houston Local News

Mary Jane Medders, Reporter

Hello to all our loved ones in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our annual church rally was held on May 26. The day began with a prayer and testimony service. Speakers for our rally were Brother Allan Kauffman, Apostle William Sheldon, Brother Richard Phillips from Mountain View, and Brother John Jones. We were delighted to have Elder and Mrs. Larry Beem with us from Oklahoma City, as well as Apostle Roland Sarratt from Independence. The Collins and Ava locals were well represented. Also with us for a surprise visit was Sister Alice Larsen and daughters, Jean and Joan, from Grand Junction, Colorado.

Our local was saddened by the loss of two loved ones recently, Sister Martha Bell of Raymondville, who will be sadly missed by her family and many throughout the church, and Sister Hansen, mother of our Sister Roberta McGuire of Mountain View, Missouri. Both dear ones left us a beautiful life of the gospel to reflect upon with joy. I pray that we all may be as faithful.

Granddad Kenney has been in the hospital most of the summer. God blessed him with a quick recovery from pneumonia, but he still stands in need of your prayers. Please remember our Brother Cliff McGuire of Mountain View. He is not well, and he desires to come to church more. Ask God for his health to improve that he may be granted strength to serve the Lord by attending services and helping us here in his kind, sweet way.

Sister Lovita Seibel is not able to attend church any more. She needs your prayers for comfort and her special needs.

Tom Medders of Fort Scott, Kansas, and David, Douglas and Vickie Keeney of Columbia have been home on visits recently. Sister Mary Jane Medders spent a week in Lee's Summit with her daughter and family. While there she helped some and enjoyed Bible School with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Massey of Weatherford, Oklahoma, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kommer of Springfield have been here helping with Granddad Keeney. Jane Ann, Justin and Trevor Stancil and Florence Kommer came from Springfield on June 28 to help Grandmother Keeney celebrate her eighty-third birthday.

We missed Ollie Hebblethwaite in church a few Sundays, but she made a quick recovery from surgery at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Sister Ella Ingle and her daughter, Darlene, have moved to Raymondville. We are glad to have them near. Ella works in Licking and Darlene works in Houston.

Sister Lois Helseth spent a few days in June visiting with her son and family in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and with friends and relatives in Kentucky and Indiana.

Brother Ireatess and Sister Margaret Keeney and

Diane spent a weekend in Memphis, Tennessee, recently with Sister Joan Marie Hawkins and family. They attended graduation exercises for Sister Joan's husband, Steve, who graduated from medical school. Joanie, her husband and three children, Eric, Jeff and Beth, have moved to Anniston, Alabama, where Steve is serving residency in a local hospital there. We wish them the best of luck and ask your prayers for them.

Our recent visiting ministers were Brothers Nicholas Denham, Loren Bryant and Richard Phillips. Apostle Marvin Ely spent a few days with us after Conference and brought us timely messages on April 7; and on Monday evening, April 8, he gave us a report on the conference.

We are happy to announce a precious bundle from heaven to Martin and Janeen Addie. Little Amanda Nicole was born in Springfield Cox South at 6:20 in the morning on July 17 and weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

We are looking forward to a baptismal service here the first Sunday of September. We ask your prayers for Sandy Smith on her decision and all decisions in the future.

Our little church here has recently been the target of vandalism and we ask for the prayers of all the Saints that God might watch over it and protect it from harm.

We are proud of the talent that Sister Janeen Addie uses for the Glory of God. She entered a World Poetry Contest in December 1983. At that time she won Honorable Mention. This year she was chosen to be honored with the Golden Poet Award. The following poem won the award.

THE MYSTERY OF HIS GRACE

**God's never changing ways and His undying love,
The mystery of His grace.
Bring to my soul a certain peace, for some day above,
I shall look upon His face.**

**I may not know in these days
Why trials I must face.
But some day God in a special way
Will these trials all erase.**

**I may not know why pain I must feel,
Or why sorrow and heartache must fall;
At the last trumpet call.**

**I may not know or understand
Why failure doth betide,
But some day He will take my hand,
And we'll stand side by side.**

**Yes, many things now I do not know,
Or can find reason to explain,
But some day He will show**

**For some day when I reach that Heaven above
And I look upon His smiling face,
Through my Saviour's unfailing love,
I'll understand the mystery of His grace.**

By Janeen Addie

Warrensburg News

Greetings to all from the Warrensburg local. This has been a busy summer for most, it seems. Being away from home, ministering, we have missed hearing and visiting with many guest ministry who have preached in our local. Much thankfulness is expressed by all of us here at Warrensburg, for the many inspired and uplifting sermons that have been delivered in the past few months by the following members of the ministry: Rodger Bruner, Loren Bryant, Leslie Case, Gerald Bryant, Bob Oldham, Glen Gill and Forrest Maley. We do appreciate the fact that many of the above brethren had to travel quite some distance to bring God's words to us.

Several from our local were privileged to attend the baptism of our dear sister in Christ, Shirley Bailey of Lamoni, Iowa, on May 5, 1985, at the East Independence local. The services of that day were truly a spiritual blessing to everyone present.

Sister Sarah Stephens, a recent graduate of Leeton High School, is enrolled in the summer session at Central Missouri State University, and plans to continue her studies at CMSU when the regular term begins later this year.

The Charles Brantners were some of the many in attendance at the Michigan State Reunion in June. Besides the spiritual food we received, it was a joy to greet brothers and sisters we hadn't seen in a long, long time, and catch up on many years news of family, etc.

Brian and Tim Eddy, sons of brother Bob and sister Jo Eddy, are home from college for the summer, and have found summer employment.

The Don Case family attend a family outing over the 4th of July holiday. The Lord protected them as they traveled during a very severe storm.

A new home is in the near future for the Andy Brantner family. Construction is under way, and moving-in day is not far distant.

Sister Jeanece Stephens, husband Ross, and daughter, Heather, recently vacationed in San Antonio, Texas.

Word has recently been received from sister Sharon Eddy, with the Peace Corps in Senegal, Africa. She states that the projects that she has undertaken are nearing completion, and that she hopes to be home by Thanksgiving.

Tending gardens has taken a lot of time for sister Sarah Brantner, the Harold Adams, and the Bob Eddys.

Prayers have been repeatedly expressed for sister Gertrude Adams, brother Rex and sister Marie Weaver, brother Orville Eddy, sister Audrey Ex and sister Pearl Giem.

Sunday, July 14, found a goodly number in



Young people from School of the Ozarks.

attendance at the Springfield local services. After a delicious dinner shared with the brothers and sisters there, the Isaac Brockmans, the Eugene Goulds, Victor Bates, and the Charles Brantners journeyed to the School of the Ozarks, about 35 miles distant. They were met there by a group of seven young people who have been present at the Springfield services. On the shores of beautiful Table Rock Lake, two lovely young women were baptized. In May of this year, two other young ladies from the school were baptized at the Collins local. The Church of Christ now has seven members attending the School of the Ozarks. You can see these young people in the accompanying photo. I pray that God will guide and direct their lives as they earnestly seek His counsel.

The following Sunday, July 21, Debra Vogel, of Belmont, Michigan, was baptized in a beautiful service at the home of her grandmother, sister Sarah Brantner. Debra was led into the waters and baptized by her father Elder Charles Brantner, and confirmed by Elders Isaac Brockman and Eugene Gould. What a joyous occasion, and one long hoped for. Sister Debra, husband Jerry and three children spent the following few days visiting family in the area.

I have a plaque in my home that gives me pleasure each time I read it, and makes me realize that without God and His great goodness, my life would be meaningless. "I asked God for all things, that I might enjoy life; He gave me *life* that I might enjoy all things."

May God's blessings be with each and every one.

Reporter,
Jeanne Brantner

Collins Local News

Dear friends in the gospel, I'm a little tardy again. Summer time is such a busy time, what with gardening, canning and freezing fruits and vegetables, mowing yards, mopping sweat and trying to stay cool — but I love it! I hope this finds you all well. We here at Collins are fine for the most part. We have quite a vacancy at the moment as Oren and Esther Caviness are off on a lovely visit to Arizona and then on to one of the beautiful islands of Hawaii. I've requested pictures as that may be as close as I'll ever get to Hawaii.

In May, the Church of Christ increased its numbers by two. Judy and Patricia Sedlak from the School of the Ozarks, entered the waters of baptism and were baptized by Brother Jack Martin. Brother Allen Kauffman assisted Brother Martin in the laying on of the hand for the reception of the Holy Ghost. After the girls were received by the people, we enjoyed a sacrament service together. It was a lovely day and filled with a peaceful spirit.

On June 8th, Brother Jack Martin's sister, Laura Vaughan, died of a heart attack at the Humansville Nursing Home where she had been recuperating from a broken hip. Funeral services were held June 13th in Independence and a Memorial Service was held June 16th at the R.L.D.S. Church in Humansville, where Laura was a member. Laura was a special lady. One with style, grace, and a good sense of humor. She loved having people around, entertaining, and making you welcome. She will indeed be missed.

We have been blessed with several guest speakers. Brother Nicholas Denham of Independence, Brother Loren Bryant of Cowgill, and Brother Glen Gill of North Kansas City. Other recent guests were the Bod Oldham family, Rodger and Martha Bruner, all of Independence, and Ronald Yates and daughter of Tempe, Arizona.

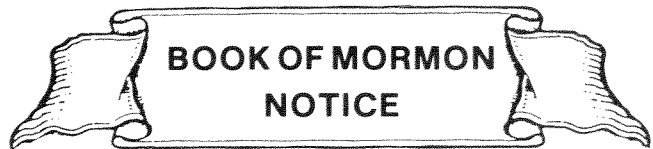
I guess this is all the news that I have to pass along at this time. We're a small group and not too active as far as social events go, but we are blessed spiritually from time to time. Remember us in your prayers and may God always hear us.

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

*Do not pray for tasks equal
to your powers;*

*Pray for Powers
equal to your tasks.*

Philip Brooks



The April 1984 General Conference determined a rather ambitious and worthy project for this Church of Christ, namely, the publication of our own Book of Mormon. It may, in fact, be a necessity if we hope to have this cherished scripture available to us in its presently accepted form.

It is planned to make considerable revision of reference texts only, as found at the bottom of each page, including an increased referral to Bible texts, etc., as appropriate. Provisions will be made, as presently, for publication with a plastic material for binding, with the book to be sold at minimum cost, with no profit. However, a limited supply with a better binding (leather or hardback) will be provided, also at minimum cost.

Therefore, we urgently request of the membership, and others with a common interest in the preservation and use of this book, your prayers and financial support. For a donation of \$10.00, the donor will receive a copy of the Book of Mormon with the economical binding. A donation of \$25.00 will secure a book with the better binding. These are only initiatory prices, which may be changed after publication, depending on cost factors. Donations exceeding the above figures will apply to a free distribution of the book by missionaries as may be needed. This is an important contribution you may make to our missionary effort. If it is desirable to obtain more than one copy at these initial figures, it will be honored. This book will not be available for at least a year.

Please send your contribution, with an expression of your desires, to: Business Manager, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051. It will be credited to the Board of Publications fund. In the unlikely event that, for reasons beyond our control, the Church would be unable to complete the publication of the Book of Mormon, your money will be refunded upon request; otherwise, it would remain in the fund for other worthy publications, most of which are given free of charge.

This being a conference action, we would like to emphasize the importance of supporting this worthy cause to its completion. It is hoped that you will generously donate even above your anticipated order of new books, and if feasible, you will locally raise funds for the publishing of our own Book of Mormon. We pray that this precious record may always be available to us and our posterity.

Council of Apostles

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1986 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will commence Sunday, April 6. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 7. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 4 and 5.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

| | Price Each |
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| Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members | \$4.00 |
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| Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition) | 6.00 |
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NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are in packs of 6-50¢, 100-\$5.85.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send all orders to the General Sunday School Association c/o Becky Sheldon, Rt. 1, Box 315, Grain Valley, MO 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as indicated. Write for more information, or see Synopsis in June, 1985, Zion's Advocate.

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Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence area.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the Zion's Advocate, page 47.

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" (39 minutes) — Illustrates how modern archeological finds in North and Central America lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continent's former inhabitants.

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