

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

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art luke-warm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

John, the Revelator (3:15-19)

SPECIAL "CROSSROADS" ISSUE

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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Guest Editorial . . .

Seek Those Things Which Are Above

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:1-2. This passage of scripture clearly indicates that those who are risen with Christ have a definite responsibility. The two listed in this scripture are to seek those things that are above and to place ones affection on things above, not on things on the earth. The natural inclination of man is to trust in the earthly. We have various scriptures that indicate we should not lay up treasures upon earth.

One very fitting scripture is found in Matthew 6:19-21. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."



This scripture definitely indicates where our priority should be. If we lay up treasures in heaven no one can take them away from us. We can lay up treasures in heaven by the type of life that we live.

The words of Jacob are very fitting for they state that we must seek the kingdom of God first. "But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted." Jacob 2:23-24. It is important that we heed the advice of seeking the kingdom of God first.

The following scripture harmonizes with the seeking of those things which are above: "And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this straight 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." 2 Nephi 13:27-30. The above scripture contains important advice on what is expected of us after we have entered in by the way. We must not forget the value of the words of Christ in our lives for they will influence our lives for good.

"Wherefore, I said unto you. Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." 2 Nephi 14:4. Our lives definitely need the regular application of the words of Christ in them. By doing this, living will become more full and complete. Jesus said concerning his sheep: ". . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

John 10:10. Not only do we have promise of a future abundant life in eternity, but our life upon this earth can be more satisfying and complete by applying Jesus Christ to our lives. We need him in all the decisions we make. Life is full of decisions and if we regularly seek God in the name of Jesus our lives will become more blessed and happy.

Jesus said: "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30. Application of the above scripture will help man to have a more complete and abundant life in our daily walk of life. The greatest of all is the promise of a life in eternity with God and Jesus.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Revelations 3:21.

Apostle Marvin E. Ely

THE CROSSROADS

Oh, hearken, ye people!
'Tis your day to decide
To follow the Savior,
Or let Satan preside.

At the crossroads you stand;
Clouds of darkness hang near
To cover the path with
Confusion and with fear.

Indecision and cares
Of this world prevail
Over the hearts of men—
In fear do they fail.

The day of the heathen
Overtakes the heedless;
The call to repentance
They have said is needless.

Many come, many go
In confusion and dread;
The truth they have ignored—
God's word they never read.

Must the blind lead the blind
When the light is so near?
Where have gone the prophet,
Revelator and seer?

Oh, people, dear people!
Take this warning to heart;
Obey God's commandments
Or from Him you'll depart.

Why must this be your lot
To wander in error?
The full standard of truth
Is your life to mirror.

Come out of Babylon!
Is the prophet's warning;
Partake not of her sins—
Great will be her mourning.

You stand in the valley
Of decision so great,
Give heed to the prophets
Lest you obey too late.

Seek ye out the right way,
There Christ will walk with you;
He's always by your side
To show you what is true.

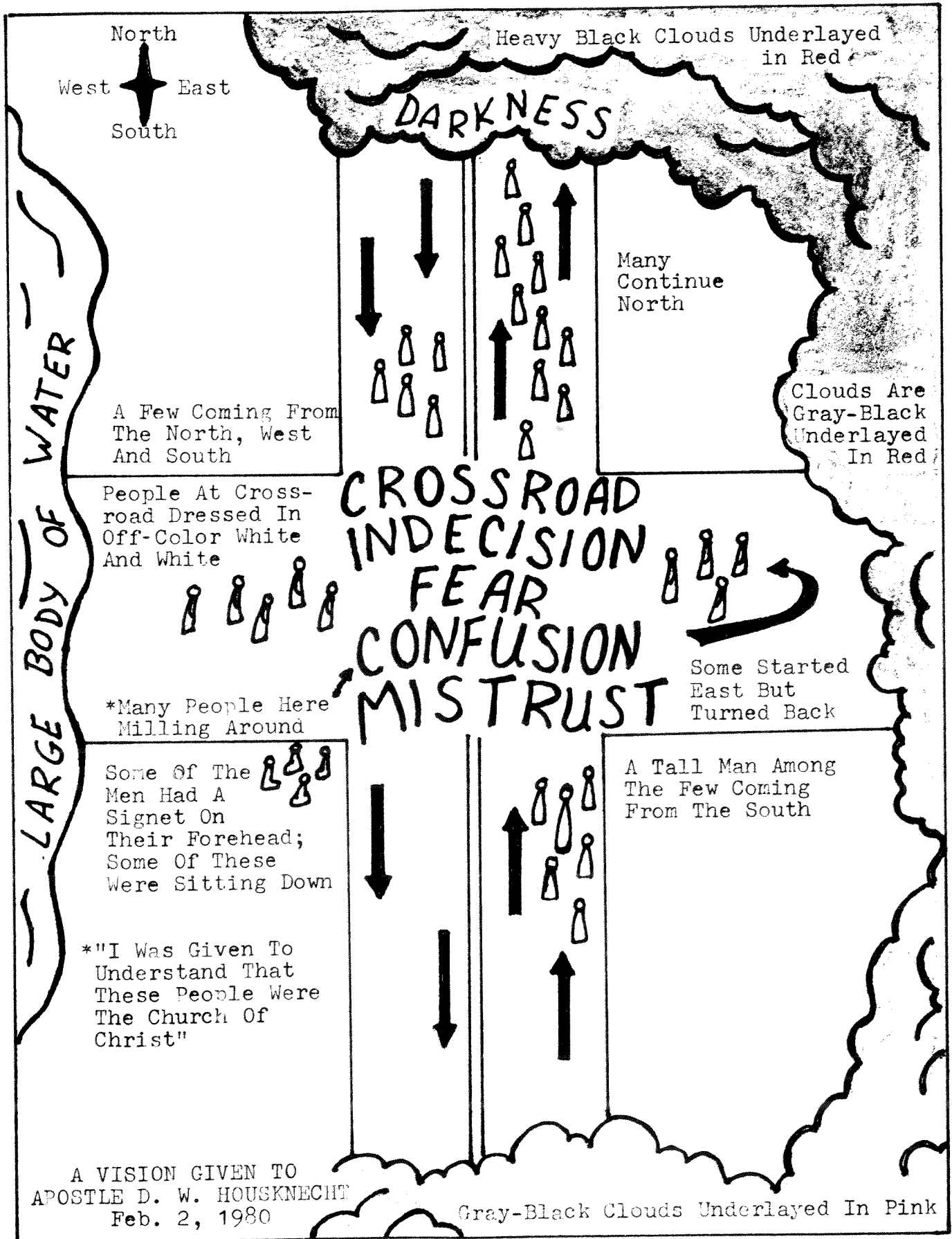
Tho' your trials be many,
And time will bring yet more,
Put your faith in Jesus,
This path He's walked before.

Faith, hope and charity,
These three open the way
To gain eternal life,
If you endure today.

When judgment day has come
And you've labored with your might,
You will stand before God
In garments clean and white.



Apostle
Roland L. Sarratt



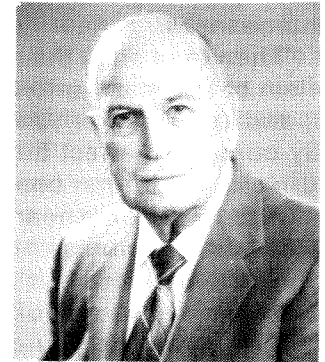
A Crossroads Vision Interpretation

I'll be referring to the picture (found on page 100). You will notice that there is a highway going up and down and one going across, making a crossroads. This was a vision that was given to me in the night some time ago. I want to point out that the crossroads represents the Church of Christ, indicating that we are at a crossroads, and a crossroads might be quite bewildering, sometimes. There are dark clouds underlined with red, and as the picture goes down to the bottom, the darkness of the clouds diminishes until it becomes a gray outlined with pink, the red has faded to some degree. This does represent communism; this is war and sometime coming out of this darkness will be war, in other words these are war clouds.

In this two-lane, two-way highway going north and south and east and west, there are people both going to the south and coming out of the south, going to the north into the darkness and coming out of the darkness, all towards the Church of Christ; east and west the same thing. Here I witnessed people, and I expect some of them must have been some of the servants of God, or maybe they all are, I'm not able to identify that, but they were going toward the east and they got so far and turned around and came back. And there were people coming from the west, coming in towards the Church of Christ as it were; and from the south, and among those coming from the south was an extremely tall man. Now that doesn't mean he was tall in stature, but he was tall in the strength and power of God. Off to the left is water, and when I first saw this I didn't understand the waters, but as I have meditated upon them more and more, finally a very strong spiritual impression came to me that these are troubled waters. Now it doesn't mean that they are necessarily just on the west, but that there are troubled waters in this picture.

We have at the crossroads great large letters, easily distinguished, and the words were: crossroad, indecision, fear, confusion, mistrust. These hovered up over the people gathered there. Here is indicated a few men and I saw these men had a signet in their forehead which identified that they had priesthood authority, and among these men I witnessed that there were several, quite a few, that were sitting down. The rest were standing up and milling around and were uncertain as to what to do, because of conditions that prevailed hovering over the Church of Christ. People were heading into the darkness, others were coming out of that, coming to the Church of Christ expectant and full of hope but when they arrived they found at the crossroads the

Sermon by
Apostle Don Housknecht
(condensed)



indecision, fear, confusion and mistrust. The whole story of that vision is very astounding, and there are others that have had dreams and visions after the same manner indicating that there is a time of turmoil and strife, and that is the Church of Christ as it is presently standing.

As I said, some were sitting down, meaning inactivity; they were doing nothing. Now this is a shameful story for one of your ministers to have to stand up and tell you, who are members of that congregation, a part of that Kingdom of Heaven on earth; to have to tell you that there are these conditions prevailing. I only say so because I had that very strong spiritually overcoming power of God give me the picture, and I pass it on to you.

With this in mind I would like to talk to you about God. I'll turn to Malachi 3. I want to emphasize particularly the 6th verse, but I'll start reading at the beginning of the chapter:

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?" There is a good question that we should examine very carefully: Who shall abide?

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:" Do you know what fullers' soap is? It's a cleansing agent and it absorbs dirt. Now that's a peculiar thing for the Lord to reveal to us, that he's like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap. He shall be like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap; he will cleanse. The power of God will cleanse, the Gift of the Holy Ghost will cleanse and it shall absorb a lot of those things that we would otherwise fall under were it not for that great power and authority and compassion, that God has given.

"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi," that is the priesthood, "and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

"Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years." A change had apparently come into effect but now things are going to return to their former condition.

"And I will come near to you in judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, ..." We don't have any of those today do we? You can't go anywhere, you can't read anything in the paper, you can't hear anything on the radio, you can't see anything on the television but what it speaks of these things. Everything has been adulterated. As I understand, never has there been such an adulterous condition as there is today. Adulteration is in practically everything from politics to the Christian world.

"And against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts." That's the kind of people that we will be meeting more and more as we go out and fulfill our obligation which we have accepted of God. Now this is the one that I want to emphasize:

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." I'm going to base my talk on the fact that God does not change. I think that you will agree with me that there has been some changes made and if there are changes made and we say God didn't do it, then who did? We did. I'm sorry to have to say, that over the years we have done that very thing. We haven't necessarily changed the law but we gave no respect to the law. It is still there, but we did not abide by the admonitions that have come from this pulpit. I say "this" pulpit representing all the pulpits throughout the church. We have to recognize this fact, because we've done the very things which have brought the indecision and fear, bewilderment; not knowing what route to take nor where to go, upon the Church. People coming into the Church of Christ have been bewildered when they have found these conditions existing, as they are today. And as we reach out to the good people who want to hear the word of God, they find not the completeness.

God has said through the prophet Jeremiah (17:5), "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm," but it is done, and we have done so right within our own fold and kingdom. We've had disturbing doctrines; we've had those things that have set our people apart from each

other, divided us. Though we come to church, and have our places of common worship, there is still a distrust. God does not change. We haven't changed laws but when we fail to obey, fail to carry out laws, do not attend ourselves to them, we are without that law.

"I am the Lord God, I change not;" is repeated somewhat in Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" We say there's no reason for God to have to repent, for what he has said will be. And if it isn't brought forth with power by us, it is going to happen through someone else. Oh it will be the Church of Christ, but it will be somebody else, unless we wake up to the realization that God has not changed but we have. There are two testimonies, that God does not change.

Are you happy? Why are you happy? There are any number of answers to why people are happy. But if I'm successful in bringing out what I feel God has presented me, I'm going to make you unhappy with your spiritual life, with the spiritual life that we have (in contrast) to that which has been promised. If there is any lack there is some reason for it. I'm going to turn to Moroni, 7th chapter, reading rather extensively from the 26th verse down through the 44th at least . . .

"And as sure as Christ liveth, he spake these words unto our fathers, saying, Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be done unto you."

"Do you believe that? Doesn't that make you happy? Well it could make you ever so happy if the things that we seek were actually there. And we know they are there somewhere within our reach but we haven't quite attained them, as frequently (I'll have to put that in) as I know they can be had. We know they are there, we know you want them, but something has happened that we don't know just how to receive them. I've seen the dead raised, I've seen crippled hands straightened out; crippled bodies so distorted by arthritis that they had to remain in bed, walk out of the room with me, made whole. And we need this today, our youth need to have it, to know it, not from some of us older men telling it to you, but you've got to have and know it for yourselves. And God has said we shall have it, I just read it to you.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased, because Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath set down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men;

"For he hath answered the ends of the law, and

he claimeth all those who have faith in him; and they who have faith in him, will cleave unto every good thing; wherefore he advocateth the cause of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the heavens.

"And because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased?"

No, you say, I can remember when there was a miracle. Miracles have not ceased, but they are not as frequent as they should be, not in the abundance of our necessity.

"Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men." Angels minister unto the children of men? That is how this gospel, and the authority to establish his church again was restored. That's how it happened, though angelic administration. God will reveal himself, he has done it all through the ages of time, but if it diminishes there is something wrong with us, not God.

Can you believe that, if we continue to just lay His counsel aside, He is going to continue speaking to us? Can you expect that he might say to himself, "Well, if they are not going to pay any attention, what's the use of me talking to them?" To say this is pretty brazen, I'll admit, but I'm not afraid of it being anything but the truth. It is true and we must acknowledge it and reach out and grasp hold of that which can take us out of these doldrums; out of complacency, and remember our commitments, and if necessary make new covenants. But first of all we have to remember our old covenants to keep them. How can we expect God to keep counseling us and rebuking us unless we obey His commandments of the past? And if we don't know what they are, and the ministry have failed to tell you what they are, then it's time that we pray to God that he will enlighten and move upon his servants that they will move out and not be afraid to speak these things that are necessary for our soul salvation.

In my estimation we're in a dangerous condition. Nevertheless, we recognize it because of other testimonies within the Book of Mormon.

For example, Mormon 4:83:

"And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men, is because they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they trust." If your conscience tells you that you're in this category, if my conscience tells me that I'm in this category, and if I recognize it and do nothing about it, then I have no right to be called one of the children of his kingdom on earth.

"Behold I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted

him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth." (Verse 84) Who is left out? Only the unfaithful, those who are complacent about the condition we are in today. We must remove that cloud of those words, I call them clouds because when anything like that exists it is a cloud. We're clouded over and our thinking is not clear, we're bewildered, we're going around in circles if we are going around at all.

In Ether chapter 1, I read verses 104 and 105: "And he that believeth not my words, believeth not my disciples; and if it so be that I do not speak, judge ye; for ye shall know that it is I that speaketh, at the last day.

"But behold he that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit; and he shall know and bear record."

I'd like to have you sing a song, page 263 in the green book, and out of this song will come a theme that I'm going to ask you to accept as being a theme that we're going to use from now to eternity if necessary, "The Fight is On."

What is the theme? The last words of the song: "If God be for us, his banner o'er us, we'll sing the victory song at last." I want you to take that theme home with you, I want you to have it burning in your mind and in your heart, because we know it can be.

"Somebody said it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That maybe it couldn't but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.
He waded right in with a trace of a grin
On his face, if he worried, he hid it,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done . . . and he did it.

"Somebody said, 'oh you'll never do that,
at least no one ever has done it',
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
and the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of the chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or 'quit it'
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done . . . and he did it.

"There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you,
one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a lift of the chin,
Take off your coat and go to it.
Starting to sing as you tackle the thing
That cannot be done . . . and you'll do it.

Edgar A. Guest

An Open Door, Now Closed

In the third chapter of Revelation there is an intriguing prophecy which fills me with great hope as I consider the immensity and scope of the latter-day work which unfolds before us (Revelation 3:7-8):

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth. I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Even though this message is addressed to the church in Philadelphia, there is within it a key that informs us that it is a type, or shadow, of things to come to the church restored in the latter day, for verse ten identifies the time-frame of the prophecy: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

We live in that era which shall endure "the hour of temptation (or tribulation) which shall come upon all the world." It is to the church of our day that the promise is given, and what is this promise? ". . . I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it. . ." To what does this open door refer? Several references by the Apostle Paul gives us a vivid description as to the significance of this promise:

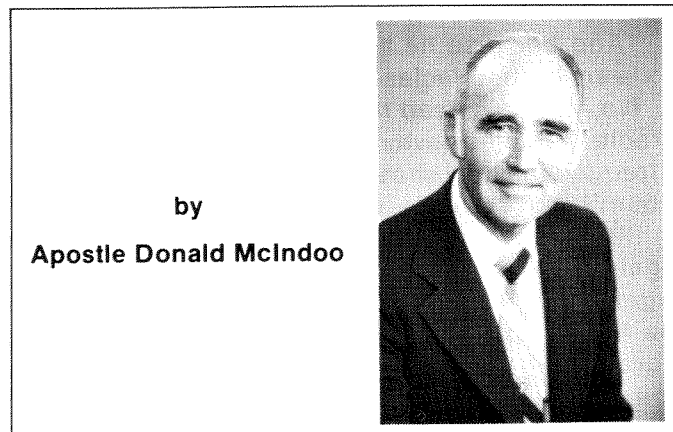
"But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door, and effectual, is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Cor. 16:8-9)

"Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord." (2 Cor. 2:12)

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving, Praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds. . ." (Col. 4:2-3).

Christ opened unto Paul a "great door of utterance", or spirit-filled preaching, and I marvel at the great work he accomplished in the few years of ministry allotted to him, opening all Asia and Europe to the gospel of Christ. Can you begin to imagine what would happen if in this latter day there were twenty or thirty ministers like the Apostle Paul who had opened before them such a door of utterance and who were ready to stride boldly through that open door?

But we do not accomplish the Lord's work by dreams or imaginations: We must come to grips with



by
Apostle Donald McIndoo

the reality of our condition as it exists today. A few years ago our church received another revelation which clarifies our position in the eyes of the Lord. In this vision (seen artistically rendered on page 100, ed.), as seen by Apostle D.W. Housknecht, the ministry of the church were shown at a great crossroads. They had clear access to the roads in each of the four directions, but they were seen to be milling about the crossroads or seated at its side. Some of the ministry would travel out into the road a short distance, only to turn and rejoin those at the crossroads.

Above the crossroads appeared four words which seemed to be the elements descriptive of our little church today. They appear to be, as well, the elements which block the open door Christ has promised to provide for His church in the latter day. These four descriptive terms are as follow:

MISTRUST - CONFUSION - INDECISION - FEAR

It seems obvious that such elements as these revealed could hinder the opening of that door of effectual preaching. That open door which no opposing force could shut or hinder has been effectively shut by our own choice or, perhaps more correctly stated, our lack of choice. This is the reality which we must face and with which we must come to grips if we are to have our part in the great "cause" of Christ in this latter day.

Whatever our efforts, or lack of effort, elicit criticism from a superior, several ways of responding to said criticism are always available to us. I can immediately think of four responses often seen about us. They are the following:

1. We all too often see people choose to ignore any constructive criticism and continue operating as before. Failure is their determined end.

2. A more natural response to criticism is indignation and anger, accompanied by a great deal of self-justification. No beneficial changes can be made by such a response.

3. Some people respond to any criticism by falling into depression and defeat. In such cases effective effort soon ceases.

4. The genuinely perceptive and fortunate persons will realize that the criticism was born of concern. Recognizing this they can accept the challenge, though it may be difficult, and effect the necessary changes in behavior that will provide for success.

We have received such a concerned criticism from our Divine Head. Knowing its source we must conclude that the criticism is both true and just. Let us, therefore, evaluate the elements of His appraisal and determine what positive changes we can make in our service to the Lord and in our relationships, one with another, that will enhance our position before the Lord and open before the ministry of the church of Christ a great door of effectual preaching of Christ's gospel.

Mistrust is one of the elements the Lord has identified as hindering the Church of Christ in our day. I think I know my fellow believers well enough to state to anyone that the members of the Church of Christ have placed great reliance upon the Lord, they trust in His word implicitly, have complete confidence in His love for us and depend upon Him in times of need. For this very reason I feel that the indicated mistrust must refer to the relationship we have with one another.

Mistrust, uncertainty and doubts concerning our co-workers are certainly negative feelings which elicit negative responses that will stifle our ability to work together. They lead us to be suspicious of the motives of our brethren and, thus, further the designs of Satan by increasing divisions among the body of Christ. Indeed, mistrust is the antithesis of love, for love is not easily provoked, believeth all things and hopeth all things. Such attitudes, unless checked, feed upon themselves and grow with a "snowball" effect. This appears to be the situation in our case: In recent years we have heard expressions of mistrust toward the ministry, directed toward the Council of Apostles and toward the laity, yet it is we who have been called out of the world to further the cause of Christ in this last dispensation of time and to go forth in unity, "the whole body fitly joined together," proclaiming the will of the Lord.

It is time we came to grips with this problem before we are rendered helpless and ineffective by it. *There are two aspects to the solution of this problem and both require a personal commitment.* **First,** each and every member of the church must go to the Lord in humility and contrition, thinking of no one

else but oneself, and beseech the Lord to remove from one's life the seeds of doubt, mistrust and suspicion. **Secondly,** if we are to be worthy of trust and confidence we must each strive to be trustworthy, open, honest and dependable; placing the Lord's work before our own interest, the Lord's word before our own understandings, grounded in the faith and considerate of one another. Only then can we be of such a mind as were Paul and his co-workers of whom he was able to say, "I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things." (2 Cor. 7:16)

Fear was another of the elements seen by the Lord which hindered the church from fulfilling its purpose. Fear is expressed as uncertainty, apprehension or irresolution in one's life. God's time has now come full circle — the Gentiles are to be urged to repentance, the gospel is to be carried back to Israel and the heathen are to hear it preached as a witness against them. All these things are to be accomplished in a time when the hearing of many has grown dull, the love of mankind waxes cold, nationalism is rampant and the laws of many nations seem to make the fulfillment of prophecy an impossibility. Certainly it is a time for every minister of the Church of Christ to review the Master's counsel regarding the "cost of discipleship" (See Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 and Luke 14:25-27, 33).

The work to which we have been called is no less important nor less difficult than the work undertaken by the sons of Mosiah who renounced a kingdom that they might participate in the cause of their Lord. Can we be as bold as these four young men? (Alma 12:21-22):

And it came to pass when they had arrived in the borders of the land of the Lamanites, that they separated themselves, and departed one from another, trusting in the Lord, that they should meet again at the close of their harvest: for they supposed that great was the work which they had undertaken. And assuredly it was great, for they had undertaken to preach the word of God to a wild, and a hardened, and a ferocious people. . . .

As we contemplate the difficulty of our calling it might help us, as it personally has helped me, to remember the counsel of Paul given to a young minister: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

A third characteristic of the Church of Christ at the crossroads of active Christian service was that of indecision. This indicates a wavering of mind or will, a hesitancy to take a necessary action, the unwillingness to take a definite, though unpopular, stand or the reluctance to make a necessary, even if difficult, decision. When President Reagan made the difficult and dangerous decision to retaliate with

an air strike against Libyan terrorism his decision was not liked by all, it was condemned by many, yet the whole world knows that the presidency of the United States will be decisive. I choose this example of decisiveness deliberately because I think the culpability for indecision rests primarily upon the highest authority within the church and, for this reason, we have drifted through the years into a dangerous position. Many of our beliefs basic to the restoration of the gospel are now under attack from without and within. Vigorous and decisive leadership, even if unpopular to many, must be exerted if we are to survive and fulfill our high calling.

The final attribute of the church was stated as the existence within her of confusion. As I try to honestly evaluate the church today I believe this confusion exists at several levels — there is an organizational confusion, there is doctrinal discord and confusion and there seems to be a confusion as to our primary purpose, the very nature of our work and the burden of the message we are called to deliver. The Apostle Paul identifies for us the area of greatest culpability if, indeed, confusion exists (Ephesians 4:11-13):

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body

of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. . .

It is not my intention to go into further detail about this confusion nor the extent of it within the church. Suffice it to say that it is imperative that the ministry of the Church of Christ evaluate our condition and take positive steps toward reducing each trace of confusion. Perhaps of the four negative characteristics portrayed in the vision of the crossroads, the existence of confusion in our midst is most important to remedy immediately, for unity, boldness and decisiveness are attributes not to be used by the Lord unless they are subordinate to the sound doctrine of Christ and utilized by a sound organizational structure for the express purpose of fulfilling His divine will, for which He restored the Church of Christ in this latter day.

In the parable of the ten virgins awaiting the coming bridegroom we are told that all were slumbering and sleeping. If the Lord has now spoken to us by means of this vision of the crossroads it is to awaken us to a lively sense of needed change. Let us give prayerful consideration to this matter that we might be found worthy to enter in when He shall shortly come.

Thoughts from the Independence YPCL

I wrote this poem about my dad and I'm really happy and thankful about the relationship we have. I love you, Dad!

SAYING THEY LOVE YOU

Tender arms hold your emotions together—
saying they love you.

Strong arms, thrown about your waist, lift you
in the air—
saying they love you.

Soft hands caress the tears from your cheeks—
saying they love you.

Confident hands hold yours in silence—
saying they love you.

Jennifer Kidd

I was getting ready for a music contest for choir and I was praying to God to help me in working on my songs. I had felt very good about the songs I was singing and I left the matter in God's hands. When I

got to this contest, I had to sing in an all boy choir and an ensemble with eight guys in it. When I finished singing in the all boys choir, I found that we got a "one", which is a perfect rating. Then all afternoon, I prayed to God that if it was His will, He would help us to do good in the ensemble.

After I sang in the ensemble, I wasn't so sure that I wanted to leave it in God's hands. When I saw the rating, it was a "two", and I walked away very angry. But when I thought about it for a little while, I realized that I had asked God that if it was His will, He would give me a "one". I thank God for giving me what I got and I thank Him for teaching me that He knows best.

Jeff Oldham

In September of last year, I was fooling around at Godfather's Pizza and fell down on my knees. I had torn a ligament and messed my knee up quite a bit before this. I went to the doctor and he said that I had damaged another ligament and torn the cartilage too. He said it would give me a lot of problems

later on if I didn't get it taken out. That meant an operation and I am quite apprehensive about doctors and hospitals. But, regardless of my fright, I scheduled my operation for December 6.

I went to Arizona for the Phoenix Reunion and told people I was to have an operation two days after I got home from there. So many people were praying for me, I could feel the spirit giving me strength from their prayers. I was administered to before I left and many prayers were going up for me on December 6.

On the day of my operation and for about a month before, my knee felt fine. I could run, jump, hike, just like my knee was normal. I told my doctor, but he said it was just relaxed and I should go through with the operation. My personality is such

that I get nervous at anything — no matter how minor, but I was so calm before the operation, I took a nap! That peace of mind was a definite answer to my prayers.

After the operation, the nurse offered me some pain pills and I never had to take one. My physical therapy went quickly and painlessly also. A friend told me she went through so much pain when she had the same type of operation. I am so thankful God preserved me from that pain and gave me this testimony. I am also thankful for all the loving and caring people who remembered me in their prayers, for I know it was the unity of our prayers and faith in Christ that helped me through this ordeal and I thank you all.

Jennifer Kidd

If any young people have a special song, testimony, poem or some words of encouragement to others, please send them. Your writing could help someone who is in special need of those words.

Send your articles to: Jennifer Kidd
5509 Cedar
Raytown, MO 64133

All submissions should be typed double-spaced, if possible, or neatly written in ink.

Thanks a lot!

Path Lights

It has been my misfortune in the past to have to undergo major surgery several times. When it became necessary again this year to have more major surgery done, I had decided not to call our Elder, who would have had to come some distance, for administration.

Imagine my surprise when two Elders and their wives came to visit and informed us of a meeting to be held in our vicinity. I had been feeling good about the surgery in that I felt it would correct some of the problems I had been having and so decided that I would not ask at the meeting for administration unless my husband asked for the laying on of hands for himself. He had been in so much pain that I felt he needed it more than I.

Imagine my surprise once again when my husband stood in that meeting and asked for administration. Under the circumstances, I felt that I had been shown that it WAS necessary that I be administered to, and so I was.

The surgery took longer than expected as more problems were found. There were problems after

surgery, and in fact I still had infection when I left the hospital. The doctors prescribed more medication for at home use. Since then recovery has been slow, but I am improving. Since Thanksgiving, however, I have been fighting another infection.

I know that without the laying on of hands and the prayers of all of you, my brothers and sisters, it would have been more difficult and perhaps much worse for me. Thank you all for being there when I needed you; and most of all I thank our Heavenly Father for His blessings and watchcare over me.

Your sister in gospel bonds,
Vivian Spencer
Rovenna, MI

In 1977 I thought I had found the true church of God. I prayed to my Father in Heaven and He told me that Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet, that the Book of Mormon was true and that through Joseph Smith, the Church of Christ was restored to the earth. I therefore decided to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. As the years

passed, I found so many doubts and things that I just could not accept or understand. However I knew that Joseph Smith was visited by the Saviour and my Heavenly Father, so I kept attending church regularly.

One day, however, I remembered that I had heard, vaguely, of other churches in the Restoration movement. I spent some time looking into the RLDS church, but realized that it was not for me. Eventually I found the phone number and address of the Church of Christ in Independence, and made a long distance call to Elder James Case. Thank the Lord for Elder Case! He sent me some literature (and his prayers) and my wife and I read them, prayed about it earnestly and received such an answer to our prayers as we have never before felt.

We are now awaiting baptism into the Church of Christ: The Lord's true Church & Kingdom! Convinced of the truth of the Gospel we have frequently corresponded with Elder Case and are feasting on the words of Christ after such a long time with no spiritual food. Things are difficult for us here as there are no members of the Church in the British Isles and lack of employment and finances prevent us from attending any church services overseas. However, the Lord is here with us, guiding and directing us and this is the most important thing to us.

Please pray for us brothers and sisters — we need your prayers. We would also be grateful of any

correspondence to uplift us.

May God bless and keep you all.

Your Brother & Sister in Christ,
Martin and Kate Rosen
British Isles

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to thank each one of you who have taken the time to send your testimonies. I wish I could print all the notes I've received from scattered members. They all have one thing in common. They feel that they become closer as brothers and sisters in the church when they hear of your trials and your blessings.

Please remember this column cannot continue without your support. Please take a few minutes to write down some of God's blessings or lessons to you. It means so much to others. Your testimony could be the light someone needs on the pathway to heaven.

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

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

NEWS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

(Reporter Evalena Sills)

This report is written May 26, 1986. Today our nation is celebrating Memorial Day and paying tribute to those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom. Related patriotic subjects are being recalled from many locations throughout the land, as our hearts mourn our lost dead and rejoice in the freedom we still enjoy from shore to shore in this "choice above all other lands."

Here in the Southwest we are doing our celebrating in over 100 degree temperatures, thankful for our cooling systems as well as our national freedom. But we know, through prophetic utterance that the blessings of peace we now enjoy will be short-lived in this beloved nation of ours unless there is wholesale repentance before God, and soon!

The local Church of Christ here in Phoenix is carrying on its regular schedule of Church services at the church on Siesta Lane, and continuing its

reach-out efforts to isolated groups of members in several locations. Religious services are conducted once each month at Tucson, Payson and Show Low in Arizona, and Ridgecrest in Southern California. Our ministers who carry on this missionary endeavor go also to other places to visit isolated members who cannot make it to the services. Those who are recipients of this dedicated ministry express their appreciation often, and we of the local membership here at home base pray for them all — ministers and lay members as well, that the soul-saving messages they share will bear fruit in eternity.

We have our pot-luck dinners each Sunday, for all who wish to participate. Some of us feel the need to go home to rest up for the evening services although others bring food and stay all day. Afternoons are frequently spent practicing songs for special numbers at the preaching services, or rehearsing for some special occasion program. We also have our little social events as occasion indi-

cates: wedding gift showers, baby gift showers and get-togethers to share fun and fellowship, even without any special event to prompt it — just the joy of being together! Even the little children get together for slumber parties, young mothers spelling each other with an over-night breather from the constant but still wonderful responsibility of parental supervision. And after the church services at night, little groups of members here and there in the building and out on the lawn get together to discuss subjects of interest, either spiritual or just everyday affairs. It is good to see this special closeness and to hear the spontaneous laughter spilling over into the good-natured pool of comradeship.

Isn't it wonderful to be brothers and sisters in the family of the Church of Christ? One glad day it will lead to that long-hoped-for utopia, Zion itself! "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)

We greet each one of you in other locals, including those in Yucatan and overseas. We love to read about your activities. We are all workers together, all hoping to join hands and, in love, help to build and to inhabit Zion.

Let me close with the following pointers expressed recently in a sermon by young Andy Brown, an ordained teacher:

"There are times when we ask the Lord what He wants us to do, but we aren't willing to sit and wait for the answer."

"The only time the Lord can't use you is when you won't let Him."

"The time will come when each one of us will make a decision as to whether God can use us or whether He can't. Which shall it be?"

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

(Reporter Irene Maley)

Hello!

In the springtime the world speeds up! The spectacular month of May will not draw to a close; but will ebb into the glorious month of June. It will find us still breathless trying to keep up with and savor all that is given us. Experiencing both the enchantment of spring in Missouri and in Minnesota has been completely delicious — "O taste and see that the LORD is good:" Psalm 34:8.

The John Gill Family has experienced much this spring in their travels. They have been busy furnishing information about their findings in Honduras to interested ones. Compassionate response has been coming steadily. People want to know and to help with material aid and to provide Hope without which none of us survive well. These thousands of refu-

gees form only a pinpoint on the globe of suffering mankind who are reviled and exploited rather than lifted up. If we can give only a prayer; but that from our heart, that also is giving.

Our congregation is sometimes invited to participate in the sermons we hear. Brother Ed Linton contributed to a recent sermon. A pre-school child occasionally sings out a word written on the blackboard (correctly), when the speaker asks it of him or her. Do they listen? Yes! — The speakers often catch the older children listening, too, and ready to give good answer.

We are grieved by the report of Apostle Robert Jensen's serious illness. We know that all are thankful for those who went immediately to administer to him; and also those who went to care for him and Sister Doris. Our prayers continue in their behalf.

We are thankful for the ordination of Brother Merlin Eddy to office of Elder. We are moved by his earnestness as he goes about God's work among us. Several members have had special need of administration. Ronnie Gill suffered a foot and ankle injury, and his brother, Tommy, has his arm in a cast, due to an injury on the jungle gym at school. They are both still smiling and are not being coddled on the busy Gill farm. "Uncle" Mike Gould has been down to help out there. Pastor Thomas Maley has had his annual check-up — again with good report. Following a cut-back at his place of employment, Brother Forest Maley still has his job there. All of us have much for which to be thankful. Evidence is strong that our prayers for others are receiving audience by the all powerful Lord who increases our faith.

Brother Merlin Eddy and Family were away to Wisconsin tending to the pleasure of honoring Sister Grace Eddy and "Dad" — on Mother's Day. Brother and Sister Benny Case are on their way to visit grandparents of Benny, Brother and Sister Harvey Bell, in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Brother and Sister Jon Gould invited us to hold a yard sale as a refugee benefit at their place on Saturday, May 24.

We do hope that you've had time to enjoy the springtime. As we've been here at the typewriter facing the large Maple tree outside the window, a merry breeze has detached the maple's seed cases. With a whirl, they twirl off to the street — sometimes like a large bevy of butterflies gone beserk into whirling motion. Some travel quite a distance still aflutter even after landing. God's sense of humor is always exciting and refreshing. Nothing He has created is without purpose!

Be of good cheer and have a safe and happy summer, never forgetting that God created you for His special purpose. We depend upon your prayers for us, as we remember the Church wherever its members are, in our prayers.

COLLINS, MISSOURI

(Reporter Czerna Kauffman)

Hi folks! It's me again. We held our annual election of officers and, you guessed it — I'm still your reporter. Also, for those who may be interested or need to contact him, Brother Jack Martin is still our pastor with Brother Allen Kauffman as assistant pastor.

After our conference meetings Brother Don McIndoo visited our area and agreed to be the speaker. His main topic was building — how and on what. He said today we're building a house that we'll inhabit in eternity. It can be beautiful or it can be shabby. The quality will exist through all eternity. He read I Cor. 3:9-15 and said that every man can only build for himself — can not build for others, (children, etc.). We must build on the doctrine and teachings of Jesus Christ. If we build on anything else (wealth, philosophy or whatever) there is danger the storms and rain will undermine and cause it to collapse.

The following Sunday was our regular dinner day and our guest speaker was Brother Marvin Case of Independence. His sermon was centered around a scripture he read from Ephesians 4:1-16 where it speaks of walking "worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, . . ." He said we can talk about a lot of things (Zion, hope of eternal life, etc.) but if we don't follow the Lord Jesus Christ our hope is vain. We are called (our vocation) to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Brother Case also shared a testimony with us on "choice". It reminded me of how Alma, the son of Alma, was shown and given a choice.

Sunday, April 27th, Brother Rodger Bruner of Independence was our guest speaker and talked to us about our need to study for ourselves and not to accept blindly what another teaches. He read Matt. 23:2-39 where Christ spoke to the multitude and his disciples and told them of the teachings and actions of the scribes and Pharisees, giving them all a dressing down.

Sunday evening the Baptist Church in Collins had invited the Bruners and Allen and I to bring a gospel music program. Though our nerves were frayed we were delighted to be given the opportunity to share the gospel in song with our friends and neighbors in the community. Also we were the guest entertainment for the Collins Alumni Banquet, May 10th. This probably sounds like I'm "horn tooting" but I'm not. We've been very pleased to sing for people when asked and always it is with the prayer that maybe some of the songs will touch someone or be of some good. You know, sometimes people will come to a program where they might not come to a regular church service.

We had a lovely Mother's Day service. Tribute was paid in song and verse. Brother Jack Martin brought a short sermon and read of four noteworthy mothers in the Bible. Then said that ALL mothers are note-worthy, whether old or young or if they have taken someone else's child to mother as their own.

May's dinner Sunday brought Brother Tony Grzincic to speak to us. He had three paper sacks on display and gave us a choice of one of them, all of which had the same thing inside — a piece of rope. He used the rope to depict our soul and how through baptism it is made straight and clean. Then, as your life goes on, a little bending takes place. Maybe a lie of two ties your "rope soul" in a knot until it is tangled and knotted all up. But through SINCERE repentance your "rope soul" can be untangled and made straight again. He spoke of Christ's words and the power and authority in them from the creating words, "let there be. . ." through out all the scriptures. Christ's word shall not return unto him void.

We have been blessed by the attendance of the Adams and Eddy families from the Clinton area. They have added so much to our worship services.

Several from our local were privileged to attend the Houston Rally which was held the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. It was without a doubt a day well spent. My heart was filled with peace and love. For a little while I had no particular cares and it has helped strengthen me for those things ahead. God bless you each one.

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

(Reporter Florence M. Kommer)

Hello from Springfield.

Sacrament service in March was held in our new location. It was the realization of a dream we have had for a long time. As you can imagine, there was a lot of thanksgiving and praise expressed. This is just another example of the Lord's answer to our prayers.

As we look back on the history of our little group here:

It was 4 years ago we organized as a mission; we met in the home of Kim and Jane Ann Stancil; a group of people meeting together to worship our Lord; our dream was, someday, to have a building where we could meet.

Two years later, The Lord sent Elder Victor Bates to be our Pastor, and we organized as a Local. Oh! How our hearts rejoiced at the Lord's goodness and wisdom. Yet, we still prayed for a public building to meet in. Many times it seemed as though there wasn't a single place in all of Springfield and the surrounding Area. Then, when our hopes were at

their lowest, the Lord seemed to say, "I hear your prayers and know your hearts desire." The Lord pointed the way! The Springfield Community Center came to light! We couldn't ask for more, except to fill this building to it's limits! Please come and worship with us. The building is at the corner of Chestnut Expressway and Benton Blvd. We have a large meeting room, with a kitchen and dining facilities. We have dinner the 3rd and 4th Sunday each month.

We want to thank Kim and Jane Stancil for sharing their home with us every Sunday for four years. The visiting Ministry have been very faithful to come and feed us Spiritually. For all things we are very thankful.

May God Bless each of You.

WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

(Reporter Jeanne Brantner)

Greetings to all from everyone in Warrensburg! As I write this it happens to be the time set aside by our nation to honor and remember all those who have gone on before us. It is also the end of the school year for most of our children. My prayer is that it be a safe and enjoyable summer for us all, that we not fail to give thanks each day for a life overflowing with blessings.

We have been favored by many inspirational sermons containing guidance, instruction and admonition by the ministry of our local as well as by visiting ministry. It never ceases to amaze me that a visiting preacher can render the most perfect follow-up sermon to a Sunday School lesson, having had no idea what the lesson topic would be for that day. The Lord does work in mysterious ways, doesn't He?

Time goes by so swiftly sometimes. It hardly seems possible that we have been meeting here in Warrensburg — and in the very same location — for longer than 5½ years, 2½ of those years as an organized local. As we continue meeting each week the abundance of warmth and fellowship felt within our group helps to make up for the lack of attendance enjoyed by larger congregations.

Sickness of some kind seems to have hit almost all of us here at one time or another. There have been several types of flu, as well as colds, but none serious enough to keep us at home on Sundays.

We know that many are busy with gardens and other activities but hopefully time can be arranged to enable everyone to attend the Missouri Reunion held in Warrensburg on August 15, 16 and 17 at CMSU where it has been held the last four years. I'll borrow a phrase from our dear departed brother, Elder George Brantner, by saying, "Let's make this year's Reunion the biggest and best ever!"

Missouri Reunion

We would like to invite everyone to attend our Missouri Reunion with us.

DATE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 15-16-17, 1986. First meeting to begin at 9:00 A.M., August 15.

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

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

LODGING: Rooms are \$16.00 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. As soon as possible, notify Jeanette Cunningham, Rt. 5, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. Telephone 816-747-5024.

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.

The Tri-State Reunion

The Youth Camp at Whitewater State Park, Altura, Minnesota, is being reserved for the Tri-State reunion, August 29-September 1, 1986. (Labor Day Weekend).

Located about ten miles north of St. Charles, Minnesota, the site and facilities are ideal for a spiritual tryst of the faithful. Come and enjoy them with us.

Address your inquiries to:

Merlin Eddy
12115 Rich Valley Blvd.
Rosemount, Minnesota 55068

The Minneapolis, Minnesota
Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1987 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 3 and 4.

The 1986 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 20 through 22 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
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	6.00
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Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
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What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony	
(Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
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First Presidency or First Apostles	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

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.

CHURCH HISTORY for JUNIORS—34 page booklet includes a teachers guide.

THE BOOK IN THE STONE BOX—7 page booklet

BIBLE STORIES TO GROW BY — 52 lessons in 12 themes about God and Jesus (ages 5-7). (Free to local Sunday Schools)

JESUS' LIFE and TEACHINGS—Series of 4 quarterlies (ages 8-10)

WE SING and WE TALK ABOUT JESUS—14 primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette (On loan only)

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee. Send all requests (except for sermons) to Elder Gary Housknecht, 2901 S. Norwood, Independence, MO 64052.

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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.

"Out of the Dust" (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon. Also available is a 35 minute version directed toward Indian viewers and entitled "A Lamp Unto My Feet."

"Light at Evening" (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

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