

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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Welcome Home

*Father up in heaven,
Dwell with us this day.
With broken heart and contrite spirit,
We humbly bow and pray.*

*Teach us words of wisdom,
Those you'd have us hear.
May your Spirit be amongst us,
As a people help us draw near.*

*Touch our hearts with charity,
Fill our hungering souls.
May our thoughts be of thee,
Our minds clean and pure.*

*Reassure us of thy promise,
Of our soul's salvation,
Our life on earth as a test of our faith,
Before we meet you upon thy judgment throne.*

*There we'll wait to hear you say,
"Well done, my good and
Faithful servant, enter into My Kingdom."
Welcome home!*

Mikeal Payne

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Zion's Advocate

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Guest Editorial . . .

DOING THE RIGHT THING

"I shall pass through this world but once, any good thing therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now, let me not defer it, nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Should this famous saying be our guide as we go through this life trying to please God? Christ went through His ministry showing kindness to those around Him. He healed the sick, He made the blind see, He made the deaf to hear and showed compassion for all. He went on to show us His greatest kindness; to go to the cross, to take upon Himself the sins of mankind. Why did Christ do all the kind things that He did? Love! The love of God's creation.

We must have that same love, that Christ-like love for our fellow human beings to be able to go thru our life showing them kindness. But this must be more than our just *saying* that we are going to love each other.

1st John 3:18 says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." We can proclaim we love each other and our

neighbors but do our actions bear this out? Do we say we love and then have hate in our hearts for our brother? I have heard it said that we should love our brother but hate the sinful deeds that he does. Are we attuned to God's Spirit enough to be able to do this? God gave us this in 1st John 4:21, "And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also." So let's not neglect nor defer this kindness, this love to our brothers, our sisters, our friends and our neighbors. Alma spoke to the church which was established in the city of Zarahemla saying in Alma 3:54-55, "And again I say unto you, is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions? Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent, or he can not be saved."

That states it very plainly; We have to show kindness and compassion to those around us to be able to be saved.

We who are professed members of Christ's kingdom here on earth have a responsibility to represent

Christ by our actions, deeds and the way we interact with our fellow man. We, by our showing kindness and love to those we have contact with, cast a shadow on not only ourselves but upon the Gospel we hold so dear.

Therefore, dear reader, take upon you that char-

ity, which the Book of Mormon has defined as the pure love of Christ. In so doing, in our walk through this world, we will be able to truly show that goodness, that kindness, and that love for all.

Elder Frank Fann

Being Spiritually Minded

SERMON BY APOSTLE ROLAND SARRATT

MAY 2, 1982 (CONDENSED)

We sing the song, "Higher Ground." What is that higher ground? We want to be above the things of the world that would drag us down or depress us, and above the powers of Satan. An answer was given Wednesday evening, if you listened to the thoughts that were presented in the service. I had thought earlier in the week of speaking about being spiritually minded as compared to being carnally minded; and it was, I think, more than coincidence that there were several who mentioned the importance of having the Spirit of God to guide us in the things that we are to do. It was rather emphasized. When we already have something in our mind and something else comes along that confirms it, then this definitely has to be the subject of the sermon.

So I have felt to speak on this and I hope with the strength of the Spirit that I may be able to emphasize some things that I feel the Lord would have me to emphasize. I have been a little bit hesitant in being very bold in the subject. I feel that there is a spiritual deficiency among us, and I criticize myself first and foremost. I can feel the difference between doing things according to what seems right in my mind, and not really having a strong confirmation, which I need. It just seems to be a kind of a hint along the way. I especially need the Spirit in the work of being pastor of the local and also in my ministry where I go out to the various locals. When I haven't been there for two or three months or longer, I don't know what might be the need. As far as that goes I don't know the need of everybody here, and I really feel more and more dependant upon the guidance of the Spirit.

It's not something I can just say, "Lord, what is it", and just nonchalantly, half-heartedly fulfill that responsibility. I have got to move with greater desire, and greater will to fulfill my ministry as I feel that I need to.

There are several scriptures that I have chosen and I'd like to read a few of them. There are many scriptures that tell us of the workings of the Spirit of



Apostle
Roland L. Sarratt

God, and choosing which ones would be the right ones is again a thing that I'm dependant upon the Spirit to guide me in. In the 8th chapter of Romans, the first 15 verses, Paul gives the working of the Spirit and he brings out some important truths that I know we are pretty well acquainted with, but I'm going to read them again and comment on them.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." See how definitely He draws the line, they don't walk after the flesh, they walk after the Spirit. In other words they are being guided by the Spirit.

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

Now he is showing the distinction of the law, what the law could do as far as the flesh was concerned. And he sees, perhaps in a way that none of us can see today as clearly and appreciate it, the ways of the Jews as compared to what he expe-

rienced after his commission, after the experience that Christ gave. He wants us to be guided by the Spirit, to the total fulfillment of what the Lord would have us to do, and so he says, "they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." And the word Spirit has the S capitalized which indicates it means the Spirit of God.

He goes on, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

So he shows that being carnally minded is the opposite of being spiritually minded, and the distinction is that being carnally minded is actually death, it's a spiritual death, it's just walking the ways of the earth like brute beasts, being just flesh and blood, following after a fallen state, a fallen human being. He would not have us to be subject to that kind of life. He is showing the distinction; he is saying to be Spiritually minded is life and peace. This is where we obtain that peace in eternal life.

He goes on to say, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you." That's not literal. He's showing the distinction, you have chosen to follow the Lord, you have had that change take place in you so you are not in the flesh as far as the flesh dominating you, you are in the Spirit. The Spirit is guiding and directing you.

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness." Again the distinction: sin causes death, but through the Spirit you receive life and that is because of righteousness. Because of your righteousness you obtain life.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father."

Jacob, in 2 Nephi, page 110, made the statement, "Remember, to be carnally minded is death," saying essentially the same thing as Paul says. "And to be spiritually minded, is life eternal." Paul referred so many times to life, but Jacob went ahead and explained what that life was — life eternal. That's the life beyond this life, that's not just a goal that we're

looking for, that is a way of life in us, a present way of life. If we do not have that quality, that righteousness that we need to be spiritual in this life, we're going to be a misfit in the life hereafter; we just won't fit into that other life.

Alma, in Alma 3:27, asked the people of the church, ". . . Have ye spiritually been born of God?" I'm kind of inclined to ask that question tonight. Of course I don't wish to put the burden upon you alone; I ask the question of us, myself included. Sometimes we think including ourselves we make it a little easier on everybody because we're all guilty of the same thing, but that's not necessarily true. I don't judge you to be guilty of the things I'm guilty of, and I may not be guilty of the things that you are. I wouldn't want to make it a blanket accusation, as such, but the question is appropriate nevertheless. Have ye spiritually been born of God?

We feel that once we have been baptized we truly have been spiritually born, but to retain that spirituality is the important thing. We find on page 224, the 3rd chapter of Mosiah, that King Benjamin approached his people and brought a very important lesson to them, and at the end of his talk they responded to that and made a covenant with the Lord. He comments on the covenant. Verses 4-13, "And we, ourselves, also, through the infinite goodness of God, and the manifestation of his Spirit, have great views of that which is to come; and were it expedient, we could prophesy all things." This is part of the covenant of the people, "And it is the faith which we have had on the things which our king has spoken to us, and has brought us to this great knowledge, whereby we do rejoice with such exceeding great joy; And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days, that we may not bring upon ourselves a never ending torment, as has been spoken by the angel, that we may not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God. And now, these are the words which King Benjamin desired of them; and therefore he said unto them, Ye have spoken the words that I desired; and the covenant which ye have made, is a righteous covenant. And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons and his daughters: For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and daughters. And under this head ye are made free: and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free." This is part of being spiritually begotten of the Father.

"There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take

upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this, shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ. And now, it shall come to pass that whosoever shall not take upon them the name of Christ, must be called by some other name; therefore, he findeth himself on the left hand of God."

The distinction is there so plain. You're either on the right hand of God or you're on the left hand of God. There's really no inbetween. We're either going to be spiritually minded, spiritually begotten of the Father and retain that spirituality or we're going to be on the other side. And this is a fearful thing, for truly if we have drawn away or fallen below that which our potential is, that which we're called to (it's not just potential, it's a calling), we're in jeopardy. And I don't want to make this any heavier than it actually is necessary. But we know that we desire to be above what we are. We want to be on that higher plane — higher ground; but do we want it bad enough? That's poor verbage, but I think you understand it because we use it all the time. Do we want it enough to overcome our own faults?

Maybe I'm taking some liberty here that I shouldn't, but I see us as a people that are not sufficiently spiritually minded. We're not carnally minded as some that we see in the world, we're not just subject to the flesh and going the ways of the world; we're not that kind of people. We're clean and decent people, we're above many things of the world and we have strength, not just the strength and determination of our minds only, but some strength of the Spirit because we've put it to a test and we know it's real, we absolutely know it's real! So I'm not trying to put us down, but we don't have the evidence of the Spirit of God working in us like we know that we can have, that has been in the church in years past. We don't have the evidence of the Spiritual gifts. Many have said this. We might excuse ourselves and say, "Maybe the Lord doesn't choose to give us the gifts as we think we ought to have." But I don't blame the Lord at all and I don't lay it at his feet. I feel that the scriptures are plain enough, and I can go on, if I wanted to make a case of it, and prove my point. It's not a point I really delight in proving because I don't really want to just put a heavy burden on our shoulders and on our mind and depress us; that's the last thing that I want to do because in being spiritual you have to be optimistic, if you want to use that kind of word. You have to hope, you've got to have faith and we have to encourage one another in these things. So this is my desire. But I see us riding the danger line, and I'm saying this as a church. We're in a no-man's land. We're not totally spiritual

as we see it here in the scripture, there's not that distinction. Again I could read many more scriptures that indicate this and I could prove my point. The fact is that revelation was very common in the church in the early days. I think it was brought out in the Book of Mormon class about revelation and the importance of it. We do have a degree of revelation, inspiration at least, that tells us many things, and these gifts are necessary in the church.

In the Book of Mormon on page 776, starting with the 12th verse, Moroni is writing directly to us, and he says, "And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come to every man severally as he will." These gifts are going to come severally, which doesn't mean that if one of our brethren has a gift of speaking in tongues and another has a gift of interpretation of tongues, that I have to have those gifts too. There are many gifts, and we've seen gifts demonstrated right here this year and we know that it is of God. I'm not speaking of the gift of tongues. There are those things that have been given but we are just a little bit too reserved to accept them openly as we should.

"And I would exhort you my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ. And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men."

I'm not saying that we have rebelled and turned away from the Lord; it's just as if we just slipped back a little bit. Our belief, our faith, our hope, our desire, our dependance upon the Lord is not sufficient, and I'm speaking of us as a body of people.

I would like to reread a revelation that was read to you Wednesday evening. I believe this is the same one that was given through Joseph Luff, 1905, and it made quite an impression on me and I think it would be worth our considering enough to reread it.

"The time to favor Zion, yea, the set time has come, but my army is not yet very great, and the weapons of your warfare — many of them — are yet carnal, and with these ye cannot prevail." This shows the weapons of our warfare, the things we're using to come against the evils of the world, are yet carnal, or they did back then, and I would suppose that if they did then that very likely we're still carrying the same weapons. It says that these cannot prevail, we've got to have the spiritual weapons.

"When, oh when, will my people learn that it is not by might nor power, but by my Spirit their work shall be made to succeed? He who receives most of my Spirit can best serve for the good of my church and my glory. Be admonished, therefore, and remember that by this shall all men know that ye are

my disciples if ye truly love one another."

He is indicating here, when he says, "He who receives most of my Spirit can best serve for the good of my church and my glory," that it doesn't have to be a blanket effect, but individually we can become spiritual and be of effective service. It really is up to us individually. I cannot make you any more spiritual than you are, and you cannot make me any more spiritual than I am.

Those who see and recognize the need of the guidance of the Spirit need to get on their knees. It is indicated that in order to obtain or to have the spiritual gifts you must pray for them. And this is where

we are; we are down to the point where we must seek the Lord in great earnestness.

I hope from this time forth we will strive to have the Spirit with us more; that we individually will make it a matter of prayer, will seek to discern and know the Spirit by which we are guided, because even that is a thing that can cripple us greatly. We may have a spirit but it may not be a good spirit; it may be what they call a familiar spirit. We must know the spirit by which we are guided. We must be spiritually minded or we will be on the left hand of God.

My Acknowledgement

Robert H. Jensen

To all who have thought to offer prayers for my recovery and sent cards and letters of encouragement following my near-fatal heart attack on May 5th, I extend my most sincere appreciation and love. It is not possible to acknowledge them all individually. Especially during the time of the week-end reunions in Colorado and Michigan was much greater divinely bestowed healing and strength received.

There remains a serious affliction of the damaged portion of the heart (35% of the entire left half, and a very large aneurysm of the heart wall), but I retain hope that through some means God will continue His blessing. It all has rekindled a newness of appreciation in perspective of life. This is being written June 26th, but may not appear until the August issue of the Advocate. Much might transpire during that period.

I want to share a few thoughts sent to me that have been of tremendous help along with blessings divine:

I know not by what methods rare,
But I know God answers prayer;
I know that He has given His word
Which tells me prayer is always heard
And will be answered, soon or late;
And so I pray and calmly wait.

I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the way I thought,
But leave my prayer with Him alone,
Whose will is wiser than my own,
Assured that He will grant my quest,
Or send some answer far more blest.

Author Unknown

Put aside your fears today
And look to God above,
Remembering His promise
There is no fear in love.

Author Unknown

"... As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Deuteronomy 33:25

"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

Psalms 34:4

BROKEN THINGS

God uses broken things. It takes broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever.

Vance Havner

"For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

Isaiah 41:13

You may not be required to finish the task, but you are not permitted to lay it down.

Author Unknown

God has to teach us, and when we have learned it
Amid the shadows of affliction, we can sing it forever.

Author Unknown

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Job 24:10

TODAY

My life is a gift of God given, not in years, but a day at a time. Today is the day the Lord has made for me, and He planned it to be the most important of my life.

Yesterday is gone, never to return. I must not worry about it, but leave it in the hands of God. Tomorrow and all that it holds is God's secret and its coming is not assured.

Only today is mine. Each day, arranged by God with infinite wisdom and goodness is His gift, His act of love for me. In thanksgiving I will offer Him everyday the gift of myself — my prayers, works, joys and sufferings.

Dear Lord, receive it graciously.

Author Unknown

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: . . ."

Psalms 55:22

THIS IS JUST A RESTING PLACE

Sometimes the road of life seems long
As we travel through the years
And, with a heart that's broken
And eyes brimful of tears,
We falter in our weariness
And sink beside the way,
But God leans down and whispers
"Child, there'll be another day" —
And the road will grow much smoother
And much easier to face,
So do not be disheartened —
This is just a "Resting Place."

Helen Steiner Rice

AT THE PLACE OF THE SEA

Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life
Where in spite of all you can do,
There is no way out, there is no way back,
There is no other way but through?
Then wait on the Lord with a trust serene
Till the night of your fear is gone.
He will send the winds, He will heap the flood,
When He says to your soul, "Go on."

And His hands shall lead you through,
clear through,
Ere the watery walls roll down;

No wave can touch you, no foe can smite,
No mightiest sea can drown,
The tossing billows my rear their crests
Their foam at your feet may break
But over their bed you shall walk dry-shod,
In the path that your Lord shall make.

In the morning watch 'neath the lifted cloud
You shall see but the Lord alone
When He leads you forth from the place of
the sea,
To a land that you have not known.

And your fears shall pass as your foes have
passed,
You shall no more be afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better place,
In a place that His Hand hath made.

Annie Johnson Flint

Addendum

I was not fully recovered from a case of the flu when, without warning, my husband had his near-fatal heart attack. When one faces a crisis like this, the body goes into action immediately. I prayed for strength to see me through each day, and prayed each night (and often during the day) for rest and to receive strength for the morrow. And it came. I know it was an answer to prayer because I could not have taken over all of the responsibility I now faced on my own.

I had many, many phone calls and received assurance that we were both being remembered in prayer by countless persons. We received lots of cards and letters with the same messages. As I have said many times, the prayers made the difference. Sure the doctors did what they could, but they are quite limited when it comes right down to the wire, and they could do no more. Then God took over and that's when Robert suddenly began to feel better and began to gain in strength. His first visit to the cardiologist was on Tuesday, June 17th, following the Colorado and Michigan reunions, where there were special prayers for him. The Doctor could not account for the big change for the better in his condition. He said he was astounded, and said it was possibly from a Divine source. We agreed it was. I know our faith has been greatly strengthened through all this, and I know that I am much stronger physically than I have been for a long time. These are blessings we are very thankful for, and we pray they will remain with us.

It has been 7½ weeks since the heart attack and there are still problems. But, we will handle whatever the future brings, one day at a time; knowing that God is in charge and that we are in His care.

Doris E. Jensen

Path Lights

Meaningful Sacrament

It had been a long time since sacrament service had really meant anything to me. But the Sunday service during reunion seemed very special to me and I could not attend. David also wanted to attend the service but was too ill to go. His sister, Jean, came over to watch the kids so I could give my full attention to David.

I intended to ask someone to bring us sacrament after the service. Without having said anything to anyone, Brother Marvin Ely and Brother Don McIndoo came right after service with sacrament. After prayer, we partook of the bread and wine. The spirit filled the room. I knew David would be alright, that there was nothing to worry about. I made a promise to God I would do more for myself to make sacrament service more meaningful.

Kathy Larsen

Crumbs Or The Fruit

During the first solemn assembly, following a beautiful prayer, I saw two unfinished tables, one didn't even have a cover on it. The other one had a white cloth on it with a green strip running the full length of it, evidently representing worldliness. On the cloth were a few dry bread crumbs.

I turned and there was a table stretching as far as I could see, covered with the most beautiful fruit I have ever seen. The fruit was perfect and it was protected by a thin film of clear plastic or something on that order.

I understood that the dry crumbs are what we have in the way of spiritual blessings now and the fruit represents the spiritual blessings that are there for us when we obey the love commandments given to us by Jesus Christ.

Irene Shaw

Broken

by Amy Schrader

Everything must be broken!

The earth and all the fullness thereof; all that was created has to die that it might live. All returns to the earth of which it was formed in order that it might be renewed. The world has known only one; One alone, who having life in himself, John 5:26, needed not for himself to be broken yet offered himself to the breaking of the heart and the flesh upon the rood that in the partaking of his sufferings the world might live. So great was the participation of the inanimate element of his making in the anguish of his being in the crucifixion; so great the breaking of the shaking of the earth in which the rood stood, that ever after it's solid rock was found in seams and crevasses, 3 Nephi 4:14-15, as mute testimony of the incomprehensible fact.

So great was the rending of the firmament, the weeping of it's vapors, the groaning of it's thunders and the clashing of it's ethereal fires, that a pagan in far away France, beholding in awe the climate upheaval, was caused to proclaim, "Either this world has come to it's end, or the Maker of all things is in agony." and he built an altar to this unknown God.

Oh the irony, that it is the heart of humanity, that part of his creating made highest, that resists giving

him entrance; that shrinks from the fellowship of his breaking by which they will be loosed from the bondage of their death and be made able to live. Really LIVE. Not saved from the dying of their flesh but from that living death of the prison of the carnal nature which is at enmity to the God who gave it existence, Mosiah 1:119.

Paul desired and sought to know the fellowship of his sufferings that he might also know him, and the power of his resurrection, Philippians 3:10. Does the heart cry, "How". Let Paul answer, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who . . . made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant . . . he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8. And Jesus said, "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Matthew 10:38-39. The way to Eternal life is the way of the cross; Christ's cross and the one we must accept if we will follow in his footsteps. Our cross may not lead to martyrdom of the flesh but it must lead to the crucifixion of all that is in us that sets itself up in contrariness to the sovereign will of God. This must be broken.

Why Two Genealogies of Joseph

Since the inception of the two vastly differing accounts of the genealogy of Joseph found in Matthew 1:17 and Luke 3:23-38, men have devised means to try to explain the passages. As a child I was taught that Matthew had the true genealogy of Joseph and that Luke held the genealogy of Mary. This did not set well with me at the time since the two accounts plainly state that they are the genealogy of Joseph, not Mary. During my further investigation some years ago I came across an explanation given by an early church writer, Africanus, in an epistle to Aristides that set my heart at ease on the matter. I would like to put forth that explanation for your consideration.

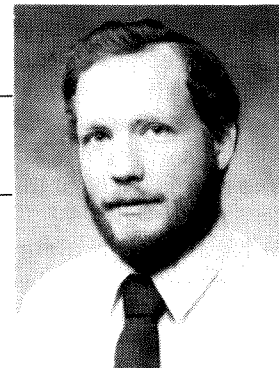
In Israel and Judah, if a man died having no offspring, his brother was given the responsibility of raising up seed unto his brother's name. This provided his dead brother sons and daughters by law. This custom caused great complexity on genealogical records keeping straight the natural and legal progenitor of offspring. A statement from Africanus had this to say; "For the families descended from Solomon, and those from Nathan, were so intermingled, by substitutions in the place of those who had died childless, by second marriages and the raising up of seed, that the same persons are justly considered, as in one respect, belonging to the one of these, and in another respect belonging to others."

If we examine the narrative of the two accounts in this light we find Matthew's to be a natural genealogy and Luke's to be a legal descendancy.

"... and Matthan *begat* Jacob; And Jacob *begat* Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was *born* Jesus, who is called Christ." Matthew 1:15-16

"And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (*as was supposed*) the son of Joseph,

Elder Samuel S. Gould



which was the *son* of Heli, which was the *son* of Matthat, . . ." Luke 3:23-25 (emphasis S.G.)

The terms "begat" and "born" signify actual birth relationships and the terms "as was supposed" and "son" signify a more figurative or legal relationship to parents. This is further verified by the testimony of Africanus, that Joseph's grandfather, Matthan (who traces his lineage through Solomon), married Estha (name supported by tradition only) and had a son named Jacob. After Matthan's death, Joseph's other grandfather (who traces his lineage through Nathan) married Estha and had a son named Heli (or Eli). Thus, Jacob and Heli were brothers of the same mother. Since Heli married and died childless, Jacob married his widow and begat Joseph as seed raised up to his brother Heli. From this comes the understanding that both accounts are true, Matthew's is the natural account and Luke's the legal account.

Since Jesus was born of Mary and the Holy Ghost, her natural lineage is of more interest than either of Joseph's. Understanding the close inter-marriage that was practiced by Judah puts but little difference between Mary and Joseph's lineage.

Take Up Thy Cross And Follow Me

by Vida Filley

"For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." Acts 9:16

This the Lord spoke to Ananias concerning Paul. Not what a great work he will do; not what great things he will accomplish; but what great things he shall suffer! The record is there, of what he accomplished and of what he suffered. Is not what he accomplished dependant upon what he was willing and able to suffer? When the Lord calls us to discipleship he calls us to take up a cross. When he appoints one to a field of labor he is asking them to enter into "the fellowship of his sufferings". (Phil.

3:10) This is no small privilege. It goes beyond the suffering of persecution from the outside.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: . . . But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:5-8). Does this not involve the sensing and feeling and loving as he did for the pains and griefs and, yes, even the sins of mankind? Does it not involve a great compassion for the suffering of those who oppose?

Does it not involve the heart's weeping over those who need to be gathered but who will not, even as He wept over Jerusalem? (Luke 19:41). Does it not involve spending oneself in service to one's fellowmen, accepted or rejected, loved or hated, loving in return without rancor until death? Are not all who take His name and call him Savior and Lord called to this fellowship? Is this not the cross he asks all to take up? Is this not the death to self Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:24,25?

As a people claiming to be Christ's Church, of which he is the head, (Eph. 1:22-23) and we the body, was it only the head that was to suffer crucifix-

ion? Christ's cross was a voluntary thing (John 10:15-18). He laid down his life; no one took it from him. He laid it down in obedience to the Father's commandment. Should not the body follow in taking up the cross chosen by the head? A voluntary laying down of the self-life for the service to mankind also in obedience to the Father's command. Not a service of dying but of living for their sake; a crucifying of the self-life that the life which was in Christ might be in them also (Gal. 4:19). How else shall one take up their cross to follow him except they live for the purpose he lived for?

Pollution Free

Many people die each year of allergic diseases, such as asthma, and more suffer daily from allergic symptoms. A variety of ordinary things may cause allergic reactions; foods, drugs, bacteria and things we inhale.

As a practicing allergist, I see many patients who suffer allergies that are aggravated by pollution of air and water. House dust, dusty roads and pavement, old stuffed furniture or living in old dusty buildings can bring an attack of sneezing and wheezing. It is important, if at all possible, for allergic persons to live in an allergy free environment.

When someone is going to build a new house, he can make certain provisions to eliminate many causes of allergies; he can live in a city which is nearly free of pollution.

Of course no home is completely allergy free, you say, and no city is completely free of pollution.

But there is such a home in just such a city!

THE CITY

God "hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16)

100% PURE WATER

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God..." (Revelation 22:1)

NO SMOG

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light..." (Revelation 22:5)

NO DUSTY ROADS

"... and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." (Revelation 21:21)

NOTHING OLD, EVERYTHING NEW

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said... these words are true and

faithful." (Revelation 21:5)

NO CONTAMINATION

"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth..." (Revelation 21:27)

NO SUFFERINGS OR DEATHS

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

NO DISCRIMINATION

"The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

PERFECT HOME

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again, and receive you unto myself;" (John 14:2-3)

Yes, a perfect city. I am sure we will all want to live in this city.

THE KEY TO THE CITY

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW

"... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Have you made your reservations?

From The Presbyterian Journal
Written by Allergist Claude A. Frazier Jr.
Author of *A Parent's Guide to Allergies in Children*

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A Warning To America

by Elder Howard Leighton-Floyd

And now thus manifesteth the Spirit of the Living God to me, saying, "Even as the words I spoke to my servant Abinadi were all fulfilled upon the former inhabitants of this land, so will they be fulfilled, saith the Lord, upon the present inhabitant of these United States; Unless they do repent. Let all humble themselves in mighty prayer, seeking my forgiveness. For the iniquities of this people are an abomination before me even now, and except they repent they shall likewise be brought down into bondage by their enemies. I the Lord their God have spoken and decreed it, Amen." Given to me September 30, 1985.

When I started to write an article that appeared in the Advocate earlier, "The Voice of God," I had no thought of the Lord speaking to me then on any subject. I thought only to write on the subject of the Lord speaking to His people and how he had spoken in times past.

Nevertheless, these words spoken to the people of the United States are very sobering words indeed. I hope and pray that they can be heard and received by the people of our beloved nation. Thus we see God does yet speak to his people. In light of the words just received I will present some scripture. God has already spoken to the peoples of this nation by the prophets of old; there are many scriptures that apply.

Christ In America

According to the Book of Mormon Jesus did appear to the people of America after his resurrection from the dead, and taught them his gospel, and ministered to them. He told them of the coming of a white people to this land, and how they would be blessed upon the land, become free from all other nations, receive a knowledge of the fullness of the gospel, but later on they would become ripe in sin, and if they failed to repent there would come a destruction to much of this nation. On the other hand the original people would be again remembered by God. I believe set time has now come for them, and they will come by millions, from Central and South America, the infiltration has only just begun.

The Admonition

For America today

(Given by Jesus nearly 2,000 years ago.)

"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 witchcraft 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, 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. But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance,..." 3rd Nephi 9:101-106, 10:1

Hearken, O Ye Gentiles

"Hearken, O ye Gentiles and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, which he hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold he commandeth me that I should write, saying, Turn, all ye Gentiles from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel." 3rd Nephi 14:1-3

The warning to the United States would not be complete without quoting 2 Chronicles 7:14. For these words also are God's words for America today, will they hear? Will they and obey? "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked way; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

There is only one avenue of escape and that is, repentance of our personal and national sins, turning with the whole heart to the Holy Messiah, *and be obedient to the fullness of the Everlasting Gospel.*

May the Almighty God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob grant us the humility, the will and the determination, is my sincere prayer.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

BUILDING

I have often been interested in observing the various stages in the construction of a house, and even engaged in that process myself. Seeing the operation through from planning to finish and occupancy is a rewarding experience. A number of factors have to be considered of primary importance. For example, one should start with the matter of location and design. As to design, an architect's plan and specifications include such items as foundation, structural arrangement, quality of materials, lighting, plumbing, air conditioning, insulation and even outward appearance.

There is another kind of building experience. If each of us could at some time sit down and design our own life under the guidance of the great Architect of the Universe, what kind of life would we be building? Just to illustrate, I am sure our Master builder would insist that we build on a rock-solid foundation to withstand all kinds of weather in our lives. (Mat. 7:24,25) Originally mankind was taught certain basic principles for building. They were called commandments. They are still in effect and are meant to be used in our character building plan. Obviously, similar elements suggest like-comparisons as we wander through that house being built, and draw on our imagination still further.

When we come to the item of insulation, I am remembering the remark I heard a builder make, that it saves many times what it costs. Of course, without it we would find heating and cooling far more costly. How are we to consider insulation applicable as a personal concern? Just as it is a two-way protection in our homes, there is a spiritual form of insulation available in the case of our living experience. In the first place, we need to shut out such things as anger, deceit, fear, greed, hate, malice, selfishness and temptation, — in a word — sin. On the other hand, our insulation should help to maintain our belief in God and faith in His Son, so that our love to all might never grow cold. It can keep us patient and trusting in all kinds of weather. If our belief is well-insulated from doubt we can expect peace of mind, and that our prayers will be heard. Sounds of confusion will not distract us from listening to that "still small voice" which we need to hear.

Finally, what would our house be like without proper lighting? And what sort of life will we make unless we follow the plan of the One who came as the Light of the world? (John 8:12) Which is ultimately more important, the house we may have built, or the life we will have lived?

—Donald B. Willard

1986 MICHIGAN REUNION

The week end of June 14-15, 1986, set aside for the annual reunion of Michigan saints and friends, found over 100 gathered at the Bradley Local to renew old friendships and worship our heavenly father. A warm welcome was extended by Elder LaVern Lussenden, Pastor of the Bradley Local, as well as of the local membership, who again hosted the event. We were saddened by the news of brother Jensen's illness due to a severe heart attack and would ask everyone to unite in solemn fasting and prayer for a miracle healing. We know that all things are possible with God if we but ask in faith believing. We would also ask that you remember Sister Jensen, as she, too, is in need of our prayers.

Besides the many attending from the Michigan area, we were pleased to have in attendance Sister Karen Jakee and family from Florida; Brother Eugene and Sister Bernice Gould and Brother Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner from Missouri; and Sister Nana Gill and family from Minnesota.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Morning — There were about 80 present on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning for the preaching services that got the reunion off to a good start. Following the welcome, Brother Lussenden gave a

report on Brother Jensen's condition and prognosis, which at the present time was not good. However, as pointed out, with God everything is possible and we must pray unceasing for that miracle we all desire so much. We were also requested to continue our prayers for Sister Betty Trudgen.

The morning preaching service was opened with the singing of "How Gentle God's Command," followed by Prayer by Brother Lussenden. Second Song — "Take Time to be Holy."

For his opening remarks, Brother Lussenden quoted from Isaiah 55:6-13, which admonishes to "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." In addition, this scripture points out the many wonderful promises we have of the Father if we will but turn ourselves over to Him.

Brother Eugene Gould was then introduced as the first speaker of the day. Brother Gould quoted from and spoke on the following scripture:

Matthew 16:13-20

We were assured that if we will turn our lives over to Jesus Christ we can have the same positive assurances as the disciples of old, that he is the Son of God and that he will keep every promise that he has

made unto us if we will serve him.

First Nephi, Chapter 1, Verse 4

This scripture is a prophecy showing to Lehi, and also repeated again to his son Nephi, of how our Lord and Savior would begin to build that church which he promised to Peter he would build upon this earth.

First Nephi, Chapter 3, Verses 102-116

A continuation of Nephi's vision in which Christ descends out of Heaven and shows himself to the people on this continent and teaches them the same gospel that he taught at Jerusalem.

Luke 6:12-13

This is the beginning of the organization of the Church, where he chose the 12 apostles. We find in the 3rd book of Nephi that he did the same thing on this continent, that is he chose 12 to represent him and gave them the same authority that he gave to the 12 at Jerusalem.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Relates what these ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) were set in the Church for — for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. In addition to teaching the things he has commanded us to teach, we are to be examples to those around about us in the world that they can see by our good works that we are the children of God. Brother Gould pointed out that if the ministry will teach, and we will accept, the gospel of Christ it will bring us together for one purpose only, for serving our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. He is the light and life of the world.

Referring to verse 16 and comparing the church to the human body in which every part is important — if one part suffers, the whole body suffers. This is the way it is with the Church. If one of us brings in something that causes discord, malice, envy, and strife, then the whole body suffers. So, it is up to us to watch our actions, to watch our words, and to watch our deeds.

Third Nephi, Chapter 5, Verses 43-49

This is Jesus speaking to Nephi and to the 12 who had been called and given authority to baptize, concerning the manner in which the Church was to be set up. It is also the manner in which his Church was to be set up in the last days, with apostles, evangelists, pastors, elders, priests, teachers, to perform the work of the ministry. This is what took place in 1829 and 1830 and later, and we have this organization today. If we will continue in the faith of this we have heard and search out the truth, we will have the Holy Spirit to direct us and lead us and eventually, if we endure to the end, we will receive that coveted

desire to hear our Master say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into my rest." It will take a powerful struggle on the part of each one of us that we might obtain that place.

For a closing song, we sang, "I love to Tell the Story."

Brother Lussenden then read from the 55th Chapter of Isaiah, verses 1-5 before introducing Elder Charles Brantner as the second speaker (or, as he prefers to be called, preacher) of the morning.

Brother Brantner used the following scripture references, which you are urged to read and study:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

This scripture, of course, deals with the resurrection of the body. Brother Brantner made the point that a lot of people do not believe that God and his son are with us, but we in the Restoration believe that God is with us each and every day and we do believe in latter day revelation, we do believe that God talks to us to give us an understanding of things he wants us to do.

Colossians 1:18-19

A reminder that Christ is the head of this household, and it will be this way until he finishes his work. Brother Brantner pointed out that the Bible reveals that almost no one knows or won't accept that all humans will have, eventually, an opportunity to qualify to be born into God's family. We in the Restoration know he is impartial, and for anybody to say or feel other than this statement makes God a respecter of persons. It is his belief that this beautiful plan of salvation is set down for all mankind.

Isaiah 25:6-8

This is the promise that the Lord will remove the veil of blindness that covers the eyes of the greater population of the world, and when this miracle happens to a person he becomes overjoyed with a new-found spiritual knowledge and wants to share it with others.

Revelation 14:1-5

This is John's vision of the 144,000 faithful followers of the Lamb, who were without guile (free of deception, falseness, evasiveness, pretense, window dressing, and lip service). It was suggested that this sounds strangely like a young child, and the scriptures teach us that except we become as a little child we cannot enter in. Brother Brantner felt sure that practically everyone could testify to one degree or another that almost as soon as he/she came out of the waters of baptism Satan went to work. He's not interested in the person who's already given himself over to him; he's won that person. He's after those people who are newly converted, who have newly given themselves to the Father, who are attempting

to walk that walk of life. Those are the ones he will labor with the hardest. Each of us must pray to be separated and protected from the evilness, from the works of Satan.

Hebrews 11:4-7

This scripture stresses the importance of faith, pointing up in particular the faith of Abel, Enoch, and Noah. Verse 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."

Ephesians 6:12

These are Paul's words to the Ephesians explaining about the battle before them and before us, in particular against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. We certainly know about the rulers of darkness in the world, some even within our own government. We are warned against the evils of the world.

Isaiah 2:2-3

This scripture concerns the last days when the mountain of the Lord's house is to be established in the top of the mountains and all nations shall flow into it.

In closing, Brother Brantner acknowledged that we are not able to convert the world 100%; however, we should not use this as an alibi to not preach his word continually. He indicated that too often we as a people have a defeatist attitude, and encouraged each and every one of us to pray and put forth an effort to build up his kingdom, as we are living in the last days. We know that the times of tribulation will not be easy on us, so we must be sure that we have the support of and are tucked under the arm of the Savior.

Following Brother Brantner's sermon, Brother Lussenden read from Philippians 4, verses 4-13. Commenting on the scripture, he stressed that the Lord is at hand and we better be ready and be telling the world about it.

For a closing song, we sang "Praise Ye The Lord," followed with prayer by Brother Brantner.

Afternoon — Business Meeting

After lunch, we reconvened for the annual business meeting, chaired by Brother Norman Trudgen. Following are the items of interest from that meeting:

Norman Trudgen, whose term on the Reunion Committee expired this year, was reelected for a 3-year term.

June Haines was reelected Secretary-Reporter for the 1986-87 year.

Nana Gill gave a brief report on their work with

the Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras. After considerable discussion, it was voted to donate all offerings from the 1986 reunion, over and above expenses, to be used for Nicaraguan refugee relief.

Song Service — Special Music

Following the business meeting, the rest of the afternoon was devoted to a song service under the direction of Brother Lavern Lussenden. After singing of "Wonderful Words of Life" by the congregation, we were entertained by the following special music:

Alfred Bergey sang "Wait a Little Longer," accompanying himself on the guitar.

The Lussenden Quartet sang "In Robes of White" and They're Holding Up the Ladder that I'm Climbing Up."

At this time, Brother Gould gave a very interesting, and amusing, "lesson in obedience," which featured himself as a boy and his father.

Nana Gill and family sang "Send Us to the World."

Ken and June Haines sang "The Old Rugged Cross."

Cindy Leo sang a special, accompanied on the guitar by her husband Larry.

The Lussenden Quartet sang "Scars in the Hands of Jesus" and "Excuses."

The Lussenden Trio sang "Steal Away."

Sandwiched in between the specials were many favorite hymns chosen by and participated in by the entire congregation.

This is always one of the favorite parts of the reunion, and this year was no exception. It's always a joy to sing praises to the Lord.

We reluctantly closed the service with the singing of "The Old, Old Path," followed by prayer by Brother Lussenden.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Morning — In contrast to the beautiful weather enjoyed Saturday, we awakened Sunday to a torrential downpour. Despite inclement weather, over 100 of us gathered at the little white church at 9 a.m. to partake of communion and enjoy a prayer and testimony service. For the benefit of those not in attendance Saturday, Brother Lussenden read the report on Brother Jensen's condition and asked for strong prayers in his behalf.

We opened the service with the singing of "The Child of a King," followed by prayer by Brother Lussenden.

Brother Lussenden then read the following verses from Matthew 11:

28. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for

I am meek and lowly in heart;

30. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For our second song, we sang "Blessed Assurance."

Brother Gould was introduced and read from the following scripture, which we again urge you to read:

Mark 14:20-24

This scripture, of course, relates the story of the last supper at which Jesus partook of the passover with his disciples.

John 6:47-58

This scripture contains Jesus' discourse on the bread of life and the assurance that if we will put our trust in God and his Son we have the promise of eternal life. This is how we abide in him by partaking of the emblems, by serving him, and by keeping his commandments.

Brother Gould related an experience he had at conference one time when the blessing was being said on the bread and wine, in which he was given to know that the bread being served was actually the flesh of our Lord and Master, although it had the taste of bread, and the wine was actually the blood of our Savior, yet the taste was as wine. He was given to know that it was to be thusly because of our human nature, that we couldn't tolerate the taste of human flesh and blood. That is why our Savior used the bread and wine as symbols. We were urged to partake with this thought in mind.

Following serving of the emblems by Brothers Lussenden and Brantner the meeting was opened to a season of prayer and testimony. Many took part, offering up prayers and bearing testimonies truly inspiring to the rest of the congregation.

At the close of the service, Baby Gary Wade Jakee was presented to the Lord for his blessing by Brothers Charles Brantner and LaVern Lussenden, the congregation responding with the singing of "This Child We Dedicate to Thee."

We closed the service with the singing of "Give of Your Best to the Master," followed by prayer by Brother Brantner.

Again we would like to praise God for the wonderful spirit we enjoyed throughout the entire reunion. We really missed our dear Brother Jensen, but appreciated the presence of brothers Gould and Brantner, who filled in so capably. Our prayers are with both Brother and Sister Jensen that the Lord will work a miracle for both of them.

A special thanks, again, to the "Bradley Bunch" for their special brand of hospitality which we enjoy so much, and looking forward to seeing you all again next year. God bless you all.

Reported by Sr. June Haines

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.

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