

# 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*

---

Vol. 63

Independence, Missouri • September, 1986

No. 9

---

## God's Heaven On Earth

God created nature from its rivers to its trees.  
God even created the tiniest bees.  
So vast and beautiful; this world around us,  
I can't see why so many find reason to fuss.

Running through the meadow on a lovely spring day,  
I can't help but fall down on my knees and pray,  
Thanking my Lord for the beauty around me,  
Thanking my Lord that I have eyes to see.

When I view a butterfly so lovely and agile,  
Or a rose petal so delicate and fragile,  
I think: All this God created for man;  
All this is part of a wonderful plan.

God wants man to experience the world's beauty,  
But God also has for man a duty.  
Follow Him and do His will,  
And He your heart with peace will fill.

If we do as God commands,  
We'll be able to forget the world's demands,  
Seeing the world the way God meant it to be,  
Seeing the beauty of each and every tree.

Janeen Addie

---

## CONTENTS

---

Are You Aware of How Much Your Children Don't Know? .....	p. 130	Time and Change .....	p. 136
Path Lights .....	p. 131	Gifts and Fruits .....	p. 138
The Spirit of Deception .....	p. 132	Grace Versus Works .....	p. 139

## Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000)  
 Official publication of The Church of Christ  
 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd.  
 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472  
 Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

### EDITOR

Elder Gary Housknecht, 2901 S. Norwood, Indep., Missouri 64052  
 Phone 816/252-8702

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Diane Brockman, 201 S. Crysler, Indep., MO 64050 — 252-0320  
 Michael McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street, Indep., MO 64056 — 796-6255

### BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

Alvin L. Harris, 3405 South Leslie, Independence, MO 64055

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 (Temple Lot) 200 South River Boulevard, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Zion's Advocate  
 (USPS 6993-0000), P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates to members paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$2.00. Non-member rates: one year-\$4.00; Canadian and all foreign rates-\$4.50.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings and Subscriptions for The Advocate to:

Church of Christ (Temple Lot)  
 Attn.: Alvin L. Harris, Business Manager  
 200 S. River Blvd.  
 P.O. Box 472  
 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Secretary, Council of Apostles: William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Secretary, Council of Bishops: Leslie P. Case, 8312 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, Missouri 64139.

General Church Representative in the Office: James M. Case, 1106 E. Gudgell, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Secretary: Robert W. Oldham, 5709 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136.

### WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

*Articles, sermons, poems, news items, letters, notices, etc., which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible, they should be typewritten on one side of a sheet only, double spaced and grammatically corrected. Send all material to the Editor (see address listed above). The deadline for each month is the 5th of the previous month.*

### ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

*Editorial . . .*

# Are You Aware of How Much Your Children Don't Know?

Notwithstanding the present reputation of the nation's education systems, neither public nor private school curriculum committees would even dream of not covering the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, history, social studies, science and health. To do so would leave a child unprepared to meet the challenges of today's world.

As a parent, you or I would be appalled at a school system that didn't cover these basics — and cover them well.

Now, focus upon what each of us should consider at least an equal priority, if not higher: Your child's religious upbringing and Christian education. Are you as demanding? Are you as conscientious at getting your children to Sunday School once a week as you are to a secular school five times a week? Do you care or are you concerned what and how your child is being taught at Church? Are you as concerned about who teaches at Sunday School

and what qualifications they have as you are about your child's secular teacher's certificate of eligibility?

More importantly, are you even aware of what your child doesn't know about things you may be taking for granted? I suspect the answer is "no." The sad part is that you or I may never realize this — until our children reach adolescence and a time difficult, at best, to understand and communicate with one another.

Too late? I wouldn't say that, but just what parts of a "basic" Christian education is lacking that would help so much during those potentially turbulent times?

Think about it . . . For many years the total membership of the Church of Christ crept upward — slowly, but surely, and it was due largely to our member's son's and daughter's baptisms. The last several years the total membership has been creep-

ing downward. . . . Is there a connection here? Yes. The same thing that has produced a largely ignorant new generation of job seekers that can't read or write and parents that can't parent, in our nation, is destroying the foundation of the Church of Christ membership: A faltering and unorganized education system.

I am all in favor of Heavenly inspiration as our Sunday School teacher's guide — in fact we all would be hurting badly if that inspiration wasn't there. However, do we abandon all forms of organization and a planned curriculum because some think "planning" is not conducive to the leading of the Spirit? In some of our local churches this has been the case, but since when are we not to use our God-given gifts and wisdom to lay down a simple educational plan that would assure coverage of the basics of Christianity and yet not stifle Spiritual inspiration or restrict individual creativity?

With no coordination of who will teach what to whom and at what age, how do you know your child will even learn what baptism is really all about, or the meaning of the Lord's Supper? Do our kids know what the Book of Mormon is? Really? How many of our teenagers could tell you even a small portion of our significant church history? I could go on and on, but I think you may see my point. If you think it totally unlikely that a child born and raised in the Church of Christ could reach the "age of accountability" and never have been formally taught in Sunday School about what Baptism is and the need for it in their lives, think again — for it most certainly has happened and will happen again and again unless we do something about it. One of my own flesh and blood had such a poor knowledge of what the Book of Mormon truly is and how it miraculously came about in the history of this Church, that when the

"sun scorched" down upon her with emotional strain, the "seed" dried up and the world's ignorance about these divine things prevailed — and she is lost from the fold. This is not an isolated case!

There has been talk for several years of abolishing the General Sunday School Association. I am not only opposed to such an idea, but am advocating the idea that this Association be totally revived, expanded and required to have a certain minimum of ordained ministry involved actively in its government and activities. A well organized curriculum guide should be established at the General Church level — in simple outline form only. The Sunday School Association should then be the body appointed to *regularly* encourage all local Sunday Schools to use the curriculum, or if not, to establish one of their own and use it.

Another large Restoration church has, in the past few years, created controversy and division by instituting a curriculum to be used in their local Churches around the world. Problems center around the facts that this became "law" for their Sunday Schools and was steeped with detailed new and innovative concepts in line with modern day national and world non-denominational church councils.

I neither advocate nor encourage anything even resembling such an atrocity. But must we totally abandon all attempts at even some very basic guidelines established with wisdom, discretion and Godly inspiration to be offered and made available as a "suggested" yearly curriculum?

I pray for your every honest and prayerful consideration of this matter. If you feel it is important enough, voice your concerns at your local Church and Sunday School business meetings and at next year's April Ministers' Conference. G.H.

## Path Lights



**PLEASE READ THIS:** The Path Lights testimony section of Zion's Advocate has been getting smaller and smaller and this month I had nothing to offer Advocate readers since no one mailed me any testimonies. The Editor reports that this column is the only part of *Zion's Advocate* that has received any positive comments from the readers. Please take a few minutes and send me your testimonies so this column doesn't die. I know God has not stopped

blessing you and there are many brothers and sisters anxious to read your personal testimonies as a source of added spiritual strength.

Melissa McGhee

Mail your testimonies to: **PATHLIGHTS**  
c/o Melissa McGhee  
2533 Glen Lane  
Independence, MO 64052

# The Spirit of Deception

by Harvey E. Seibel

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

Therefore, "... take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34-36).

And, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

John, however, goes on to add in 1 John 4:2-3 by saying "Hereby know ye the spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

But what about the more clever deception by those spirits (not of God) which do confess Christ? We have this recorded incident in the life of Christ: "And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:28-29).

But more importantly for us we have this word: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

These are those who confess Christ by some other spirit but have not the authority of Christ. This

is shown clearly in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

My purpose in writing this article is to share some thoughts regarding the work of God in these last days, I realize that each of us who have a concern for the work are anxious for it to move forward. I realize, too, that our desire for the onward progress of this work, which at times seems so painfully slow to us, can sometimes cause a great deal of anxiety for us. We want desperately for the Lord to begin to move and yet we know that according to His word this work will one day (soon, we feel) accomplish whereunto it was sent forth. So we have a tendency perhaps to run ahead of the Lord. We become impatient and discouraged as we see the years pass and seemingly little or no real progress being made. Zion is not yet redeemed, Israel not yet gathered nor the gospel preached unto all the world. So much to be done, the time so short and the servants few. Surely the Lord must be waiting on us to be about His business. So we strike out, yet not really knowing how to proceed. Perhaps rather than the Lord waiting on us we should be waiting more on the Lord. It seems that the bride is still hid in the closet, her clothes still in tatters. The fault no doubt lies with us, not with the bridegroom. So what is the answer?

Different ones of us approach the matter in ways befitting our individual differences. Some of us become discouraged and drift away. Others of us sit back and wait for God to step in. Still others keep plodding on doing what they can. Still others latch onto any ray of hope available and strive in their way, though not always in wisdom or even according to knowledge, in their attempt to bring about the cause of Zion.

Through all this, lay member and ministry alike, the key is to humble ourselves sufficiently before the Lord and to come out of the world to that degree which will enable us to receive from the Lord the endowment of His Spirit and the spiritual direction necessary for the consummation of His work here on earth. This event will happen whether we humble ourselves or are humbled because of circumstan-

ces. Otherwise we will be found wanting and outside the work of God.

Unfortunately, the difficulty which presents itself is in the how of it. We are so caught up with the 20th century world and its ways that we have no idea the degree to which we have partaken of it. In fact, we are completely unaware of the extent the 20th century has become a part of us or we have become a part of the 20th century. In becoming so we are unable to adequately comprehend the righteousness of God nor how piteously below that level of righteousness we fall. We are, therefore, unable to clearly discern our true spiritual state or our great need before God. So we tend to be at ease in Zion even though all is not well. Yet we may have a gnawing feeling that all is not well with us but we do not know just how to remedy the situation. So we feel somewhat in a quandry and content ourselves with the crumbs, not knowing how to avail ourselves or perhaps not quite willing to avail ourselves of the banquet God has for us. It is no wonder that judgment must begin at the house of God, for it is quite evident after 155 years that we, left to our own devices, will never redeem Zion.

So we feel we need God's special blessing. This is the crux of the matter. It is here that we must be careful to not run ahead of the Lord, for then Satan has the perfect opening to enter as an angel of light to accommodate and deceive us in our anxiety for the work of the Lord. The Lord's work will go on; we don't have to steady the ark of God, as it were.

The forces of good and evil are now enjoined in the great spiritual battle of the last days. True, at the moment Satan appears to be gaining the upper hand. But the scriptures tell us to try the spirits, for many spirits have gone abroad. And the devil has a spirit for every occasion, to deceive every type of person. His allures are bold and blatantly presented to those who have wholly gone after the world. But a more refined description is prepared for those whose views are less worldly. But his greatest refinements are reserved for those whose desires are truly toward the Lord. For these are the most difficult to deceive for they will not usually yield to anything that is plainly or obviously contrary to righteousness.

Thus Satan's greatest efforts are concentrated on those of us who are the true followers of Christ. Our deceptions are more likely to be spiritual than moral though we are not exempt from moral allurements. Therefore, we must constantly be on our toes lest when we think we stand, we fall. It is in the area of spiritual deception that I wish to concentrate most of my efforts in this writing for I feel that this is the area in which we stand in most danger.

The reason for this is that we are in the forefront of the battle and Satan knows that his time is now

very short. The more of us he can effectively neutralize the more successful he will be in subverting our efforts for the Lord, though, we know that God's work will not, ultimately, be thwarted.

I heard an illustration presented about a member of the restored gospel and a member of a protestant faith meeting together ostensibly to help a poor destitute woman who had, I believe, lost her husband, had no work and was pregnant. She was sitting on a park bench when they came upon her from opposite directions. The two Christians sat down on either side of her for the purpose of extending help to her. Instead, they began making disparaging remarks about one another's religion until finally the woman arose in disgust and departed. This brought the two Christians up short. They realized that they had failed to help the woman because of their disputations so they both agreed to unite in the cause of helping the woman to come to Christ and to bury their differences.

The error of this thinking was vividly apparent. I recalled the warning given to Joseph Smith to "join none of them" for their creeds were an abomination to Him, etc. I also knew that the angel was sent bearing the everlasting gospel to be preached unto all the world. (See Revelation 14:6-7). Christ said that it would be the gospel of the kingdom, not some protestant distortion. He also said that a church was His church only if the church was called in His name and if it be built upon His gospel. We cannot serve God and Mammon. Nor can we join forces with those who have not the Spirit of Christ. For the Spirit of the latter day gospel and the spirit of pentecostalism is not the same spirit. Neither can they work together to bring salvation to men. If Joseph Smith was commanded to join none of them, how dare we join forces with them today in a joint missionary effort? Jesus told the Nephites that if a church be called in His name and was built upon His gospel then would the Father show forth his works in it. If works are shown forth in churches bearing neither his name nor His gospel then we can only conclude that those works are of the other spirit. In 2 Chronicles 18 and 19 we find an account of a righteous king coming to the aid of an unrighteous king. The prophet of God reproved him by saying "shouldest thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord? Therefore is wrath upon thee from the Lord."

Of course we are aware that those who follow pentecostalism do not consider themselves ungodly. However, they in the main have not heard nor followed the voice of the good shepherd. I myself have attended two such services, one in southern Missouri and one in Northern Missouri, and I must say with frankness that the spirit of Christ was not present either time though there was ample praising of God, speaking in tongues, singing, etc. Such

manifestations are really ungodly when the Spirit of God is not in it. The fact of the matter is that people are so easily taken in and deceived. It is as the scriptures state in 3 Nephi 12:23, "But if it be not built upon my gospel, and is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you, They have joy in their works for a season, and by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return."

And we, in our zeal and anxiety for the work, must not latch onto a false hope in thinking this spirit is of God and thus a means to speed up the work we may feel is progressing all too slowly. God is also aware of the situation as we are, yet His timetable remains unchanged. The work will be done on time and God will not delay His coming. But in the interim we must diligently be about His work and be more fully preparing ourselves for the time in which that work will go forth in power.

Certainly one who holds the priesthood authority cannot join forces with one who has taken this authority unto himself. This spirit of cooperation which we see today in the world is the ecumenical spirit. And the ecumenical movement's underlying spiritual power is the charismatic spirit.

Getting back to the illustration referred to above, we are not permitted to present a united front with any other church or representative of any other church. To do so is to acknowledge the authority of that church as equal to our own and its spirit as the one we serve. Ecumenism cannot and must not be a trademark with us at all. All who desire to be affiliated with the Church of Christ must come to the church with full purpose of heart, repenting of their sins, being baptized, etc. Though we should not join forces with those outside the church, we should nevertheless submerge our internal differences as much as possible, at least as far as the public is concerned, and work together for the salvation of mankind.

Another thought I have heard expressed and which caused me a great deal of consternation was the idea that it is not yet time to teach the Book of Mormon or the Church but only the gospel of Christ. The reasoning being, I believe, that the deaf would hear the words of the book after Lebanon had become a fruitful field. However, I would like to point out a number of things. Is it not strange that God would go through the trouble to bring forth the plates, have them translated by His power and published, only to hold back the work for more than 155 years, especially when the early church was instructed to rely upon the things which were written therein and that within its covers was contained the fulness of the gospel? Is not this the gospel of Christ that we should be carrying to all the world? Is not this the gospel of the kingdom referred to in Mat-

thew's gospel which would be preached to all nations, kindreds, tongues and people before the end come? And does not the book itself tell us that it was given as the lesser part to first try our faith and then if we accept these things the greater things would be made manifest? And was not this book to be a witness to the Lamanite that when they shall begin to see these things that they might know that the time of their gathering was at hand, etc? Did not the work begun in 1820-30 mark the cutting out of the little stone without hands from the mountain and the establishment of the kingdom of God once again upon the earth? And did not, according to Isaiah 29, the book come forth a little while before Lebanon was to become a fruitful field? *Just 24 years later in 1853 the former and latter rains returned to Palestine after an absence of nearly 2000 years* proving the book to indeed be the book of God. And shall we hold back such great light that God had once again restored His church and kingdom to the earth? And did not the prophet Ezekiel also declare the stick of Judah (the Bible) and the stick of Joseph (the Book of Mormon) were to be joined in His hand as one? And is it one in our hand if we keep it back from the world? How then would we stand out as being different from other churches? We are to be peculiar people and not conformed in any way to the world.

I heard it said, "they preach love." But be not deceived, for Satan also preaches love when it is to his purposes. In the book written by Ruth Montgomery, a biography of Jean Dixon, the main theme of all her communications from the spirits was love. Love then is no criteria or guarantee of the spirit involved.

Though I do not recognize the authority and work of any other church outside the Church of Christ, I do recognize the faith of individuals outside the church and that God does honor such faith. I even accept that in some rare cases or instances God may even work with one in the capacity of a minister, though not as a called priesthood. However, the organizations which presume to function for Christ must necessarily be included in the statement that, Lord, Lord, have we not done many mighty works in thy name, etc. But the Lord will say to them, depart from me, I never knew thee. In other words they took an authority not of God and worked by a spirit not of Christ.

Now having said all of this and not wanting to cause discouragement in the hearts of any, I would like to reaffirm our hope in Christ and His glorious work of these last days. The time is shortly coming when the power and blessings of the Spirit of God will be made manifest in great power. Then that which we may see and possibly be drawn to in the charismatic or pentecostal spirit will seem as nought in comparison to the mighty power of God. Be patient and trust in the Lord. Run not before Him.

Let Him go before you and be your reward for the time will shortly come when God will send out His faithful servants and they will be few. We have opportunity, if faithful, to be counted among those servants. Those servants will go forth in great power, even as did Ammon of old. And signs will then truly follow the believer for the power of God will descend upon the saints of God and even Christ will work among them. And we shall be armed with righteousness even that in that day the enemy may not reach us. This, my brothers and sisters, is the mighty word of God from the Book of Mormon. We dare not withhold its message from the world for it is indeed a message of hope and of redemption and deliverance.

Pentecostalism is a husk, the charismatic spirit a deception. Let us be among the very elect whom Satan cannot deceive. Let us hold forth the true light of God. Let us be true. Thus our lives can become a living praise to God. In time we shall shout and sing praises to God. But not as some do which offer no honor to God but rather tends to chaos.

Friends of mine at work highly recommended a book entitled, *How To Live Like a King's Kid*. It was the rave of the office. As soon as I heard the title I held the book suspect. Nevertheless, I read it and then answered it. The charismatic spirit was strongly in evidence throughout. Visions, dreams, prophesyings, speaking in tongues, etc., were prominent accounts. However, instant healings were performed even by women who administered by the laying on of hands. The spirit of the book and of these miracles was totally alien to me. It did no honor to the beautiful spirit of Christ.

Another book recommended to me was entitled, *Hey God*. It was about the purported conversion of an Italian Catholic woman to Christ. Her conversion was so strong that she gathered up all her images, beads, rosaries, etc., of her former pagan faith and burned them up in a bonfire. The spirit upon her was so strong that it went through the house as a mighty wind and even slammed doors. At mealtime on one occasion she prayed in tongues for 30 minutes. She was so completely convicted that she began preaching to the other Italian Catholics in the area and in the surrounding towns. Her preaching and the spirit upon her was so strong that invariably she would move audiences of hundreds to tears after which they would renounce Catholicism and join with Pentecostalism. This fulfills the scripture which says that many shall come in my name saying that I am Christ and shall deceive many. This charismatic spirit of pentecostalism is a very strong and deceptive spirit because it is such a clever counterfeit of the true. And the ignorant and over-zealous are easily deceived.

More recently, still another book was brought to

my attention. It is entitled *Exodus II* and is about a vision had by one Steve Lightle of the Jewish exodus from Russia to Palestine and how God was going to open a pathway for them to leave the country. Also how preparation is already going forward on a worldwide scale for this great exodus. So I went to the Baptist book store and purchased the book. I found the book to be charismatic throughout, a false work if you please, one not of God. The evidence of the false spirit was so strongly evident that spiritual discernment seemed scarcely necessary. Yet I knew that members of the body of Christ had been taken in by it. I felt perplexed and dismayed for the spirit of this book is surely not the Spirit of truth.

For example, he traveled to Moscow to visit a Jewish synagogue where he mightily persuaded them by speaking in tongues — no interpretation mind you. Later an angel appeared to him one night in his home but when he turned to look at him, all he saw was pitch blackness, this according to his own testimony. Later he did see two angels whose belt buckles were 25 feet high. He also relates a vision of Christ who took his heart and cut out his pride and in that instant he died and was resurrected. Finally one cold winter night he heard the voice of God which spoke instructing him to get up and lay down on the floor because he had something to say to Him. He argued with God but finally relented and did so only to have God say that all he wanted to tell him was to get up and get back into bed. Why? To see if he would be obedient.

Obviously God does not work like this. All we have to do is read how God worked and communicated with his servants in the Bible and Book of Mormon and to the early Elders of this church and the contrast with the way God supposedly works and communicates with the pentecostals becomes glaring.

God will not work outside this church in the accomplishment of His great work. Nor will he use the instrumentality of any protestant denomination to bring about the restoration of the two houses of Israel and their gathering together unto Him. We, not them, are to carry the restored gospel, the Book of Mormon, the gospel of the kingdom to Lamanite, Jew, and Gentile. If this is true we must not and cannot withhold this record from them and it is by the authority of the Holy Priesthood that this will be accomplished. If we fail to do so then we have hid our light under a bushel.

This work will be done in God's wisdom, not in man's wisdom. Let us carry forth the Book of Mormon boldly and not be ashamed of the fulness of the gospel of Christ. Let us proclaim that the Church is again upon the earth for if we bring people to Christ but have no actual spiritual home to bring them to they are left dangling.

# Time and Change

By Evalena Sills

From Old Timers Issue of *Hand of Fellowship*, October, 1977

The Youth Issues of *Hand of Fellowship* have been interesting to us all. Now your editor introduces this Old Timers Issue, and asks me to contribute something to its pages. As an old timer myself, perhaps it is appropriate to consider some of the changes time has brought within my span of years.

## TRANSPORTATION

In 1914 our family (missionary father, mother and seven children,) traveled by horse and mule-drawn covered wagons from Guthrie, Oklahoma, to Phoenix, Arizona. One of the horses later pulled a fringe-topped surrey over the streets of Phoenix, to carry us to and from church services, to the grocery store or wherever we needed to go. Later we acquired vehicles fueled by gasoline instead of hay and oats. But they were not too trouble-free in those days. Now, most everyone enjoys driving an automobile, reliable, if modest, and for long-distance travel we soar through space via jet airliner, the most commonly used method of distance travel today. What a change from covered wagon days!

## COMMUNICATION

My earliest memory of local mail delivery was by horse-drawn coach or buggy. It had come from distant places by train. Now, a large percent of all mail goes by air, even without an airmail stamp. The regular 13-cent stamp (now 22 cents — E.S.) has replaced the 2-cent stamp in use then. Telegrams were sent by Morse Code of dots and dashes to correspond with short and long sounds translated into words, as they are today. Cables, buried deep in the ocean, carried intercontinental messages, as they still do, but in addition to all these methods greatly improved today, we now have radio telephones, inter-com systems, television and telstar to carry both sound and picture.

The first telephones I remember were great, large boxes attached to the wall and the numbers desired were reached by turning a crank with alternating short and long turns, to activate short and long sounds, thus alerting the persons at the other end of the wire. Our streamlined, punch-button telephone instruments today are a far cry from the old wall boxes performing the same service! The modern techniques we have now, transmitting both sound and picture around the world in mere seconds are things we casually accept, but they still seem

like miracles to me. In reality, are not all miracles simply the operation of laws unfamiliar to us? We call them miracles because we do not understand the laws by which they are performed. But God knows all about those natural laws, because He devised them in the first place, and at His command any law or set of laws are put into operation to bring us blessings possible to receive by use of our puny knowledge or methods!

## MUSIC

What a change I have observed in the field of music! Fortunately, the inspiring hymns I heard from earliest childhood are still sung and loved in our churches and homes, and the classical and semi-classical pieces and beautiful old ballads I learned to enjoy in my youth are still available. But I must confess that much of the so-called *music* heard today on radio and TV is only *noise* to some of us, and offensive beyond description! Is this merely a generation gap syndrome? Or is today's modern ear-splitting, raucous noise and yelling a part of the overall decline in cultural and moral behavior so prevalent in today's society?

## LITERATURE

Perhaps it is literature, as much as anything else, that reflects the change in our culture during my lifetime. While there are still some fine, idealistic, clean books and magazines on the market, there are far too many that emphasize violence, crime, drinking, gambling, promiscuity, pornography and atheism. Some of our high-ranking social and government leaders and educators condone these changes, but others are pointing out their danger and their contribution to a breakdown of the very morals and principles upon which our nation was founded; a breakdown that will as surely destroy our nation as it has destroyed nations in the past.

A nutritionist has said, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." What we eat is vitally important to our physical health. It is equally true that what we feed our minds — the literature we choose to read — is vitally important to our mental, emotional and spiritual health. There have always been both good and bad from which to choose, but changes in recent years have produced more filthy literature than ever before. Let us reject it as we would avoid exposure to the plague or any dread disease!



### EDUCATION

If reports are correct, our schools today, from the elementary level through college are centers of rebellion, drugs and immoral activities of various kinds; phenomena unknown in my school days. Such deplorable conditions must, in part at least, stem from irreligious, unstable and, perhaps, broken homes — all conditions difficult for dedicated, responsible teachers to cope with. And there are many such teachers still in the profession though we know that all are not that conscientious. Such conditions are tragic, and will require the best efforts of the best people to overcome them and to restore our schools to their once wholesome atmosphere. God bless the good people who are working to that end!

### RELIGION

In the category of religion I've seen many changes. Even professed Christians (some of them ministers), now proclaim their disbelief in the immaculate conception of Jesus and His virgin birth, thus denying a basic belief of Christian doctrine, and limiting their concept of God's power to that of finite man! New religions have sprung up, even Devil worshippers. Some new sects adopt, but desecrate the name of Jesus by introducing forms of so-called worship foreign to anything found in our sacred books; blasphemous change in once-revered Christian religious practice and form! The modicum of good in some of them serves only to mask their greater evil.

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the way, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. . . ." (Jeremiah 6:16)

### HAIR STYLES, MODES OF DRESS

The way we wear our hair and the way we dress are personal matters, and what we like or dislike is based largely upon what we are used to. Whether we like or dislike the new long hair and beards on men-folk, has nothing to do with their morals or character. And whatever way Jesus wore his hair was not what made Him the Savior of the world, nor was His long, white robe a factor in His divinity. But its modesty is significant. Cleanliness, neatness and modesty are the cardinal factors in good grooming. In some of the changes in dress we see today, one of all three of these factors are ignored, but His people need not ignore them.

### MORAL STANDARDS

Statistics indicate that crimes of every kind are on the increase: theft, embezzlement, extortion, exploitation, murder. In my youth we enjoyed playing outside in the twilight and early evening hours. Today, because of prevailing crimes, even adults

are afraid to take a walk after dark. This reminds us that our only safety anywhere lies in God's divine protection.

Just how much immodest dress contributes to the lowering of moral standards we cannot know, but those dealing with delinquency in the young, and who are involved with youth in the courts, have faulted scanty dress as a factor in laxity of morals. One of the early prophets foretold the day when "the spirit of adultery" would be "poured out on the nations." We see it fulfilled in the breakdown of marriage; in emphasis on, and permissiveness in illicit relations between the sexes among young and old. Change? Yes, and not to the advancement of chastity and virtue (Or physical health, as evidenced by the fatal disease, AIDS, which has surfaced since this article was originally written, reminding us of the scriptural warning: "For to be carnally minded is death; . . ." [Romans 8:6] Always spiritually, and in some cases, physically as well!).

Jesus' teachings on the sanctity of marriage and the purity of relationships between men and women are plain, and regardless of the evidence of promiscuity all around us, and violators virtually shouting it boldly from the housetops, pure living merits our open support and our constant way of life.

These are only a few of the many changes which have taken place in the past three quarters of a century. We need to be on the alert all the time and pray for discernment to be able to know which ones are good and which ones are bad — to be able to identify the subtle, innocent-appearing innovations which are contrary to the high standards of the pure gospel of Christ, and to follow those high standards faithfully, from youth to the end of the way.

### THE UNCHANGEABLE

Some things have never changed, nor will they ever change. "For I am the Lord, I change not; . . ." (Matthew 3:6) "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8) Because God and His Son never change, the Gospel never changes. Its basic truths are timeless. He revealed Himself to men of old, to give commands, laws, exhortations, commendations, priesthood calls. He reveals himself today for the same purposes. Because of this, both young and old may rejoice and be glad!

Youth is a beautiful time of life, but age has its compensations. Experience provides the stepping stones to knowledge. Sweet memories hallow past years and time heals every wound. Faith takes away the fear of death when it edges closer and closer as these mortal bodies wear out. Faith lights the pathway to God's bright and beautiful tomorrow where all the faithful, including old timers, will walk in newness of life.

# Gifts and Fruits

by Amy Schrader

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant . . . Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit . . . For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

Here we have enumerated various spiritual gifts given to man by the Spirit from God. It is a matter of no small import to be given such a gift of the Spirit. It is, however, essential that we recognize a gift is just that—a gift. A gift is not something that is earned or deserved. A gift is wholly by the grace of the giver, not the recipient. Humble appreciation is the only appropriate response to the offer of a gift. To receive a gift in any sense as an enhancement of oneself is to impose the idea of one's merit over the benevolence of him who is the giver.

Now days we hear rather much claim amid the christian professing community, to the presence or practice of two, at least, of the afore mentioned spiritual gifts; the gift of healing and of speaking in other tongues. People are heralding abroad through every form of media, their claim to the operation of these gifts among or through themselves. This, Jesus, the author from whom these gifts come, did not do. "Charity vaunteth not itself," Never did Jesus appeal for disciples or for a following by proclaiming abroad or boasting of the miracles and healings he performed. Just the opposite, he sometimes asked the persons healed to tell no one. Jesus was meek; (patient, kind, gentle) and lowly, (humble, non-self-assertive). We are to let the mind of Christ dwell in us.

Somewhat strange, also, is that we hear little claim being laid to the rest of these spiritual gifts. Are they not as valid, or as valuable as healing and the speaking in other tongues? Perhaps they are not as sought for as these. Perhaps they are not as demonstrable. Perhaps they are more easily discerned.

But the gifts of the Spirit, alone, are not enough. Receiving a gift often does not change the recipient, whether the gift is of man or of God. Gifts can fail, even these given of the Spirit, will cease, ". . . whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be

done away." 1 Corinthians 13:8-10.

A spiritual gift can be a one time occurrence, an occasional thing, a momentary, or a temporary happening according to the purpose for which it is given, perhaps leaving little impact on the individual through whom it is exercised. To view the recipient of a gift of the Spirit as other than the instrument used, by that individual or others, may thwart the purpose for which the gift is given, and intrude upon the glory of God. Joseph Smith once commented to the effect, that a prophet is a prophet only when being used by God as a prophet; the Spirit or gift of prophecy not being a perpetual condition to be exercised at the will or by the choice of man. So neither are the other gifts.

Without something other than the gifts of the Spirit, we are found wanting. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." (1 Cor. 13:1-3) Not only does a gift not make anything of the individual, neither do exceptional deeds. They are good or evil depending on the motivation which backs them.

And then there are the fruits of the Spirit. Fruit is produced from within, as contrasted to that which is given, even though it is done of the same Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are, ". . . love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; . . ." (Galatians 5:22-23.) These are the qualities of being; the same as the attributes of charity, without which we are nothing; the qualities of the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. They are the result of the abiding in of the presence of the Holy Ghost, "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth; . . . for he dwelleth with you, and **shall be in you.**" And where that Spirit is, there is it's fruit also.

The fruits of the Spirit; the qualities of charity; the mind of Jesus; the pure love of Christ dwelling in one, these are what change the individual. So though we are admonished to desire the "best gifts" for the purpose that God be glorified, 1 Corinthians 12:31, we are further admonished to "follow after charity" 1 Corinthians 14:1; to pray with all the energies of our hearts that this pure love of Christ might possess us, for without this we are nothing; Moroni 7:52-53, however many gifts we may have been given, however many times the Lord has used us for one purpose or another.

## Grace Versus Works by Amy Schrader

Hear a parable. Suppose you were one that should receive word that an unmet, unknown friend had died leaving you a great legacy deposited in a certain banking institution. In order to claim it, of course there would be certain processes to go through and perhaps certain requirements to be met and agreements to be made. Instructions would have been written and made available.

To claim the legacy the beneficiary would have to believe the report given, at least he must believe sufficiently enough to make an investigation. Then if satisfied the report was true he would have to avail himself of the instructions concerning thereto. If on study of these he concludes the legacy is not worth the stipulations attached he can simply forfeit it, and there it will lay unused for no other can claim what is left in his name.

If he decides to claim it there will be the legal process of proving his identity, the signing of documents and perhaps of affidavits of agreement to abide by the requirements specified. One might be required to take, along with their own name, the name of their benefactor. One may be required to continue a work the benefactor has initiated, or to use the legacy for various charitable purposes. The nature of the legacy is such that it never diminishes. He will always retain as much as is expended. It is his gift to dispurse and by dispursing to always have.

Now the question. Can these requirements, if adhered to, in any way be construed as earning the gift? Is the gift his by his works or by the beneficence of the one who gained it and put it on deposit for him? True if he did not abide by the requirements laid down he could never have had the gift, but all of those acts would never have produced the gift had not another

prepared it for him. "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:20-21

That one phase of that quote, or at least the interpretation usually put on it, 'for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head,' has always troubled me. Why should we suppose we are told to do good to our enemy, feed and give him drink, in order to mortify him? It seems a contradiction that we should be told to heap any kind of abuse, overt or covert upon the head of one we have been told to love and do good to. Indeed the 21st verse indicates our action is for the purpose of overcoming his evil with our good.

Now there comes from the practices of the East and Near East of that day, a custom continued in much of the area even today, which offers an entirely different explanation of the meaning of that phrase: the practice of carrying whatever burden one might have on the head. In that day before matches, if one's cooking fire went out a live coal from a neighbor or friend's hearth was a very real blessing, and like all other things was carried in a suitable container on the head. Thus the heaping of coals of fire would be as filling their container heaped up with blessings.

This, as well as giving us a very literal example of doing that which blesses our enemy, gives us a spiritual parallel; the heaping of love and loving things upon them, which can rekindle the fires of love in their hearts and turn an enemy into a friend, in the which evil is overcome and we are rewarded in that God is glorified in the return of a prodigal to the status of a dear son.

---

## COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Greetings from the hot and terribly dry Collins area. There are a few clouds floating about, but I'm afraid it's too hot to allow any rain drops to fall clear to the ground before they would evaporate away. In either case, I am enjoying the cloudiness, the peacefulness, and the slight hope the clouds offer for rain.

Perhaps foremost in my mind today is my concern for our beloved sister Esther Caviness. Esther is in St. John's Hospital at Springfield in very critical condition due to a tick bite. I understand the tick fever is under control, but now she has other problems concerning her heart and ability to breathe properly. Oren and the family are with her as much as is allowed in the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital. May God bless her, we love her so much.

Brother Gerry Case of Independence was our guest speaker for the month of June. It happened

that his visit fell on Father's Day. His topic was not necessarily on Father's Day, but here are a couple of things he slipped in concerning fathers: He said to be a good father you have to have help from our Father in Heaven. We need to have the guidance and wisdom of God. We must be possessed with mercy. To be a good father you must become as a child—the Heavenly Father's child.

Our guest speaker for July was Brother Frank Fann of Independence. He told us that it had been six years since he had been here. We're so glad to have him and Carolyn back in the area again. Brother Fann titled his sermon, "The Good Things of the Gospel." He told us of the good things that can be ours through obedience. The Book of Mormon, page 224, verse 8-12 tells of salvation; John 3:14-17 speaks of everlasting life; John 10:10 "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly", and Romans 5:1-5

speaks of peace and the hope of the glory of God.

Some other thoughts from recent sermons are from Brother Larry Shaw: Do the things you're supposed to do because it just happens to be the best way to live. Also, he told us some elements will not mix and those of us who have been enlightened by the gospel should be like those elements and not "mix" with the rest of the world.

Brother Bob Eddy: We are an advertisement for Jesus Christ. Our actions are an example of our thoughts.

Brother Allen Kauffman: We as a people have been called and set apart to do a work, but if we don't choose to do it, He will have someone else. The choice is ours. This is the day of our probation. This is the day to choose. This is our chance to prove ourselves worthy of Jesus Christ.

Brother Jack Martin: God allows us to be tried—that we may learn to resist those temptations around about us that would try our faith. We need a forgiving attitude; a forgiving spirit. Be careful not to offend and be careful when someone does or says something to not be offended yourself.

Some welcome guests in our area have been the Ronald Yates family of Tempe, Arizona; Sam Kidd and son, Bruce and his family of Independence.

There's a song called, "Since Jesus Passed By" that Brother Kauffman made reference to in a sermon. His point was: Have you made any changes since Jesus came into your life and you were baptized, or are you still living and doing things much like you did before? Just a thought I wanted to close with.

May God bless you, each one.

Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman

## GRAND JUNCTION NEWS

The 1986 Colorado Reunion opened with a prayer service at 9 a.m. on June 13 with Bro. Marvin Carroll in charge, assisted by Bro. Ken Oar. It was good to hear the testimonies of God's blessings to His people and to enjoy the presence of His spirit. Prayers were offered for the forgiveness of sins, good of the Church, help for the sick and afflicted, and thanksgiving for blessings received.

After this service we had a little while to greet each other, as the Clifton Hall, where the meals were served, was not open to us until 1:00 p.m. We again assembled at the house of worship at 3:30 p.m. for a preaching service with Bro. Andy Brown in charge. A special number, "The Last Mile of the Way", was sung by Bro. Joel Yates and Sr. Debbie Biringer, after which Bro. Joel brought us the message.

The speaker called our attention to the parable in the Book of Mormon where there were but few laborers when the Master set His hand to labor in His

vineyard for the last time. He reminded us that sacrifice is necessary to promote the Lord's work, and that we must put Christ first in our lives and seek God's guidance to properly serve Him.

After the evening meal, we gathered at the Church at 7:00 p.m. for an hour of singing hymns, lead by Sr. Enid Bell. At 8:00 p.m. Bro. Jay Moser was the speaker with Bro. John Bell in charge of the service. A special number, "Never Be Discouraged," was sung by Brethren Don McIndoo, Jim Yates Sr., Bill Malone and Joel Yates. The speaker posed the question, "Why did we come here?" with many driving all night and many miles. His own answer was a desire to enjoy a spiritual feast with his brothers and sisters of like faith. We would also agree with this thought. He reminded us of the time we live in when "nation would rise against nation," and that we must be watchful that we do not "dwindle in unbelief." The Bible and Book of Mormon are true and sure and we must search them diligently.

Saturday morning saw our numbers increased as more had arrived to meet with us for a prayer and testimony service, which lasted past the noon hour. Time passed very quickly as we shared experiences of God's love.

The afternoon speaker was Bro. Bob Oldham, with Bro. Richard Wheaton in charge of the service. Bro. Oldham also reminded us to be watchful against dwindling in unbelief. We were admonished to remember that obedience is more pleasing to God than sacrifice, and that we will all stand before the judgment bar of God.

The evening services started with a song service, containing several special numbers. Bro. Frank Fann was the speaker for the evening service, with Bro. Marvin Ely in charge. A special number, "Come to the Savior," was sung by Bro. Don McIndoo and Bro. Hubert Yates. Bro. Fann asked if we are ready for the judgment bar of God to obtain our goal of eternal life. We have to do more than believe, and we must bring forth fruit meet for repentance.

Sunday morning we assembled at 9:00 for a Sacrament and Prayer Service. After the emblems were passed, the time was continuously occupied with prayers and testimonies with only two or three hymns. Bro. Marvin Ely regretfully brought the service to a close after 1:00 p.m., as many had to leave in a short time.

There was no service in the afternoon, so there was a time for visiting and saying goodbyes. We met again at the Church at 7:00 p.m. for the final song service.

Bro. Bob Ely had charge of the final preaching service. "In the Garden" was sung as a special number by Bro. Bob Oldham. The speaker, Bro. Don McIndoo, read a number of news headlines to point up the trend of our times. He reminded us that our

warfare is against the powers of darkness, and that ministers of Christ are called to preach repentance. We all need to repent continually. I am sorry that I could only bring out a few points from each sermon. They were all so pointed for the day we live in.

We thank all of our visitors for making the effort to come. Some had car troubles that delayed their arrivals. The thought that "the reunion was worth it" was often expressed. We trust that all made safe journeys home. May the blessings of this reunion remain with each of us to help us to stand.

Your reporter,  
Alvina Bell

## HOUSTON (Missouri) NEWS

(Reporter Mary Jane Medders)

Greetings to all from Houston. We have had a beautiful summer here until recently, and it is now very dry and hot.

Your reporter spent a very important month in Kansas City this spring. I had a new bundle from heaven born May 30, 1986. Andrew Robert Hutcheson is a new grandson to Mary Jane Medders and the son of Ron and Dee Hutcheson. Nancy and Grant Hutcheson were so happy to be able to hold and love their little brother when he was only two hours old in the St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. What a joy for all of us!

During my month in Kansas City, the saints here in Houston were privileged to have Brother and Sister Marvin Case and Brother and Sister Leslie Case as visiting ministers. I missed some good sermons, but I heard some good ones in Independence while there.

We are so happy to have Brother and Sister Richard Phillips and Brother and Sister Pete Howell and family join us to worship our Lord. They are so helpful to us.

I'm so sorry to report at this time our Sister Roberta McGuire has a broken ankle. We ask your prayers for her quick recovery. Brother Cliff also needs your prayers.

One of our big events was the birthday celebration of my mother, Sister Anna Keeney. We celebrated her family reunion and surprised her with beautiful music by Alan and Czerna Kauffman from Collins Local and Martha and Roger Brunner from Independence. How we did enjoy the music that carried that sweet, sweet Spirit from above. It was Mother's 84th birthday. Those attending the family reunion from out of town were Leona Tohlen, Irene Stigall, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Fisher all of St. Louis, and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hume of Rolla, Missouri, Alzada Massey from Weatherford, Oklahoma and Florence Kommer of Springfield, Missouri. All attending church Saturday evening for the good gospel music enjoyed homemade ice cream, pie and cake

afterwards. Sister Margaret Kenney took the blue ribbon on homemade ice cream. She made butter pecan!

We want to welcome Jennifer, Janna and Jared Medders back to the Houston Local for a visit. They have moved back from California and plan to settle in Springfield, Missouri. We also want to welcome Mae Walker to our local. She has moved here from Texas to live with her sister-in-law, Dorothy Wilson.

Johnna, Tama, and Chris Ely, Dorothy Wilson and Mae Walker have just returned from a vacation in Wisconsin.

Sandy Smith was honored at our church on July 10 with a bridal shower. She and James Addie are to be married on July 19 here at the Houston Local Church of Christ. We want to wish them many happy years together. They will make their home in Springfield, Missouri, where they are both employed.

## INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL NEWS

On the evenings of the 19th, 20th and 21st of May, Elder Joseph F. Smith of Ava, Missouri, again held a three night series of meetings at the East Local. His topics for the three evenings were: The Restoration, Israel, (including later day Israel) and Babylon, from it's early conception to our time and it's oppressing effects upon us. This assuredly took much study and effort on Brother Smith's part and we would express our appreciation at this time.

Following our sacrament and prayer service on the first Sunday of June, we were pleased to witness the baptism and confirmation service of our Sister Diana Dewaele. With her husband, Brother Robert Dewaele and his parents, had driven down from Council Bluffs, Iowa, that morning for this very special occasion. May God's blessings be with our Sister in her new life in Christ.

Other baptisms in recent months at the East Local have been that of Brother Cory Geier who was baptized the Sunday morning of May 15th. Sister Chris Beem's baptism took place Saturday evening of February 15th while she and her parents were here on a visit from Oklahoma City. We pray God's watchcare and strengthening Spirit to bless and direct each one.

We have had one new member added to the priesthood in the ordination of Brother Steve McGhee to the office of Priest. This was taken care of prior to our midweek prayer meeting on the evening of March 12th. We ask God's blessing upon our Brother in his desire and effort of service.

In looking back at sermons past, and of more recent weeks, we have been admonished to search out the truths of the gospel, and especially that which was given in our day and time. We have been

cautioned not to 'let slip' the early and fundamental teachings of the church; and have been directed in the importance of prayer in our daily lives. We have been advised to seek the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, and so forth; and to put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Charity also embodies the fruits of the Spirit. We were asked to consider our goal in life and what it should be. All else should fall to the background when we realize our main goal is Eternal Salvation. We should keep that foremost in our minds and hearts. Do we believe that Christ is coming again, and in the building of a temple and establishment of Zion? Let us then seek to bring about that the deeds of righteousness might show in our person; that we might truly become submissive and yielding, easily led as a child, without malice or guile.

Sister Edna Smith has been ailing for the past several months, with much pain and distress of the effects of arthritis in her hips and legs. We would ask an interest in your prayers in her behalf. Would you also remember her grandson, Brother Eric Sarratt, who has just recently gone into the Armed Services.

May God bless all, and by His power keep our feet within the Narrow Way.

Helen Taubert  
Reporter

## OKLAHOMA NEWS

As I drive along the interstate, Sunday, on my way to church, I turned the radio to a station of inspirational music. My mind began to wander about many things. First, I thought about my father who passed away recently. When I think of his sweet spirit, I miss him so much. The tears still come! How long does it hurt? Next, I thought about Larry and Jewel moving back to Independence. The tears came again! Then, I began to talk to myself. Why mourn Daddy so much? If you only realized and could comprehend his happiness, there would be no more tears. Why not think about the years that Larry, Jewel, and the children were with us and count that an extra special blessing? Last of all, I began to look about me. The beautiful green fields and wild flowers were everywhere. I saw the American flag flying in the breeze. I thought of how much I love my country. I am very happy! I am healthy — a very great blessing. I am about to see my church friends! After years of isolation, I'm not quite so isolated, now. Finally, I arrived at the Elwell home. At the same time, the Kimball family arrived from Shawnee. We walked into the house and there stood the Marvin Case family, the Elwells, and Mike Martin. How happy we were to see each other! There were no more tears.

Let me back up to Mother's Day on May 11. On

this Sunday, Elder Tony and Louise Grzincic were with us. We met in the Beem home for the last time for it was on this day they told us of their plans to move back to Independence. We will miss them very, very much. They promised to come back often.

Brother Tony gave the sermon. He reminded us that we can become perfect in attitude and desire and love toward all mankind with Christ's help.

On June 8, Apostle Roland Sarratt, June and Eric were with us. The Kimball home in Shawnee was the setting for this service. We studied about baptism and as it turned out, everyone became so involved in the subject, the whole two hours were used in this discussion.

In July, as I mentioned earlier, we were at the Elwell home with the Case family as the visiting ministry. Brother Marvin spoke to us. He reminded us that we all seek security. Sometimes the things that give us real security, we are less apt to seek out. Mankind falls down on the basic things more than anything else. When a generation does not take the time to pass along the legacy of a strong belief in God and His teachings, this can be devastating. Admit your mistakes and do better. Do not think of yourself more highly than you are. Mike (Martin) gave our closing prayer with, "Our heavenly Father, we come to a closing of another service; it means a lot to us who are here. . . . Forgive our sins. Help us to take the opportunity to share our faith. Be with us until we meet again. These things we pray in Jesus name, Amen."

Alzada Massey  
Reporter

## PHOENIX (Arizona) NEWS

Reporter, Evalena Sills

Greetings to readers of *Zion's Advocate* from The Valley of the Sun! This is late July, and the sun is extending her warmest welcome to all comers! Some folks here declare their preference for high temperatures; others find comfort and satisfaction in refrigeration and swimming pools. That's for me!

There has been no cessation of regular church services, though attendance has been small at times when many of our members have taken refuge at mountain and lake, amid the tall pines and sycamores. Such an occasion was the Camp For All Ages on July 4-6, at the Yates Ranch near Heber, Arizona. A review of that event may appear elsewhere in this issue, if your editor finds space for it.

Because of the hard work of a team of dedicated people the Vacation Church School, June 23-27 at the church, was a successful, worthy achievement. Debbie Vogel, Marlene Oar, Pat McCann and Elder Jim Yates, Sr. served as class teachers. Chris Moser and Michelle Yates taught the singing, and Louise

McIndoo and Maurine Karas supervised the arts and crafts. A program on Sunday night, June 29, demonstrating what the children had learned and done was a fitting climax to the week's endeavors, and something we all enjoyed. Who could adequately evaluate the good such efforts accomplish?

Another glad event we are happy to report was the June 20 wedding of Debbie Biringer and Andrew Brown. They spoke their vows in the Siesta Lane Church. Young Elder, Joel Yates, performed the ceremony. The bride and groom had planned the order of the wedding service themselves, both the musical or spoken part. Emphasis was placed upon the high moral and spiritual aspects of the union of two lives, and their expectation of its being of lifetime permanency.

On Wednesday night, June 25, we rejoiced to witness the blessings of the two small sons of Bonnie McFarland, Jason and Joey. Elders Jay Moser and Gordon McCann spoke the prayers that set these children aside in a very special way, and petitioned our Heavenly Father to extend His guidance, protection and spiritual blessing to them and their mother, a non-member, but quite a regular attendant at our Church services.

I should have reported last time the blessing of Tasia Marie, the infant daughter of Dennis and Renee' Malone. She was only six days old when, on April 20, 1986, Apostle Don McIndoo held her in his arms and blessed her, a precedent set by Jesus himself. Is there ever a heart untouched when witnessing this beautiful rite?

Another such service took place on July 13 when the newborn infant, Jason Michael Payne was blessed by Elder Harold Polack, a long-time friend of the child's grandparents, Elder Tony Grzincic and his wife, Louise, harking back to their Church associations in the State of Michigan, long years ago. The Grzincics were present at the service, and Brother Tony assisted with the beautiful ritual. It was good to have these Independence, Missouri, folks to worship with us that Sunday morning, as well as the baby's parents, Mike and Connie Payne, now of Apache Junction, Arizona. They have been faithful to attend services whenever they could.

Elder Bob Oldham attended that Sunday morning service also, (April 13) and that night he was our guest speaker. He pointed out that things are not always what they seem, and he emphasized the importance of sincere, devoted efforts to keep the laws of God, never forgetting the miracles on record in our sacred books, and our rightful expectation of miracles as a result of implicit faith and persistent prayer on our part. Come again, Brother Bob! Let me close with this gem of truth: "Only what we have wrought into our character during life can we take away with us."—Humboldt

## ARIZONA CAMP FOR ALL AGES

Those who attended the Camp For All Ages at the Yates ranch near Heber, Arizona, July Fourth through July sixth, reported a most enjoyable time, physically and spiritually. There were ninety-seven people in all at the camp, though not that many at the same time.

Quite a few from out of state attended the event. Bill Gould from California was there, and Russell Bell from Colorado. The Jim Case, Harvey Seibel and Randy Sheldon families from Missouri drove that long distance to attend. Jan Banta from Iowa was there, as were Lynn and Bobbie Chermak from Texas. Young Kyle Temple and Jeff Oldham came from Independence, Missouri, early enough to attend a church service or two with us in Phoenix before the camp event. And Miss Jennifer Kidd, also from Independence, had been a guest of Patricia and Joel Yates for several weeks before that. We did so enjoy having them here.

The first meeting at the camp was a prayer circle under the protection of the shed at the barn, while the rain from heaven was washing the air clean and drenching the ground beneath. It was reported that nearly every person in the circle offered a prayer, even some of the younger ones who were unaccustomed to doing so in public.

On the opening day, July Fourth, a patriotic spirit was evidenced by the presence of the American flag (the most beautiful flag on earth!) waving proudly from the porch of the camp headquarters. And a heartfelt love of country was emphasized by the group signing of the stirring patriotic hymn, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Besides morning Prayer Services in God's open-air cathedral, including Sacrament Service on Sunday morning, there were two afternoon sermons, one by Ken Oar and one by Randy Sheldon. Also, there was a special study class taught by Apostle Don McIndoo, explaining the allegorical Bible and Book of Mormon story of the Olive tree, portraying the special place in history of both the Gentiles and the household of Israel.

Elder Jim Yates, Sr., camp coordinator, scheduled recreational activities also. These included swimming at near-by Willow Spring, a hayrack ride for young adults, and a ride in an old wagon bed for the youngsters.

On Saturday night before there was a camp-out gathering in serious vein which featured the performance of an allegorical skit written by Mike Kelley especially for the occasion. "It was very good!" reported one of the mothers who was there.

Consensus was that the worship and recreation combination of activities was beneficial spiritually and physically. Many are the happy anticipations for next year's camp.

Evalena Sills

**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 1987 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19 through 21 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
<b>Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:</b> Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	6.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder	2.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed	.30
Changing of the Revelations	.50
Comprehensive Comparison of	
Changes to the Revelations	1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony	
(Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
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)

**WHO AM I?**—A Bible game (cards) with multiple uses (Free to any local Sunday School, but \$1.30 for individuals)

**CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?**

Speed delivery of your "ADVOCATE" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to:

ZION'S ADVOCATE

(USPS 6993-0000)

P.O. Box 472

Independence, MO 64051-0472

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 25¢. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than its return to us.

**ZION'S ADVOCATE**

(USPS 6993-0000)

P.O. Box 472

Independence, MO 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid

Independence, MO 64051

Aaron Heath  
136 N. Bedford  
Farmington, MI 49415

**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.

**"The Return"** (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the dedicated Temple Lot.

*Holy Scriptures on Cassette Tapes*

Complete sets narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and the entire Book of Mormon.

*Sermons on Cassette Tape*

Write to Joel Yates, AVVAA Committee, 18819 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.