

# 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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## Abba, Father!

No greater love has ever been known  
Than that which God to mankind has shown.  
A Father's love, beyond all compare,  
His pure goodness, He has dared to share.  
A precious offering He once gave  
That mankind, from their sins, He might save.

What was this great gift unspeakable?  
This sacrifice so unthinkable?  
He gave to us His beloved son,  
His One and His Only Begotten.  
To what can we compare this great gift?  
It's higher than we our thoughts can lift!

Must we look throughout the realms above  
To truly appreciate God's love?  
No. On earth God's love is often known;  
In our earthly parents it is shown.  
Only a father's love can we know,  
A parent's kind favor to bestow.

This alone doth typify God's love,  
As Heaven magnifies it above.  
We like children oft times go astray,  
Like prodical sons, return to stay.  
Heaven rejoices as we repent;  
How great this love toward us is sent!

The Father, Son and the Holy Ghost  
Rejoice with all the Heavenly Hosts.  
As earthly parents, we rejoice, too,  
When our children strive their best to do.  
Yet, this compassion can not be explained  
By those whose intellect is most famed.

How intricate are God's divine plans!  
His pillar of love before us stands.  
Jesus Christ is our standard of love,  
The Son of God from Heaven above.  
We, also, as a son or daughter,  
Can cry, as did Christ, Abba, Father!

Roland Sarratt

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# Zion's Advocate

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*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.

## NOTICE FROM THE COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

In the June 1986 issue of Zion's Advocate, beginning on Page 87, is an article entitled, "The Sides Of The North." This item has aroused considerable interest and some consternation with its reference to matter which came into the hands of the author from one not a member of the Church of Christ. As reported, there was supposed to have been a joint mini-conference of the Church of Christ, the RLDS Church and the LDS (Mormon) Church, regarding the Temple Lot as the focal point for establishment of a political/religious organization of world-wide dimension, styled as the Church of Christ and Davidic Kingdom.

We wish it distinctly understood that this Church of Christ on the Temple Lot has never been officially nor unofficially approached for agreement to any such conference, nor has there been participation by us in any venture of this sort; neither have we the least interest in the matter for the future, except a determination that it shall not occur by our consent.

William A. Sheldon  
 Secretary  
 Council of Apostles

## Cantata On Cassette Tape



The Cantata performed by a combined Missouri choir this past April and entitled, "Other Sheep I Have," is now available on cassette tape. Cost is \$3.50 and requests should be mailed to the address below. The subject of the cantata is the story found within the Book of Mormon.

Mail requests to: "Other Sheep I Have"  
 Church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 472  
 Independence, MO 64051

## A CORRECTION

In my write-up of The Camp For All Ages in the September issue of *Zion's Advocate*, James E. Yates Sr.'s name was given as Camp Coordinator. It should have been James E. Yates Jr. Please excuse my error.

—Evalena Sills

# GOOD OR EVIL

## The Choice Is Ours

Sermon by Priest Ken Oar, Phoenix, Arizona, Sunday Night, Sept. 21, 1986



Each time I stand here the more fully I realize the burden that the Lord has given His ministry — that burden to be a guide, not only when we are standing here and delivering the word of the Lord, but in our daily lives and in our conversation before men. Whether we are an apostle, a teacher or whatever capacity we have been given in the priesthood, we have a tremendous responsibility. I trust that each one of us who have been given that responsibility will try, with God's help, to fill that calling to the best of our ability.

I don't know of any of us who do not hold this Gospel dear to our hearts, and realize that we are privileged to have this Gospel. We have been given the opportunity to be witnesses for God, and I would hope that every one of us would have a witness in our hearts of the truthfulness of what we have, and that we would never be afraid to hold it high.

The days are coming (and I feel very soon) when only our faith and our trust in the Lord will hold us firm. Brothers and sisters, if we don't have a strong testimony in our hearts and our minds we won't stand when the trials and tribulations come upon this nation and the rest of this world. Not only when we gather here in this chapel, but whatever we are doing in our daily lives, we walk in the presence of the Lord. Sometimes we forget that. We have duties and responsibilities that we need to fulfill each day, but sometimes we get so tied up in our families and our jobs and those things that are necessary to do that we forget who we are. Sometimes we forget that the Lord knows each thought that we have; that He is aware of every desire we have in our hearts. Yes, we sometimes forget that we walk in the presence of the Lord daily; that our thoughts and our actions, as we walk through this life, are monitored.

We have heard a great deal about faith, recently, from this pulpit. I'd like to speak about faith, hope and charity, and about our responsibility — about some things we should be doing and some things we should not be doing; how we should feel towards God, and towards each other and those in the world

that we rub shoulders with daily. What kind of an example have we been, in the past year, before those that we came in contact with, some outside the Gospel that we work with or go to school with or play with? What kind of Gospel have we held up to all our associates? Would they, because of our actions, be ready to believe in this Gospel? Or would they say, "Gosh! They don't seem any different than anybody else."

Brothers and sisters, we are called to be different; to be a peculiar people. We are to hold this Gospel of Jesus Christ high!

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, to-day, and for ever, 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. (Moroni 10:13,14)

I looked at the world and I see the changes that are rapidly unfolding. I live in a different world today than I lived in fifteen years ago. Things that are accepted today were not accepted fifteen or twenty years ago. The values of our nation and the world are changing, and for the most part men are bringing God down to their own level, and expecting Him to change with them. But as we read, God is the same yesterday, today and forever. His values do not change. Our values change, but that doesn't make them right.

From time to time we, too, partake of those changing values; we partake of the moral structure of this nation and the world, values which they put forth as acceptable behavior, but the scriptures tell us they are not acceptable to God. We of the Church of Christ who are partakers of the Gospel must not allow those worldly values to touch our lives. Remember that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He expects the same from us, no matter what the accepted values of our society are. We have to pull ourselves away from the world, and not partake of her ways.

Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and

except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God; (Moroni 10:15)

Those are not my words, brothers and sisters. I didn't write them, but I believe with all my heart that the person who did write them was accepted by God. "If ye have not charity . . ." What is charity? It is the pure love of Christ. If we had that pure love of Christ our desire would be that the children of men would be saved in the Kingdom of God. That love casts away all fear. We are all inclined to have that fear — that fear of man — what he will think of us; what he will do to us. But when we have that pure love of Jesus Christ that fear is cast away. And then, with that fear of man gone, we feel only a love for his soul — that desire to tell him of the Gospel. If we don't take that responsibility — if we are not the watchmen and cry a warning, then the blood of men's sins is upon our shoulders. We must carry that light of Jesus Christ.

"Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; . . ." (Ibid.v.16) Faith in what? Faith in God. The scripture tells us that we must have faith and that we must exercise that faith. Faith in God, faith that He works among the children of men, that He fulfilleth all his words, and faith that if we live this Gospel and endure to the end that we will have eternal life.

Notice that the following words of Moroni are plain as to whom he is speaking. It was not to those of the world — not somebody he had met by the wayside. He was speaking to the peaceable followers of Christ — to you and I.

Wherefore I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope, by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth, until ye shall rest with him in heaven. (Moroni 7:3) (Read for yourselves, verses 4 through 12. — K.O.)

Take note of the 9th verse:

For behold, a bitter fountain can not bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water; wherefore a man being a servant of the devil, can not follow Christ; and if he follow Christ, he can not be a servant of the devil.

Brothers and sisters, we cannot serve Satan and God. It's an impossibility to serve God on one hand and serve Satan on the other. We have to make up our minds who we are going to follow. Are we going to follow God and keep His commandments? Are we going to bring forth good fruit? Are we going to bring forth sweet water? Or are we going to serve Satan and bring forth those works which will lead us down to destruction? We cannot serve God on Sun-

day and Satan the rest of the week.

From time to time I evaluate my life and try to look at the direction I am going and what road I'm heading down. I try to look back and see what I've done, and where I've been, and try to see if that straight and narrow path has become a little crooked. Satan doesn't hold a sign out that says: "Go this way." What it says here in the scripture is that Satan entices us by those things that *appear* to be good, and Satan teaches us *not* to pray. He is the one who teaches us to procrastinate; to say things that are not proper; to do things that are not proper. We need to have a heart that is righteous before God, and to have a sincere desire — a hunger within us to do good. Do we sincerely hunger and thirst for righteousness? I hope so.

Sometimes we may find it difficult to know what is right and what is wrong. Sometimes there is a very fine line between what is good and what is evil; between what is right and what is wrong. Perhaps something that there may not be harm in can lead us to do things that are harmful to our soul; things that will take us away from church or take us away from valuable time to visit with one another — from talking with the ministry or those outside the Gospel whom we might influence toward the Gospel. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our daily activities that we set aside those things that are important. We set aside visiting the sick; we neglect time for prayer and for study.

For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge as the daylight is from the dark night. For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge; for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ. Wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil. (Moroni 7:13-15)

So everything would lead us to believe in Christ — everything that would entice us to do good comes from Christ.

Sometimes we may want things so badly that though we pray about them, we are inclined to believe we have the exact answer we wanted to hear. We go ahead and do the thing we wanted to do, only to learn that it was not really God's will, but our own blind desire. If we can learn to set aside our personal desires and look to see what is best for our souls, and perhaps for the Church's welfare, then the Lord

will touch our hearts and show us that what we so desired was not His will.

Sometimes the Lord's road is not the easiest road. Sometimes it is the hardest road. Sometimes He takes us over the bumps and the hills to strengthen us. It may be rocky and rough, but if we can put our faith and our trust in the Lord and continue in that road, we then can know what the result will be: Our soul's salvation. Anything that keeps us from serving God is of Satan, no matter how innocent it may appear. Perhaps we like to play golf, and there's nothing wrong with it, but if we play golf every Sunday morning, what are we doing? We're not serving God. "For after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, . . ." (Ibid.v.16)

If we search the scriptures and pray about them, right and wrong will become plain to us. But we can also wrest the scriptures — twist them around to make them fit what we want to do. But if we allow the spirit of God to work in our hearts and our minds we will know beyond the shadow of a doubt what is right and what is wrong. And we will be given the strength and the courage to fulfill the conviction we feel in our hearts.

Read Moroni 7, verses 38 through 47 and learn what faith can do: By faith angels appear unto men; the power of the Holy Ghost is with men to perform miracles and through faith in God and His Son we will one day attain the coveted prize of eternal life. Isn't eternal life our final goal? Isn't that why we are here? Because of our faith and hope of the Resurrection?

And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. (Ibid.vs.49-51)

It all begins with faith. And what is faith? "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) Paul said that without faith it was impossible to please Him. To please who? Me? No. To please God. ". . . for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Ibid.v.6)

We have hope in the resurrection of the dead; hope that we'll be raised unto eternal life. We have faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ. We have faith that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. And we can have all the faith and all the hope in this world but if we don't have charity we are

nothing. This Gospel, brothers and sisters, will not go forth with charity. The spirit and the power of God will not work among this people without charity. It is only by the spirit of Christ that this Gospel will be taken to this world, and the children of men convinced in their hearts. They may not accept it, but they will be convinced of it.

Paul was a man of many words. He always exhorted to overcome the world, to live a better life and to always strive for that higher plane.

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit. (I Thes. 5:14-19)

Paul doesn't say what it is that we do that quenches the spirit but if we study the scriptures and we approach God we will find what it is that can quench the spirit. We can do those things that are opposite to the will of God. We can continually walk after our own minds and our own desires. We can continually set aside our prayer time, our study time, our fasting time. As was so aptly brought out this morning in Sunday School, we can have a pocket knife in our pocket, but if we never use it, what good is it? It is the same with the spirit of God. We may have the spirit of God, but if we don't use it, what good is it? The thought was presented in Sunday School that there have been, from time to time, some who were not sure they had received the Holy Ghost when confirmed after baptism. Perhaps it was there but they just hadn't used it — hadn't developed it.

"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." (Ibid. 20-22) Don't believe everything that you hear or read, but prove it for yourselves. Discard that which is false, but hold fast that which is good. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." I've heard it said many times: "Well, I was with those people. I know what they did, but I didn't do it, so it was all right." How wrong we can be! If we are associated with evil doers we were associated with evil deeds, and it was not a good example before the world, then it certainly wasn't shunning the appearance of evil.

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him

ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:3-8)

The word "promise" is not written in the above quote, but there *is* a promise there! A statement of fact: If we lack wisdom and we approach God in the right way He will give it to us. Always with faith, and never double-minded. Double minded. I've thought about that quite a bit, and I suppose it has many meanings — many ways that we could be double minded. One way is that we cannot be partially in the Gospel, and partially in the world. To me that would be double-minded. We cannot approach Him in prayer, expecting to receive, if we don't go in faith. We must be firm in mind and in conviction and heart, to approach Him and expect an answer. If we approach the Lord in our need, but say, "Well, I don't think He is going to answer my prayer," perhaps he won't. The Lord expects us to exercise our faith in a manner pleasing unto Him, with a mind that is spiritual, and a heart that has gone out unto Him. We cannot be carnally minded and go to the Lord expecting Him to be with us. Reading further in James 1:13-26, we find some plain truths to guide our lives in the way acceptable to God:

1. We are not to accuse God of tempting us, for He tempts no man.
2. Man is tempted by his own lusts, and enticed.
3. Lust brings sin, and sin brings death.
4. Every good gift comes from the Father who never changes.
5. Men are the "firstfruits" of God's creation.
6. We are to be swift to hear, but slow to speak and slow to wrath, for wrath "worketh not the righteousness of God."
7. We are to lay aside all manner of sin and receive, meekly, the word of God which is able to save our souls.
8. We are to be doers of God's word, not hearers only, thus deceiving ourselves.
9. Those who are *doers*, not forgetful hearers only, shall be blessed.
10. He who *seems* to be religious, but "bridleth not his tongue" deceives himself, and his religion is vain.

Being swift to hear, but *slow to speak* is sometimes hard to do, and we sometimes put our mouth in gear before our brain. But we need to *think* before we speak, and to *think* before we act. We are to take our belief in Christ and God and continue in good works to the end of our lives. It is not enough to just have faith. Works must go with that faith. It is not

enough just to believe. Even devils "believe and tremble." We are to remove ourselves from the world and live above the world's standards. We are not to be enticed by things of the world that *seem* to be harmless — things that take our time, our talents, our money. Things that take us away from the Lord — things that destroy our souls.

Discouragement is a tool of the Devil, as well as deception. We must not allow ourselves to become discouraged — not allow ourselves to throw up our hands and say, "No use!" The Devil takes us when we are at our lowest point. He takes us and draws us further and further away. What is one of the first signs of spiritual unrest in a person? What are the first signs that everything is not well? What does a person do? *He separates himself from the body of Christ!* The one place that he should be is the place that he is not! Let's not fall into that trap. When we may become discouraged, even if we have to force ourselves to be at church, *be there!* Do not allow Satan to draw you away!

I would ask you, each and every one, to read Alma 5:33 through 44 wherein Alma commended his hearers because he perceived that they were "in the paths of righteousness" which lead to the Kingdom of God. He perceived that they had a testimony that they were not to walk in "crooked paths." He reminded them that God never changes — that in God there is "no shadow of turning." He reminded them that no unclean thing can ever enter into the Kingdom of God. Alma exhorted his hearers to be humble, submissive, gentle, patient, temperate, easy to be entreated and diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times. Alma reminded the people to ask for the things they needed, remembering to thank God for it all, both the spiritual and the temporal things. He admonished to faith, hope and charity, and to keeping their garments spotless. He said that he had spoken those words according to the spirit that he was in him. He commended them again because of their "exceeding diligence" which they had given his words. He finished with this wonderful blessing:

And now may the peace of God rest upon you, and upon your houses and lands, and upon your flocks and herds, and all that you possess; your women and your children, according to your faith and good works, from this time forth and forever. And thus I have spoken. Amen. (Verse 44)

Remember, my brothers and sisters, give heed; give diligence unto the word of God. If we serve Him with all our hearts in humility, we, too, will sit down in the Kingdom of God and partake of the goodness and the blessings that the Lord has for us, through eternity. I thank you.

# Some Thoughts On The Rapture

by Harvey E. Seibel

During a recent Camp for all Ages a question was raised concerning the rapture by one of the young people. In order to help our young folks meet this question with their friends I would like to offer a few thoughts that may be helpful to them.

According to the proponents of the theory, there is to be a seven year period which they term the Great Tribulation (though the Bible gives no time duration for this tribulation) at the beginning of which the Saints will be raptured off the earth leaving the wicked behind to suffer the rule of Satan until the seven years are ended. Thus the saints find deliverance by being caught up unto Christ in the air at which point they will ever be with the Lord.

But is this scriptural and are we to look forward for deliverance in a coming rapture? Is it true that when Christ comes we shall be caught up to meet Him in the clouds. **But this is at the end and the time of Tribulation will be past.** This thought is confirmed in Matthew 24:29-31, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

If the tribulation has ended, then for what purpose would the saints be removed from the earth? Rather Christ has come as He has promised and we with joy will be caught up to meet Him as He is returning to establish His kingdom upon the earth at which time we shall live and reign with Him for a thousand years.

What say the scriptures about our deliverance and where is that deliverance to be? And further, who is to be gathered first, the righteous or the wicked? The rapturist would have us believe that the righteous are caught up leaving the wicked behind. But this is not scriptural.

To answer the first question, consider Luke 21:34-36, "And 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 your 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."

This scripture does promise a deliverance as does I Nephi 7:35-37, "For he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. Wherefore he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it be so that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire."

This certainly does not sound like a rapture. To the contrary, the saints delivery is wrought by the destruction of the wicked by the fire of God. Witness also Isaiah 26:20, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."

This tells us that we shall be hid safely from the scourge that shall overflow the world. Joel 2:30-32 sheds a little more light on our deliverance. "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."

Having shown where our deliverance is to be, what about the gathering? Who is gathered first, the righteous or the wicked? In the quotation from Matthew 24 we have the angels gathering the elect from all over the earth. But what about the wicked?

We have this interesting statement in Isaiah 4:3-4, "And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning."

From this language it would appear that the wicked will have been purged out leaving only the

righteous behind. Can this be affirmed elsewhere? Remember the parable on the wheat and the tares? "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **GATHER YE TOGETHER FIRST THE TARES**, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn" (Matthew 13:24-30 emphasis H.E.S. throughout).

Did you notice that the tares were gathered first? Yes the wicked will be taken first to be burned and then the wheat into the barn. Again, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, **AND THEY SHALL GATHER OUT OF HIS KINGDOM ALL THINGS THAT OFFEND, AND THEM WHICH DO INIQUITY**; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **THEN SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN** in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 13:37-43).

This prophecy confirms the one in Isaiah concerning him that remains in Jerusalem and he that is left in Zion. Those that remain behind are the righteous, not the wicked. It is the wicked who are removed, not the righteous. But consider one additional parable. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: **THE ANGELS SHALL COME FORTH, AND SEVER THE WICKED FROM AMONG THE JUST**, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:47-50). Notice, again, that it is the wicked who are removed from the righteous, not the righteous from the wicked.

The scripture which the rapture people point to the most to prove their theory, is the one about the two in the field or in the bed, the one being taken and the other left. Let's consider this scripture to see if indeed they have a valid point. "I'll tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Luke 17:34-36).

The disciples naturally were curious about this because if some people were being taken, where were they being taken to? This is just what the disciples asked of Jesus. "And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Whersoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together" (Luke 17:37).

These people were being taken to a place to which the eagles would gather together. To what purpose? The answer to this question is to be found in Thayer's Greek/English Lexicon. We read in regard to the eagles, "Where there are sinners there judgments from heaven will not be wanting" (Page 13). In other words these people are being taken out to be punished even as we were told in Matthew 13 above.

To conclude the thought, "Whersoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together" is given graphic prophetic fulfillment in Ezekiel and Revelation. The first is the prophesied end of Gog. "And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of Lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 39:17-20).

The second is concerning the end of the wicked in the day of the supper of the great God confirming the prophecy of Luke. "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond,

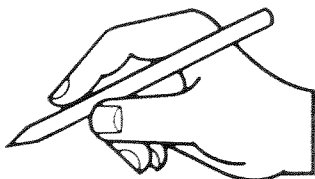


both small and great" (Revelation 19:17-18).

By way of summary, we have learned that deliverance will be in Zion and Jerusalem as opposed to our supposed removal from off the earth. Second, it is the wicked who will be taken out first so that he that remains or that is left behind will be called holy,

even every one that is written among the living. For "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed" (Isaiah 1:27-28).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



**From Elder Arthur G. Smith, Ava, Missouri —**

I was pleased to read the article by Brother Seibel in the September Advocate (The Spirit of Deception -p.132). I think it was a timely publication on an appropriate subject and I hope a goodly number of our people read it with care.

I have found a number of Elders who are becoming a bit concerned with the attitudes and thinking expressed by some of our people. I believe we are becoming highly vulnerable to spirits of deception that have no place in the Church of Christ, either in doctrine or practice. We are making it possible for Satan to do a snow job on us because we are desparately looking for a spiritual expression to fill our own expectations, not necessarily the will of God.

In these last days we could expect to find the Church of Christ exposed to deception. I only hope that we can have the courage and the faith to resist the power of the adversary and hold high the banner of truth.

What we are witnessing is a degree of apostasy from the faith within the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, that will be as debilitating and crippling to the Church as has now become apparent in our closely related restoration churches. May God help us to overcome our shortcomings and sins before it is too late. We are complaining that the Lord is not speaking to us, perhaps we had better look within ourselves for the reason and repent of our sins.

Kindly think of us in your prayers.

# Path Lights

I want to tell you about how God blessed me when I was bit by a poisonous spider. One night I woke up because my neck nurt real bad. At first my Mom thought it was just a sore throat. But when she turned on the light she saw a dead brown Recluse spider on my pillow. I had been bit on my neck right below my jaw. It hurt very, very bad.

Even though it was in the middle of the night my Mom and Dad took me to be administered to. After I was administered to, the bite did not hurt so bad.

Then I went to the hospital. The Doctor said that I had been bit in the worst place because if the bite swelled it could cut off my breathing and blood flow. He also told my Mom and Dad that the bite would grow and turn into a big blister and then turn black and leave a big scar.

But the bite never did grow. The nurses kept measuring it every three hours, but they stopped after awhile because it didn't grow. And it never did turn into a blister or turn black. It stayed real little and then about two weeks later it just went away. You can't even tell where I was bit.

I'm real thankful that God blessed me. He blessed me that the bite did not swell and that it did not leave a scar. I thank the Lord.

Tabitha Sheldon (age 8)  
Grain Valley, Missouri

Mail your testimonies to:

**PATHLIGHTS**  
c/o **Melissa McGhee**  
2533 Glen Lane  
Independence, MO 64052

# Y.P.C.L. CROSSROADS



I have had to rely on the Lord many times. One time when I was little, I was playing with a stick. I was hitting things with it, and a splinter flew into my eye. Mom and Dad took me to the clinic, and the doctor saw the splinter in my eye. He said that it was in too deep for him to get it, so we would have to go to a more qualified doctor.

After that, the doctor called the hospital to make arrangements for another doctor to examine my eye. We called my Grandpa, and he met us at the hospital. He administered to me before I went in.

A team of doctors looked at my eye again and they couldn't see the splinter. It was gone.

After that I never had any more trouble with my eye hurting or anything. I was really blessed and I know a lot of people were praying for me.

Kyle Temple



I've had many blessings throughout my life. To start with, I was blessed at the time of my birth. I was born prematurely and they had a hard time getting me to breathe.

From that time on, I have had good health. The few times I've been ill, after administration I get almost immediate blessings.

Once I shut my finger in the heavy front door at the Temple Lot. I was administered to and directly after that, I fell asleep. When I woke up, the pain was gone. Many people said I would lose my fingernail, but I never did.

I'm thankful for all the blessings the Lord has given me.

Heidi Temple

I have not gotten many submissions for the Crossroads. If you do have something to send, **PLEASE** do!!!

Thank you,  
Jennifer Kidd

The Young People's group in Independence has been quite busy throughout the summer. In May, the Y.P.C.L. took a trip to Silver Dollar City, camped out in Branson, and attended the Church in Springfield. In June, a study was held at Bryan McGhee's house and, the following week, the Y.P.C.L. trimmed branches at the East Local. We also used our "deductive reasoning & wit" to solve a treasure hunt — cleverly put together by Harvey Seibel. The original idea Harvey had was to hide clues in a videotape that the "seekers" had to ask for in a video rental shop. It was extremely fun for everyone. Through the summer we swam at Jason Christian's community pool and also went to *Cool Crest* for miniature golf many times. In August we rented a movie on dating and discussed it. It gave examples of different types of people and how you should use discretion about who you date. We had an activity at the Missouri Reunion in Warrensburg that was very uplifting. We played volleyball and football before our dinner of hot dogs and hamburgers. Afterwards we had a very spiritual meeting, starting with a season of prayer which led into some testimonies. The week following the Reunion, the Young People took a trip to the Ozarks for some water skiing—boat furnished by Buzz Brickhouse. We spent most of Saturday at the lake and then went to Sister Francis Yates' house for a campfire and some sleep. Sunday, Joe Yates visited us and gave us such an interesting message, we were all hanging on the edge of our seats for his next word. August 30th was the Missouri Camp for All Ages at Bennett Springs. In September, we had a study at the Temple Lot. We also had an educational at the East Local. Each person brought a dish of food and told how to prepare it while everyone else "sampled" it. September 20th we had our elections. The officers were filled as follows: **Leader:** Randy Sheldon; **Assistant Leader:** Harvey Seibel; **Secretary:** Nancy Case; **Treasurer:** Aimee Brockman; **Reporter/Recorder:** Jennifer Kidd; **Parliamentarian:** Jason Christian; **Pianist:** Carmen Case; **Auditing Committee:** Bryan McGhee (charman), Carmen Case, Cory Geier; **Planning Committee:** Ruth Seibel (chairperson), Nancy Case, Jennifer Kidd; **Scrapbook Committee:** Harvey Seibel (chairman), Aimee Brockman, Jeff Oldham; **Crossroads Committee:** Jennifer Kidd (chairperson), Carmen Case, Bryan McGhee; **Menu Committee:** Jennifer Kidd, Michelle Brockman, Aimee Brockman, Tricia Penington.

Love and God Bless,  
Jennifer Kidd  
(Reporter/Recorder)

## 1986 Missouri Reunion

Friday, August 15, 1986, was a beautiful day, the kind of day we had hoped for and prayed for to begin our Reunion.

It is always such a joy to greet saints from near and far, praising God for that safe journey that He has afforded each one. The loving and happy smiles truly reflected the Spirit of God, as welcoming handshakes and hugs were exchanged.

We are so very fortunate to have such an ideal setting for our Reunion here in Warrensburg on the CMSU Campus, and all the facilities are so convenient for our use. It was voiced many times by many people, in such sweet words, how much appreciated the efforts are of all those who help make the Reunion what it is, "a time to be spiritually fed, as well as a time to be blessed in fellowship."

On Friday morning, the first service of the Reunion, Elder Eugene Gould gave the opening prayer and welcomed all those present. Elder Charles Brantner then read from the Book of Mormon, and added other words to be considered the theme of our Reunion, "that we may be that humble people that God would and could use in these latter days."

Elder LeRoy Wheaton reminded us that faith, repentance, and then baptism is the way to enter the Kingdom of God, that we can't even come to God without faith in Him, and that there is joy in serving God.

The person of Jesus Christ, a faithful witness to the Father, with a desire to speak of and to demonstrate the will of the Father, and our preparedness for His return was the subject of Apostle Roland Sarratt's sermon Friday afternoon. We are admonished that what Jesus has done, we are to do, and that blessed are they that keep His ways.

Elder Glenn Gill recounted to us that we went down a path, called the Principles of the Gospel, into a new birth, a newness of life. Also that when we put on a new man, we have things to do, according to our talents and abilities, "fitly joined together," in service to God.

Another beautiful day dawned with our numbers increased considerably. Our prayer service on Saturday was opened by Elder Smith Brickhouse, followed by the reading of II Nephi 14:11-12 by Elder Marvin Case, the admonishment that we must pray always unto the Father in the name of Christ.

The good news, "The Gospel of Christ" was the theme of Saturday morning's sermon by Elder Larry Beem. We are being preached to and hearing *about* Jesus Christ, not *of* Jesus Christ. We must be willing to be obedient, as members of the Church, in service, in the services, as children to our parents, and as children of our Heavenly Father and to the scrip-

tures that have been given to us. Let us *live* the Gospel of Christ!

Elder Arthur G. Smith, in his sermon Saturday afternoon, stated that the Word of God is the truth, not just a theory or an idea. It's something in which we can believe and have faith.

At the conclusion of the preaching service, everyone present witnessed one of God's most beautiful ordinances: The ordination of our Brother Gale I. Brantner to the office of Elder in the Church of Christ was administered by Elders Eugene Gould and Charles Brantner. Brother Gale was admonished to "be a good minister of Jesus Christ", I Timothy 4:6, and to "feed the flock which is among you", I Peter 5:2. The hand of fellowship was extended to our newest Elder preceding the close of the meeting. Brother Gale is from the Cedar Springs, Michigan, area. May God bless you, Brother Gale, as you go about His work.

Saturday evening the pulpit was occupied by Elder Frank Fann. We were reminded that we have to yield our hearts to God, have to get on our knees and let God in our hearts. Be ye, therefore, followers of God.

Sunday morning arrived filled with sunshine and warmth, a beautiful morning to gather together in sober attitude in praise of God, and to observe another of His beautiful ordinances, the partaking of the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ. Apostles Marvin Ely and William Sheldon presided over this meeting. Brother Sheldon quoted from the Book of Mormon: "I give unto men weakness that they may be humble," and that God works according to our faith.

The last service of our Reunion was Sunday afternoon with Apostle Don McIndoo presenting the sermon. He reminded us that the mission of Christ is *our* mission, that His purpose is our own, and that His will should become our will.

Throughout the Reunion there seemed to be continuing admonitions, some of which I'll repeat here. Be that humble people. It's time to begin the work that we are to do. To do the will of the Father, follow the example of Christ as the Father was His example. We need to find that broken heart and contrite spirit and to be perfected in love. Remember that necessity to pray to God, through Jesus Christ. Follow the Gospel "of" Christ, not "about" Christ; it's time to stand up for what is right. Absolute faith and trust in God will solve every problem we have. Submit yourselves therefore to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you. God works according to our faith. To be committed to the Book of Mormon is part of the cause of Zion, the cause of Jesus Christ,

which is entrusted in our care. You, the ministry, have a responsibility to which you've been called, to preach the Word of God to everyone who dwelleth in the land.

The Brantner lake was the setting for about fifty young people for their recreation and worship service on Saturday evening.

The seven through twelve year-olds also enjoyed an outing on Saturday afternoon. Play time in the park as well as refreshments were welcomed by each and every one.

Beautiful prayers and testimonies abounded, as well as songs, voiced in perfect harmony, during the Reunion. Especially enjoyable were those sung by some of the young of the Church, Luke Sheldon,

Milo and Oliver Housknecht, and Steve, Terry and Kevin McGhee (along with their parents, of course).

The testimony of Sister Linda Affholder was especially touching, as she told us of her submission to the will of God. Several administrations and special seasons of prayer were requested also.

A multitude of voices in the cantata on Sunday afternoon told of the Lord's restoring of His Kingdom upon the face of the earth in the latter days.

So the Missouri Reunion of 1986 is over and already preparations are underway for next year. May God bless and keep each one of you, is my prayer.

For the Missouri Reunion Committee,  
Secretary, Jeanne Brantner

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## NEWS

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### Collins (Missouri) News

Our dry, hot summer is over. The days have cooled some and the fall rains have set in. Time and seasons are all in God's hands and for this I am grateful.

A blessing I can barely express on paper has finally come to pass. Our dear Sister Esther Cavinness is to be released from the hospital this week after being critically ill for about four months. She has been taking therapy to regain her strength and is now able to walk without the use of a walker. I called the hospital three days ago and got to talk to her very ear! She laughed and visited with me and told me how good she felt. The sound of her voice was to me a miracle. God has heard and answered our prayers.

I understand that Oren and Esther plan to go to Phoenix and stay the winter with their daughter, Lorraine. We will miss them, but that's okay, I know they'll be happy and in good hands.

Brother Joe and Sister Floralise Yates were able to come to church a week ago. It was so good to see them again. Brother Joe was asked to give the closing prayer that day. I have always been impressed with his prayers because I know when he prays he is speaking with The Master of Men. The humility and reverence shows in his voice and I know God hears.

After the Missouri Reunion and the August Minister's Conference, Brother Don McIndoo and Brother Jim Yates visited at our local again. We look so forward to those special times of the year that brings our brothers here to share with us their travels in Yucatan and other places.

I can't express on paper the love and the joy that I feel for these ones I have tried to relate to you in this writing. My heart is full.

Before I close I want to give a special thanks to those of you who were at the Missouri Reunion and offered prayers for my friend, Kathy Brown of Collins. I have never been so impressed and so very grateful. None of you even knew her, but when asked to pray you were all so sincere and so caring. It's because of your prayers that I was comforted when God's decision was to take Kathy and not let her linger or be left to the mercy of a machine. I thank you very much and I pray that I will be able to love and to care for "strangers" as you did for my friend. God bless you.

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman  
Rt. 1, Box 8  
Collins, MO 64738

### Minneapolis (Minnesota) News

Summer went thataway — actually in many directions — and in a great hurry! From the half past July wedding of Stephen and Judy Gould life just flew. So it seemed! Before we knew it our annual exhibit at the Dakota County Fair was full upon us. Many contributed time and materials and made the community aware that we are still around. In front of a wall display featuring a line portrait of Christ and representations of the Bible and Book of Mormon — two other items were attention getters: These were the tank of ice cold drinking water and a computer quiz on Bible topics where questions were asked, answers given, score registered and then a printout was made to give to the test players to take home. Pleasant folk participated. Some lingered awhile to talk and listen. Of those who come to the fair year after year, many now recognize who we are and who we are not. Smiling, kindly folk carry away

tracts from our table. This year the fair weather was fair to perfect; and our representatives in the exhibit were more cheerfully received than in previous years.

A gentleman across the aisle representing a home safety exhibit for the state, told others in a spirit of genuine good will, referring to the staff of our booth, "Those people over there aren't making much money; but their dividends are out of this world!" Brother Clarence Boettcher recognized that the phrase was not an original one made on the spot, and was borrowed from a Veterans magazine. But this fact didn't detract any from its morale boosting quality through the long hours of the fair. The Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Church had an exhibit this year for the first time out on the fairgrounds. Some of us visited them.

We had the pleasure of Neva Housknecht's presence on a Sunday morning when Gary's work had brought them to Minneapolis. Yes! Neva sang for us! We loved hearing her rich voice again, enjoying her warm and lively personality.

On Labor Day weekend at Whitewater State Park's Youth Camp, beyond the noise of everyday life, approximately sixty-five people were together for three days. Supplies were hauled in on Friday afternoon to open the camp for Tri-State Reunion.

From Iowa were Shirley Bailey and Mary Johnston who drove up together from Lamoni in Mary's new compact car. From Michigan again this year were Jeff and Beverly Butts and boys, Jeff and Jim. How nice to become acquainted with Jay and Evelyn Lee, who came for the first time. From Missouri: Bob and Jo Eddy, son Brian and daughter Sharon, and Katy Moyer; the Don Case family; the Jim Case family; Elder Charles Brantner and wife Jean; Elder Gene Gould and wife Berniece; Bill and Gladys Nast; Rolland and Marion Sprague; Evangelist Marvin Case and wife Edith and daughter Diane. From Missouri but now making their home in the Rosemount area were Elissa Brown and sons, James and Billy, who are active in our Minneapolis congregation. From Wisconsin: Fred and Beverly Hesse and their lovely, newly engaged daughter Debbie; Merlin (Hook) Eddy, Sr. and wife Grace.

This was a first time reunion for Patsy Case, wife of Ben; as well as for Stephen and Judy Gould and Judy's brother, Mike Sedlak from Wisconsin. Brethren Charles Brantner and Gene Gould were here at the request of Apostle Robert Jensen who usually attends; but was unable this year to be with us.

We had perfect weather going into camp and going out, with moist weather sandwiched in between which did *not* dampen our spirits. Each day began with a 7:00 a.m. prayer meeting assemblage in the meeting room shortly after Merlin Eddy sounded the big bell's dignified and resonant voice.

Sunday morning sacrament service was conducted by Evangelist Marvin Case and two of his sons, Elders John and Ben. Our people are greatly blessed in their families in marvelous ways.

A probable first in the history of the Church was when Gene Gould, Charles Brantner, Bob Eddy, and Marvin Case gathered the people to hear the reading from the Book of Mormon, four passages where the Gospel of Christ is sharply defined and limited, each man reading a separate passage. At the end of the reading of each passage the congregation was invited to repeat with the reader Romans 1:16—"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." This very moving experience filled the entire period—and the room. Something special was happening: We had the impression that there were more strong firm voices reading in unison than there were people present to give their voices to the reading! Was it only an impression?

A lively question and answer period was arranged from the many questions left in the box for the eight priesthood members to answer. The answers given ably from Bible and Book of Mormon required much time to answer adequately.

A program of talent offerings directed by Bonnie G. Case was held on Sunday afternoon. Brother Gene Gould told the story of stringent discipline administered to him for having entertained his friends in the back row while his father was preaching. Cindy Scott, Bonnie E. and Bonnie G. Case sang "In The Garden." Cindy does not hear, but cheers us with her presence, always has a friendly smile and pleasant greeting. Last year Cindy signed a song, singing with Bonnie and Jim Case. This year she chose to use her *voice* to sing. Nana Gill and the small children sang a favorite "Hark! 'Tis The Shepherd's Voice." A nice card received last Christmas from George and Lovita Reed became a small box before our eyes, sporting an Alaskan Husky on its cover. The making of the box was shown by Irene Maley.

Our "talent offering" conductress asked each one of us to introduce the person sitting beside us to the right, and tell something good about them. Relaxing and pleasant, our self esteem took a small step upward. True, a sister had to give deep thought to a little brother who can get into more trouble than anybody in any three minute period of any day! But even she came through okay with her love for him. Proverbs 12:25 "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad." . . . How true, how true! Thanks, Bonnie.

Some young folk practiced a hymn well into Saturday night in order to present it on Sunday afternoon. It was Welsh music in minor key which

Forest Maley had searched for and had found forty years from the time he had sung it with a choir in Milwaukee. Forest presented it last year to the reunion with copies, and has presented it to other groups he has contact with. Eva Lin Eddy was spokeswoman for the chorus, telling us they were singing it in thankfulness for his ministry and his coming to Minneapolis. We enjoyed the whole-hearted presentation of the musical challenge. The singers were 'Lissa Brown, Leah Ferrier, Nana Gill, Eva Lin Eddy, Forest Maley, and Stephen Gould.

Visiting was delightfully engaged in by all. Of course, the oodles of children had their own ways of socializing. Some of the little girls strung colorful beads provided by Alyssa Gould, age 7. There was the treasure hunt using Bible clues to find the "prize". Aubrey Case was winner. Would you believe that small frogs joined the togetherness? One or two landed — or almost landed — on beds for a delightful surprise, the delight was depending on one's outlook . . . and love of frogs and young children.

Another event was to gather in a circle and hold hands before the mealtime prayer and count off, so we would know how many were present, and continuing to hold hands during the prayer. Amid all these events we had only one sermon, that one was by John Gill, who was blessed in his delivery and with an attentive congregation.

In a continuing effort to promote the cause of relieving distress of the refugees in Honduras, John and Nana have found many willing hearts and hands of many different Christian faiths. Medicines in quantity, clothing and other materials in incredible supply are awaiting to be flown out to that area by the United States Government aircraft. People about our country have adopted over seven hundred families to send them desperately needed specified goods. Many happenings and blessings related to John and the family's work for the refugees were mentioned in John's reunion sermon.

Again we enjoyed Shirley Bailey's accompaniment at the organ, also the playing of Katy Moyer and Nancy Case who accompanied some of the singing. In the kitchen many helped with providing of sustenance for the physical being under direction of Sister Ruth Maley. Many brought delectable food items. A big thanks is due our brothers and sisters from elsewhere and from here.

On Monday morning (Labor Day) those who remained made the cabins, bath house, and main lodge spotless before leaving for home . . . also polished off the small watermelons still in the cooler! Just as delicious, is the good memories of the 1986 Tri-State Reunion!

As survivors of an exceptionally busy summer, the local church has returned to regular scheduled meetings: Sunday mornings at 2922 Cedar Avenue

in Minneapolis; Sunday evenings and sometimes mid-week evenings in the Rosemount area, at or near the Gill farm. We invite all visiting the area to stop and fellowship with us. You will find Thomas Maley in the telephone directory. We're sure he will be happy to receive your call.

Irene Maley, reporting  
201 Satellite Lane NE #9  
Fridley, Minn. 55432

## Phoenix (Arizona) News

Greetings! This is the first day of October, 1986. The hum of the air conditioner is silent and the music of that silence is sweet to the ear. Autumn, with her mild, pleasant days here in our valley, is delighting us with her beauty and her comfortable temperatures. It is indeed good to be alive!

Not even the past hot summer has slowed down the regular services and activities of our Local. It just thinned us out somewhat as various members vacationed in cooler areas and attended church reunions and Ministers' Conference. Jim Yates Sr. and Wanda drove to Bellevue, Nebraska, for a brief visit with Brother and Sister Robert Jensen, before Jim joined Apostle Don McIndoo in Missouri for an extended missionary trip into Texas, Arkansas and points between. The Bill Malones spent some time in Colorado with Karen's mother, Wilma DeBoer. The Jay Mosers visited the Grand Canyon en route to Missouri and the Black Hills of Wyoming. Junella Polack went as far away as Japan for a visit with her son, Warren, and his family. Others were away on short trips, but I failed to keep posted on their destinations.

The young people never slowed down their energetic pace. In late July they went in a group to Show Low, Arizona, that cool, cool small town high in the mountains where worship services and recreation were combined to the benefit of both soul and body. Other outings and picnics kept them together often during the summer months.

One Saturday night recently the young people, including some of the elementary school children met at the church for a special study class on the subject of future events as prophesied in the Bible and the Book of Mormon.. Elder Joel Yates was in charge. Young Daniel Malone brought to class four prophetic scriptures about some good things that are to take place in the future. Little Rebecca Oar brought three scriptures foretelling some gloomy, unhappy events that are to come. Aaron Moser brought two scriptures, one from the Bible and one from the Book of Mormon, foretelling futue events that we all wish would not come to pass — tragic, devastating events that *will* surely be fulfilled because of wickedness. After the children read the

scriptures, they each were discussed, bringing out how they will affect their own lives. After the class, chocolate and cookies were served and yard games were played.

The young folks' activities are varied from time to time with a combination of worth-while things: prayer services and preaching services in God's out-of-doors; roller skating, swimming and such games as Basketball, Frisbee, Four-Square and others, thus building healthy bodies and minds, and developing spirituality at the same time.

A special event of note occurred on August 15, when little Mark Allen Whitehead Jr. arrived from God's spirit world to delight his parents, Mark Allen Sr. and Annette (Yates) Whitehead, as well as the rest of us. Everybody loves this little new arrival, and everybody wants to hold and fondle him. May he grow to manhood in the favor and service of his Creator. He is soon to be blessed in the arms of his Uncle Joel Yates. We all look forward to witnessing that beautiful rite.

The next headline event from this area will be a very happy one, and in my next report I will reveal the names of the happy couple who, as a result of Cupid's accurate markmanship, will have taken their wedding vows on the morning of October 4, 1986. They are both faithful converts to the Restored Gospel, an important factor in future happiness. We promise a full report later.

In late July Elder Hubert E. Yates gave us a special sermon on the subject of the Unchangeable God, based upon almost unlimited scriptural evidence. A week later, in early August, Elder Gordon McCann preached on the subject of Repentance, a powerful and convincing presentation, and sobering to our minds. These two sermons reminded us once again of the greatness of God, and His wonderful plan of salvation.

In recent weeks we have enjoyed several out-of-town visitors. Lawrence and Irene Vogel, parents of our regular attendant, Dave Vogel, attended services with us several times. They hail from Independence, Missouri, and Brownsville, Texas. We were surprised and pleased to learn that Sister Irene Vogel (a daughter of Roy Parks, of Western Colorado, long years ago) is a first cousin of the late Sybil Ely of Grand Junction, who was a daughter of Tom Parks, Roy's brother. Sister Louise McIndoo was especially excited to learn of this relationship, as it meant that her own great-grandchildren, Michelle and Jared, children of Duane Ely and his wife, Kathie (McIndoo) Ely, are blood kin of Sister Irene Vogel. What a happy discovery!

Last week (Sept. 23-26) it was my pleasure to have Brother and Sister Harry Riley of Columbia Falls, Montana, as guests in my home. Harry and Lola attended our Wednesday night song service

where many of the local members got to meet them. It's always a special kind of pleasure to have visitors of like Faith. We hope they will come again and stay longer.

Other recent but brief visitors were Bob and Shirley Ely, and Charlotte Hinkle, all of Grand Junction, Colorado. Brother Bob preaches for us sometimes when his visits occur on Sunday. The welcome mat is always out for visitors. And that means you, and you and you!

By the time this report reaches Z.A.'s News Column it will be close to our Thanksgiving time Reunion on November 28-30. Come and enjoy a good time with us, in worship and fellowship.

An anonymous writer once penned these words of truth: "No man will rise high who jeers at sacred things." Those of you in the various locals throughout the Church as you meet together from week to week do not jeer at sacred things. You pray for them instead, and enjoy an uplift of soul when they are given. We here in Phoenix experience that spiritual uplift too, and we look forward to enjoying some of those sacred things with you, at our Thanksgiving time Reunion. God Bless!

—Evalena Sills

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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.

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