

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" I Nephi 3:187*

Vol. 63

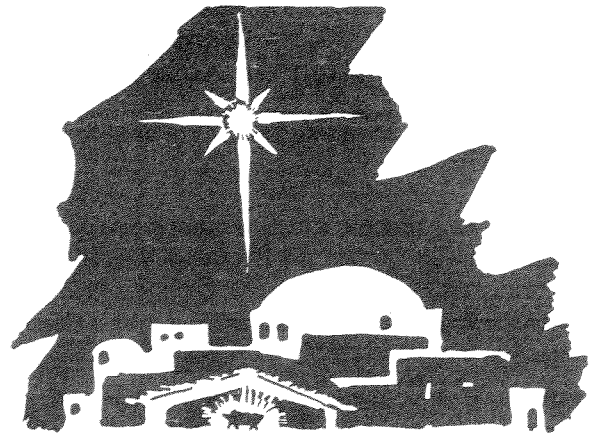
Independence, Missouri • December, 1986

No. 12

Worship The Child

Out of the desert they came, quietly as the drifting sand
From beyond the silent walls of Petra, crossing into David's land.
No wanderers these, but noblemen bent on yet nobler quest,
Impelled by pure desire, but wearied now and hoping soon to rest;
They followed neither chart nor road as they journeyed
through the night,
Eyes focused on the new-born star and its radiant, guiding light.
So they came, seeking the Child.

Across the sea, a world away, others saw the star that night,
And seeing, felt the touch of God as they marveled at the sight;
For into each mind flooded back the words heard so long ago,
How the Christ-child would come, and this star the sign
that all might know.
What now, but fall on bended knee, believer and skeptic as one,
To humble themselves, seek mercy from God and follow the Son.
So they came to worship the Child.



Across yet wider seas of time we stand unmoved by distant past,
For it's tomorrow which occupies our mind. It . . . it comes so fast;
With all its talk of war, of strife, impending economic gloom,
As if our whole world were rushing toward some dark precipice of doom.
And yet — there still speaks to man that voice which led the wisemen
through the night;
Pleading ere so softly, "Come, I am the way, the truth, the light."
So come then, worship the Child!

—Don McIndoo



IN THIS ISSUE

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Three Precious Gifts | p. 174 | The Christmas Story | p. 178 |
| Contention and Controversy | p. 175 | Be Careful How You Hold It | p. 180 |
| Path Lights | p. 177 | The Fear of God | p. 183 |

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. Chrysler, 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.

Guest Editorial . . .

Three Precious Gifts

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:1, 9-11)."



revealed His mother's name. Samuel prophesied His birth would be heralded by a new star that would burn brightly in the heavens. David foretold that kings of the east would come to praise Him, while Isaiah mentioned that they would bring gifts of gold and incense. Yet we are not really amazed for the Scripture tells us that "... the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants, the prophets (Amos 3:7)."

Even the precious gifts carried by these kings who came riding out of the east bore great significance to the children of Israel, for to Israel gold was symbolic of the deity and in this new-born infant "...dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9)." Within the Tabernacle was to be an altar upon which incense was burned (see Exodus 30:1). This was a type of Christ who is our Intercessor through whom our praise and prayer ascend to God the Father.

No part of the Christmas story was enacted by

chance. Both the *Holy Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* declare that He came "...in the fullness of time...", signifying at the end of an appointed period. And now had God come into the world revealing His great love and His perfect plan of redemption to mankind. He has manifest Himself unto us and with perfect clarity stated that symbolic gifts, such as those brought by the Magi, are no longer acceptable to Him. Sadly, there are many symbolic gifts which people lay at the feet of the Master: ritualistic worship or prayer, perfunctory church attendance, begrudged offerings and lukewarm service are among them.

What, then, is an acceptable gift we can offer the Christ? Jesus, Himself, told the people of the New World "...ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso com-

eth unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost..." (3 Nephi 4:49 and 50)."

As I contemplate this gift, the gift of self, which Christ desires of us, my thoughts go to the words of John Adams as he considered his vote for the Declaration of Independence. Fully recognizing the dangers involved in voting for independence, the required denial of self and the anticipated commitment to a cause greater than self, he stated, "*All that I have, and all that I am, and all that I hope in this life, (emphasis mine DEM) I am now ready here to stake upon this Declaration of Independence.*"

Christian, can you offer less than these three precious gifts to the Christ this Christmas?

Apostle Donald McIndoo

Contention and Controversy

by Harvey E. Seibel

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:34-38).

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

The very coming of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago brought the issue of good and evil forcibly face to face. The battle lines were drawn and the age long controversy between Christ and Satan entered a new phase and depending on which spirit one followed, hands joined either for or in opposition to the great mission of Christ. And since decision must be made by us all, it is as Christ stated. He did not come to bring peace but a sword and to set one against another, even those of one's own household. Why? Because not all have the faith of Christ nor love His righteousness.

We often hear that in order to avoid contention we should either soft peddle our beliefs or avoid preaching or discussing them altogether in order to maintain the peace and thus maintain an appear-

ance of unity. Yet we cannot comprise with evil but must instead be jealous for the cause of Christ lest we be counted ashamed of Christ. But what concord hath Christ with Belial or what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness? (See 2 Corinthians 6:14-16)

We should not hesitate to stand up for truth and right even if it might mean stepping on someones toes. Can we do less than this for Christ who suffered and died for us? And if we speak the truth in Christ we will immediately be controversial. If not so, then we have watered down the gospel of God so that it offends no one. We, in many things, need correction for which we conceivably could take offense if a servant of the Lord were to admonish us in such matters. Perhaps there is a right way and a wrong way in going about this. What say the scriptures?

"And, again, the Lord God hath commanded...that they should not contend one with another" (2 Nephi 11:110). "...He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another" (3 Nephi 5:30). "But O my people, beware lest there shall arise contentions among you, and ye list to obey the evil spirit, which was spoken of by my father Mosiah" (Mosiah 1:73). "ONLY BY PRIDE COMETH CONTENTION" (Proverbs 13:10). "...there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto

been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been" (3 Nephi 5:29).

These scriptures are all emphatic that contention and disputations are not of God. Further 2 Nephi 2:21 tells us that the two records (the Bible and the Book of Mormon) were to grow together confounding false doctrines and laying down contentions, etc. What happened? These two records have been around for well over 150 years and yet neither of the above promised results have been affected. False doctrines and contention abound all about us. I believe a part of the answer, at least, is that we have not yet sufficiently humbled ourselves or believed the words of these two records. If we as a people could fully submit ourselves to the Lord to the degree that our bodies would in truth become the temples of the Holy Spirit I believe we would not long continue to find ourselves holding different opinions.

In Amos 3:3 we are posed a question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed." The answer to this question is obvious.

But what happens when we have accepted the gospel and entered into life by way of baptism and then one comes along espousing some other gospel than the one we have known? How shall we respond? Do we defend the truth? Do we give a reason for the hope that is within us? Do we stand up for God? And if so, how do we do so without being contentious? Or worse, do we simply avoid the conflict for the sake of unity or peace? Do we then compromise our Lord and thus make void the sword of Christ? Perhaps we don't want to make waves. Whatever the reason it is our responsibility to hold forth the truth without being contentious. In other words we are to contend for the truth in the spirit of meekness and love.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR" (1 Peter 3:15 Emphasis H.E.S.)

Now let's consider some scripture in which the servants of God did contend and enter into disputations. "...And they contended with many about the word" (Alma 13:15). "Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place...Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?...And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves" (Nehemiah 13:11,

17,25). Says Paul "...we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention" (1 Thessalonians 2:2). "Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him" (Acts 17:17). "And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him" (Acts 9:29). "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God" (Acts 19:8).

There are times in which one must enter into a disputation or contend for the truth. However, unlike that which is condemned by the former scriptures I believe this type of contending is one which neither personality or anger enter in. Further, the Spirit of the Lord is on the side of the servant of God. If an unbeliever is of a mind to gainsay the word of God, the servant of God does not lower himself to become contentious while he is contending. Nor does he bring a railing accusation against him. A good example of this type of contending is shown in the disputings of Zeezrom against Alma and Amulek who continued to contend with him by the Spirit of God until Zeezrom was silenced.

And so we read, "...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

How are we to contend? "...use boldness, but not overbearance" (Alma 18:14). Sometimes, however, sharpness is required, particularly if the people are hardened. "Ye say that he hath used sharpness; ye say that he hath been angry with you. But behold, his sharpness was the sharpness of the power of the word of God, which was in him; And that which ye call anger, was the truth, according to that which is in God, which he could not restrain, manifesting boldly concerning your iniquities" (2 Nephi 1:47-49). Again, "There were many holy men in the land; and they did speak the word of God, with power and with authority; and they did use much sharpness because of the stiff-neckedness of the people" (Words of Mormon 26). "And there was nothing save it was exceeding harshness, preaching and prophesying of wars, and contentions, and destructions, and continually reminding them of death, and the duration of eternity, and the judgments and the power of God; And all these things stirring them up continually, to keep them in the fear of the Lord" (Enos 1:37-38).

In conclusion we quote concerning one who desires the ministry and some qualifications fitting him for service to God. "A bishop then must be blameless...apt to teach...patient, not a brawler" (1 Timothy 3:2 & 3). "And the servant of the Lord must

not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:24-25). Finally in Titus 1:7-9 we read, "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God;

not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Path Lights

Life's Miracles

In trying to live the gospel our miracles are so abundant that we fail to take notice.

We kiss our babies' hurt places and the hurt is gone.

We put consecrated oil on a bump and pray and the place of distortion disappears.

We take a piece of fabric we've stored away and have an inspiration for its use. The fabric and the inspiration measure out together until the garment is finished and there's scarcely a scrap left over.

We go on a long trip and our old car sputters and jumps while we are far from home and alone, so we keep praying and pressing the accelerator. Many miles later we pull into home; the car goes dead, not to start again until after repairs.

We put a tenth of our income aside for the Lord and the cash flow keeps coming in from many unexpected sources.

Our insurance is with the Lord and we have healings through the elder's hands, from our Heavenly Father, in the place of hospitalizations and surgeries.

We try to give ourselves away by being a help and a blessing to others, and blessing and joy double back on us through their love and prayers and service.

Our greatest miracles are the days when nothing goes wrong.

Our greatest joys are the times we gather ourselves together to worship our Father in Heaven and His holy spirit spills on us until we are so filled up with loving that we brim over on each other.

Shirley Rose Bailey
Lamoni, Iowa

A Heavenly Match

When my first born was nine months old I went back to work part time.

I arranged to leave Rodney with an acquaintance who had several of her own and was baby sitting

several more little ones.

All new mothers know what wrenching of the emotions that first separation from your baby can bring.

My son would crawl to the screen door, pull himself up to watch me drive away and bawl. I would then cry all the way to work.

The baby sitter was a nice woman but in her home Rod was just one among many and I wanted more for my son. I wanted a grandmother figure to dote on just him. My own mother lived in another city and we knew few Tucsonians at the time.

After two weeks of the good-bye traumas, I decided to pray about my distress. I then decided to look through the newspaper ads for another sitter.

I phoned the very first person listed. A gentle, loving voice told me that she, her husband and son spent their winters in Tucson because of her asthma. Their home was in Missouri and she missed her grandchildren so much she was looking for a baby to fill the void.

I made no more phone calls. I put Rod in the car with me and we rushed right over to meet the Phillips family: Lois, Marvin and Wayne. We all liked each other immediately. Lois was the perfect grandmother image — round, warm, and wonderful.

Rod never cried when I left him with these sitters. If Rod was ever ill and running a temperature I would seek Lois' advise. We often shared our mutual love for God and his son, Christ.

I have no doubt that Lois was the answer to my prayer and Rod was the answer to hers.

God can provide our needs and our desires even in providing us with an extended family. Do you need a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, a friend, or a grandparent? We were a new family in a new place and God provided us a new grandparenting family.

My son is thirty years old now and so is the family friendship between the Phillips and the Cobbs.

Your sister in Christ,
L. Marlene Cobbs
Buffalo, Missouri

The Christmas Story

(composed of titles and first lines of songs)

by Jeanne Brantner

I think when I read that sweet story of old, long years ago, the wonder of it all. I love to tell the story.

It came upon the mid-night clear, while humble shepherds watched their flocks on a rugged hill far away. While by the sheep, we search the starlit Milky Way, waiting and watching. We know not the time.

Day by day, and with each passing moment, this could be the dawning of that day. What if it were today?

Until then, we gather together with a steadfast faith, whispering hope, and in blessed quietness. All through the night silvery star was witnessed in the heavens.

Hark, hear the sound of music! Hark, listen to the trumpeters! Hark, the herald angels sing! Ten thousand angels from the realms of glory. Break forth, O beauteous light. A marvelous message we bring. Let there be peace on earth. To us a Child of hope is born.

It is no secret. O, come all ye faithful. Come, Christians, join to sing. Hear the bells ringing. Go, tell it on the mountains. Oh happy day! Joy to the world! Come, ye that love the Lord!

On our way, through it all with thankful hearts, the last mile of the way. O little town of Bethlehem, security, the haven of rest. There is a place of quiet rest.

Have you any room for Jesus? No room. How quiet is the night. Come, thou long expected Jesus. Plenty of room in the family. How happy are they when He cometh. Fairest Lord Jesus.

O say, can you see something beautiful? What

Child is this, the Child in the manger? Turn your eyes upon Jesus, face to face. Infant Holy, infant Holy. Reach out and touch, take the hand of Jesus. Softly and tenderly. Satisfied? Sleep, Holy Child. There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place.

It took a miracle! I believe in miracles! Jesus, priceless treasure!

What did you say was the Baby's name? Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know. There's something about that name. His name is wonderful! Precious name!

We three Kings of Orient are encamped along the hills, and get all excited. The morning breaks through all the world. Blest angels, we greet you!

Come, learn of the meek and lowly. As with gladness, men of old come with joy. We would see Jesus! Oh, it is wonderful! Let us go to the house of the Lord. Glad day, glad day! Angels we have heard on high bless this Child. There's a song in the air, the angel message. In loving kindness Jesus came, the Child of a King.

Christ, we do all adore thee. Open my eyes that I may see this Holy Child, the Child of Galilee. How pleasing to behold. In one sweet hour with Jesus, mine eyes have seen the glory.

Lift your glad voices, shout the tidings, rejoice ye pure in heart! Bow ye mortals, bow before Him when they ring those golden bells! All people that on earth do dwell, O let your soul now be filled with gladness!

'Tis a glorious thing to be close to Thee. Above all else, I want to be like Jesus. I believe He's the Son of God!

The Value of Silence

by Amy Schrader

"Be still, and know that I am God: . . ."Ps 46:10.

Be still — in order to know?

Rotherham's translation of Ps 62:5, "Surely towards God be thou silent, my soul." Is there a lesson of silence, in being still, that we have yet to learn?

There is a fellowship with the Eternal that can only be known, only be enjoyed in silence. There is a silence that can only be appropriately responded to by silence. After the rebuke of the Lord, surely silence becometh the soul of man. 3 Nephi 4:54.

When the Spirit of the presence of the Lord invades time, he will border that entry with silence if

the spirit in man will yield, elsewhere man is the loser. There is a quietness in the approach of the Eternal that can only be received by a like quietness — the still small voice — can only be heard by a soul that is stilled. We lose so much by having learned so little of the power in silence. We need to learn to really listen to the still.

Another has said, "Silence is not a gap to be filled; it is the greatest of all preparations for and the climax of all adoration." Is our praise, worship and adoration of the Lord too little because our souls know too little of becoming silent in His presence?

By This Shall Men Know That Ye Are My Disciples

by Priest Martin J. Rosen (British Isles)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God loved the world so much that he sent his own son to die for you and me. Could you do that? Could we sacrifice our children on behalf of someone else? It's very hard to even think of doing that; but God did it.

In the Book of Samuel we have the story of Hannah who was old and yet prayed for a son, promising that if the Lord would grant her prayer she would give back the child to Him — to serve Him. Could we do that? Hannah did; her love of God was so great that she gave up that which she held most dear as a living sacrifice to God. In the Book of Genesis, God told Abraham to take his Son up a high mountain and sacrifice him to God as a burnt offering. Could you do that? Abraham nearly did, but was stopped by an angel before he could slaughter Isaac, his son. But he loved God enough to do that and the angel praised him for his faith.

In our lives there are many things that hold us back from serving God. It could be pride, jealousy, hatred, misunderstanding, lack of commitment or a host of other things; but before God can use us mightily we must offer to him the things in our lives that are holding us back. Now I'm not saying that we all must sacrifice our children in order to please God, but there are things in our life that must be put in order; first things first.

To accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour is one thing that we hear so much about, but will he accept us if we withhold a part of our life from him? To make him the Lord of our life means that he has complete control of every part of it. God cannot work through us until we come to that point of utter commitment to him and to his Kingdom, and the abandonment of everything else! "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God", Christ said, "and all these things shall be added onto you." Again our priorities should start with Christ.

Why do we worry when Christ is guiding his people and his church? We cannot play games with God! Who knows, this may be the last chance we have of hearing and sharing the Gospel before the

return of Christ. Are we ready for that day? In the Biblical record it speaks of the last days as being compared to the days of Noah. In those days they were eating and drinking and altogether just having a really good time; not seeking the Lord's will for their lives, but when the time came for the judgments of God to be poured out in the form of a flood they could not find a place of refuge in the Ark because God had shut the door — not Noah — GOD DID IT!

Where does our commitment lie? With the world, and the things of the world which are but for a moment; or with God and His mercy, which lasts for eternity? But how can we show that we love God? Besides the commitment to follow him into the waters of baptism and endure to the end, we can share this saving Gospel with others. Christ said "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." What sort of an example are we setting? Are people coming to church because they can see what it's doing for us? Do we love one another as Christ loved us? Christ also said "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples; if ye have love one to another." Love seems to be a standard of Christ's disciples. It seems to be so very important in following him.

In the First Letter of John, chapter four we read: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.... If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (I John 4:7-12,20)

The world is watching us to see what we do — follow Christ and his example or stay with the world and follow someone else. What do we do? Both effect our eternal life — the choice is ours.

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better place

than we found it, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

Bessie Anderson Stanley

Be Careful How You Hold It (by Elder Andy Brantner)

There is helpful, constructive criticism; there is also damaging destructive criticism. They are separated by a fine, almost invisible line. I know that line exists because I've crossed it many times. It is in motion, always. It is variable and changeable depending on the subject approached, the character of those involved, and emotions present. All the way from honest concern to self-grandiosment.

Criticism is used defensibly and offensively. One can be accused of its wrongful application out of a defensive posture by the receiver. Often criticism is not taken well by those who feel threatened by one who may have some authority over them, such as your parents, your boss, your husband or wife. Yet at the same time criticism is not appreciated by those who would receive criticism from others. Such as your children, employees, your husband or wife.

This priesthood of the Son of God is no different. We are both receiving and giving criticism at the same time. And like all others, we, being but mere humans, are prone to cross that fine line at times and find ourselves leaving the constructive arena and becoming a destructive force. It must be realized, that at this time the Spirit of God withdraws and the spirit of man is the motivating force. This condition makes it possible for Satan to interject his opinion. We are all vulnerable to this weakness and we all succumb to it at times.

Now when you walk closer to God in keeping His commandments, you will be better able to distinguish and discern the difference between the constructive and the destructive forces and to apply them as necessary. Sometimes we are to apply not only a constructive force but also a destructive force. Not of Satan but of God. Not out of hatred or contempt but of love and concern for one another; to rebuke evil spirits; to chasten others if necessary who may or may not be a member of the Church. But I repeat; Out of love and concern for the soul's welfare to stop a downward slide into oblivion.

Understand this, dear reader, that if the Spirit of the loving God is at work in these cases, the only thing that will be destroyed will be that thing which is opposite the Spirit of God. Therefore the end result becomes constructive.

So what is left for us to do? The authority given us as members in Christ's Church is not respected in the world. Yet readily accepted are the words of virtually everyone else on just about any subject. The authority of the priesthood is rejected by the world, even as those known as Christians, and sadly even by some with the Church body.

So what is left for us to do? There is no decision

to be made. We really have no choice. As baptized members we must, after being given **so** much light and knowledge, stand firm and steadfast on what is true and just. To yield to the swayings of the Satanic forces would be to compromise Christ.

How then can we expect Him to support us if we mistreat Him so? How can we expect to receive from Him the answers to our problems if we have rejected His words, all or part, in times past and present? Let us cherish every morsel, every crumb that falls from our Master's table.

There are times when constructive criticism is best applied by stating a person's good points and not dwelling on the bad. Chances are, that he or she is already aware of their own faults, provided they are honest with themselves. God has a way of revealing things to us which causes us to examine ourselves more closely. Above all we should not dwell on the point too long or bring it up repeatedly as this causes much distress and contention. Take it to God in prayer.

Remember the double-edged sword that Christ has in his mouth? Why two edges? Because if you possess such a sword that divides truth from falsehood and wield it not, then it shall return unto you and you shall be smitten. Be careful how you hold it. There is none sharper, as He said "I come not to bring peace, but a sword." Be careful how you hold it. You yourself could be severed or maimed by your own actions, words, beliefs, etc., or the lack of same. That Sword is "TRUTH".

Do not forget we are all subject to error, always have been. Yet if we really desire this priesthood to assert themselves in the power of the Holy Ghost then we must all give our support to their efforts. If we must criticize, do it constructively, remembering that that man of the priesthood is called of God and set apart for the edifying of the Saints and if necessary the chastizing and rebuking of same. It is his duty. If he deals unjustly in this authority then God will in His due time, deal with that man.

By the same token the priesthood must stand up and be counted worthy before God and the people. We must exercise that authority given from above, praying always to be found in God's favor by serving Him and not becoming men pleasers.

We as priesthood need support and should be able to accept criticism if given in the proper light. What we don't need is to be chastized for speaking the truth and doing the Lord's will, even if to chastize a brother. We can not be perfect any more than you are perfect. Yet God has called us for His own special purposes. Respect that, if not the man himself.

Remember when your cares were for yourself, how easy life seemed? Then you were baptized and sooner or later your heart ached for all those round about you still in sin. Do you think it is any easier for the priesthood? It is much worse, for the responsibility is greater. How much worse is it for Jesus Himself? Do we need to be a positive force for Jesus? How much the more for us, as we are a fleshly being, fully capable of error, yet the burden is upon us as His chosen ministry.

Regardless of your personal feelings toward any particular priesthood member, always support the office. Cast no shadow on the "Priesthood of the Son of God." Priesthood—be worthy of that respect we all desire. Not for ourselves, but for the priesthood. There is none other than this priesthood, ever!

The time shall shortly come to pass when God shall cause many great and marvelous things to happen very rapidly. Are we ready? Or will we be found criticizing those who step out on God's command?

Do you have the spiritual discernment to rightly divide the words of truth? Do you then follow the Master obediently? Or do you question every thing that comes along? If we possess that discernment of spirits that the Lord has for us, there would be no questions, you would have no doubt. You would know even as the Brother of Jared knew: With a perfect knowledge.

Hinder not the priesthood with evil speakings, backbiting, slanderous heresy, but rather lend support and edify so that together we may be found worthy to receive from high. That we may have the best gifts from God and I'm sure we could all name many of them.

And so it behooves us to serve Christ with all reverence. So also His Priesthood must serve Him, and yet be servants to all. Let us never forget the avenue of prayer, the need to be humble and the necessity of sincerity. Above all else we must have charity one for another, thereby will God have charity on us.

If you come to be offended after being criticized or chastened, it may be because your shield of faith is not large enough or it may be moth eaten from years of neglect. And so if you are offendable, virtually everything that you hear may offend you whether intentional or not. Your brother or sister, right or wrong, does not want to offend you. Yet their constructive attempt has become a destructive force. Why? Because you choose to be offended. You are offendable. Choose not to offend or be offended, but have charity. Yes, that pure love of Christ. It is not grievous, but rather joyous to our souls. "Yea choose ye this day whom ye shall serve."

We hear repeatedly, "love, love, love." I ask, what Love? What love are we to have, one for another? Is

this the love that we use as an excuse for our compromising of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to avoid conflict?

We as true Christians are to have the pure love of Jesus Christ. That love, the love of Christ is all-forgiving and everlasting. I ask you now, what kind of love is it that would allow you to let your brother or sister or even your children go down the wrong road which leads to error and possibly Hell? No, that pure love of Christ should bring you to chastize or rebuke if necessary for correction of error. In like manner do you correct your children. Not out of hate, but out of love, pure love, for them.

The scriptures tell us in many places that God chastizes and corrects those that He loves. But He does it out of love. Love for that person. We read in I Corinthians 5:5 where those with the Spirit of Christ in them (disciples) even went so far as to deliver such a one (fornicator, etc.) unto Satan (world) for the destruction of the flesh, so the soul may be served in the day of the Lord. The transgressor was cast out from among them. But out of love! Pure love. The love of Christ. Why? So that his soul **may** be saved. For his own good. That he might repent and thereby they would forgive him with that same love. And also as you read on to the next few verses you'll see that this was done also for the sake of the other brethren. So that they were not polluted with that leaven which is not in accord with the Gospel of Christ.

This is our duty as spoken of in 2 Timothy 4:1-4. Remember always though, that these things were done out of that pure and real love of Christ, not the love that paints over our differences so they can fester and grow and haunt the next generation and claim even more souls. Read also Alma 16:57-59, Isaiah 58, Ezekiel 33.

If we do not stand fast in the pure love of Christ against all falsehood, then who have we compromised? We have compromised the only one who can save us, Jesus Christ. How my brethren, can we expect Him to buoy us up when the seas get rough, if we have not supported Him and His Gospel?

We can and must, if we are who we claim to be, proceed in accordance with the Gospel law, set things right that are amiss in the Church today. But no man can do this of his own self. It must be done through that Love of Christ. Whether rebuking or edifying, whether criticism or praise. If we can seek God's guidance and follow after Him fully, mind, body and soul, we can truly begin to build up Zion and once again look forward to His coming without fear and trembling; rather, with anticipation of great things and glory to come. Oh, I desire Zion. Let's take the first step. Let us do it together, today. Remember and choose ye this day whom ye shall serve.

The Church of Christ - Your Church?

by Elder John J. Schut

It is basic for man to worship. Even the atheist or an agnostic worships something, whether it be himself, money, success, car, radio, food or television. And so we could make an almost endless list of things which could be worshipped. Most of mankind admit there is a power higher than themselves, and take their leave from the confusion of the world to worship their Heavenly Father.

Since mankind is made to think in terms of the tangible, rather than the intangible, it is necessary to have a tangible thing — a church, Christ's Church, to remove them from earthy distractions and direct their thoughts to the kingdom of God. The richest moment any man can experience during his earthly travel is a moment of complete, divine worship.

The Scripture writers wrote many praises of God because of their personal experiences with their Creator and most of all they were inspired to do so. These experiences do not come about by change; they happen because of communication with God through every power He possesses, both conscious and subconscious. Some are able to do this in private, some in the woods, some in the mountains, etc.

But, they are always away from the noise and activities of every day. Wherever this tabernacle may be, quietness and dignity must abide.

Man is by nature, gregarious. There is a longing within them to share things with others. It is natural to worship together. But, many times, we have the desire but cannot quite develop the proper attitude to do so.

It is for sure that if we meet together in worship we will feel the spirit and the unity that is within that Church of Christ. Many times when God had spoken through the spirit during a meeting, we saints have felt His spirit with our coming together to worship Him. We therefore must provide a proper way, and this means that some form of housing is available. Christ many times quotes His church and we know that Christ taught the people to use His name for His church.

So the Church of Christ, wherever it might stand, is an aid to our worship, and as such, it must enhance every phase of religious worship and activity which is performed within its walls.

Christ is there where His Church is.

Think Back

What is it we're supposed to be celebrating December 25th?

Is it the birth of Christ or Santa's Day?

It seems to me as Christmas becomes more commercial every year, more and more people are forgetting what it's really about.

I don't feel it's enough just to 'know' back in the corner of our minds that it's Christ we're honoring.

And I don't mean that we should hate Santa either, but it's gone too far for me.

I think traditions should be put in their place. Sure we can't throw a birthday party for Jesus, but we should let our children know from the start the real foundation for this holiday:

That Jesus was a gift to us from God and as a symbol of this love we give gifts to our loved ones.

Everything else is (man made) tradition.

I've decided that I cannot lie to **my** children about it being Santa that brings them gifts.

I remember as a child when I realized it was my parents 'playing Santa', I was both hurt that they had

deceived me and yet pleased that they loved me enough to give me so many gifts.

Also, I remember a few years ago our oldest, realizing every gift said it was from Santa, asked why we didn't buy him anything?

Santa also has an impossible reputation: children believe that since Santa's elves make all the toys they can wish for and **expect** to get anything and **all** that they want.

And since Santa doesn't have a budget to keep, how do you explain why Santa brings some children more than others, even if they all were well-behaved?

The Spirit of Christmas comes in many forms these days but we shouldn't forget the most important!

It's a time for rejoicing,
that God gave His son for us,
by holding our family dear in that same love.

May God bless you,
Your sister in Christ,
Debbie Brantner Vogel
Belmont, Michigan

The Fear of God

I would like to start this with Psalms 111:10 "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever."

In the Book of Mormon Christ said these words (3 N 11:23) "But unto you that fear my name, shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall."

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another and the Lord hearkened, and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." (Ibid v.19)

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job. 1:1)

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." (Job 2:3)

If we want to become like Job, we must first fear God, and if we fear God we will eschew (shun or avoid) evil.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

"And now my beloved brethren, I desire that ye should remember these things, and that ye should work out your salvation with fear before God, and that ye should no more deny the coming of Christ; that ye contend no more against the Holy Ghost, but that ye receive it, and take upon you the name of Christ; that ye humble yourselves even to the dust, and worship God in whatsoever place ye may be in, in spirit and in truth;" (Alma 16:237)

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

"They they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." (Malachi 3:16)

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger, and fear not me saith the Lord of hosts." (3 N 11:8) We can see here by the words of Christ himself, that if we do not fear God we will be judged with the sorcerers, adulterers, false swearers, and others that fear **not** God.

I heard a brother say he would rather use the word "respect" of God than the fear of God. To me, there is a big difference between respect and fear. The Bible and Book of Mormon says "fear of God." I brought this up at Bible study and a sister said the meaning for the words in the Bible could be translated to mean different words in English. The sister said she would go home and look them up, but I told her that we have the Book of Mormon and it is written in English by the power of God, and it says "fear" not "respect." The next week I asked the sister what she found out on the fear of God, and she said, "I did not look them up because you can't argue with the Book of Mormon." (2 N 9:51)

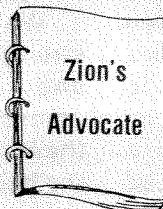
I would like to end this with the words of Christ: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

Jeff Butts

Pass It On

Would you like to be a missionary for Christ's Church? You can, it's easy!

Pass It On. Yes, by merely passing on each issue of the *Zion's Advocate* to a friend not yet a baptized member of this Church, you will have greatly expanded the missionary potential of this paper.



If you need extra copies of any issue, write or call the Business Manager of the *Zion's Advocate* listed on the top half of the inside cover page before the editorial.

Sincerely,
Your Editorial Staff

Ava (Missouri) News

I have not written a report from Ava for many months, but we are still here continuing our various activities. We have meetings every Sunday morning in the little house just west of Ava that we are slowly remodeling. We continue to enjoy the visiting preacher day usually with a dinner eaten at the church. There have been so many visitors during the past months that I will not attempt to list each name, but I extend a warm thank you to all from the members of the Ava Local.

Occasionally on a Sunday, instead of a preaching service following Sunday School, we have been having roundtable discussions. We have discussed such questions as why would we choose the Church of Christ, world affairs and what we might expect in the world these last days. We have many good ideas brought forth as we are a group that enjoys talking, but we do not always draw definite conclusions. I remember only one round table discussion that ended with a conclusion (and I am not certain whether this conclusion was reached by the group as a whole or was one that I concluded on my own) and that was when we started with the question, why were we created? The conclusion I have in my notes was that God created people to raise a people who would live in a Zionite condition.

We have had some special activities through the past months. In the summer, I forget just which month, the dinner was eaten on picnic tables at Ava's roadside park. Although the weather had dried up the creek that runs through the park, there was a cool breeze blowing through the trees making the dinner a pleasant occasion.

In September we had our Rally Day in the MFA hall in Ava which holds a larger crowd than our church building. Though the day was hotter than we planned for it to be, we enjoyed a pleasant day. The songs, the sermons, the visiting with friends who had traveled to be with us fed us spiritually, while the dinner fed us physically. We were pleased to have some visitors that day from the Reorganized Church Ava Local also. I saw some people who had been friends in another state visiting and talking — I gathered that each was pleasantly surprised to meet again here in Ava. I found myself talking with one man from the Reorganization about the gospel to an earnest level that I had never thought possible as a guest in his church. It seems that we felt freer to express our ideas in a building that was not "church" to either of us.

We have been fortunate in some very special activities in our Local. On March 16, 1986, Cody Ray Riley was blessed. Cody is the delightful baby son of Cindy and Bobby Riley, the grandson of Brother

Earl Darlington, and the great-grandson of Sister Minnie Smith. On June 22, 1986, my husband and I were filled with a quiet joy as we watched our son, David Davis, go into the water to be baptized. Again on June 29, we shared the same joy as our son received the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost. And on the following Sunday, July 6, David participated in Communion service to make three very special Sundays for us. David is the grandson of Sister Darlene Smith, and is another great-grandson of Sister Minnie Smith. Surely one of the rewards of living a long life for Sister Minnie Smith is seeing great-grandchildren blessed and baptized, becoming not just great-grandchildren but brothers and sisters in Christ.

Since I neglected for so long to write a report, I felt dismayed when I got out my stack of notes. I didn't feel that I could write as thorough a report of each sermon as I have done. I thought and prayed over the task for a day or two, and then a thought came to me to begin with the sermons at the Rally Day and take thoughts from all the other sermons as they would fit the subject. I am awed and joyed about the result of this approach. I hope I can find the words to express the oneness and continuing lesson I have found in all these sermons. The rest of this report is also my testimony that the oneness in God is in our ministry if we will look for it.

The sermons on our Rally Day told us to make the effort to grow spiritually by knowing Christ. By spending time with Him in prayer, study, and praise; by making the connection between God and man that will give us the more abundant spiritual life that Jesus brought; and by increasing our spiritual understanding of how to be better people each year.

In other sermons we were told not to trust in our own human reasoning to guide us but to not be afraid to go to the depths of humility to receive help from the Holy Ghost. For the depths of humility are surely warmed and softened by the mercy of God. We must soften our hearts to the Holy Ghost so He can help us maintain our hearts through all times and all conditions around us, for those who harden their hearts against the Holy Ghost throw away many good things.

We must pray about our weaknesses, pray for strength and help. If we don't know our weaknesses and we have trouble dealing with reality when it comes to our flaws, we must pray and ask to see them. We must ask what it is we must do and have the courage to do what God tells us.

For we must have every aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives to be a child of God. We must work, pray, and nourish these aspects. We must remember

that the greatest commandment and the second don't leave room for anything else if we are developing our love of God and our love for our neighbor all the time we don't have any time to treat our neighbor ill.

We need to work for the glory of God so that men can see the good works and glory of God for we are capable of taking all credit away from God and

giving it to ourselves. We should govern all that we do by the understanding that we owe all credit to God including that for our spiritual growth.

For, if we are to be His Church and be a working Church of Christ, we must individually be led by the Holy Spirit so we can be led collectively.

Reporter
Estella Davis

Calico (North Carolina) News

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ from the Calico Local.

Since this is the first report from here, I'll start with a brief introduction of ourselves. The Calico Local is located on the Cherokee reservation at Cherokee, N.C. Though we are presently few in number, the Lord God has given His sure promise that He would fill the church with those desiring to serve Him to the end. We look forward to that time and sense its nearness. Each summer our ministry go out into the Indian community visiting house to house on weekends. The beautiful discussions and testimonies shared by the Indians to our ministry reveal the wondrous work of preparation wrought on their hearts by the Holy Spirit. I hope that you will unite with us in prayer that this work of God may be accomplished.

This past summer the Lord blessed us with a new driveway to the church building. There had been three estimates for the cost of getting it done. However, circumstances arose that it was completed for less than half of the lowest estimate! Surely God had a direct hand in this to reassure us of His promise for this Local.

We welcome anyone who may come into this area to spend a Sabbath with us. Our church contact person is: Sallie Bradley, Star Rt., Big Cove Rd.,

Cherokee, N.C. 28719 (PH #704/497-2900), should you need directions to the church, etc. If there is a need to directly contact the ministry, our pastor is: Elder Samuel S. Gould, Rt. 2 Box 324, Loudon, TN 37774 (PH #615/458-2240) and the assistant pastor: Priest Peter P. Gould, 3700 Sutherland Ave., Apt. Q12, Knoxville, TN 37919 (PH #615/584-2518).

Besides our Sabbath morning worship, we also hold a Sunday evening prayer service at Elder Samuel Gould's home and a mid-week scripture study also at Bro. Samuel's home. We just completed a study on how women of the church should choose their manner of dress and we found that our manner of dress ought to reflect our spiritual desires ("profess godliness") for chastity, meekness, humility, sincerity, and subjection to God and those that He has set in authority. Too often our manner of dress may instead reflect the desires of the carnal man—brazen or slothful, costly or trendy, thus we are admonished by the Apostle Paul. (1 Tim. 2:9-15).

This week we start studying the gifts of the Holy Spirit; why we should covet the best and how we might receive them (1 Cor. 12). I invite you to look into that chapter and resolve those very important questions for yourself, that you might understand how it could continually increase one's faith.

Elaine M. Gould — Reporter

Cedar Springs (Michigan) News

On a breezy, chilly, overcast Sunday, September 7th, thirty-three people met at Lime Lake. We of the Cedar Springs Local were happy to have relatives and friends join us to celebrate a special occasion, the birth of another child of God.

Elder Charles Brantner opened the service and we sang "Amazing Grace." After prayer by Brother Charles, we sang "Just As I Am."

Elder Gale Brantner then read of Jesus' baptism by John, and spoke of this being the first baptism in the New Testament. He then read from St. John, chapter 3, and from the Book of Mormon, 3rd Nephi. He reminded us that we should follow Jesus' exam-

ple, as he has commanded us, and be baptized for the remission of our sins.

Brother Charles read to us from Acts 2, Hebrews 6, Romans 12, and Proverbs 23. He also read from Luke 22, reminding us that when we are fully converted, we should strengthen our brethren. We are all one in Christ, Galatians 3 tells us. He reminded us also that Christ came to fulfill the law. He also exhorted us from Romans 6, that as we are baptized as Christ, we are buried by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Father, we should also walk in newness of life after baptism.

We then walked to the shore and sang a verse of No. 389, "Jesus, Mighty King in Zion."

Elder Gale led his son, Douglas, into the water, and baptized him as we are told to do, so that he may now walk in newness of life with all former sins washed away. I am sure there were those among us who remembered that beautiful feeling we had as we walked from the waters of baptism, and once more committed ourselves to Christ.

We sang the last two verses of No. 389, and seated ourselves once again. Brother Charles then spoke to us again, telling us that baptism is a release of those sins committed before, and that Satan will tempt us again and try even harder, as he does not want us to serve God. After baptism, we must try to go on to perfection. From the Book of Mormon, he spoke to us of Lehi exhorting his sons. He also read to us from First Corinthians 2:9, and told us that baptism is not the end of what we must do.

Elders Charles and Gale then laid their hands upon Doug's head and confirmed him, after which the hand of fellowship was extended. It was a pleasure to welcome our new brother.

We sang "He Leadeth Me" and Elder John Reed gave the closing prayer.

It is a joyous occasion when another child of God joins us, and we proceeded to celebrate with a bounteous repast. We were blessed to have so many of our former group with us, among them Sr. Sally Brantner; and also Brother and Sister Charles Brantner, from Missouri. They have been able to bless us with their presence several times lately, and we always enjoy it.

Our spirit is once again renewed, and we know that God is indeed working among his people. Several have rejoined us recently and we are once again encouraged to try to serve Him to an even greater degree. Sometimes we feel so alone, and that there is no one to turn to. But we also know that God hears our prayers and answers them, in His own time and in His own way. It may not always be as we expect them to be answered, but undoubtedly God's way is the best way.

With love and understanding and compassion for each other, we must try to overlook and forgive former grievances and woundings of the Spirit, intended or unintended, and once more go forward in the full love and Spirit of God; looking forward to the time when we will serve Him in Zion wholeheartedly, pure in heart. Each new soul is a tender sprout and must be nurtured and tended carefully and tenderly if it is to grow as God intended. May we, with His help, be equal to the task.

Your reporter in gospel bonds,
Vivian Spencer, Sec.-Treas.
11610 E. Apple Ave.
Ravenna, MI 49451

Jennifer Kay: The Newest Rosen

Brother and Sister Martin Rosen of Lancashire, England, wish to announce the birth of Jennifer Kay at 10:59 A.M., November 5th, 1986, at Burnley General Hospital, Burnley, Lancashire, England.

Jennifer weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and ranged 51 centimeters, head to dainty feet. Mother and daughter are doing fine, although Mother was weak from surgery.

Two Become One

The Church of Christ on Siesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona, was the scene of a beautiful wedding on October 4, 1986, when Michael Kirk Kelley and Valerie Kay Stavro spoke the sacred vows that made them "one" for the remainder of their lives here on this earth.

Elder Jay Moser performed the ceremony, preceded by words of counsel emphasizing the solemnity of the occasion. The groom, with his Best Man, Andrew Brown, his Ring Bearer young Master Aaron Moser and Ushers Ed Yates and Joel Yates were informally but neatly dressed in harmonizing shades of gray set off with a single white carnation boutonniere.

The bride, beautiful in a traditional wedding gown with train, carried a bouquet of white and pink carnations, and was escorted to the altar on the arm of her brother, Martin Stavro, who also accompanied himself on the guitar later and sang, "I Can't Help Falling In Love With You."

Other special numbers were a duet by Chris Moser and Joel Yates, "Unchained Melody" and a quartet, "A Woman's Prayer," sung by four young matrons, Michelle Yates, Debbie Brown, Kathy Ely and Chris Moser. Patsy Yates presided at the piano, playing mood-setting sentimental favorite melodies before the ceremony, accompanying two of the specials and playing the traditional Lohengren Wedding March for the procession.

The bride's Matron of Honor, Debbie Brown, dressed in an ankle-length pink dress with white lace overlay carried a pink carnation bouquet with matching coronet. Little Miss Erica Moser, Flower Girl, wearing a replica of the Matron of Honor's dress, tossed petals towards the near-by pews as she tripped prettily down the aisle.

Many out of state guests attended the wedding and the reception which followed. They included parents, aunts, uncles and cousins of the groom, as well as a number of relatives and friends of the bride.

We wish for the newlyweds, God's richest blessings of a long and happy life together, in service to Him, to each other and to those around them.

—Evalena Sills

Index To Zion's Advocate

Volume 63 (1986)

| TITLE/AUTHOR | No. | Page | TITLE/AUTHOR | No. | Page |
|---|-----|------|--|-----|------|
| All Shall At Last Be Accomplished (May, 1927)— J. Yates | 2 | 20 | Anderson, William F., Jr. | 3 | 47 |
| And I Change Not—D. Housknecht | 6 | 83 | Darlington, Myrle Lee (Smith) | 2 | 28 |
| Are You Aware of How Much Your Children Don't Know—G. Housknecht | 9 | 131 | Keeney, Charles Ernest | 6 | 96 |
| Are You Satisfied (part 1)—G. Housknecht | 1 | 5 | Norris, Bertha Florence (Yates) | 2 | 28 |
| Are You Satisfied (part 2)—S. Brickhouse | 2 | 22 | Seibel, Lovita Grace | 1 | 11 |
| Are You Satisfied (part 3)—R. Oldham | 3 | 36 | Winkler, Josephine (Yates) | 2 | 27 |
| Ask of God—R. Sarratt | 5 | 66 | An Open Door, Now Closed—D. McIndoo | 7 | 104 |
| Be Careful How You Hold It—A. Brantner | 12 | 180 | Our Gift to God—M. Rosen | 10 | 151 |
| Being Spiritually Minded—R. Sarratt | 8 | 115 | Pathlights: | | |
| Broken—A. Schrader | 8 | 120 | Along or Alone—S. Bailey | 2 | 21 |
| Building—D. Willard | 8 | 124 | Crumbs or The Fruit—I. Shaw | 8 | 120 |
| Bury Your Hatchet—G. Housknecht | 4 | 50 | God's Dealings With Me—G. Trudgeon | 3 | 39 |
| By This Shall Men Know That Ye Are My Disciples— M. Rosen | 12 | 179 | A Healing For Lisa—K. Clark | 1 | 8 |
| The Christmas Story—J. Brantner | 12 | 180 | A Heavenly Match—M. Cott | 12 | 177 |
| The Church, Forgiveness and Salvation—G. Gill | 5 | 68 | Life's Miracles—S. Bailey | 12 | 177 |
| The Church of Christ - Your Church—J. Schut | 12 | 182 | My Heart's Desire—M. Kelly | 5 | 70 |
| Contention and Controversy—H.E. Seibel | 12 | 175 | Meaningful Sacrament—K. Larsen | 8 | 120 |
| A Crossroads Vision Interpretation—D. Housknecht | 7 | 101 | More Than A Testimony—I. Maley | 2 | 21 |
| Darwin, "The Believer"—O. Smith | 10 | 152 | The Precious Gift of Forgiveness—G. McCann | 4 | 53 |
| Does History Repeat Itself—R. Feely | 4 | 57 | Someone Special Sent To Us—A. & S. Heath | 4 | 53 |
| Doing The Right Thing—F. Fann | 8 | 114 | Testimony—M. & K. Rosen | 7 | 108 |
| The Fear of God—J. Butts | 12 | 183 | Testimony—T. Sheldon | 11 | 165 |
| Our Gift To God—M. Rosen | 10 | 151 | Testimony—V. Spencer | 7 | 107 |
| Gifts and Fruits—A. Schrader | 9 | 138 | A Yield of Faith—T. Maley | 5 | 70 |
| God's Love Manifest In the Peace Corps—S. Eddy | 10 | 147 | Pollution Free—C. Frazier, Jr. | 8 | 122 |
| Good or Evil—K. Oar | 11 | 159 | Priorities—G. Housknecht | 6 | 82 |
| Grace Versus Works—A. Schrader | 9 | 139 | Seek Those Things Which Are Above—M. Ely | 7 | 98 |
| A Great & A Marvellous Work— W. Sheldon (part 13) | 1 | 9 | Should We Buy Or Sell In The House of God— J. Butts | 2 | 27 |
| A Great & A Marvellous Work (part 14) | 2 | 25 | The Sides of The North—H. E. Seibel | 6 | 87 |
| A Great & A Marvellous Work (part 15) | 3 | 40 | Sin—J. Schut | 5 | 74 |
| A Great & A Marvellous Work (part 16) | 4 | 58 | Some Thoughts On the Rapture—H.E. Seibel | 11 | 163 |
| A Great & A Marvellous Work (part 17) | 5 | 73 | The Spirit of Deception—H.E. Seibel | 9 | 132 |
| A Great & A Marvellous Work (part 18) | 6 | 92 | Stop And Take Stock—N. Denham | 10 | 146 |
| History Revisited—G. Housknecht | 2 | 19 | Take Up Thy Cross And Follow Me—V. Filley | 8 | 121 |
| In Christ's Service—J. Gill | 2 | 26 | The Temple of The Lord—A. Smith | 4 | 51 |
| Liberty To Become—A. Schrader | 1 | 10 | Temporal Preparations For Zion—D. Housknecht | 4 | 54 |
| Listen To The Agony of God—A. Schrader | 10 | 153 | The Testimony of Jesus—V. Pack | 3 | 34 |
| Missionary Trip To The British Isles—J. Schut | 10 | 151 | Think Back—D. Vogel | 12 | 182 |
| Mount Zion—D. Biringer | 5 | 71 | Three Precious Gifts—D. McIndoo | 12 | 174 |
| 1986 Conference Report—L. Harris | 6 | 89 | Time and Change—E. Sills | 9 | 136 |
| 1986 Michigan Reunion—J. Haines | 8 | 124 | The Time In Which We Live—R. Jensen | 1 | 2 |
| 1986 Missouri Reunion—J. Brantner | 11 | 167 | The True Church of Christ—J. Schut | 3 | 42 |
| Obituaries: | | | The Value of Silence—A. Schrader | 12 | 178 |
| Adams, Gertrude Loretta | 1 | 11 | Vision of War In The Americas—S. Gould | 4 | 60 |
| | | | The Voice of God—H. Leighton-Floyd | 4 | 55 |
| | | | A Warning to America—H. Leighton-Floyd | 8 | 123 |
| | | | Why Two Genealogies of Joseph—S. Gould | 8 | 121 |

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 |
|---|------------|
| Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, MO 64051-0472</p> | <p>Second Class Postage Paid Independence, MO 64051</p> |
| <p>Aaron Heath y 159 E. Beech Fruitport, MI 49415</p> | |

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.