

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187

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No. 1

Heavenly Aspiration

We are not to make the ideas of contentment and aspiration quarrel, for God made them fast friends. A man may aspire, and yet be quite content until it is time to rise; and both flying and resting are but parts of one contentment. The very fruit of the gospel is aspiration. It is to the heart what spring is to the earth, making every root, and bud, and bough desire to be more.

Henry Ward Beecher

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Zion's Advocate

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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Guest Editorial . . .

Rekindle The Cause of Zion

In the beginning of a new year, people are often encouraged to commit themselves toward a goal of their choice — a New Year's Resolution; perhaps a dedication or a rededication to some lofty, worthwhile purpose. There are those who have fixed purposes in life without thought of anything special or of noble character; the prevailing motivation of the many is a personal acquisition of money, property, power, prestige, or, in few words, the gratification of carnal desire in its myriad forms. "What can I gain from others at their expense or with minimal effort from myself? How can I spend less time in fruitful labor and more in the pursuit of human pleasure?"

Because the human mind and frame is frail at its best, it is essential that we take time for rest and recreation. Sleep is a daily requirement which we dare not ignore for long lest we imperil health and



life.

God has further designed or required a rest for the spirit of man, which is termed, the sabbath: "Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work. . . ." Exodus 20: 9, 10. Neither is this rest ignored by fulfillment of personal desire without peril to the spirit, for the commandment of God is eternal life.

In all this, it is needful to seek a balance of purpose in our lives, to analyze our priorities and to put "first things first." Speaking of recreation: this can be an important priority in its proper place and under restricted limits. A diversion of rest, of moderate play, of vacation, of "getting away from it all," can rejuvenate the body and enable a fresh perspective for the problems and labors of life. Recreation, in its finest sense, is a re-

creation, a renewal of body and mind; but even more so, the term may be applied to a renewal of the spirit.

God's purpose in establishing the Church is designed in part so that through our "coming apart" (aside), by our observance of His sabbath, not alone through bodily rest, but in sincere worship of Him, we may receive His Spirit, through a re-creative communion with Him, and just incidentally, with those, also, of like precious faith, whether it be in formal worship service or social relationship.

This is the noblest and most productive aspiration to which we may and should direct our mind and spirit for the coming year, and as an on-going process. To drink of the waters of life which flows from the great heart of our Master, to abide in His word, and in which we need never thirst — what could be more desirable! Yet the carnal man is an enemy to God and prefers the husks which can never satisfy rather than the bread of life.

We are required to labor for the needs of ourselves and loved ones, but in so doing have we overlooked the fact that God requires a tithing of what he has enabled us to receive; not for His need, but to promote His work and for our needy fellows, especially of the Church? Have we thought to retain all He has graciously provided for our selfish interests, or do we bear in mind that we are His stewards, of whom he expects that we share His bounty with others? In so doing, the divine promise is to restore the bread cast upon the water manifold; but this must not be our motive.

We come now to our principal thought envisioned for the beginning of a new year. Can we permit God's purpose in the Church to be re-created so that we indeed become as a city set upon a hill not to be hidden, but as the light of the world (Matthew 5:15)? How many of us are willing to hold up our candle, no matter how small or inconsequential as we may see ourselves, lit by the fire of the Holy spirit, yet flickering as it may be because of our little faith and righteousness? Can we not begin to exercise that faith through obedience to the gospel law (the teachings of Christ), to trust in Him? If we will, then God has committed himself to make the light to be bright and steady; nor will the temptations and trials of life overwhelm because of divine grace.

By our faith in the word of God, we should be

convicted that there will be a New Jerusalem built upon this land, the place of Zion where the Lord will dwell with His saints. Can we not also believe the words through our latter day prophet, Joseph Smith, that this city is to be built in "the land of Missouri" and "the place which is now called Independence, is the center place . . ." and that there is to be a holy temple built to honor our God, which spot is located on the Temple Lot, the headquarters of our Church (see D. & C. 57:1)?

Have we retained these concepts in our hearts, or has the spirit of unbelief darkened our vision? I suggest that we further investigate the "faith of our fathers" to catch a glimpse of the good fruit they enjoyed, the spiritual gifts of God which are not so prevalent now, and some of which are practically non-existent. We may find justifiable fault in some of their aspirations and the directions taken, but there was existent in the hearts of many honest souls, a love of God and the brethren, based upon a firm conviction of the divinity of this latter day work, which to some extent moved the "cause of Zion."

In this year of 1987, the "cause of Zion," which is the pure love of God, must somehow be rekindled and enlarged. It begins with you and I as individuals and not by legislative process, but only as we permit the Spirit of God to move us. That spirit will cause us to realize a greater importance of spiritual values of life as opposed to the temporal. Thus, we shun or minimize worldly pursuits, abhor evil and love that which is good, find rest and recreation in the worship of God in private, and in a communion with saints toward Him. We will give of our tithes and offerings through love of God. Finally, this love will move us in a willingness to share what we have with those who have not, especially of the household of faith, because the earth and the fulness thereof really belongs to God.

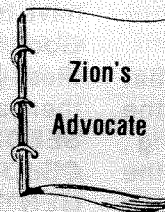
The scriptures refer to this as "all things common," and Zion will never be a reality without this element. Should it not be our greatest desire and effort for the coming year to make our life a building stone for the foundation of Zion, the New Jerusalem, a life sanctified through holy desire and a labor of love without respect of persons? Let us so resolve, and let us not forget!

Apostle William A. Sheldon

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.



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Sincerely,
Your Editorial Staff

The Father's Work

by Harvey E. Seibel

When God inspired Columbus to strike out westward across the great sea He was simply beginning to bring about the fulfillment of the final great drama of mankind prior to the coming again of the Son to the earth. The focal point of this divine activity was to center in that part of America which today is known as the United States. This is borne out by quick reference to two or three Book of Mormon scriptures.

"... thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations upon the face of the land, which is choice above all other lands, ..." (1 Nephi 3:176). "... after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered" (1 Nephi 7:15-16). "And after that ye were blessed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel: and they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land" (3 Nephi 9:65).

Of course the mother Gentiles attempted to thwart our bid for independence as we are told in 1 Nephi 3:153, thus further identifying this country as the one God is referencing. And as we know, after the arrival of these Ephraimite Gentiles and the establishment of this country as a free nation, God caused to come forth the ancient record of the former inhabitants of this land and here restored His church and kingdom fulfilling the prophetic statement in Isaiah 2 that the mountain of the Lord's house should be established in the top of the mountains to which all nations would flow. The day will soon come when it shall be said, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob." And those among the Gentiles who hearken will be numbered among the house of Israel and shall be a blessed people upon this land for ever. But there is also a wo pronounced upon those Gentiles who will not repent. Why?

"For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other; Either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or

unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually ..." (1 Nephi 3:214-216).

Now Nephi is shown a future scene. "And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; And they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory" (1 Nephi 3:229-231).

A marvelous promise, this! While at the same time Nephi describes for us a very contrasting scene. "... I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth, ... And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil, THEN AT THAT DAY, THE WORK OF THE FATHER SHALL COMMENCE, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, who are of the house of Israel" (1 Nephi 3:232,236-237 emphasis H.E.S.).

The thought expressed here, if you did not catch it, is that *when* the power of God descends upon the saints and upon the covenant people, the wrath of God would at the same time be poured out upon the wicked. And what great event does that mark? "When the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the Mother of Harlots, then at that day shall the work of the Father commence! And this work will be in preparing the way for fulfilling the covenants made to the House of Israel.

But let's return to 1 Nephi 7:15-18. "... it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; And by them shall our seed be scattered. AND AFTER OUR SEED IS SCATTERED, THE LORD GOD WILL PROCEED TO DO A MARVELOUS WORK AMONG THE GENTILES, which shall be of great worth unto our

seed; Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders."

Notice the sequence of events. First, the whole house of Israel has been scattered. Second, this was to be followed by the establishment of the United States. Third, The U.S. will further scatter the people of Israel (the Lamanites) in this land. Fourth, When this scattering has been accomplished the Lord will then proceed to do a marvelous work — the work of the Father referenced above.

It should be noted that when the country or nation was first established, the Indian was far from being scattered except along the eastern seaboard. By the 1830 the frontiers had been extended westward to the Kansas-Missouri line. It was not until the famous battle at Wounded Knee in 1890 that the scattering of the Indian was finally and fully accomplished.

While the little stone kingdom was cut out of the mountain without hands in 1829-1830 the work was begun, but this work is still in its infancy and is far from being accomplished. The little stone kingdom is still the little stone kingdom and has not even begun to fill the earth. The Great and Marvelous Work is still before us.

The reference in Ether 1:114 confirms that the work of the Father will have already commenced when this record (the Book of Mormon) has been received. "Remember, when ye see these things, ye shall know that the time is at hand that they shall be made manifest in very deed; therefore, when ye shall receive this record ye may know that the work of the Father has commenced upon all the face of the land." The greater fulfillment of this prophecy remains to be seen.

Consider again, "And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years and many generations, after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fulness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed; And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord" (1 Nephi 4:16-17).

This is the beginning of that marvelous work, yet this work has as yet hardly begun. One may wonder whether the time has fully come for the gospel to be taken from the Gentile and given to the house of Israel. But more on that later.

To continue with the quotation quoted above we read, "... he meaneth that it will not come to pass, until after they are scattered by the Gentiles" (1

Nephi 4:26). How interesting! Here we have a second witness that this work will not transpire until after the scattering. But, you may say, the scattering has been accomplished, has it not? And since 1830 at that! True, but one other element must yet be fulfilled. And that is the total rejection of this gospel by the Gentiles. They apparently will have one last opportunity as we shall see presently.

To continue with our quotation, we read, "Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; Which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed" (1 Nephi 4:28-29). How marvelous, the covenant made to Abraham so many years ago is to have its fulfillment in our day instead of in some ancient time.

Concerning these things and of the Jews we read, "Yea, I spake unto them concerning the restoration of the Jews, in the latter days . . . And after they were restored, they should no more be confounded, neither should they be scattered again" (1 Nephi 4:31 & 33).

What does this mean? Have the Jews been restored or gathered? And if so, will they be scattered or confounded again? Says the prophet, "And after they have been scattered, and the Lord hath scourged them by other nations, for the space of many generations, yea, even down from generation to generation, until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ, the Son of God, and the atonement, which is infinite for all mankind; And *when that day shall come, that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts, and clean hands, and look not forward any more for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things, And the Lord set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a marvelous work, and a wonder among the children of men. Wherefore, he shall bring forth his words unto them, which words shall judge them at the last day; For they shall be given them for the purpose of convincing them of the true Messiah, who was rejected by them; And unto the convincing of them that they need not look forward any more for a Messiah to come*" (2 Nephi 11:26-32).

This is as plain as word can be. Until they believe in Christ and look not anymore for another Messiah, they will not be restored, but remain in a scattered condition.

But what of those who seemingly have gathered? This present gathering is not the result of their conversion to Christ. Rather it has been done to fulfill certain other prophecies concerning Armageddon

and a future captivity and scattering at Jerusalem. Zechariah 14 is very explicit on this matter because this gathering is not unto righteousness. But when they shall be brought to see the prints in the Lord's hand then will they know the God whom they have rejected and then will Jerusalem become again a holy city. The present spiritual condition of Jerusalem is perfectly described in Matthew 23:38-39, "Behold, your house is left unto your desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

But to return to the Book of Mormon we read in 3 Nephi 7:34-36 that when the gentiles shall sin against the gospel and be lifted up in pride above all nations, etc., then shall the fullness of the gospel be taken from them and be given to the house of Israel. The 9th chapter continues by saying that then shall the house of Israel be gathered and the remnant of Jacob be as a lion among the Gentiles. After this is the New Jerusalem and the powers of heaven and even Christ will be in the midst of His people.

The Lord, in speaking of the covenant made to Abraham, has this to say, ". . . then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel: and they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land" (3 Nephi 9:65).

We have literally seen this fulfilled in our day. In speaking of the Jews, He says "And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people, and I have covenanted with them, that I would gather them together in mine own due time; That I would give unto them again the land of their fathers, for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them for ever, saith the Father. And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fullness of my gospel shall be preached unto them, and they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name. Then shall their watchmen lift up their voices; and with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye. *Then will the Father gather them together again, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance*" (3 Nephi 9:67-71).

This is plain again that the gathering of the Jews will not occur until after their conversion to Christ and that the current situation cannot be and is not a fulfillment of these prophecies.

Now we come to a very important, even crucial, bit of information. "And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things,

it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel. And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them. But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil. Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant; And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver" (3 Nephi 9:93-99).

The work begun back in the days of Joseph Smith and since down to our day has only scratched the surface of the work to be done among the Indian. Yet we are told here that when the Lamanite shall begin to know these things, then the work of the marred servant would come to pass.

So what is the sequence of events here? First, the Indian will begin to come to a knowledge of these things. Second, it will be a sign to them that the work of the Father has already begun. Third, when that day comes then the Marred One will begin his work. And God refers specifically to this portion of the work as being a great and a marvelous work. And those who will not listen to the words that he shall bring forth shall be cut off. Fourth, the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles as a lion among sheep, etc.

Do we fully appreciate what is being said here? Before Gentile opportunity is fully past and the gospel taken from them and given fully to the house of Israel, the marred servant must first make his appearance and preach the gospel to them. Then with Gentile rejection of that testimony, the sword of God's justice will fall upon them unto their utter destruction.

The 10th chapter of 3rd Nephi continues in the same vein by saying that if the Gentiles repent that

the Lord will establish His church among them. We know that some did repent and the church was established, but we also know that the majority will not repent. (See 2 Nephi 12:40).

These repentant Gentiles will be numbered with the remnant of Jacob and they shall assist this remnant in building the city New Jerusalem and then help them that they may be gathered in. It is actually Ephraimite Gentiles helping his brother Manasseh to gather in. "And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my

people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name; Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance. And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their reward. And then shall that which is written come to pass" (3 Nephi 10:4-8).

Then will the work of the Father be finished in all its phases from the preaching of the gospel among the Lamanite, to the work among the dispersed of His people who have been lost, and finally to the work of the gathering of His people from out of all nations. What a glorious conclusion of the work which began in 1820 through the instrumentality of a mere boy of 15.

Path Lights

Unseen Friends

I would like to thank all of you who have been praying for my family and me during my pregnancy. I have now delivered a beautiful, healthy baby girl, named Jennifer Kay Rosen, who weighed 7 lb. 3 oz. (3270 grms). She was born on November 5 by Caesarian section. Although I would be lying if I said I wasn't scared and I didn't experience some pain, I have recovered well, in fact better than after my first child, Timothy, a year ago.

It is encouraging for us in England to know that so many people who we feel very close to, although we have never met, are praying for us and think about us. This gives us the strength to carry on; this and the fact that we know with assurity that the Gospel of Christ is true and that we belong to HIS Church.

Sometimes we feel discouraged but then something will happen that will give us a fresh incentive to continue. The Lord always seems to know just when we need the blessing of a letter, or some tapes, or perhaps a phone call from one of the members and this makes us feel much less isolated and a lot more cared for and loved, as we know we are. Our greatest blessing at the moment, though, is our new baby daughter.

Thank you all once again and may God bless you until I pray one day we will meet.

Love in Christ,
Your sister,
Kate Rosen
(British Isles)

Childhood Remembrance

I would like to share some of my testimonies about how good God has been to me throughout my life. This is one of the first ones I can remember.

When I was very young, I learned early to call upon God for a blessing through administration, being taught this by my mother.

One time when I had been sick in bed for a little more than a week, my mother called the Dr. He said I should be in the hospital. I cried and pleaded, "No! Please get Brother Darby to come and administer to me." He was an Elder whom I believe had the gift of healing.

My mother called him and he came, but he stood by my bed and visited with my folks for a little bit. I started to cry and my mother asked, "What is the matter?" I remember saying, "I want Brother Darby to quit talking and administer to me so I can be well right now!" He did administer to me right then and I received that blessing we asked for. The very next day I was up and running out to play.

Gladys Nast,
Independence

Mail your testimonies to:

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The Desire of All Nations

by Elder John J. Schut

Christ's kingdom will be what all men need. First of all, it will rule with a rod of iron, breaking up civil, social and religious systems of tyranny and oppression, putting down opposing authority and power, humbling the proud and high minded, and finally, teaching the world to know that the Lord's anointed has taken the dominion. Then the blessing of His peaceful reign will begin to be experienced, truth and equity established on a permanent footing; justice laid to the line and righteousness to the plummet. Isaiah 20:27, II Nephi 7:50-55. And the restitution work will progress to its' glorious consummation. There will be sweeping moral reforms, great educational enterprises, awakening from evil, no more death, and a grand reorganization of society under the new order of the kingdom of God.

All the world's bitter experiences during the past will then prove valuable lessons on the sinfulness of Sin: helping men to appreciate the new rule of righteousness, to live in everlasting conformity to the will of God and accept God's gift through Christ, of everlasting life, designed for all who will receive it in love and loyal obedience to His commandments. Then it will be true: ". . . whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely:" . . . Revelations 22:17, III Nephi 9:43-45. The reforms and instructions of the future will begin with the hearts of men starting with the lesson, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: . . ." Proverbs 9:10.

One of the difficulties of present day education, which tends to pride, arrogance, and discontent, is the lack of the knowledge of Christ and (Zion) His kingdom. Every work of grace under the regulation of the kingdom will be properly begun and thoroughly accomplished.

No creature of the redeemed race will be too low for divine grace to reach, through the all powerful and blessed agency of the kingdom. No degradation of sin will be too deep for the hand of mercy to fathom; no darkness of ignorance or superstition will be so dense in any heart but that the light of divine truth and love will penetrate its gloom and bring to it a knowledge of the joy and gladness of the new day, and an opportunity to share the same by

obedience. No disease that can attack and pollute the physical system will be beyond the prompt control of the great Physician. And no deformity, monstrosity, redundancy, or mental imbecility will be able to resist His healing touch.

The work of restitution, thus begun on the living nations will extend to the sleeping families of the earth; for the hour is coming, yea, is not far distant, when all that are here will hear the message of the Gospel of Christ. What glorious news for this time and day, what a glorious prospect, not a stain of sin marks the harmony and peace of a perfect society; not a bitter thought, not an unkind look or word; love, welling up from every heart, meets a kindred response in every heart, and benevolence marks every act. There shall be no more sickness, nor ache or pain, nor any evidence of decay — not even the fear of such things.

Think of all the pictures of comparative health and beauty of human form and future that you have ever seen, and know that perfect humanity will be of still surpassing loveliness. The inward purity and mental and moral perfection will stamp and glorify every radiant countenance. Such will be the Zion Society; and weeping bereaved ones will have their tears all wiped away, when thus they realize the resurrection of this gospel work will be complete. No wonder that the thought of such a Zion spectacle of a whole race returning to God with songs of praise should see, almost too good to believe; but He who has promised is able also to perform all His good pleasures.

Though sorrow and sighing seem almost inseparable from our being, yet, sorrow and sighing shall flee away; though weeping in sackcloth and ashes has endured throughout the long night of the domination of sin and death, the joy awaits the morning; all tears shall be wiped from all faces; beauty shall be given for ashes; the oil of joy shall replace the spirit of heaviness and "the whole earth is at rest . . ." Isaiah 14:7. And the Lord shall dwell with His people in Zion (Independence, Missouri, beginning at the Temple Lot).

SIN . . .

Adds to your trouble, subtracts from your energy, multiplies your difficulties, and divides your interest in your work, and . . . its wages are death.

Love Me

There is within my heart and yours the constant calling, "LOVE ME!" This calling, or yearning, to be loved is a basic part of our being. Many times it motivates our actions and reactions, often it colors our whole outlook on life. Most of the time we are not consciously aware of it as a motivating force within us, but it is there and it is active. Many times when we feel hurt or angry, it is because we feel that this yearning to be loved is not being fulfilled. Sometimes we even hide our inner calling in the fear that it will be heard and unanswered. We show to the world many different faces. Sometimes we appear to be boisterous, at other times we're quiet, confident, insecure, strong or not very strong at all. But whatever the outer appearance may be, we know that the real me and the real you are constantly yearning to be loved.

Sometimes we are loving. Sometimes we are giving that extra bit of ourselves to others, walking along the path of love with someone, strengthening, sustaining, and uplifting them. Sometimes we pray for others as ardently as we pray for ourselves. It is such moments that we are fulfilled. In these moments we discover the secret of love and happiness, for, at the time we are giving the most, we are receiving the greatest gift of all. As we give of our love to others, we receive from God an infilling even greater than that which we are expending. Even though we spend our love on others, we have a continuing supply. This is a divine principle, which creates an inexhaustible supply of that which we use. For this reason we need not, indeed, cannot, look to the outer, to others, for the happiness and love we seek. I do not mean to minimize the importance of our interrelationships with others. It is certainly one of life's greatest blessings to be loved by those for whom we care, and a great sense of well-being is to be gained from the gift of love given us by others. However, this is not what completes us, nor gives us a sense of fulfillment. It is the act itself of giving our love that brings into action that law that constantly and abundantly brings us a new supply. And this supply comes to us directly from the source of perfect love, God.

Still more important, it is God's perfect love for us that springs up within us in never-ending supply. The discovery of God's love within us is perfect fulfillment. This alone can satisfy completely that inner yearning to be loved. This is the love that makes us complete. It brings us the awareness of other Godlike qualities that always accompany fulfillment, especially those of serenity, joy, and strength. We should take the love God gives us, let it perform its perfect work in us, and pour it out unceasingly,

unquestioningly, to others. Now, how often do we stop to ask, "Will I be love in return?" "Is my love good enough or great enough?" How often do we withhold it just because some days we do not feel like producing? I feel sure that God gave us to understand, even in this small way, what His perfect love can be. Jesus gave each of us this message when He said that He must leave us in order that we may learn for ourselves that there is within us perfect fulfillment. When he said that another Comforter would come, He meant that His disciples would learn to live, not in the reflecting light of His great love, but in that same love welling up within us. It is in the dawning awareness of this concept of love that we are learning to express love, learning to feel it in its tremendous fullness. This is the love that overcomes, harmonizes, and heals every situation in our life. This is the love that we point out to others, without the need to have it returned by them, which is the salvation of our world.

Nothing can withstand the power of this love, love given with no thought of return, no thought of changing the other person. This love began its healing work first in the one who gives it, and it brings with it the qualities of happiness, peace, and inner strength never before realized. It is no longer possible to exist in this world under the law of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. We must go one step further and realize that it is not enough to love only those who return our love, or those who feel as we do about things. We must begin to love solely because love is within us to give and in giving, we become an ever-renewing and an ever-expanding expression of love. The more we give, the more we have to give. As we start a chain reaction of this kind of love, we find that every situation is healed and harmonized. We know, of course, that it is impossible for anyone really to be happy while harboring resentment or anger or dislike toward any other human being. We know, even beyond this, that as spiritual beings we cannot be hurt by others, but only by ourselves. To create true growth within ourselves, we must, love simply because we have love to give.

Again, there is within my heart and yours a constant yearning to be loved. But in the light of our new understanding we begin to know it as the yearning to feel the completeness of love that comes to us from God. Too often we allow ourselves to feel separated from our Source. Too often we feel that outer conditions must be healed before he can find happiness. And, too often we look to others for the fulfillment we desire. Dear Christian Friends, too often we react to the moods of others, letting their

actions change our own. When others snap at us or are irritable, we owe it to ourselves and to them to see beyond appearances, to know that their mood is probably the result of a dissatisfaction within themselves. We do not need to express it in our own actions. Whenever we feel out of sorts with the world around us, we need only look within for love to pour out, that we may set the disorder aright.

An affirmation that is helpful is this: "God's love flows in and through us now. We are steadfast, loyal, dedicated, and wise in this love. It harmonizes and heals all conditions." Now we know that affirmations such as this are not magical formulas, they do not of themselves heal. However, they do serve us as

constant reminders to keep our thoughts attuned to the truth of our spiritual being. They help us to touch base, as it were, when our thoughts wander into a negative realm. This is the way to keep our mental attitudes attuned to that which can heal all conditions. We remind ourselves often that it is God, the source of all good, who brings us to the perfect manifestation of His love. Let us be thankful that God has already given us the perfect love. He loves each of us always and forever.

Henry E. James #258764
Ellis Unit 1 B-4-3-7
Huntsville, Texas 77343

CHARITY

The dictionary defines charity as, "Providing help to the poor, almsgiving; also public provision for the poor, an institution, organization or fund to aid the needy; also an inclination to think well of others; tolerance, leniency; spiritual benevolence and brotherly love." In Scripture, all these are a part of charity; but its meaning is far deeper: Charity concerns the mind, heart and one's very being.

"Loving kindness is greater than laws; and the charities of life are more than all ceremonies."
—Talmud.

"Charity is never lost: it may meet with ingratitude, or be of no service to those on whom it was bestowed, yet it ever does a work of beauty and grace upon the heart of the giver." —Middleton.

"When faith and hope fail, as they do sometimes, we must try charity, which is love in action. We must speculate no more on our duty, but simply do it. When we have done it, however blindly, perhaps Heaven will show us why." —Mulock.

In his letter to the church at Colosse, Paul said, Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering; Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ swell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:12-16)

How often, in the course of our daily work, have songs come to mind, causing us to stop and reflect on God's word. How well we know the strength and comfort that comes with "songs in the night." (Job.

35:10). A song remembered from my childhood comes to mind. It seems to have been written primarily for and to be sung by children; but its message is appropriate for all ages. Are we not all "children" in God's sight? I do not remember the title only the words.

This is the motto we all must obey
We will love one another;
Happy we sing and are glad all the day
When we can serve one another.

Thus will we labor and thus will we pray,
Trying to help one another;
Driving the sorrows of others away,
Bringing sweet peace to each other

Let us like Jesus, be thoughtful and kind,
Striving to please one another,
Here, as in Heaven, we will be of one mind,
Everyone loving the other.

Chorus

Loving each other,
How pleasant to cherish a brother;
Serving each other,
The Savior looks on us with joy.

Paul also says, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Cor. 13:13). When we consider the mighty works done by faith, enumerated in Hebrews chapter 11, and charity is greater than faith; how essential it must be for the well being and proper functioning of the Church of Christ. One may have any number of spiritual gifts, but lacking charity they are as nothing; likewise any great sacrifices they may have made (1 Cor. 13:1-10).

There can be no question but that we all fall short

of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23). As many as God loves, He rebukes and chastens them. (Rev. 3:19). "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another." (Isa. 48:10,11).

How are we to stand before Him without the wedding garment that He has provided? Those who have not on the wedding garment will be cast out. (Matt. 22:11-14). Paul had good reasons to glory in tribulation, knowing that these things were working to prepare him for his eternal destiny. (Rom. 3:3-5; 2 Tim. 4:5-8). Those who are faithful to and suffer with Christ will be glorified together with Him. They will live and reign with Him in His coming Kingdom. (Rev. 5:10; 3:21; Rom. 8:16-18; 2 Tim. 2:12). Fallen man will again bear the image of God, as in the beginning. All things will be restored as at the first. (Gen. 1:26,27; Job 19:26; Rom. 8:29; 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Jhn. 3:2,3; Acts 3:20,21). Luther said, "Love is an image of God, and is not a lifeless image, but the living essence of the divine nature which beams full of goodness."

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, ye also love one another." (John 13:34). "As every lord giveth a certain livery to his servants, love is the very livery of Christ. Our Savior, who is Lord above all Lords, would have His servants known by their badge, which is love." "Hugh Latimer." Luther said, "Faith, like light, should always be simple and unbending; while love, like warmth, should beam forth on every side and bend to every necessity of our brethern."

Consider the manner of love Christ has for sinners who, in truth, are His enemies. Can we look into our hearts and find the kind of love that can, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you?" (Luk. 6:27,28). Jesus said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matt. 10:16). Again He said, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:21).

"We never know how much one loves till we know how much he is willing to endure and suffer for us; it is the suffering element that measures love. The characters that are great, must of necessity be characters that shall be willing, patient and strong to endure for others. To hold our nature in the willing service of another is the divine idea of the human character." —H.W. Beecher.

"Love is the greatest thing that God can give us, for He is love; and it is the greatest thing we can give to God, for it will also give ourselves, and carry with

it all that is ours. The apostle calls it the bond of perfection; it is the old, the new, and the great commandment, and all the commandments, for it is the fulfilling of the law. It does the work of all the other graces without any instrument but its own immediate virtue." —Jeremy Taylor.

With this kind of love, one can more readily recognize the beam in his own eye and cast it out, that he may see clearly to cast any mote out of a brother's eye. (Matt. 7:3-5; Luk. 6:41,42). Would that this song could be the sincere prayer of all.

LOVE DIVINE

Love divine all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling
All thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, thou art all compassion.
Pure unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, Oh breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast.
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy grace receive.
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Then we would be always blessing;
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless may we be.
Let us see our whole salvation,
Perfectly secured by Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder love and praise.

"If the tender, profound, and sympathizing love practiced and recommended by Jesus were paramount in every heart, the loftiest and most glorious idea of human society would be realized, and little wanting to make this world a Kingdom of Heaven." —Krummacher

Vida Filley

Use It Or Lose It

In certain American Indian tribes, when a princess came of age she was given a basket and instructed to pick the best ears of corn in a given row. There was one condition; she must choose the ears as she went along. She could not turn back, retrace her steps and select ears she had passed by.

Many a princess failed this test of judgement. She would marvel at the high quality of the corn and as she felt the firm ears on the stalks she would be tempted to pick them but perhaps there were better ears on stalks just ahead. She would wait to see. Then suddenly to her surprise and bitter disappointment, she would find herself at the end of the corn row and her basket empty. While looking for perfection she would miss gathering any ears at all.

Life is like that. We move through our days constantly looking for the golden opportunity, the big chance, the lucky break, the perfect situation. We wish to improve our minds, enlighten and sharpen them, but perhaps there will be a better opportunity later on.

We have the best intentions of becoming better people. We will go to church and become more dedicated but this will come later when the children are grown, when we have more money, our job is more secure, or when our spouse develops the same interests.

Or we want to be useful to the world, but the present chance to do good is not good enough or big enough. We will wait and save our best thoughts and energies for a more worthwhile opportunity. Then suddenly we are at the end of the row and—our basket is empty.

One of life's most deceptive illusions is that the present moment is unimportant. We should plant deep into our minds the conviction that this day is the day of which we are certain, yesterday is but a memory and there is no guarantee of tomorrow.

The religious attitude toward life is that every day comes to us from God, our talents are God's gifts and every opportunity to use these talents and skills for God is God given.

In the gospel according to Matthew we are given a parable by Christ regarding talents. A man calls his three servants and distributes to each a certain number of talents, but one buries his. The story is told mainly for this one man. He was tempted to say, "With my poor equipment, nothing is expected of me. What can I do?" The one talent man is prone to resentment or may hold a grudge against life.

In Matthew, chapter 25, it states, "So I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

Misplaced fear, or fear for the wrong reasons, often paralyzes Christian activity. We fear the wrong things: public ridicule, loss of reputation, loss of prestige or loss of standing in the community. So we do nothing.

We hid the Christian faith. We should fear God, but our fear of man is often greater. We must overcome this fear to undertake services for God and strive to serve God to the best of our ability.

The slothful servant was punished for doing nothing. The time will come to give account of your talents.

Do not let what you cannot do get in the way of what you can do. Pick every chance to make your life an effective influence. So what if you did not compose a symphony at 7 years of age or will not become a nationally known artist at 80 years of age. You have your own talent. Find it, use it.

As a physician, I once wrote a book on insect allergy and in it I described drone bees which do not work. I don't think the Christian has a place for drone Christians. As a muscle becomes wasted without use, so do our talents. We can become more Christlike in use of our talents for Him. This is part of the process of sanctification. (Eph. 4:11-12)

We must use or lose our talents. Most men never use half of their talents; their music dies with them. Use it or lose it.

Written by Dr. Claude A. Frazier
From the presbyterian journal of
March 1, 1972. Used by permission.

He'll Be There

Why is there sometimes sorrow?
Why is there sometimes fear?
Will it be better tomorrow,
Or will there be another tear?

We can not always be steady;
We all must stumble and fall;
But we must get back up and be ready,
To be there when the master calls.

Let not this earthly life beguile you;
Let God guide you day by day.
When sorrow and fear o'er come you,
Ask God: He'll be there all the way.

Pamela Randall

MINNEAPOLIS NEWS

Back in 1986, on September 28, almost all of our members were present to hear a sermon by Pastor Thomas Maley. He wrote the word "waste" on the white board, followed by the word "it." Waste is throwing away something valuable. We will leave the words there and come back to them.

He said that when you reach out with a hand shake you are not achieving much that is spiritually profitable unless you reach out from inside in a deeper communication of friendliness. A genuine heart reach, which is the regard and respect you have for another person, will modify everything you do or say. It can even be felt and conveyed over the telephone and gives a warm feeling. Do you remember how we read together at Tri-State Reunion, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ . . ." This must become a part of your heart by which you reach out in love to others. The word "don't" now precedes "waste it." DON'T WASTE IT! You have a choice. Use it and it will amplify, and will benefit others around you. We can't hovert it inside our coat. We must reach out with that glorious thing, likened to a precious jewel. It is to be used, not hid away for special persons, seasons, or occasions.

There's a heart that pumps blood through the body; but there is another heart we call a soul where the wonder of caring love resides. That is the heart we are talking about and is the reason we call it "the heart".

At the October 5 sacrament service, not a soul was audibly bubbling over with a testimony until God urged Doug Ferrier to his feet. Brother Doug spoke of a prod he had just received from an unseen source; and of how we think we are too bashful to bear our testimony. His words were something like this: Is it actually that we don't have faith enough that God would be with us to give us the words if we should stand and try to praise Him for all the things he has helped us with? He said we are cheating God and Christ, our own self and those we are meeting with, if we have something to say and don't stand up and say it. What do we add, by our silence, to the list we are going to be judged by? If we don't talk of God, He is going to choose someone else who *will* express love for Him in the world. He said God is working and has blessed him so very much that he feels guilty for not telling more of His blessings. "I would just like to hear everyone here if they have something to say."

God's worn key opened several other hearts where carefully kept testimonies were hid. Brother Doug, a carpenter who excels, and is at present building a new home for his family, not far from the Merlin Eddy's and the Gill farm in Rosemount.

In a previous meeting Brother Merlin Eddy had

told how he had prayed over the years that God would send "someone" to the people of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin folk now tell him they had been praying for years for the dear Lord to send someone. Merlin says, "No one is more surprised than I, that I am the 'someone' God has sent to them." Elder Johnny Case has gone with Elder Merlin Eddy to meet with the church people on some of the trips to Wisconsin.

The John and Benny Case families also visited Sister Julie Tansey and family in Iowa this month and held a sacrament meeting, very much appreciated. Merlin Eddy's first sermon was preached in Wisconsin. The Minneapolis Church waited until October 12 to hear him. The meeting was opened with the singing of "With Joy We Lift Our Eyes." Merlin wrote "faith" on the white board. He answered the question "What is faith?" from Hebrews 11:1 and Alma 16:139-143. Then he said, "When Tom was in the hospital we hoped that he would get better. So we prayed for that. That was 'the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' — There's the evidence! Even the doctors didn't know how Tom recovered so fast."

Question #2. How important is faith? — All important.

3. How does our faith start? Romans 10:13-17 and III Nephi 12:1-4

4. How should our faith be? Matt 17:18-20 Mark 4:30-32 Alma 16:149-173

5. How is faith related to works? James 2:14-26

6. How is faith related to miracles? Ether 5:4-12 (p. 746) Moroni 7:19-44

Before there can be miracles there must be faith.

When some ask, "Why aren't there miracles now like there used to be?" I would say to that person to open his eyes and look around. John (Gill) told us of a man in Nicaragua who was captured and was told if he *would not* deny his faith then they would shoot him. He was before the firing squad. There are usually at least three in a firing squad. They couldn't shoot the man. Their guns misfired and he got away. That is a flat-out miracle!

"There are many examples in 'these Books' of miracles because of the faith the people had; but there are also many examples this day. And if there's not — if these things don't happen — it is because of our lack of faith, and we need to strengthen our faith. All things are possible with faith."

Merlin's sermon was in answer to a question inadvertently left in the question box at the Tri-State Reunion. We hope that the one who asked that question was present.

Forest Maley's sermon of November 16 will be remembered by a mystical symbol of just two let-

ters, an L with letter X juxtaposed over top of the L. Its meaning: EXCEL. The children get first opportunity to give definition of the words that the speaker places on the white board. That means doing the very best you can, better than others. Forest named those of our congregation who do excel in their work. Their excellence is recognized. Leaving our mark in a community is very important. As in the church exhibit at the fair we strive to represent Christ, everything we do leaves an impression with people. If we are an excellent sort they will remember that. Though we hear the word "saints" often, we still have the problem of becoming true saints.

John Gill used his own needy example, over two special days (when much needed assistance came from a number of people) to illustrate the principle of mutual timely help in times of need among the people of the church. He expressed deep gratitude and recommended our being ready and on the lookout to help others on short notice.

John and Nana Gill have, with the help of many volunteers, collected a box of goods for each of 1,500 families in a camp near Jacaleapa, Honduras. A law passed in April, 1986, requires U.S. military aircraft to transport donated humanitarian items whenever there is space available. The thousands of pounds of clothing, health care items, and toys for children will be picked up before Christmas to be delivered by way of military transport provided by the Pentagon.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch has printed the story of John and Nana Gill's work, with a photo of them surrounded by stacks of donated clothing. It will be necessary for Nana to be on hand there to help distribute the goods. She made a trip in October to Honduras at which time she arranged to have the supplies, when they arrived, taken by bus to the refugees camp.

Pastor Thomas Maley and his wife Ruth are building a new home close to the former site of the 135 year old farm house on the Gill farm. The home in Minneapolis is sold. Having a permit from the fire department, the old farm house was burned on a Saturday afternoon sufficiently calm and windless for that purpose.

Affairs of men and of nations are moving at a pace too swift for many of us to comprehend a fraction of what is happening. Some of our young people are busy preparing for their lifetime work; others are laying down their lifetime work. Our prayer lists are long. Our Sister Ida Boettcher remains with little change in the nursing home. Brother Clarence attends church when he is able. As I write on November 29, our fifth Sunday dinner will be at the home of Enoch and Victoria Gould in Rosemount tomorrow.

May our heavenly Father improve our view of 1987 and help us to serve Him well.

Irene Maley, reporting.

FOUNDRY HILL/WHITLOCK (Tennessee) NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

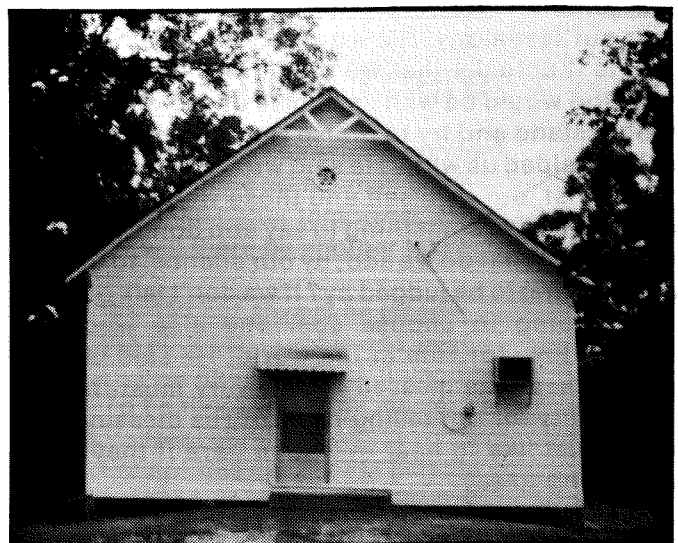
I hope this report will find each and every one of you well and in good spirits.

It's been over a year, I guess, since I have been able to sit down and write out a report, but finally I am able to do so. We have had a lot of visitors this year so I hope I will leave no one out, if I do, I don't mean to, O.K.?

In January we had Brother Glen and sister Margret Gill down and with them we had the pleasure of meeting Gerry and Cindy Case. Though this was a bad time in my life, I hope they will come again, soon, so that I can enjoy their company more. We can't wait to see them again.

In March we again had Brother Glen and Sister Margret, and this time we got to meet Brother Nicholas Denham. We really enjoyed having him and his sermon, so we hope he will return again soon also.

In April, Elder Tony Grzincic and his wife Louise came down, and once again we had a great sermon and visit, so we hope they'll be back with another one.



Foundry Hill, Tennessee

In May, Brother Glen and Margret came with son Donald and delivered a wonderful sermon and special songs.

In June, we finally got to meet the wives of Robert Oldham and Smith Brickhouse, Jennifer and Sue. After hearing so much about them from Brother Robert and Brother Smith, we couldn't wait to meet them and are glad we did. They are all four great people, we hope to have them back real soon.

In July, Elder Leslie Case and his lovely wife came down, and we had a great time with a question and answer time. And we hope to see them soon too.

In August, Apostle William Sheldon and wife Doris were able to come by and we had another question and answer time with a great sermon to follow the next day. We hope they get a chance to come back this way again soon.

On September 14th, Brother Glen and Margret got to come again and with them we got to meet two more wonderful people, Harvey Seibel and his very lovely wife, Irene. We hope they too can come again soon.

On September 27th, Brother Glen came again with Elder Marvin Case and his wife Edith. Glen then performed the marriage ceremony for Daniel Tyler and Cindy Todd. We wish them God's Blessing and may they have a very long and happy marriage.

And with this I'll close. As we have the old year out and the new year in, I hope that this new year will find each and every one of you happy and healthy. May God Bless You and answer all your prayers.

With Love,
Your Sister In Christ,
Robin Cox
Rt 3, Box 351 B
Paris, Tennessee 38242

LATE NEWS:

I regret to have to report that Cindy Tyler, the wife of Daniel Tyler, was killed in a car crash Tuesday night November 18th, 1986. She was born May 10th, 1960 and was buried November 21st, 1986. She had two daughters by a previous marriage.

Daniel is still in the hospital in critical condition, unknown whether to live or die. Our prayers go to him in this time of sadness. They also go to her family and relatives. May God give Daniel the strength and will to pull through this.

Please send your prayers.

Sincerely, Robin

A Note From The RAVENNA (Michigan) LOCAL (Formerly the Cedar Springs Local)

Hello to all our dear friends! With some new members (myself included) we've grown and developed into about 22 in number who are meeting at a gracious sister's home in Ravenna. Thank you again sister Lois! We have Elder Gale Brantner as our pastor and have changed our name from the Cedar Springs Local to the Ravenna Local. We meet every Sunday, with the 1st Sunday of each month being our Sacrament Service, beginning at 11 a.m. at Lois Heath's home (12376 Adams Street, Ravenna, Michigan). All interested persons are very, very welcome to attend and worship with us.

Our newest church member, Doug Brantner, was baptized September 7th, 1986, about which you read in last month's Cedar Springs news.

It is truly a blessing to me to find this branch of the Church again. My Granddad, Elder George Brantner, was pastor of the Cedar Springs local for many years, which I attended as a child. It's wonderful to be back in the arms of my Church family again!

With Love,
Your Sister in Christ,
Debbie Brantner Vogel
908 Elstner
Rockford, Michigan 49341

A "THANK YOU" NOTE

We feel an urge to thank all of you readers of the Advocate, friends, relatives — brothers and sisters, for your concern, your cards — and most of all, your prayers for both of us during our recent serious illness.

We call it a "year without a summer." Esther was in the hospital from June to October. Oren was either going to or coming from the hospital either from the farm in Preston or the Kelley home in Springfield.

Not only do we realize it's a miracle that we are alive and passably well, but many of the doctors and nurses have expressed the same opinion.

Our life-style has altered drastically. We are now living with our daughter and son-in-law, Lorraine and Bert Patterson, in Phoenix, Arizona. After the winter, we plan on staying some time with another daughter and son-in-law, Velma and Dick Wheaton in Vernal, Utah. Then in the summer months, we will be either in Preston at the farm or in Springfield, depending on Sharon and her family.

Be assured, your prayers in our behalf have been heard and answered.

Eternally grateful,
Oren and Esther Caviness

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
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Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	6.00
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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.

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence area.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the Zion's Advocate, page 47.

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" (39 minutes) — Illustrates how modern archeological finds in North and Central America lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continent's former inhabitants.

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

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

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