

# 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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**Vol. 64**

**Independence, Missouri • May, 1987**

**No. 5**

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## Jesus, My Best Friend

Jesus is my best friend. He helps me through the day.

He never will leave me, no matter what I say.

He keeps me in His loving care, even when I complain.

He always is beside me, even when I'm in pain.

Although the devil tempts you, just fold your hands and pray.

The Lord will keep you out of harm's cruel and evil way.

I'm glad the Lord is in my life and that will always be the same.

I hope the Lord is in your life and that will never change.

—Steve McGhee

Age 11

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# 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  
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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:

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

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## Guest Editorial . . .

# A Future Of Despair Or Hope?



Ronald W. Temple

Much that we read in the scriptures tells of the time just ahead of us. We read of terrible things to come upon the earth:

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: ...For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matthew 24:6-8, 21.

"The great day of the LORD is near ... the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness ... And I will bring distress upon men ... and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zephaniah 1:14-18.

"That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten. ...The field is wasted, the land mourneth ...the harvest of the field is perished." Joel 1:4, 10,11.

"... let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh ... A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness ... a great people and a strong ... A fire

devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them ... The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before *his* army: (This army is an army of the heathen sent by the LORD to pour out his wrath upon the wicked on *this* land.) ... for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Joel 2:1-3, 10-11 (Emphasis and parenthetical commentary by the author.)

All of these scriptures, and many more, point to the time just ahead of us. And these predictions of doom come not only from the scriptures, but also from many scientists, economists, sociologists, etc., of today.

Do we face this time with despair? Or is there a hope for us? "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28. "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24:22. "Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the LORD will answer and say to his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied there with: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: But I will remove far off from you the northern army ... Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do

great things. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God ... and my people shall never be ashamed." Joel 2:18-21, 26. "... the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: Then shall Jerusalem be holy ... And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk..." Joel 3:16-18.

"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save ... I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: And I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame ... I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes saith the LORD." Zephaniah 3:17-20.

So, even though there will be much to afflict the LORD's people and will have to be brought out of captivity (from sin and from the clutches of the Babylonian system under which we live), there is a marvelous hope.

So it should be our goal that we become more righteous and have in our hearts the law of Christ, that we reach for that perfection required of us so that we can be partakers of that hope.

Teacher Ronald W. Temple

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## Steps Toward Zion

by Elder Samuel Gould

Condensed from a sermon delivered at the 1986 Phoenix Reunion

(Part One of Two)

I haven't come here to entertain you. In fact, I like to charge people with a task before I even begin, and it's found in the 4th chapter of Colossians, starting at the 2nd verse. It says: "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;" In other words as I attempt to bring the words of God to you today, let your heart be stretched out in prayer that you might hear the words of eternal life. And that as you hear them, you would give the thanks unto God. It goes on, "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us the door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I

am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest as I ought to speak." And that's your charge this hour. Depending on how diligent you are at your task, you will be rewarded of the heavenly Father.

My first scripture reading comes out of II Nephi 10:54. I fasted for



Elder Samuel Gould

a week when I thought about coming to the Phoenix reunion, that if opportunity was granted and I was to speak, I would have the words that would be pleasing unto the Father, and that I would have the topic that the Lord would have me speak about. This verse was drawn to my attention in very great strength at a prayer meeting. It says, "What shall then answer the messengers of the nations? That the Lord hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it."

In my work in Cherokee, N.C., I'm driven by that constant thought: The gathering of the Lord's people. It's kind of like there's a wind on my back that pushes me forward, when my heart is troubled with the trials of the day and the trials of the missionary work. I think upon Zion a lot. Our Brother Don McIndoo brought up six points that constitute the cause of Zion, and I'd like to emphasize two of those points. Since the gospel has already been restored, and the place selected, and Zion founded, there are two other things that seem to be lacking: personal righteousness and the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I feel these two elements are what hinder our progress. It is our personal unrighteousness and our lack of preaching the gospel that holds us back.

There's another very grave concern of mine. Not our imperfections, in our work before the Lord, but the spiritual deception of the day. That to me is one of the more awesome threats in this Church of Christ. We have people who have difficulty in discerning the spirits. As you know when the evil one finds his way into the assemblies of the saints, it's not long and you have empty seats. That's the ploy of Satan in this last day and the strength of his power is great upon the face of the Lord.

As for spiritual righteousness, I'd like to turn to Ephesians 4:11-13. I read this many times to people I come in contact with because it tells of the mark of perfection that God Almighty requires of us. We talked today in the testimonies, of the deliverance of the saints; we have been told of the protection of the saints, the escape, the refuge. But I tell you the scriptures that I read say that the holy shall escape; the *holy*. Now how far do we have to go to reach that? I think the mark is listed here and it's very important because it talks about the carrying forth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and also about the perfection of the saints; the righteousness of God's people.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" Very important elements in the cause of Zion. Some might ask, how perfect do you need to be? It says, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith,

and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" That's the yardstick. And we've been told that since we were a child; that Christ is our example. Let me ask you, have you followed that example? We have young here and we have old here. Old ones, when you're ready to lie down, have you followed that example? Let me read one thing that Christ said to his heavenly Father, and you consider whether you can say this to your heavenly Father, young and old. It's found in John 17:4. Christ walked upon the earth and he did the will of the Father each and every step. His steps were ordered of the Lord. Now, isn't that a command for us, that every step should be ordered by the Lord? Then wherein comes this attitude, 'I'm doing my own thing?' Well, I've got my own ideas about that. There's no room for that in the day and age that we live in. Time is short and if you don't feel the presence of the hand of God ordering your each and every step, then you're not going to make it to the point that God created you for. That's right, God created each and every one of us for a specific task upon this earth, just like Christ had a mission upon this earth, and when it was done, what did he say to his heavenly Father? It's recorded in John 17:4. He says, "I have glorified thee on earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." There are many here that say, "Well, I'm not really sure why God put me here." Is that an attitude that you can keep for very long? Have you sought the will of the Father?

We read a parable; one servant knew the Lord's will and didn't do it, and he was chastized, and cast out. There there was the servant who didn't know his Lord's will. Why didn't he know? Because he didn't seek sufficiently. What is the fullness of your creation? You plant the seed and a flower grows. It is a beautiful flower—sometimes. Sometimes that flower comes up and it's crippled. It doesn't fulfill the fullness of it's creation. I'm talking to saints. Sainthood, the fullness of your creation. What is it? Why did God put you here upon this earth? Are you fulfilling your mission? Do you have the knowledge from God that you are walking in the path of righteousness? For without that knowledge your faith cannot increase. You must have that knowledge of Almighty God, that he's there and the he is ordering your each and every step. Think about it.

We look at the Church of Christ. The Church of Christ came forth just like you did, as a child. You came forth and God had a plan for you. He had a blueprint right there, and you agreed to those plans before you ever stepped on this earth. This Church has a blueprint when it came forth, and it carries us to Zion: and the gathering and the return of Christ. The Church of Christ must grow. Remember what

Brother Sheldon talked about; the little stone in Daniel that was to grow and become a mighty mountain of the Lord, and it was to strike the image upon the feet? Well, the plot where that little stone was planted, as recorded in the 57th chapter of the Doctrine and Covenants, tells you. Zion is founded but it must grow into — what? — just exactly what he said — the mighty mountain of the Lord. And then think of where we are today. How are we going to fulfill the fullness of the creation of the Church of Christ?

God by his mighty hand came to earth and set up his Kingdom and restored his gospel, and now I hear people rejecting that gospel. I am not talking about other churches - I'm talking about the Church of Christ. Some are offended at the revelations that came down from heaven. The Book of Commandments tells us that that which came down from heaven was sacred and must be spoken in sacredness and in care. You see people drawing away. An interesting thing, a dear lady told me that she did not believe there really was going to be a Zion. In the Church of Christ! To what are we converted?

There's a destiny for this Church and there's a destiny for each and every one of you, and if you're not seeking the direction God would have you go, the steps you are to take toward holiness, you might ask, "Sam, do you think you are holy?" No, brother, I've got a long way to go to get to that Zion state, but if I'm going to escape the things that are coming upon this earth, I've got to reach up to that high mountain of spirituality. God makes it sound so easy in Philippians 2:13. He says, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." And yet we reject it sometimes and do our own pleasure, our own thing.

I'd like to take that thought a step further. In II Nephi 6:100, it says, "Wherefore, do not spend money for that which is of no worth, nor your labor for that which cannot satisfy." Now sometimes I look at the Church of Christ, and I begin to think. Well, we've got two couples, one is in the church, each living in a home, they've got two cars, they've got two kids, they've got two yards, and I'm wondering just where the dividing line really is between these two couples. What are you spending your money for? What are you laboring for? Is it that new boat, or whatever it might be? Are you being cast in the image of God, or the Son of God, that you might say, "My Father, I've completed what you set me upon the earth to complete," or are you saying, "World, I look just like you think I should look." Are you cast in the image of God or are you cast in the image of man? Sometimes I think we're torn too much between God and the World. When we feel comfortable, we've got a good family, those two

kids, got those two cars, we begin to forget the cause of Zion. Brother Sheldon brought it out. How do you ever expect to accomplish the cause and design of Zion unless you have all things common? Unless you think about the situations in the families of the Church of Christ, in South America, North America, wherever you might find them.

I had an interesting dream, one that was very important to me. There was a great dearth upon the earth, and I was standing in a long line. There were saints in that line; and there was bread in one pan and there were pork chops in another. I like them both, but I could see there was not enough to feed the ones behind me, and yet, as a person went through that line they could take what they wanted, two rolls, whatever. So when I got to those pork chops I forked me up two. The fellow in front of me turned around (it happened to be my Uncle Gene). He grabbed my hand, and he said, "Sam, eat out of need, not out of greed." Think about it. I was about to deprive somebody out of a pork chop out of greed, not out of need. It would have been nice to have but it was out of greed that I took it. It was fully in my power to take it, though. It's the same thing with our incomes, our labor, our days upon this earth. How much time have you taken to yourself and to your family that was not really required and neglected the gospel of Jesus Christ? Oh, it's fun, skydiving or whatever you're into, but it does very little for the gospel of Christ.

Many times we have people that are reaching outside, to find something internal that gives them that which satisfieth. They try to get things from the outside, and we all know that's not how it happens. That which satisfieth comes from the inside. I think that's what he's alluding to here, somewhat, "nor for that which cannot satisfy."

I'd like to go to another favorite of mine and that's found in II Nephi 11:109. "But the laborer in Zion shall labor in Zion; for if they labor for money, they shall perish." I'd like to couple that with that last verse, if you labor for that which cannot satisfy, you shall perish. Your heart will not be in Zion. Zion is a living part of me, and I believe it's a living part of most of you. But some of you still have the idea that it's a vague concept, and I charge you to study it out. Zion should be as much of the living word of God that's within you as any other part of the gospel. And if you couch the gospel of Jesus Christ in any other terms it will be nothing but husk.

At work people tell me, "I went to Nassau; I went to Hawaii; I went snorkeling off the beach of so and so; where did you go, Sam?" I went to Zion. What? You mean like in the Old Testament? No, as in right now, I went to Zion and I had the best time of my life. And I hope and pray I can go again. I went to Zion.

I'd like to tell you a little story about myself. I try

to use stories about myself so I don't hurt feelings. When I entered the mission field at Cherokee, N.C., I was a young urban professional, I guess they call them yuppies today. I'd just bought my second car, I had two kids, I had these comfortable things, and I told Elder M. Harvey Seibel, "I can't go with you, door to door, Saturday." He said, "Why?" I said, "I've got to mow my lawn." Thinking about that today humbles me. But he said, "What?" And he could be quite exuberant when you said something like that to him. I said, "Yes, my neighbors are going to be awfully upset with me if I don't mow that lawn." and I didn't go. (I thought he was being awfully hard with me, he said some of the nastiest things that I knew to be true.) I mowed my lawn, and the next week I went down there to Cherokee, and that night as I lay thinking about those events, my heart began to get hard. Some of you have experienced the hardening of the heart. I began to think about these things. Everybody else that I worked with had all these comfortable things. I lived in Knoxville, a nice place, I thought. And here I was in a little broken down trailer in Cherokee, with my wife and children. I was bemoaning, and while I was laying there contemplating the matter (that's usually when I'm supposed to be talking to God, but when you've got a hard heart, sometimes you kind of stray away from doing that with real earnestness). It was just like the roof of the trailer just rolled back and the clouds of heaven rolled back, and there was a council meeting being held in heaven and there were two spirits holding accusations against me, and I knew them to be true. The voice from the throne said, "What shall we do?" And I pleaded, "Oh, please, do whatever it takes to save my soul, that I might bring the word of God to others like I should, Oh, please." And the voice said, "It will be done." And the clouds rolled back. I laid there thinking about the vision most of the night.

When I got in church the next morning, being the Sunday School Superintendent, I opened the meeting with prayer, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and I prayed that the Lord would set his chastening hand upon those who required it and that his kingdom would be set in order. I had a car accident on the way home, lost one of those two cars. It was like there was a dark sleep came over me and I ran right into the back of a guy's car that I worked with. That meant a lot to me and I had many days of humility and contrition. And I decided that I was going to be cast into the image of God and not in the image of man. And I would labor for these things that had worth to them, that could satisfy the soul, that I could look back on a day later and say that I have something kept in store for that moment. Let's watch ourself along these lines, and not only watch because the requirement is holiness.

*(To be concluded next month)*



## God Speaks

Last night as I was saying my evening prayer and asking our Heavenly Father to watch over us, feeling our great concern again, He took occasion to interrupt me and remind me of His mercy over us these past few months.

He reminded me of His miracle in sending His ministers to my door, and His miracle of giving me a receptive heart. Then He reminded me of His miracle in sending my daughter, Janey, home from Japan to spend three months with us while His ministers were bringing us in touch with His church.

He reminded me of His miracle in giving Janey a receptive heart and His miracle of bringing her back in touch with His church, time and time again, from her far off place of residence to His place.

And then He admonished me to trust Him for her future, and mine, and for our homes and loved ones.

Shirley Rose Bailey  
Lamoni, Iowa

## My Place of Solace

Doing dishes in front of my kitchen window has turned out to be my place of solace. It's where my mind is clear, even though my hands are busy, and no problems of this 'The Land Of Confusion' can touch me. I'm so thankful now that we didn't buy that dishwasher we wanted, not that I LOVE doing dishes, mind you, but that is a spot where I am at peace. Several revelations have struck me while I was in that clear, open, state of mind, probably for that reason. Life today can be so trying, handling the pressures of raising a family, maintaining a household, a business, balancing a budget, it just goes on and on and when I finally find time to sit to

read the newspaper or to watch some TV, I find it troubles me even more. Especially with all the 'AMERIKA' and AIDS talk, I wonder what this world is coming to. I know ... they've been saying that for centuries! I'm not afraid for myself, but for those who are missing the true values in this life, our true purpose for being here. MAN IS JUST TOO WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF; BELIEVING HE IS ALL POWERFUL AND WONDERFUL; LIFE IS A PARTY TO ENJOY TO THE FULLEST. This is *not* a party, it's actually school and the preparation for our biggest EXAM! WE SHOULD BE PREPARING OURSELVES. Be thankful for all of God's blessings, live each day just as righteously as you possibly can and through His Scriptures come to truly know Our Lord, and, just as important, hold onto that faith in steadfastness for the many trials that await us!

Your sister in Christ,  
Debbie Brantner Vogel  
Ravenna, Michigan

## Thank You!

This will have to be my Thank You note to all the brothers and sisters who prayed for our family during the last two difficult months. So many blessings were ours that I would like to share them with you. My husband, Allen, was hospitalized right after Christmas with a terrible case of vertigo. The treatment was successful and he was back to work the next week. Our experience with Aric (our 12-

year old son) has surely shown us the grace of God. The diagnosis was that he had a tumor in the front lobe area of the sinuses, which was pressing on his eyes and causing blinding headaches and numbness in his hands and arms. He was in the hospital for a week, then out again without any improvement. For several days, we were on a medical merry-go-round: the date of surgery was set, then postponed, then re-scheduled within a matter of days. Two other doctors agreed with the diagnosis, including a neurosurgeon who ordered a second CAT scan. Aric was very ill during this time, barely able to keep his head up. When surgery was done, the tumor was simply not there. Praise the Lord! We felt blessed in having a doctor who recognizes the power of prayer and the wonderful healing ability God has given our bodies. This doctor has kept up on all the new surgical procedures and was able to do an endoscopic surgery using very small instruments and a small telescopic device. Aric's incision at the inside corner of his left eyelid is barely noticeable now, and his recovery has been slow but sure. His home-bound tutor comes twice a week, and he should be going back to school soon. The doctors were amazed at Aric's maturity in handling his situation, and we know that the Lord gave him much comfort and strength to endure. This whole experience has been a powerful testimony to him and to others who are familiar with all the details. We are thankful for your prayers and support and thank God for this glimpse into his loving kindness and great mercy.

Becky Downs  
Grand Junction, Colorado

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## A Tribute To Mother

Mother is the Greatest of all God's creation here on earth. No human being can equal Mother. She rises above just woman to become a super woman. She carries her child next to her heart for months and months before birth and as long as she lives thereafter. No one but God and Mother knows what goes through her heart and soul before the birth of her child.

She gives herself a thousand times a day for her children no matter what the cost. They are always first, and she is last, as long as life remains with her. I believe this Motherhood surely must shine through the shadow of the tomb into the boundless realms of eternity. Only Mother knows how great it is and

sometimes I believe even she does not know until it is time put to the test.

Some Fathers leave a Mother and her children but 999 times out of 1,000 Mother stays and finds a way to bring the children to adulthood. I believe it to be appropo that Mother is greater than man here on earth. Mother was the vehicle that God used to send his son into the world. God must have loved Mother above all of his creations here on earth. Surely he did not make a mistake when he created Mother.

Blessed be the name of the Lord for creating a being so *grand and great as Mother*.

Elder Elmer H. Jenkins

# To All Mothers On Mothers' Day

We thank you God for giving us Mothers that teach us the ways of the Lord, and to walk in the path the Lord set before us.

In the word of God we can find some writings on the importance of having a God-fearing mother.

Genesis 3:20 "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

1 Kings 3:25-27: "And the king said, divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O My Lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof."

1 Nephi 3:53-62: "And I beheld the city of Nazareth: and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white. And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me Nephi what beholdest thou? And I said unto him, A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins. And he said unto me, knowest thou the condescension of God? And I said unto him, I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless I do not know the meaning of all things. And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the son of God, after the manner of the flesh. And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the spirit; And after she had been carried away in the spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look! And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me, Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!"

Luke 1:26-50 "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **Jesus**. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto

the angel, How shalt this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible."

"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, Lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and Holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation."

Matthew 1:18 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."

Mosiah 1:102 "And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of Heaven and Earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary."

Alma 5:19 "And behold, he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem, which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed, and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God;"

Alma 26:56-57 "Now they never had fought, yet they did not fear death: and they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers, than they did upon their lives; yea, they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, that God would



deliver them. And they rehearsed unto me the words of their mothers, saying, We do not doubt our mothers knew."

Alma 26:95, 96 "And as the remainder of our army were about to give way before the Lamanites, behold, those two thousand and sixty were firm and undaunted; yea, and they did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness; Yea, and even according to their faith, it was done unto them; and I did remember the words which they said unto me that their mothers had taught them."

Alma 26:103, 104 "And we do justly ascribe it to the miraculous power of God, because of their exceeding faith in that which they had been taught to believe, that there was a just God; and whosoever did not doubt, that they should be preserved by his marvelous power. Now this was the faith of these of whom I have spoken; they are young, and their minds are firm; and they do put their trust in God continually."

John 19:25-27 "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

After reading about the importance of our ancient mothers, let us all give thanks to God for our mothers, and then thank our mothers for teaching us about the importance of serving the Almighty God!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Jeff Butts



"Study to shew thyself  
approved unto God . . ."

II Timothy 2:15

## Know Your Scriptures

### Question for youth submitted by Martin Rosen:

Who killed two "lionlike" men of Moab, "slew a lion in a pit on a snowy day" and slew an Egyptian five cubits high?

Hint: Learn to use a concordance by looking up key words in "quotations."

While you're at it, find out how tall the Egyptian was (5 cubits). Try using a Bible Dictionary. Compare his height to Goliath's height.

### Adults:

The prophet Ether was a Jaredite and author of the book which bears his name in the Book of Mormon. What language did Ether speak and write upon the plates?

(Answers are to be found elsewhere in this issue)

## OBITUARIES

### Oren A. Caviness

Oren Alfred Caviness, born in Durango, Colorado, on August 31, 1903, passed from this life on March 12, 1987, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 83 years, 6 months, and 12 days. He was the son of George W. Caviness and Martha J. Mathis.

Oren was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Clifford O. Caviness; and two sisters, Irma Mortensen and Ethel Yates. He is survived by one brother, George W. Caviness, Jr., of Independence, Missouri.

Oren was married to Esther M. Yates in San Bernadino, California, on August 31, 1924, his twenty-first birthday. To this union three daughters were born: Lorraine I. (Mrs. A.D. "Bert" Patterson), of Phoenix, Arizona; Velma J. (Mrs. R.A. "Dick" Wheaton), of Vernal, Utah; and Sharon I. (Mrs. L.E. "Larry Kelley"), of Springfield, Missouri.

Oren worked his way through high school as a night janitor at the library in Durango, Colorado, reading every book he could, forming a life long thirst for literature and knowledge.

He worked as a cow puncher in Colorado as a young man and as a miner in Bingham Canyon, Utah (the largest open pit copper mine in the world), and the silver mines of Tonapah, Nevada.

Oren was an avid outdoorsman. Included in his interests were rock hunting and polishing, photography, camping, hunting and fishing.

He worked for the Phoenix Fire Department for thirty years, working his way up from Hoseman to Battalion Chief, retiring on May 1, 1961.

Oren was baptized into the RLDS church as a young boy, later transferring to the Church of Christ (with Headquarters on the Temple Lot) with his wife, Esther in February 1928. He was ordained an Elder in the Church of Christ on March 17, 1929, and served as Pastor of the Phoenix, Arizona, and Collins, Missouri, local churches and as a General Bishop of the church from 1962 until his death.

Oren leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Esther, three daughters, Lorraine, Velma and Sharon, fourteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held at the Phoenix Local Church of Christ, Sunday, March 22, 1987.

### A TRIBUTE TO DAD CAVINESS

I would like to begin by reading a few verses from Job 19:23-27:

Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with

iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

This paragraph is taken from a letter to Mother Caviness from the Bishopric:

We share in your loss and have memories of our own to thank our Great God for giving us such a co-servant as Brother Caviness. We will always be grateful for the calm, quiet and loving consideration and counsel he added to our many times burdened and difficult tasks. His influence will remain with us and we will never cease to praise God for this gift that we have been so privileged to enjoy.

(signed)

Al Harris  
Nicholas Denham  
LeRoy Wheaton  
Frank Fann  
Ed Padola  
Leslie Case

I came into Oren and Esther Caviness' family 34 years ago as Velma's husband. Some refer to this relationship as being a son-in-law. But I did not have a father-in-law and don't have a mother-in-law, I have another father and mother. Like all three of their sons, I have always received the same generous portion of their love and concern that their daughters have enjoyed.

Dad was a most remarkable man, confident, capable and self-assured. But he was also an humble man, not given to boasting of his deeds or accomplishments. He had a quiet, gracious manner that sometimes belied his deep concern and convictions of life. He was a devout man giving much of his time and himself to his God, his church and his fellow man.

Dad Caviness and I served together for several years on the Board of Publications where his efforts and dedication were greatly appreciated and of great benefit to the Church.

He personified the oft seen illustration of the young boy carrying a small boy on his back and when asked if his load was not too heavy replied, "He's not heavy, he's my brother." Dad cared that way for all of his family, his friends (which included everyone he knew) and the stranger.

Dad and I had many things in common. We loved nature, the mountains, desert, wildlife, the deer that came to his yard, the cardinals that called at his back door, and fishing for the beautiful rainbow trout. He loved poetry, music and good literature. He loved the Gospel and church friends and he loved children and family.

Dad loved to find the hidden beauty in rocks that his many rock hounding forays yielded up.

Dad loved life and savored each moment of it with zest. But he never became so preoccupied by living his own life, that he was too busy to help those in need. Like the poet Eva Rose York, who penned these lines, he seemed ever aware of his responsibilities to those about him:

I shall not pass this way again—

Although it bordered be with flowers,

Although I rest in fragrant bowers,

And hear the singing

Of song-birds winging

To highest heaven their gladsome flight;

Though moons are full and stars are bright,

And winds and waves are softly sighing,

While leafy trees make low replying;

Though voices clear in joyous strain

Repeat a jubilant refrain;

Though rising suns their radiance throw

On summer's green and winter's snow,

In such rare splendor that my heart

Would ache from scenes like these to part;

Though beauties heighten,

And life-lights brighten,

And joys proceed from every pain.—

I shall not pass this way again.

Dad Caviness was a very special person in my life and in the lives of his family and friends, both young and old. He was first a true friend who never failed you. And he was a fellow servant of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He was a companion on many adventures in life, camping, fishing and vacationing together many times to many beautiful parts of God's creation.

During Mother's recent illness, he prayed constantly for his sweetheart's recovery and return to him. His prayers and faith were answered by Mother's miraculous recovery.

Dad was aware that his time was near, and he spent the last few hours of it the night he left, trying to prepare Mother for the time when he would not be with her, and telling her how rich a life they had had together, how very deeply he loved her and that she must be strong after he was gone. Then he layed down and went to sleep and met his Master to rest in His paradise.

So true to his nature, Dad, in his last hours, was still building the bridge for those who would follow, so beautifully portrayed in Will Allen Dromgoole's poem:

#### "The Bridge-BUILDER"

An old man going a lone highway

Came at the evening, cold and gray,

To a chasm vast and wide and steep,

With waters rolling cold and deep.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,

The sullen stream had no fears for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man" said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here,  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way.  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today,  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
The chasm that was as nought to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim—  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Dick Wheaton

When I was just a little girl, I thought my "Daddy" was the strongest, bravest man in the whole world. Later, I added: handsomest, smartest, best outdoorsman, kindest and most understanding (and could fix anything!). When I grew up, I still thought so.

When there were what seemed to be insurmountable trials and problems in my life, my Dad was there with the kind of advice and encouragement I needed, reminding me that we have our Lord who we can turn to, giving Him our burdens and letting Him work out our problems.

When I knew that Dad was to be the speaker on Sundays, I was always delighted and eager to be there, for I knew I would hear words and thoughts that would prick my consciousness to be a better person, giving me advice on ways I could improve myself and fill me with enthusiasm to go out and live that good life! They were always sermons I could relate to.

Then Dick and I were married, poor man. He had to live the first few years of our lives together with the knowledge that I thought he should be just like my Dad!

One of my greatest joys was discovering how much Dick and Dad had in common, the love of outdoors, fishing, hunting, camping, traveling, photography, music and most of all, the Gospel of Christ.

Dick often told me he never thought of my parents as "in-laws"; they were his family, too.

We spent as much time together as our respective work and responsibilities would let us. We were looking forward with such anticipation to their stay with us this summer! We spent a lot of our time planning where we could take them to fish, or sight-see or picnic. But most of all, we were just looking forward to being with them and catching up on our visiting.

I will miss Dad terribly, and I know I'm not alone in

missing him. But isn't it wonderful that the Lord gives us memories to hold in our hearts and minds of our loved ones?! And don't we have lots of wonderful memories?!

Our family has always believed we had a little more love between us than most families and even our initials said so:

Lorraine  
Oren  
Velma  
Esther  
Sharon

Though Dad may not be here physically any more, his loving memory will *always* be with us.

Velma J. Wheaton

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## Nellie DeGroot

(The only service Nellie requested was a grave side service conducted by Elder Richard A. Wheaton in Ogden, Utah, on March 30, 1987. The following are the remarks from that service, attended by approximately 40 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.)

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted: A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Nellie DeGroot was born August 22, 1904, and was adopted into the family of John and Alida DeGroot on August 28, 1909, where she enjoyed a loving family life of which she often spoke.

Nellie was baptized into the Church of Christ (with headquarters on the Temple Lot, in Independence, Missouri) by Apostle James E. Yates on November 17, 1928, at Ogden, Utah.

Nellie was engaged in domestic work and child care most of her working years, sometimes working in factories, retiring in 1969. Many of the children, now young men and women with children of their own, and their parents were in attendance at Nellie's service.

Nellie DeGroot passed from this life on March 27, 1987, at the age of 82 years, 7 months and 5 days in the hospital in Ogden, Utah.

She lived most of her life in Ogden, Utah, at 446 River Drive. She cared for both her mother and father during long illnesses preceding their deaths.

She loved her mother and father and family. Often caring for her nieces and nephews. She was generous to family and friends.

Nellie was preceded in death by her only adopted brother John DeGroot, of Ogden.

And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc.... The soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul; yea, and every limb and joint shall be restored to its body; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost, but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame. And now my son, this is the restoration of which has been spoken by the mouths of the prophets. And then shall the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of God.

Alma 19:44, 58-59

I first became acquainted with the DeGroot family in 1929 in Independence, Missouri, when the family attended the conference of the Church of Christ. My family camped in the park just east of the DeGroot home on River Drive during the summer of 1934. One of my three older brothers, my younger sister and I, attended the school at the old Mound Fort School at 12th and Washington that Fall and Winter.

In 1981, my wife, Velma, and I moved to Vernal, Utah, and renewed our association with Nellie, and had many long visits in her home at 806 23rd Street, ministering to her spiritual needs and encouraging her during many difficult times of illness and injury.

Nellie never failed to affirm her strong belief and faith in God, though she was isolated from other members of her own denomination. She had many good and caring friends and relatives in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Ogden to whom we shall always be grateful, among whom was her very dear friend, Trudy Carr. Nellie often spoke to us of Trudy and the care and concern she had for her. Trudy was with her during her final days in the hospital.

She was a very independent and determined person, caring for her self and her home. Nellie worked in her yard, little garden and flowers. She even shoveled the snow from her sidewalks in the winter.

Nellie is now in the very loving and tender care of her Master in Paradise as we were told in Alma.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

23rd Psalm

## Ruth (Yates) Willard

Ruth Anna Yates (Mrs. Donald B. Willard) was born June 1, 1897, to James E. and Lillie May Yates, near Weir City, Kansas. She passed away March 6, 1987, in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Donna Ruth and Joseph A. Moser II, Carefree, Arizona. This living arrangement had been made nearly two years before so that the younger couple could give Ruth the loving care she so much needed.

The Willards' second daughter, Meredyth Baskett, lives in Phoenix, and their only son, Robert B. Willard, lives in Claremont, California, with his wife, Minnie.

A memorial service at the Phoenix Church of Christ on Siesta Lane, Sunday afternoon, March 15, 1987, was in the charge of the Willards' grandsons, Elder Jay Moser and William (Bill) Malone, an ordained Priest. Other family members, Chris Moser, Patsy Yates, Meredyth Baskett, Donna Moser, Evalena Sills and Elder Joseph E. Yates participated in the service with original and personal tributes to their loved one.

The lovely hymn, "How Great Thou Art," was sung by Chris, accompanied by Patsy.

Ruth's three children, with their families, were present at the memorial service, including her nine grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Many other relatives, both local and out-of-state, including many of the Willard clan were there to pay their respects to one of God's noblewomen who had won the love of young and old alike, during her almost ninety years of life.

Ruth's lifetime activities were varied. Her place in the parental home was dependable, generous, loving. After graduating in 1918 from the old Tempe Normal School in Tempe, Arizona, she taught a one-room country school near La Monte, Missouri. After her marriage in 1919, besides the enviable accomplishment of rearing her family of three lovable and successful children, and exerting a noble influence on her admiring grandchildren, she helped her husband, Don, make a success of several business ventures in Northern Arizona, first at Jerome, then Cottonwood, and finally Sedona.

After their retirement they moved to Hermitage, Missouri, near a host of Ruth's relatives where they lived for seven years, enjoying good fellowship with the people of that area, as well as taking delight in the rolling green hills and lush meadows of that beautiful state. In 1977 they returned to Arizona to live out their lives in Don's native state and Ruth's adopted one.

During their retirement years Don and Ruth enjoyed extensive travel together. Now that their last journey lives only in memory, we know that Don will miss, unspeakably, his enthusiastic traveling

companion and his loving spouse of almost sixty-eight happy years.

There was no formal funeral for Ruth. By her request there was just the memorial service in the church she loved. Following cremation by the Shadow Mountain Mortuary, the urn of ashes was taken to Sedona and placed in the Willard family burial plot near where the body of Ruth's father, the late Apostle James E. Yates, was laid to rest in April, 1954. God rest their souls until the Great Resurrection Morn!

—E.S.

## Arizona Camp For All Ages

The Phoenix local would like to invite you to spend the Fourth of July weekend (July 3, 4, and 5) with us worshipping the Lord in the cool Arizona pines at the Arizona Camp For All Ages. Meals will be provided; all you need are scriptures, bed rolls, personal effects (swim suits, change of clothing, etc.), and a prayerful attitude.

We want to share this wonderful opportunity to meet with the Lord.

The following fee will apply; however, if you are unable to pay, don't allow that to hinder your attendance: \$7.50 for singles, \$10 couples, and \$15 for families. For further information please contact:

Jim Yates, Jr., Camp Coordinator  
2317 E. Beverly Lane  
Phoenix, Arizona 85022  
(602)971-9674

We hope to see everyone there. If you cannot attend we hope you will seek the Lord in our behalf.

## 1987 Colorado Reunion

The Colorado Reunion will be held on June 12, 13 and 14, at the Church of Christ, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

We want to invite all who can to come and worship with us. Please notify one of the committee members about your intentions, so we can plan for your comfort.

Allen Downs — 303-243-5777  
299½ Holly Lane  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Robert Ely — 303-434-8090  
3201 B½ Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Marvin Ely — 303-434-8149  
236-32 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

We look forward to greeting you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## Michigan State Reunion

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 20 and 21, 1987, at the Bradley Local, Bradley, Michigan. As usual, meals will be potluck.

Excellent camping facilities are available at the Inglewood Campground, about 5 miles east of Bradley. For further information, contact Bernie Ritsema, 536 Irving Road, Hastings, MI 49058, phone (616)948-8335.

Anyone needing housing or any other information regarding the reunion may contact:

Elder LaVern Lussenden  
204 Oak  
Hopkins, MI 49328  
Phone: (616)793-7245

Please make a note of the dates and plan on attending if at all possible. We would ask that you approach this reunion in solemn prayer that we can all come to a unity of faith and have that abiding love for one another that we have always had in the past.

Reunion Committee—Norman Trudgen  
Jeff Butts  
Jay Lee

## Thank You!

We, the family of Daniel Tyler along with Daniel, would like to thank each and every one of you for the love, the cards and most of all the prayers and visits while our son, Daniel, was in so bad shape and during the time immediately following the loss of our daughter-in-law Cindy, Daniel's new wife. You all will always be a part of our lives.

Daniel is at home now and is walking on crutches. We would also like to say a special thanks to Brother Glen Gill and his wife, and all the other brothers and sisters that came down to visit and to be with Daniel.

## Collins Local News

Spring has arrived according to the calendar, but gloomy clouds and wet, chilly winds have been getting in their last digs at us. New leaves and pink and white blossoms can be seen everywhere in spite of this recent cold spell. The signs of spring are encouraging to me.

Brothers Don McIndoo and Jim Yates have returned from their missionary trip to Yucatan. We look forward to their visit in our area every year at this time. A pot-luck dinner was hosted by Marlene Cobb Tuesday night so we might all get together and visit with our Phoenix brothers. Toward the end of that evening a special season of prayer was called for young David Guffey, Pam and Larry Shaw's son. David is presently in Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. He has been diagnosed as having acute leukemia. Several locals were notified and special prayers were requested on David's behalf during their Wednesday night prayer services. Please continue to pray for this young man—he's only sixteen.

Our hearts were saddened at the news of the death of our Sister Ruth Willard and Brother Oren Caviness. Death to many seems all too final, but to

those who know and believe the promises of God, death is only another step in God's wonderful plan for His children. Our prayers are for the families of Ruth and Oren that they will be comforted as only God can comfort.

We have completed the remodeling of our church. The carpet is down, the pews are in place, and the drapes are hung. It looks very nice and we invite you all to come share this with us. I realize that new pews and such will not make us more "godly," but when given the opportunity to improve our place of worship it only seemed right. We are all very grateful for the financial help that has been given to make this all possible. Even the lady who runs the grocery store in Collins (and belongs to another church) contributed money to assist us. Perhaps her gift touched me the most. She has shared our hopes and excitement in improving our place of worship from the beginning. Her name is Beverly Marquis—a really sweet lady.

Thank you all and God bless you.

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

## Warrensburg Local News

Greetings and God's blessings to all of God's children!

Saturday, February 14, 1987, was the day chosen by Elder Elmer Jenkins and Sister Betty Carter to begin their new life together. The wedding took place in Warrensburg, in the humble building where the local meets each Sunday. A loving spirit surrounded us all as the couple exchanged vows. The happy bride, radiant, in a blue dress, and the groom, proud and smiling, received congratulations and best wishes for happiness. A reception followed the ceremony with cake, ice cream and punch being served. Among the many guests present were Brother Elmer's daughter, and Sister Betty's six sisters; also nieces and nephews and many dear friends. We rejoice with these dear ones, and ask God to bless them with love, contentment and happiness throughout their life together.

For several weeks now we have been meeting on Tuesday evenings at the home of Brother Andy and Sister Carol Brantner for a study of the scriptures. We invite anyone who might be interested to join us in our study of Zion, as we seek to learn the direction God intends us to go and the responsibilities we are to assume as we strive to do His will.

On Sunday, March 15, 1987, we enjoyed having Elder Victor Bates, of Rich Hill, Missouri, with us. His sermon gave us admonishment to always seek God's will and guidance, that we need the counsel of the Lord in all things. Following the service, a lovely meal was shared, along with a time of visiting.

We have been enjoying beautiful spring weather. It's my favorite time of year, witnessing the birth of a new growing season, with its lovely flowers in every hue, colorful blooms on trees and shrubs, and for accent and contrast, the fresh new green grass all around. Looking out my dining room window, I can visualize that in just a few short weeks we'll be watching the newest litter of black and white kittens crawling and jumping in and around the red and yellow tulips at the edge of the porch. Soon you'll see tractors at work in the fields, and back yard gardens beginning to sprout. It truly is a wonderful time of year! And when summer comes, and fall, and winter, you'll probably hear me say again, that "this is my favorite time of year." All year long, through every season, we enjoy what God has given and we praise Him for His kindness and goodness to us.

Jeanne Brantner, reporter

## Grand Junction News

Thanks to the contributing reporters from the various locals, we share your news of baptisms, blessings and marriages with great joy. The Lord helps us in so many wonderful ways, and hearing of them is a source of strength and encouragement.

The opportunity to move to Grand Junction came to Jan Banta, and it has been our pleasure to be enriched by her gentle nature and sweet voice, both of which she willingly shares. Her 4-year old twins, Bobby and Charlie, enliven the primary class with their little-boy observations. Charlie took the play-dough model of the little girl whom Jesus raised from the dead, and had her rise up from her bed, full of life and ready for a play-dough donut. He said, "Jesus make her better." These little ones understand the early lessons of rewarded faith and answered prayer.

Meeting with us again are Edith Arden and her sons, Thomas and Nathan. Her husband Lloyd, works in construction and is frequently working away from this area. Edith is busy taking some schooling in hopes of finding employment. We ask that you remember this family, as Lloyd's health is a problem, as well as their difficulty with him having to be away so much.

Last year's news seems so stale now (I'm saying, "My, how time flies"). The Christmas program is long gone, as is our annual business meeting. Now, it's on to other things: planning our spring activities, relieving the kids' mid-winter boredom. Before long, all that will be old news, too. We are all treated equally in having 24 hours a day given to us, but our studies seem to tell us that time is short, that we must decide today to make Jesus Christ the most important person in our lives, and to rid ourselves of those bad habits and misplaced ambitions that hinder greater joy. One good habit we have to help us in our search for brotherhood and renewed dedication, is the annual Colorado Reunion. Please join us on June 12, 13 and 14, at the Grand Junction local. If you have never been to the great Rocky Mountains, then the beauty of God's handiwork will amaze you. If you're already acquainted with our mountain grandeur, you will be reminded of the tremendous power with which God forms and

controls this beautiful world. Besides, we'd enjoy your company and benefit from your presence.

At this writing (March 1), we are holding several names in remembrance, asking that God's strength and healing power be made manifest in their lives. Recovering from surgery at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, is Dave Hinkle, valued senior member and friend. His wife Charlotte, traveled there with Bob and Shirley Ely, and they spent a week before returning home. Dave has always been a very active person, interested in many things and interesting to his many friends. We pray for the return of his independence and ability to enjoy life once again.

While Marvin Ely is in the mission field, we remember him for his safety and for guidance in helping those whom he visits. Please remember his wife Berniece, who is alone while he's away, and suffers from several health problems. So many times, Marvin has hesitated to leave when she's been feeling ill, and his absence has been an anxious time for them both.

Christmas-time visitors were Jack and Kellie Bell, from Alaska, with their children Zachary and Abby. We were pleased to be present when Abby was blessed by Marvin Ely and her great-grandfather Harvey Bell. While in Independence on business a few weeks ago, Kellie was baptized into the Church of Christ. We welcome you with the hand of fellowship, Kellie. "Few in number, yet delighting in the truth which makes us free; may that truth our hearts uniting, help us each to trust in Thee." These words from a hymn came to my mind while thinking of that first important step into the spiritual Kingdom of God.

Recently returned from a trip to Missouri, are Alvina Bell and daughter Lois. We missed them at services, but understand the importance of being with family for special occasions, in this instance the marriage of a granddaughter. Alvina and Harvey Bell have been good faithful members for many years, an inspiration to us all.

We remember our brothers and sisters in the church and send our best wishes.

Becky Downs, Reporter

Read in I Chronicles 11:22-25 where **Benahiah**, because of his might and bravery was appointed by King David to be captain of his guard. A "cubit" is about 18", so the Egyptian Benahiah killed was 90", or 7'6" - a pretty big man. Goliath was 6 cubits and a "span" (Span = 1/2 cubit), or 9'9".  
 Ether and all the descendants of Jared and his brother spoke the **Adamic language**, the original language of man. The Bible account of the confusion of tongues by God at the tower of Babel does not mention the fact that the Jaredites language was *not* confounded (because of their righteousness and earnest desire). Therefore, they continued to speak the original language of man. Moroni abridged Ether's writing into Reformed Egyptian and Joseph Smith translated that into English. Both Moroni and Joseph used the same instrument to translate: The Urim and Thummim. Read Ether 1:1-11.

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The 1988 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 3. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 4. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 1 and 2.

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