

Zion's Advocate

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

Vol. 64

Independence, Missouri • July, 1987

No. 7

THE PRESIDENT'S PRAYER

Almighty God, as we stand here at this moment, my future associates in the executive branch of the Government join me in beseeching that thou will make full and complete our dedication to the service of the people in this throng and their fellow citizens everywhere.

Give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong and allow all our words and actions to be governed thereby and by the laws of this land.

Especially we pray that our concern shall be for all the people, regardless of station, race or calling.

May cooperation be permitted and be the mutual aim of those who, under the concept of our constitution, hold to differing political beliefs – so that all may work for the good of our beloved country and for Thy Glory. Amen.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

*President Eisenhower prefaced his Inaugural Address on January 20, 1953,
with what he called this "Little Prayer of My Own."*

IN THIS ISSUE

An Ability We All Have p. 98

The People of Zion p. 99

1987 Conference Report p. 102

Devorah p. 105

YPCL Report p. 108

Re-Dedication p. 108

Zion's Advocate

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

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

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

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

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

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

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

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

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

Editorial . . .

An Ability We All Have

Many are the comments over the pulpit, in Sunday School and in various Church periodicals about the "talents" and "abilities" given God's people and how their use promotes the Gospel of Christ and helps fulfill Christian obligations, etc.

It is further observed that some individuals are "gifted" from Heaven with more talents and abilities than others, but that each and every member of the Kingdom has at least one useful and needed talent. When you put them all together as the body of Christ, every talent or ability needed to function as Christ's Church is resident in one or more of its members.

However, there is one "ability" that each of us have, without exception. It is directly related to all those other talents and abilities. In fact, all other abilities would be non-existent without this. We all have it, man, woman and child, and upon entrance into the fold of Christ through baptism, it greatly increases and we immediately become liable for its regular use.

God needs it for the accomplishment of His great plans in the days ahead. The Church, and in turn, each local Church desperately needs it to properly function

and each of us depends heavily on each of his brothers and sisters to use this "ability" in order to enjoy the fruits and benefits inherent in the Church and Christian fellowship.

What is it? It's called "response" ability — or more properly, "responsibility."

From the time we first learn to talk and understand our parents' language, we are responsible — if only to obey. Later, when we enter into the waters of baptism and become a member of the Church of Christ we become responsible for that membership. We can't reap where we do not sow. We cannot enjoy the benefits of Christianity without exercising our responsibilities as a child of the King — whether that is as a good strong supporter and carrier of the image of the pure love of Christ (which is a "gift"), or additionally as a member of a Church committee or Church office holder, from custodian or maintenance committee member to social committee member, young people leader, pianist or pastor.

Responsibility can be a heavy burden — and although we all have it, we don't all carry it out as we should. The

fulfilling of our responsibilities as a Christian only becomes a "burden", however, when we don't allow that love of Christ to be our catalyst and drive.

We are told that the obedience of God's commandments, the fulfilling of our small but important Christian duties, the use of our God-given gifts, talents and abilities for the cause of Christ, is "not grievous." (1 John 5:1-4) Finally, our responsibilities to each other

and God (one is the same as the other) must be our number one priority in life because "we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:" . . . and that is the foundation of all our responsibilities.

GAH

The People of Zion

by Apostle William Sheldon

*(Condensed from a sermon delivered
at the 1986 Phoenix reunion)*



Apostle William Sheldon

As I listened to the opening of the service this afternoon, I heard the scripture reading that was given and I said within myself, "hmmmmm." Then as I listened to the special music, I again said within myself, "Oh-oh;" and then when Brother Don started to preach, I said, "yup!"

I guess what I have to offer, if the Lord is willing, will be perhaps the second barrel of that shotgun, because I have in mind to speak about Zion, also. And, I'm not at all dismayed with the fact that we've already had a presentation on that matter. I think there is a great deal that needs to be said, as our Brother indicated, upon this subject and others of like character that are indeed characteristic of this Restoration of the fullness of the gospel that we have received in these the latter days.

Brother Ely said in the prayer service this morning, that we are living in a time when we may indeed observe the fact that there is a rejection of the fullness of the gospel, and we should not be dismayed because of those things that come to us. Some of it is very cleverly presented and the unwary might well be led into blind forbidden paths, led into error away from that which God has brought into being in our day and time. I should give you a scripture reading before I go into some of the things that I want to bring to our attention with regard to the establishment of Zion in the latter days. I'm going to read from the 14th chapter of Isaiah, the 32nd verse. "What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it." What a statement of impact to our souls, of great worth. For men may fight against Zion, and they may indeed reject the fullness of the gospel; and incidently there are none who may reject the fullness of the gospel more fully than those who have contact, or have received it. And I'm

persuaded that rejection of the fullness of the gospel covers more than a rejection of the Book of Mormon. It covers some of the essential elements that have been part and parcel of this latter day work from its inception.

One of the things that I would like to bring to your attention is that in connection with the establishment of Zion, there is also to be a temple built unto the name of our God, here upon this land; yes, within the city of New Jerusalem as Zion is referred to in the Book of Mormon. A temple is to be built, a place where the Savior is going to come again upon the earth.

I want to read the 2nd chapter of Isaiah, verses 2 and 3, something that should be very much a part of our understanding and our reasoning. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains," let me pause and make a notation that you might want to look into yourself; you will find this particular reference in the Book of Mormon says this, "It shall come to pass in the last days **when** the mountains of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains." This says, "**that** the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains." Oh, it's telling us it shall come about, and when it shall come about we are given to understand what is to transpire at that blessed event. ". . . and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

He's referencing the fact that the mountain shall be the place of the government of Christ upon the earth,

and we believe that that mountain of the Lord's house is to be established in Independence, Mo., the center place of Zion, where the nations will one day come to be taught of the Lord; that they may come to receive of the law of God. Let me say just a little more in regard to the temple that is to be built there, and of the events that are transpiring in our day that are in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Not only was there to be a rejection of the Zion of God, and the Kingdom of God, and the Book of Mormon, and all that the Restoration stands for; there was to be that on the one hand, but also on the other hand there was to be those whose hearts would be turning more towards Zion and the building of the holy temple unto the Lord. And this is being fulfilled. There are those who are so concerned, who have in the recent year or two, those not of the Church of Christ, yes, connected with the Latter Day Saint faith, other branches of the Restoration movement, who have come and have taken off their shoes before they step upon that spot of ground, the temple lot, and they go to a given place, sometimes several days a week, and offer up their prayers to God. Should any of us scoff at that? Should we forbid? Not me, for God's spirit is working.

There is a representation of the Church and the Kingdom of God upon the earth, and we're close to the time when Christ is going to come again. He's going to come to the Temple Lot. Yes, there are going to be some changes made, but these things are true, and we should become convicted and not allow ourselves to become dissuaded, and turned aside from our purposes. We must believe in that fullness of the gospel of Christ; that representation of the Kingdom of God on earth.

I continue reading, the 59th chapter of Isaiah, verses 19 through 20. Here we have a prophecy relating to the time of the end, when, because of the power of darkness and evil that will be unleashed, and that has been unleashed in the world, and is coming to a climax, there shall be a third world war conflagration. Mark my word, it's coming and this land will not be free from it; because the people of this land are increasingly turning away from the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ. We read, "So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west," Where is the west in regard to Jerusalem of old where the prophet stood? In the land of the Americas. "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun." Yes, they will be looking for his coming, and I think he is going to be coming, as it were, from the east. And the eyes of the faithful are going to be looking for the coming of our Savior, and they shall behold his glory and shall not be ashamed, though some will be, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD." Yes, the Redeemer is going to come to Zion and dwell in the midst of his people. He shall come in power and great glory to burst the clouds of heaven and reveal himself unto the nations; to reveal himself unto his people, his saints, to teach them, and

he's going to cause that a standard shall be lifted up. And do you know what that standard is? Some have thought it was the Book of Mormon, and certainly this qualifies as a standard as far as scripture is concerned, with the Bible; we believe in those two as a standard of our faith. That is not really what this is talking about here. The standard that is to be lifted up is to be Zion. Zion shining in all its glory, by people, few they may be in number, who will have put on Christ; who will have sought to live their lives in harmony with his gospel insomuch that there shall be a gathering together of the saints of God, and his power shall be with them. Yes, a standard is to be lifted up and the Redeemer is coming to Zion.

Turn with me now to Romans 11, verse 26, "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:" Jesus Christ is going to come to Zion, and he's going to come out of Zion and turn away ungodliness from Jacob. And do we not read in the Book of Mormon of the establishment of the New Jerusalem here upon this continent? Who else can tell us where the New Jerusalem will be except the people who know of the Book of Mormon or of the revelations of the latter day, through Joseph Smith?

Turn with me back to Isaiah, chapter 11, verse 12, "And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." And in connection with that I'm going to turn to Zechariah, 9th chapter, verse 16, and read a very significant statement with regard to that ensign, "And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land." The saints of God will have come to Zion and will have put on that righteousness of which our Brother spoke this afternoon, and will be as stones of the crown of our Savior, precious stones.

Going over to Isaiah 62, the first verse, we read, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." You remember that Jesus said, "I give unto you to be a light, a light that is set upon a hill that cannot be hid." He gave it unto his people to be that light. And I want to suggest to you that it is time to start taking our pitiful weak steps to Zion. I'm not talking about moving from here to there. I'm not talking about that now; but yet there is the center place of Zion, and there is the place where the Lord is going to gather his people when they shall be one, and when the Deliverer shall reign in their midst, and when, because of righteousness, the glory of Zion shall be revealed; those things are true. But I'm not talking about moving from here to there; I'm talking about moving from here up. And I don't mean leaving this body of clay, I mean arising to that higher ground of which we sometimes sing. Yes, up into the bosom of the Master through the

20421
VERY
GOOD
OMISE TO
SAINTS

keeping of his commandments. It's time to start taking the steps, if we're not doing so already, our few faltering steps, as we may be able through the living of the gospel covenant that will make us to be the saints of God.

To continue on I would like to read from chapter 1 of Mosiah, verses 119 and 120, "For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be for ever and ever; But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit," and if you read it on through there it kind of leaves you dangling, because it's kind of an incomplete thought when you use the words 'but if'. I'm going to ask you to permit me, because I think it will help and not do violence to the thought, permit me to use the word 'unless' instead of 'but if'. I'm going to read it that way, "For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father." That's what Jesus meant when he said, "that except we receive the Kingdom of God as a little child we cannot enter in." Something to think about, isn't it? Try to take steps in that direction; will you? When you have the disposition to snap back at somebody, will you try to exercise some patience? When somebody talks harshly to you will you answer them in meekness and in love instead of returning in kind?

Full of love, willing to submit unto all things that the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him. I tell you I think there's going to be some things inflicted upon the people of God, as time progresses; to what perhaps to our carnal mind will be to an alarming degree. Afflictions come upon the people of God to try their faith. Do you remember the statement made by John the Baptist as he preached the gospel of repentance to those of his generation? the 3rd chapter of Matthew, verses 10-12, "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Do you think that this is any less true today than it was then? "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor," (we would say, 'thoroughly'), "and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." If Christ with his fan in his hand is going to thoroughly purge his floor, do you see how this corresponds with what Peter said, 'that judgment must begin at the house of God?' A purging process; he's going to cleanse it and then gather his wheat into the garner, but he will burn up the chaff. There's going to be a separation, and I'm rather persuaded that in some degree that separation is

beginning to take place.

I'm going to turn to the 20th chapter of Matthew, verses 20-22, and read a statement by the Master. "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask," and here is what I want especially to call your attention to, "Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able." I'm sure that they were saying without knowledge. They didn't really understand what he was saying, and yet we sing the song, "Are ye able, said the Master, to be crucified with me," Are ye able? Are you able to withstand the tribulations that are coming upon the world today, so that you might stand? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism with which he was baptized? Because you know he not only received a baptism of water and the Holy Ghost, but we're told in the scripture that we are to be baptized with fire and the Holy Ghost. And Jesus said concerning his baptism, "How I am straitened until it be accomplished." He recognized the terrible thing that was to come his way; how he would be betrayed, and how they would scourge him, and they would lift him up on the cross. We can't bear Christ's cross, but it's needful that we bear the cross that he has laid upon us, because we have received his word, and we have taken upon us his name; and there's coming a baptism of fire for the saints of God. And who shall be able to stand when he appeareth? We are told in Malachi, "For he is like a refiners fire, and like fullers' soap," and he's going to purify the sons of Levi. And if he purifies the sons of Levi which I understand to mean the priesthood, is it any less needful that there be a purification of the body of Christ? And I think that then we shall receive a baptism by fire, and the time to take our steps toward Zion is now, because that will enable us to stand.

There is a thought that is brought out in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, that we don't talk too much about these days, but I think it's needful to be discussed, and not only to be discussed but to be placed in practice in our life, and I want to offer this thought to you, and then you ask yourself if it is not so. Zion will never be a reality until there is a practice of 'all things common' among the people of God. Now you look into that a little. I'm going to read a little about that; Acts the 2nd chapter, verses 42-46, and this is speaking of the disciples in the days of the Apostles, and I want you to notice this language, "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." And I'm going to pause right there; do you think there might be any value to us abiding steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine in our day? Now you look at that just however you want, but I think there's something there

for us. "And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." Now, this doesn't say, 'all things in common', it's not talking about pooling everything together, and getting some kind of a program in the church where we have somebody in charge of the things that are pooled and distributing, as was offered in the early days of the Restoration. I think it was necessary under their circumstances to try to purchase lands in Missouri, that they should have a consecration of their properties. But you know, there was no law set down, the only law they had was the gospel of Christ and the effect of the gospel of Christ upon their lives. And because they were so converted to Christ, and their hearts were filled with love toward each other, they had all things common, or said within themselves that that which they possessed was not their own.

Going to the 4th chapter, verse 32, "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." Again I want to turn to 3rd Nephi, chapter 12, verses 11 and 12, "And many of them saw and heard unspeakable things, which are not lawful to be written: and they taught, and did minister one to another; and they had all things common among them, every man dealing justly, one with another. And it came to pass that they did do all things, even as Jesus had commanded them." There's the key to it right there; and the key to all things common is the acceptance and the practice of the commandments of God, that we shall love the Lord our God with all our heart, and might, mind and strength, and the second being like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. And when we do that we will have all things common and nobody is going to have to teach us how to do it, we'll just simply do it because we have the pure love of Christ in our heart. If we're ever going to reach Zion, and remain as the children of Zion, it will be because we have put this into

practice in our lives; all things common. Yes, I believe in that. It doesn't take it away from my power to do with it as I please. But when I'm filled with the Spirit of all things common, there is within my heart a desire to do good to whomsoever I may, but especially to them of the household of faith, those who have received the gospel of Christ.

I'm going to turn back and read my text, from the 14th chapter of Isaiah, the 32nd verse, "What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it." Now it's not speaking of poor so far as earthly things are concerned, but poor in spirit. You remember Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. And my marginal reference says, "Betake themselves unto it," and let's read it that way. "The Lord hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall betake themselves unto it." Shall we take the steps now? Shall we really start marching to Zion, or are we going to say this is just something that's way beyond our time and we can't do it? Can't never did anything. But we can do all things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let's start thinking; let's start praying about Zion, and let's start putting the things of Zion into practice in our lives, in our attitudes toward one another, in that which we are willing to do, not because the word says so but because we have the pure love of Christ in our hearts.

Christ is coming soon, it's nearer than we realize, and he's going to separate the nations, the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left hand. That separation, in a sense is in process right now. May God bless the church to that end that we might become a light that is set on a hill that cannot be hid; as the stones of his crown, righteousness in the lives of the people of God. There has to be a greater righteousness in the lives of the people of God than is in the world; there has to be a development of sainthood. Saints are those whom the light shines through. Did you hear that story about the little child that was in a chapel, and they had stained glass windows of the saints and the sunlight came through and the child had noticed it? And he was asked what a saint was, and he answered, Why, one the light shines through. Let's let the light shine through.

1987 CONFERENCE REPORT

The Solemn Assembly started at 9:00 a.m. on the cool Friday morning of April 3rd. The Temple Lot local church was almost full for the first service. We sensed a spirit of unity and desire among those who met there to seek the Lord in earnest prayer. As we looked around we saw saints from many locals. The sight that gladdens our hearts most was to see Brother John Schut and his wife Ena and baby daughter Marika all the way from the

Netherlands. Another sight that made our hearts rejoice was to see old and young in attendance.

Apostle Roland Sarratt was in charge of the service with Elder Andrew Brantner assisting. Brother Brantner read from Psalm 25 and 139. The words of these scriptures touched us deeply as they spoke of God's omniscience. Before we knelt in prayer, Brother Sarratt read to us the purpose of the Solemn Assembly. To

summarize, the purpose of the assembly was that the saints might humble themselves before the Lord in fasting and prayer, specifically asking God's blessing on the Conference and for guidance as to the work of the gospel, the establishing of Zion, and the building of the Temple. We were also admonished to pray for discernment and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There were many sincere prayers offered for these expressed needs.

After the morning service we went over to the East Independence local where Nathaniel and Ruby Seibel were baptized and also received the laying-on-of-hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. It was a sweet service and our prayers go with them that they will serve the Lord all the days of their lives.

The afternoon service began at 2:00 p.m. with Apostle William Sheldon in charge and Elder Joel Yates assisting. Brother Sheldon spoke to us about righteousness. He encouraged us to pray for the purposes for which we had met. We had a beautiful season of prayer which included prayers by some of the young children.

Friday evening Apostle Marvin Ely was in charge with Elder Jim Yates assisting. Brother Ely read from Isaiah 55: "Incline your ear and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live. . . seek the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" The congregation knelt in prayer and many saints sought the Lord in prayer both audibly and in their hearts.

Saturday morning April 4th we met together again as our Solemn Assembly continued. Apostle Don McIndoo was in charge with Elder Robert Oldham assisting. Brother McIndoo informed us that his mother Louise McIndoo, for whom we had been praying, was not going to have to have an operation as previously expected.

There were even more people in attendance at this service. Many of the prayers were offered by saints from the different locals as well as isolated members, too. Some of the prayers also included a concern for our youth.

Saturday afternoon was the last service of our Solemn Assembly. Apostle Don Housknecht was in charge with Elder Gale Brantner assisting. Brother Housknecht read to us from Isaiah 58 which specifically deals with fasting. He told us that the key to our fast was humbling ourselves before the Lord. Brother Housknecht pleaded with us to use this time for prayer. The congregation heeded his plea and most of the service was filled with heart-felt prayers.

Sunday morning we met at the 4-H building in Independence for a sacrament service. Apostle Marvin Ely was in charge of the service with Apostle Roland Sarratt assisting. Brother Sarratt spoke to us words of soberness. He admonished us to blot out the world and concentrate on the Lord. He read from the Book of Mormon in 3 Nephi 8:28-36, and spoke to us on the importance of partaking of the sacrament.

We were then led into a season of prayer. There were prayers offered for the physically afflicted as well

as for those who had great spiritual needs. There were many beautiful testimonies that told of answered prayers and each glorified God. Testimonies were given by Jay Moser, Irene Seibel, Shirley Bailey, Diana Dimond, Gary Housknecht, Vida Filley, Curt Yates, Gerry Adams, Marvin Case, Sam Gould, Scott Harris, Jim Hedrick, Randy Sheldon, Maynard Case, Crystal Gill, Don Grim and Joel Yates.

The testimonies began on a positive note as one Elder proclaimed that God is real! He lives and he can give us a peace that passeth understanding! Another Elder admonished us not to yield to temptation and to pray for those in our families and in our locals who have drifted away. A dear sister told us in her testimony that the best day of her life was the day the Lord brought her low and gave her a contrite heart. One young man told us about a dream he had which was a turning point in his life. A young sister told us that the day is late and we must serve God now! The service also ended on a high plain as a young Elder admonished us to prepare ourselves spiritually. We felt uplifted and edified as the service drew to a close. We had many blessings to praise God for and many things to ponder in our hearts.

The conference kitchen committee fed us a wonderful meal and we had a time of fellowship until 4:00 p.m. At that time we were blessed with a special music program. The program included singing by Gary and Neva Housknecht, the Sionita School choir, and an Easter cantata done by a double quartet and directed by Sister Martha Bruner.

A sermon by Apostle Don McIndoo followed. He counseled us on how to lay the cornerstones of Zion right now. His main texts were Acts 2:42-47 and the 4th Book of Nephi. He told us that we can study these scriptures and discover what kind of people God used in times past. By understanding their godly characteristics we can mold our lives in a way that will help us bring forth Zion in this day.

Brother McIndoo expounded on each verse of his text. The points he brought out in Acts 2:42 were that we are to be steadfast and firm in the gospel of Christ. He made reference to 4th Nephi where we are told that the people had no contentions. He admonished us not to murmur about each other. Our energies should go toward encouraging and building up one another. If we are doing this we are building the cornerstones of Zion.

Acts 2:44 tells how the people of the early Church had all things common. Brother McIndoo encouraged us to practice unselfish giving for those who stand in need. Our hearts were touched as he told us examples of how Church brothers and sisters from both the United States and Yucatan have given of their substance so freely and unselfishly.

In Acts 2:46 we were reminded of how important it is for us to attend church services regularly. We are each a witness for Christ, and we need to make sure that we are a good witness. Brother McIndoo encouraged us to practice hospitality and to have fellowship one with another.

Our need to have praise toward God was emphasized

in Acts 2:47. Brother McIndoo warned us to stay away from the charismatic trends of the Christian movement. He told us that true praise is a humble heart in broken submission to God. In closing Brother McIndoo reassured us that God's power will be among his people and Zion will be a reality. Our present duty is to lead godly and committed lives so we can be laying the cornerstones of Zion right now.

Our next non-business service convened on Monday evening. Elder John Schut, from the Netherlands, was the preacher of the hour. Brother Schut's theme was love. He told us that it was the love of God that had brought us from many different cities, states and countries to worship God. He commented about how people in the world talk so easy of love. He pointed out, however, that there is nothing more important or sweeter than spiritual love. He read a scripture on love from 1st John 4:7.

Brother Schut spoke to us about the work of the gospel in Europe and the recent work in England. He told us about a vision he had where he saw that his wife would stand beside him in the gospel. He was pleased to report that his wife had joined the Church and has been a great support to him. He admonished us to pray for the work in Europe.

Brother Schut also spoke on Zion, and how his heart dwells on Zion much of the time. He reminded us that the day is late and that Christ will come soon. We must get our lives in order so that Zion can be established and the Temple can be built.

After Brother Schut's sermon his wife Ena and baby daughter came forward and received the "hand of fellowship" (better called the "hug of fellowship"). Brother Schut's sermon dealt with love, and that was the overflowing feeling among the saints as they greeted Sister Ena. One sister commented that this is what Zion would be like.

Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. we met for a morning prayer service. These early morning prayer services that precede the business meetings take a little extra effort to attend. However, it has been my experience that these meetings are usually filled with a sweet spirit and are often some of the best services of our conference.

Elder Jay Moser was in charge and Priest Mike McGhee was assisting. Brother Moser drew our minds in as he asked us to ponder upon what life is really about. He admonished us to remember the two great commandments. A short season of prayer was followed by many beautiful testimonies. Several expressed their thanks to the elderly members who have shown so much zeal and commitment in their lives. Apostle Robert Jensen gave a powerful testimony. He declared that he stood in that meeting as a miracle of God. He told how God had answered the many prayers that had been offered in his behalf because of his heart ailment. He reminded us that life is a gift and we should use our time wisely. He also encouraged us to think of others and to be mindful of their needs. Apostle Marvin Ely testified of the miracle his wife had received several months ago. He admonished us to let the spirit that was in our prayer service overflow into our

business meetings because God has more in store for us.

Tuesday evening Elder Hubert Yates gave us powerful counsel. He preached to us about righteousness and commitment. He encouraged us that Zion would be built and it would be a fortress for God's people. But, now is the time to put those things out of our lives that won't be a part of Zion.

Brother Yates warned the Saints to be careful of the type of music they listen to. We need to make sure we wear modest apparel and keep the Sabbath day holy. The greater power that we as a Church pray for will not come until the world is out of our lives. He read to us from Alma 3:97,98. These scriptures tell us to "... come ye out from the wicked, and be ye separate, and touch not their unclean things." Brother Yates implored us to deny ourselves of the world and to teach our children the ways of the Lord.

Brother Yates told of a spiritual experience he had where he was given to know that this nation had become wicked, but that a righteous people would be raised up. He explained that he was given to know that the gospel would go out according to the amount of love we have. In closing, Brother Yates read from Moroni 9:6. He reminded the ministry of their great responsibility as shepherds to walk in righteousness and to labor with all their might.

The church was full for our Wednesday morning prayer service. Elder Charles Brantner was in charge with Elder Gale Brantner assisting. Elder Charles Brantner read to us from 3rd Nephi 9:17. He rehearsed to us how in this scripture Jesus had commanded the people to kneel upon the ground. He then led us into a season of prayer.

After the season of prayer Elder Smith Brickhouse was set apart as a Bishop of the Church, having been elected to that office in an earlier business session. The remaining time was filled with testimonies. We were inspired by each testimony. Sister Jeanne Brantner told us of an experience she had when she awoke in the night with the words, "And the singing shall come from the souls of those who know Christ." Some thoughts expressed by other testimonies were that we are each a child of the king; God can spiritually heal and set us free; and we need to have the faith of a little child.

Wednesday evening was the last service of the 1987 Conference. Elder Samuel Gould was our preacher. His sermon was very much akin to Brother Hubert Yates's sermon. He admonished us to come out of the world that we might do a greater work for the Lord.

He told us that as he prayed about what he should speak on he saw the word "bete." He did not know what the word meant. Later he learned that the word meant "dark beast." He felt moved to warn the people that our children are being drawn away by dark, worldly forces. He warned us to be careful of those influences that feed our children carnality such as T.V. and rock music.

He asked us to put away our pride and to become a

united people. He read from 2nd Nephi 6:74 which says, "...to be carnally minded, is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal." We must keep ourselves unspotted from the world. He also expounded on Helaman 2:31. In his closing remarks he challenged the ministry to nourish the flock and keep themselves from sin and spiritual pollution.

As we sang the closing hymn at the end of the

preaching service we felt the Lord's sweet spirit. I thought of the Solemn Assembly, the sacrament service, the morning prayer meetings and each preaching service and I felt spiritually fed. In my heart I rejoiced that I had been privileged to be in the house of the Lord during the 1987 Conference.

Becky Sheldon (Conference reporter)

DEVORAH

This is an original story inspired by, and based loosely on the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins as found in the gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, verses 1-13.

It is so dark. I have never experienced such darkness in my life. It has, almost, a physical presence.

I must tell you what has happened. If you are out there and can hear me, you must know and comprehend. Here in our country an event of great importance has just taken place. The son of our ruler chose a bride and glorious plans and preparations began for the marriage.

My name is Devorah, daughter of Eleazar ben Y'eir. My father is a weaver and tailor for the King's army. Our home is on the outskirts of the city near the barracks. We were all excited about the approaching holiday. We knew it would be a wondrous celebration.

For such an important occasion many tasks had to be performed and many people from every station were chosen to perform them. My sister Miriam and I were thrilled to learn that we had been selected to fill one of the most significant roles. We would be among the young women, unmarried and unbetrothed, chosen to carry bright lights to lead the Prince into the temple for the ceremony. This was an honor we had not even dreamed possible.

It was a most exciting time for us. We did not know the exact day of the wedding, the Prince wished it to be a secret, but we knew it would be soon. We were instructed to make gowns of purest white linen, designed very simply. Miriam and I spent hours stitching carefully to be sure our robes were perfect. As we worked we could barely contain our exuberance, and we constantly talked and dreamed of the glorious wedding and the chance to see the Prince and the inner court of the temple. We had often heard of its splendor, but could not imagine it. We also knew that to each participant in the Prince's wedding a precious gift would be given. It would be of immeasurable value, something

to treasure always. We spent many hours trying to picture what the gift might be.

Finally, Miriam and I met with the other girls to be given instructions for our part in the ceremony. All of us were very excited. We chatted gaily and happily about this great honor and our great responsibility. On that day, we were given the lamps to carry. Oh, they were **so** beautiful. The base was made of gleaming brass, plainly yet exquisitely fashioned. They were polished to a sheen that glowed like flame. The lantern above was of radiant crystal joined with the base in such flowing design as to seem one piece. The oil was special and of the highest quality, and when the lamp was trimmed and lit I was astonished at how great a distance the light reached, and at the steadiness of the flame.

Our task was to stand on the roadway leading up to the temple. With our lamps we would light the way so that all could see the procession of the Prince. Then we would light His way into the inner chamber of the sacred temple for the wedding ceremony.

We took the gorgeous lamps home with us along with the detailed instructions we had been given on lighting, filling and using them, so that we might practice our part. We were also told where to purchase the special oil necessary to refill the well.

I could barely wait to reach home and show my parents, friends and neighbors. Miriam was in such a rush that she let some of the oil spill out. I laughed at her clumsiness, but told her not to worry – we could easily buy some more later.

After demonstrating the glory of our lights and acting out our part in the procession for everyone, we carefully placed the lamps on our shelf where we could see and admire them.

The days rushed by as the time approached for the

royal wedding. My friend Rachel, who was also one of the chosen girls, always carried her lamp with her to show anyone she met. She had to buy more oil twice to refill it. There was only one place in the city one could buy the special high quality oil we had been told to use and it was quite expensive. Rachel constantly polished and burnished her lamp and it gleamed with a radiance like no other lights we had ever seen. I teased her that she would wear it out with so much rubbing.

One day our lamps ran dry as we were sewing by their light. Miriam wanted to make the trip to the oil merchant immediately to replenish our supply. She reminded me that the temple bells might begin the wedding chimes anytime and we needed full lamps for our part in the ceremony. I was sure we would have plenty of time, so I convinced her to use some of our household oil till we had a better opportunity to go and buy the required oil. The light was not as bright as before and it sputtered and wavered slightly. Still we could see to continue our sewing.

The next morning our task was finally completed and we spent the rest of the day stitching delicate gold thread to the hem and sleeves of our gowns.

At sundown my family gathered for the supper meal. It was a quiet, lovely evening. The western sky was streaked with shades of rose and purple. Through the open window, the gentle breeze brought a sweet scent from my Mother's garden. I remember thinking that I had never seen a more beautiful sunset.

I glanced at the shelf where my wedding lantern stood so elegant and perfect. First thing tomorrow, I reminded myself, Miriam and I would go to the marketplace and buy some more of the special oil.

Just at that instant I heard the pealing of the temple bells ringing out the signal for the Prince's procession. He was leaving His palace and making His way to the temple for the celebration of His marriage. That moment is etched in my brain forever. The sights, the scent, the feel of that instant of time goes through my mind over and over and over.

I looked at Miriam in panic. "We must hurry" we both said in a rush. We ran to our room and quickly dressed in our white ceremonial robes. I happened to see Rachel go past our window as we frantically tied the belts around our waists. She smiled up joyously and called for us to hurry. I gazed after her in a sort of trance as she walked down the dusky road toward the temple. Her lantern was held high to light her way. It seemed unbearably bright.

"Quickly, Miriam," I cried. "Get the lamps. We must go now!"

She ran to fetch them and I followed after her trying to place the drape for my hair. My hands shook so, I could not place the pins correctly. As we came to the front door I shouted at her in frustration, "Help me fix my veil, I can't do it!"

She set the lamps down and reached up to adjust it – I saw her hands shook as badly as mine. Then we each grabbed up our lanterns and hurried out of the

door. The sky was losing daylight each second. We began to run. Once Miriam stumbled and almost fell. I was terrified her lantern would be broken – but she held it tightly. I grabbed her hand and began to pull her along.

At last, breathlessly, we arrived at the temple gate. People were beginning to line the road to watch for the Prince. We rushed over to where the rest of the girls were gathered just as Rachel and some of the others began to move to their posts. Miriam and I struggled to light the wicks on our lamps. They were almost dry and the flame was weak and flickering. I noticed three other girls also having trouble with their lamps. People were staring at us.

Miriam whispered desperately, "I told you we should have gone yesterday to buy the oil. What are we going to **do**?"

"Hush," I told her angrily. "I'll think of something!"

Suddenly I thought of Rachel – her lamp would be properly filled, I knew. Also, I noticed four other girls had perfectly trimmed and lighted lamps. They shone with a fierce brightness – casting a wonderful glow all around them.

Just then I heard the trumpets from the palace on the hill. The Prince was on His way.

"There's so little time," I said to Miriam and the others. "We'll have to borrow some."

I ran to Rachel and asked her to share some of her oil. She looked at me sadly and said, "I can't. I wouldn't have enough to last if I gave any to you."

"Rachel, **please**," I begged. "My lamp is dry and if I don't have the proper oil it won't burn as it should."

Her voice came very softly, "Devorah, you know the instructions that came from the palace. Our lamps are to be full of only the purest oil. I cannot disobey."

In desperation, my fear bringing me to the edge of hysteria, I plead with her. "Rachel, I will miss the ceremony and won't be allowed in the temple. You must let me have some of yours. I will pay you whatever you ask."

She looked at me with what, I realize now, was real pain and said in sorrow, "I would gladly **give** you what I have, if it were allowed – but I must fulfill the orders that the Prince expressly gave. All I can think of is that you might hurry to the merchant shop and purchase some quickly before the Prince arrives."

"Yes, I'll try." There was no other course. I called frantically to Miriam and the other three to come with me. We would attempt to reach the shop, buy the oil, fill and light our lamps in the few moments left.

My feet seemed not to touch the stones as I ran down the narrow twisting streets, and the others were close behind me. As we came nearer I saw the merchant just locking the door to his shop.

"Sir, please," I shouted. "We need oil for our lamps! I beg you to sell us some now. We have parts in the ceremony and our lamps must be full of your special oil."

He re-opened the door and hurriedly poured the precious oil into each of our lamps.

"Do you think you can get back to the temple in time?" he asked.

"We have to. We just have to," I answered.

As he finished filling our lanterns we turned and began to run back to the temple, fear and desperation driving us faster and faster. A sharp stabbing pain hit me in the side and I gasped for breath. But, I did not dare slow down.

Nearing the temple – I heard the swelling shouts of thousands of voices raised in greeting to our Prince. He was to be preceded by a chorus of singers and I could hear their beautiful song above the hurrahs of the people.

We turned the last corner and there before us were the huge, golden gates of the temple. My heart sank as I saw that they were beginning to swing shut. The Prince on His splendid white stallion was in the archway of the gates and they were steadily closing behind Him. Though my lungs seemed on fire and my legs trembled weakly, I raced forward to try to reach Him before it was too late.

"Milord! Sire! Wait, please wait for me. For us!" I screamed.

He turned for an instant and I saw His face. There was a look of infinite tenderness and a gentle sadness in His eyes. Slowly, He shook His head and said, "Why didn't you follow my instructions? I cannot take you in." Quietly. Firmly. I heard Him clearly.

He turned back to face His bride and the people gathered there to celebrate His marriage. I caught a glimpse of the splendor and beauty within. I heard, briefly, a melody lovely and new; music I had never known before. And just for an instant I saw Rachel's face as she stood with her lantern high to light the temple courtyard. She gazed at our Lord with a serenity and peaceful joy such as I had never seen on her, or any, face.

"Rachel, Rachel! Help me!" I cried. She could not hear me.

The gate slammed shut with a hollow clang. The voices could not be heard. The light from within could not be seen.

I flung myself against the gate, pounded with all my might; but it would not give way. It was barred. No one inside could hear my sobbing pleas. I slumped to the ground and looked up at my sister and the other maidens standing before me, their faces streaked with tears.

Miriam stared down at me and repeated over and

over, "I should have gone yesterday . . . yesterday."

"Oh Miriam, forgive me. It's my fault, I convinced you to wait. I am so sorry."

She sank slowly to her knees – despair etched on her face. "No Devorah, I knew. I knew myself."

"You saw Him," one of the others spoke. "Won't He open the gate for us? Surely, He will let us in soon."

"No, He will not change His mind," I answered.

The other girls began to cry – one even tore her robe in her grief. Slowly, I became conscious of the night. The sun was gone and all about us was completely dark. I had dropped my lamp as I tried to enter the gate. The others too had dropped theirs and the oil ran out over the stones. Hastily, I righted mine but, it glowed only a few seconds more, then went out. The other lamps went out almost simultaneously and it was pitch black.

"Devorah!" Miriam's voice came in breathless terror. "Devorah, where are you?"

"Wait," I told her. "Stay still till our eyes adjust to the night."

Several minutes passed, but still we could see nothing. I knew my sister was nearby. We had only been a few feet apart, but I could not even see her form, could not reach out and touch her. Finally the realization came to me that the darkness was permanent. I could hear Miriam moaning softly – but could not tell from which direction the sounds came. There seemed to be neither up nor down – right nor left. I crawled a few inches, but felt the ground slope away from me and I stopped so I would not fall. I could hear the other girls' muffled cries, but none of us could reach each other.

And so we remain.

It is so dark. I feel it pressing in all around me. And it is cold. No matter how strenuously I chafe my skin – I cannot get warm. Yet within me I feel a constant burning when I remember what I have done. I don't know how long we have been here. I have lost all sense of time. All that is real is the darkness. Whenever I close my eyes I relive that moment I heard the wedding bells begin to ring; I see the glorious splendor of my Lord the Prince as He made His triumphal entry through the temple gate. And always, . . . always I see the face of my dear sister Miriam.

If you are there, if you can hear me . . . I beg you, please remember my story and learn.

Submitted by Janice L. Welch

ADVICE TO A SON

In 1778 the wife of John Adams wrote to her son: "Great learning and superior abilities, should you ever possess them, will be of little value and small estimation, unless virtue, honor, truth, and integrity are added to them. Adhere to those religious sentiments and principles which were early instilled into your mind, and remember that you are accountable to your Maker for all your words and actions."

YPCL Report



On May 2, the young people met at Jennie Kidd's house for a new type of study. The format was similar to some game shows on television. All of the questions were divided into classes such as "people," "Fill in the Blank," "Doctrine," and "Trivia." The difficulty of a question was shown through points ranging from 100-600. All of the questions dealt with the Book of Mormon. Teams were divided, and two separate games were played. The winners from the two games were pitted against each other and a good time was had by all. Many of us did not know most of the answers, but we know them now!

Submitted by Jennie Kidd

The young people met at Bryan McGhee's house the 9th of May. We had an educational with Randy Sheldon in charge. We watched two video tapes about dating and so forth. The tapes talked about our actions on dates, and how things should be conducted morally instead of immorally. When the tapes were over, Randy opened a discussion on AIDS. We should be aware that AIDS is prominent and will soon spread to every part of the world, and millions of people will die from it. And all because of someone's immorality.

Submitted by Wendy Smith

The Young People went on a bike trail on the 16th of May, at Longview Lake. We went along a nice paved trail around the lake that was about ten miles both ways. We had a nice dinner waiting for us when we got back to the cars.

Submitted by Holly Smith

On May 23, the young people met small in number, but strong in spirit, led by Joel Yates. Joel, Jenny, Heidi, Holly, Carmen, Nancy, and Bob arrived at the Temples' home for games before pizza. After an unsuccessful game of Mille Borne, we opted to talk until eight o'clock. We then left for Pizza Hut, where we were met by Kyle, and munched to our heart's content.

Submitted by Jennie Kidd

Re-Dedication of Calico Local

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Psalms 126:6

In remembrance of the dedication of ten years ago, it is our heartfelt desire to worship with the saints throughout the day of September 6, 1987, in renewing the consecration of our Sabbath home, and beseeching the Lord of the harvest for direction in our missionary efforts to recover the seed of Jacob at Calico/Cherokee, N.C.

We would ask that you prepare to join us in spirit and person that we all may partake of the blessing bestowed by the Holy Spirit.

"And because of his greatness, and his grace and mercy, he has promised unto us that our seed shall not utterly be destroyed, according to the flesh, but that he would preserve them; and in future generations, they shall become a righteous branch unto the house of Israel." 2 Nephi 6:105

For more information concerning directions to the church, lodging, camping, etc., contact Pastor Elder Samuel S. Gould, Rt. 2 Box 324, Loudon, TN 37774. Phone 615-458-2240, or Sallie Bradley, Star Rt. Big Cove Road, Cherokee, N.C. 28719. Phone 704-497-2900.

Reporter, Elaine Gould

Faith and Doubt

by Mary M. Bodie

Faith is like the sunshine.
It fills our hearts with cheer.
Doubt is like the storm cloud
Enveloping us in fear.

Faith is like the south breeze,
Which cools our fevered head.
Doubt is like the dust storm,
Which reeks of night and dread.

Faith is like the lovely—
The flowers, rhyme and song.
Doubt is like the dreadful—
The sorrow, pain and wrong.

OBITUARIES

James A. Hedrick 1933-1987

James A. Hedrick was born February 23, 1933, to James A. and Doris G. (Long) Hedrick. He passed from this life May 17, 1987, at the age of 54 years, 2 months, and 24 days, after three months treatment for cancer. His testimony was that the Lord had never left him without a blessing of peace, relief, or comfort when he was administered to.

Jim was baptized into the Church of Christ on January 1, 1956. He was the great great grandson of Granville Hedrick and the grandson of Apostle Elmer Long. Many of us will remember him for his dedicated work with the Young People in the Independence area and the years he was the General Church Secretary. This last year he worked on the preparation of the Church of Christ edition of the Book of Mormon. He desired to see this work completed.

Jim lived most of his life in the Independence area. He served in the United States Army in the years 1953 to 1955, part of which was in Germany. He returned to the printing trade and later became vice-president of Western Typesetting Co. The last four years Jim was a customer service representative for the Upper Case Co. He had a great love for his fellow man which brought him many friends.

Jim is survived by his wife Annette F. Hedrick; two stepsons Eric H. Pfeffle and Andrew J. Pfeffle of the home in Liberty, Missouri; two sons and two daughters by a previous marriage, James Daniel Hedrick of Independence, Missouri, Robert Joseph Hedrick, of Kansas City North, Missouri, Debra Ann Hedrick of Lee's Summit, Missouri, and Doris Caroline Geier of Independence, Missouri. He leaves his mother Doris G. Ratterree of Independence, Missouri, a brother Al Hedrick of Kearney, Missouri, two sisters Mary Margaret Ackenhausen, of Everett, Washington, and Geraldine Elizabeth Adams, of Greenbrae, California, and many other relatives and friends.

Relatives and friends gathered at the Speaks Midtown Chapel in Independence at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 19, 1987, for the service by Elders Leslie and Marvin Case. Sister Janice Welch with her beautiful soprano voice sang, "Abide With Me" and "The Lord's Prayer," accompanied by Sister Grace Rudd on the organ. Jim was laid to rest in Mound Grove Cemetery under the shade of a large oak tree not far from his Grandfather and Grandmother Long.

We will all miss Jim and are grateful to those who are dedicating their talents to completing the work to which he gave his final days.

Missouri Reunion

We would like to invite everyone to attend our Missouri Reunion with us.

DATE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 14-15 & 16, 1987. First meeting to begin at 9:00 A.M., August 14.

PLACE: Warrensburg, Missouri, at East Hudson Conference Center (the same building as the past three years).

LOCATION: East Anderson Street, east off Highway 13 in Warrensburg.

LODGING: Rooms are \$16.00 for a single room and \$20.00 for a double room per night. Pay as you enter. Linens are furnished.

FOOD: Meals will be furnished, desserts included. Donations will be accepted from those who dine with us.

We would like to know approximately how many plan on attending so the menu can be prepared. As soon as possible, notify Jeanette Cunningham, Rt. 5, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. 816-747-5024.

There is plenty of room for all. Arrangements can be made for disabled persons if we know ahead of time.

Let us all try to attend and worship and associate together to make this the best Missouri Reunion ever.

Anderson (Missouri) News

April has been a very busy month for the Anderson Local. Sunday the 12th we had our annual meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to elect our Pastor and Teachers for the coming year. Elder Don Hitt is our Pastor. Assistant Pastors are Elders George Adams and Mike Hitt, Sunday School Superintendent is Mark Hitt, Teachers are Judy Hitt, Sherri Adams, Jana Hitt, and Randy Sutton. Joy Leighton-Floyd is our Organist and Chorister, Jana Hitt is our Praise Leader, Kay Leighton-Floyd is Secretary-Treasurer, Susann Sutton is Sunday School Recorder, Mark Hitt and Tom Casey are our Youth Directors.

Easter Sunday each family contributed by singing a song or by reading some verses out of the Bible. Elder Howard Leighton-Floyd read many meaningful verses out of the Psalms.

The Lord is a true and faithful friend. Let us all try to walk in his footsteps and help those who have strayed along the way.

May God bless and keep each one in his watchful care.

Debbie Casey, Reporter

Phoenix News

To our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Greetings from Arizona.

Early in May, Apostle Don McIndoo and wife Betty traveled to Ridgecrest, California to worship in the home of David and Suzanne Seibel. Mary and Warren Johnson from Upland and Bill Gould of San Bernadino met with them. Since Andy Yates was unable to join them, Don and Betty visited him in his home in San Jacinto before returning to Phoenix. Don and Betty, accompanied by Louise McIndoo, also made a trip to Tucson, Arizona to visit our sister Lola Haygood. They shared in a sacrament service together. Lola was also visited by Pastor Gordon McCann and Pat. Years ago, Gordon and Pat began making monthly trips to Tucson to visit Lola and to read through and study the Book of Mormon with her. During the year they lived in Tucson, they were able to expand their studies to weekly. Lola, Gordon and Pat have now gone all the way through the Book of Mormon and have started with the Old Testament.

Elder Hube Yates, Teacher Andy Brown and Debbie traveled to Payson to hold services on May 17. Every third Sunday, Hube goes to Payson, accompanied by others of the ministry and interested members. The following Sunday, ministry was given to our Show Low brothers and sisters. The folks there usually have a list of questions to ask the ministry—questions they've gleaned from their studies in between visits. Hube usually has a question-answer period in the morning, followed by lunch, visiting and another study session in the afternoon. Sometimes we, who have the blessing of being able to worship regularly in a local, begin to depend on the studyings of others. We may sit in a Sunday School class and hope someone else knows the cross references. We trust someone else will know the answers and has made the preparation. For those of us who become spiritually lazy, it is inspiring to visit with those who are isolated. Though they are deprived of regular strengthening doses of fellowship, they try to maintain their growth in the gospel through their study of

it. One of the Phoenix elders once said, "When someone doesn't have questions to ask about the gospel, it's usually a sign that they've stopped studying." This month, Hube was accompanied in his trip to Show Low by his mother Patsy Yates, Jim, Kim, and Douglas Yates, Mike and Val Kelley, Andy Brown, and Dave and Debbie Vogel and children.

Dick and Velma Wheaton traveled from Utah to be with Velma's mother, Esther Caviness, during Memorial Day weekend. Dick preached Sunday morning during his visit.

On May 25, Hawaiian melodies welcomed about 80 local members and friends as we gathered for a luau in the church yard. Japanese lanterns and candles threw light upon tables heavy-laden with roasted pig, salad, rice, sauces, finger jello and fruit salad. Good fellowship was had by all and the efforts of the recreation committee and others who helped were appreciated. Those hard working folks were: Bill and Karin Malone, Duane and Kathy Ely, Brian and Becky McIndoo, Don and Betty McIndoo and Gordon McCann.

With summer vacation here, I am reminded of a sermon preached by Elder Tom Karas. He spoke specifically to the young people, but his sermon carried a message for us all. He said there will be those in the world who will try to cause us to falsely judge others and to commit "little sins". In Mark 15:14-15, Pilot decided to crucify an innocent Christ because he was "willing to content the people." Pilot was a crowd pleaser. It's easy to go along with the majority, but we must rely on the teachings of the scriptures and our parents so that we are not swayed from what we know to be right.

May God bless you.

Debra Vogel
5432-B Jemez
Glendale, AZ 85307

Collins Local News

It's been awhile since I've gotten myself settled down to writing to you again. Since then we have held our annual election and as you can see, I'm still hanging in there as your reporter from Collins. I'll give you a brief outline of some of our officers: Pastor: Jack Martin; Assistant: Allen Kauffman; Secretary: Betty Martin; Treasurer: Allen Kauffman; Adult Class Teacher: Bob

Eddy; Young Adult Teacher: Betty Martin; Intermediate Teacher: Norma Cook; and Tiny Tots Teacher: Pam Shaw. Marjory Routh and myself are the pianists this year, assisted by Jo Eddy.

We've had some very welcome guests. Some from not too far away and others from out of state. Don and Betty McIndoo visited our area after the Conference

meetings were over. Brother McIndoo was our speaker that Sunday and read to us some of the words of King Benjamin from the Book of Mormon. Also, he said that it is the burden of this church to pray for those who have never heard and for our nation.

Easter seemed late this year to me, but none-the-less, we had a lovely sunrise service and fellowship at the Christian Church followed by our own program and worship service later that morning. Evalena Sills from Arizona was visiting during this time and shared a poem with us for our volunteer program. We had a very nice crowd and with it a beautiful spirit of love and happiness. More people have been coming and we're getting to know each other better. We study together, we play and sing together. We smile and wave to one another across the room. It's genuine and I'm so grateful.

Brother Loren Bryant of Cowgill was our guest speaker that Easter Sunday. He said he doesn't believe salvation was meant to be a mystery. There is weakness in men, but it behooves us to turn unto God.

On Mother's Day we had another extra nice crowd and a real nice program. The kids from the School of the Ozarks were there and boy, can they sing! Also Joe and

Floralise Yates were able to come. Brother Joe has been in and out of the hospital several times. He had been home for only two days, but thought he felt strong enough to come to church—so here he came! He even gave a talk for the program.

The following Sunday was our dinner day and Brother Glen Gill of North Kansas City was our guest speaker. He spoke about theology compared to pure religion, undefiled. He said we do things as the scribes and pharisees—to be seen of men, to appear to be religious for recognition. We must fight against such and live to **do** our religion—not just to be seen or heard.

Many good sermons have been given that I can't give space for, but here are a couple of thoughts I'd like to leave with you from two different sermons: From the Houston Rally and Brother Joe Smith: do you savor the things of God? And from Brother Allen Kauffman: What would Christ find us doing if He came at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday or 5:00 Thursday afternoon? Just something to think on for awhile.

Keep the faith and God bless.

Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman

Her Dream

After praying for some time, asking the Lord why He couldn't come soon, this is a dream a friend had, as told to me:

I dreamed I was attending a large wedding. The Church was so beautifully decorated and lovely.

The guests had all arrived, and the music started playing. Then the Groom and Groomsman took their places, but the Bride did not appear. They waited and waited, and still she didn't come. So finally I went to see what was the matter, and found the Bride in her dressing room. But she had not put on her wedding gown, and was dallying around, enjoying all of her nice gifts, etc.

Her bridesmaids were hurrying, trying to help her dress, but she was in no hurry. Then I saw her wedding gown. Oh, it was the most beautiful gown! I had never seen anything so beautiful, and I couldn't understand why she didn't want to hurry and put it on.

Finally the bridesmaids succeeded in getting her into her gown. So I went back and joined the guests.

Soon the Bride came in; but instead of going down the aisle to the Groom, she stopped and chatted first with one guest, and then with another, telling them all about her lovely gifts, and seemingly in no hurry at all to go to the Groom.

I watched her in amazement. Then I thought, "How is the Groom taking all of this dallying?" Turning, I looked right into His eyes, and oh, how the look in them smote me. They were so full of love, tenderness, longing and pain as He watched her.

... and I awakened.

Contributed by Stella Winegar

A Garden Poem

by Rose Drake

Plant five rows of peas:

preparedness
politeness
promptness
perseverance
prayer

Next, plant three rows of squash:

squash gossip
squash criticism
squash indifference

Next, plant five rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful
Let us be loyal
Let us be unselfish
Let us love one another
Let us be truthful

No garden would be complete without turnips:

Turn up at church
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with a new idea
Turn up with real imagination

