

Zion's Advocate

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

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No. 8

The Dollar I Gave to God

Ten thousand for my brand new car,
Twenty thousand for a piece of sod,
Thirty thousand I paid to begin a house,
A dollar I gave to God.

A tidy sum I gave to entertain
My friends in pointless chatter;
But when the world goes crazy mad,
I ask, "Lord, what is the matter?"

Yet, there is one big question,
For the answer I still search:
"With things so bad in this old world,
What's holding back my church?"

—Anonymous (Revised)

IN THIS ISSUE

God's Judgment—the Law of Cause and Effect p 114

Our Heritage p.115

Choose a Friend, Not a Drug p.119

Path Lights p. 120

Lessons on Angels p. 121

In Memory of Edith Mallory p. 124

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

God's Judgment – The Law of Cause and Effect

Established far into the reaches of prior eternity, there is a law which governs ail the elements and relationships in our universe and beyond. It appears that it also prevails in the spiritual world. It is the law of cause and effect. It relates directly to the consistence which is an attribute of God, the Father, Himself. The simple edict that for every cause there is an effect, embodies His judgment, prior made.

Via this law, Adam and Eve were separated and given the productive independence that is the basis of the accomplishment of righteousness. . . "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die", was a statement in full recognition of that law of cause and effect. (Genesis 2:17 KJ)

So bound by this law was the Father (He is thoroughly consistent with Himself because He does not vary) that it was necessary that He send and sacrifice His only begotten Son in order that He could preserve unto Himself the human seed and the righteousness it could produce. Without the sacrifice of that Son all

mankind would be lost from His presence eternally, and creation would be frustrated. (Mosiah 8:76) The effort to "make man in our own image" would not be consummated for the spiritual image could not be completed. In relation to this, the following quote (Alma 19:104-108):

But there is a law given and a punishment a-fixed, and repentance granted; (Repentance becoming a cause—TM) which repentance, mercy claimeth: otherwise, justice claimeth the creature, and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment; if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God. But God ceaseth not to be God. . . and mercy cometh because of the atonement; and the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead: and the resurrection of the dead bringeth back men into the presence of God; And thus they are restored into his presence; to be judged according to their works; according to the law and justice; for

behold, justice exerciseth all his demands, and also mercy claimeth all which is her own; and thus, none but the truly penitent are saved. What, do ye suppose that mercy can rob justice? I say unto you, Nay; not one whit. If so God would cease to be God. And thus God bringeth about his great and eternal purposes, which were prepared from the foundation of the world.

His knowledge of that law and his relation to it was part of the burden borne by the Christ at Gethsemane; He lay at the crux of the creational effort. His weeping over Jerusalem was because he knew of that which he was able to offer in the face of the eternal law of cause and effect.

Like the people at Jerusalem, all the men of the world in fact, we cannot escape the issue of our acts. It is saddled upon us by the edict of the Father that "as we are, we shall be" (Cause and effect). Because of this, the sum of our acts is important and the assertion of the "great cause", Christ, into that sum can effect salvation.

Also, the "great cause" of the sacrificed Christ resurrected provides the power to effect the resurrection of all mankind to a determination of their eternal state.

Further, by the same law (cause and effect) the time of determination will see the certification of the saved and the declaration of the damned. Each soul will bear in itself the marks made under the rule of that law and will know itself for what it is.

It ill affords us to view the law of cause and effect in its terminal aspect alone for it is the tool by which God

(as we have previously stated) completes the creation, i.e. "Making man in our own image". It is the power by which men produce, through alternative choice, the righteousness which God rewards with joy by that law, and completes His purpose.

Not man alone, but all nature; our whole universe proceeds under that law. So much so that with the knowledge of it we can probe the unknown for truth and understanding.

Thus it is that the judgment of God faces us in all things. It is comprehensive and eternal. It will not change, is not subject to arbitrary variance, and is without respect of persons. (Romans 2:11) Its edict is good for good and evil for evil. The Book of Mormon asserts it as the law of Justice. Seeming variance from that law (of cause and effect) is only possible because of the sacrifice of the Christ lending force to the cause of mercy. The vast amplitude of that sacrifice can hardly be humanly comprehended.

Our scriptures plainly portray the case of the law of cause and effect and the work of the Christ in relation to it. To convey these truths is the task we face in service to God and our fellow men. There has never been, in the history of the world, a time when the realization of these factors was more important. Such realization provides the soil of understanding wherein the soul may thrive and grow to eternal life.

We bear the task of conveying the fact that the judgment of God has been made and is expressed in the law of cause and effect. We but hasten down the course of time to fulfill it. And fulfill it we will, whether for good or ill.

—Elder Thomas S. Maley

Our Heritage

Sermon by Apostle Roland Sarratt
(condensed)

Special Song:

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place.



That special song was quite appropriate. I feel that the Spirit of God has increased through the past 36 hours that we have been here, and I feel a terrific responsibility to meet the increase adequately. I know that without me saying anything that you have been fed. But there is something else that's happened in the last few hours that I've discerned; I feel as if the Lord has stripped away my little comfort zone. It's frightening, but at the same time I can rejoice because what we've heard not only gives us a challenge, but also a sense of reality.

I've been working on this for some time in myself,

and in my studies I have found things that have torn me inside in a way that I cannot describe. The beautiful truths that would save us are also that which purges and cleanses us of sin, and in order for us to be cleansed we have to turn loose of certain things that make us comfortable in the world.

Our Brother Don pointed out six aspects of Zion that are pertinent to us. I have chosen, primarily, the thought of our heritage, or you might say the liberty that was established upon this continent. It has to do with what I would consider an appropriate theme for Thanksgiving time, but also I want to pull together what has happened

in the past with what is happening now, to make us prepared for what is to happen in the future.

In the opening hymn, in the 3rd verse, it says, "How long we have wandered as strangers in sin, and cried in the desert for thee; our foes have rejoiced when our sorrows they've seen, but Israel will shortly be free." Israel will shortly be free. Is that true? I believe it is. "As children of Zion good tidings for us, the tokens already appear. Fear not and be just for the Kingdom is ours, and the hour of redemption is near." Fear not and be just. We have something to move toward, but before we can, we have to strip away the comfort zone, get rid of the security blanket we've been wrapped in.

As we review history we remember that Joseph Smith, as a mere lad, obeyed the scriptures, went alone in prayer to the Lord, and something marvelous happened to him, something unheard of in the day in which he lived. Persecution came almost immediately as soon as he opened his mouth and started telling about it. His family accepted it but those whom he would expect to accept wouldn't accept it. According to the scriptures we can expect greater persecution than Joseph Smith ever had. We're told in the prophecies of Christ himself, that persecution will be greater in the last days than has ever been known in the history of man.

Does that make you stop and contemplate what we have today? Well, what choice do we have? Do we have a multiple of choices? Well yes, right now we can join any church; we can join anything that makes us feel more comfortable, less concerned about where we are today. But what we know, we are accountable for. You and I don't have any way to turn around. We're just like Joseph Smith. He had to go on, he couldn't stop without jeopardizing his soul. You and I are in that same boat. But is that terrible? Is it a thing of dread? A thing to lament and feel sorry about? No! We should rejoice! Each one of you are one of the elect; the chosen. It's overwhelming! The favor of God is toward us!

When did this favor begin? Go back to the beginning of time, and as you can follow the story down through the scriptures you will find that there was a time when the Lord selected a certain people. However these people rejected the gospel of Christ and so the Lord took it away from them and gave it to another people. And then the reverse was to happen. In the last days those second people (known as the gentiles) were given the gospel again and they are to take it back to the Israelites.

Recently I've found an awakening among some peoples, who have come to realize that there is something very valuable to them, that is being taken away, being overshadowed by another element of doctrine or philosophy that would destroy these basic moral truths. It is happening so cunningly and so deceptively. They are alarmed about it and they're beginning to proclaim that these things are happening right here in our very land. So it's well that we should consider these things.

Let me tell you about some of our heritage. Go back

to the time that the first Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed. You might think those people didn't have much for which to thank God. The year before, half of the Plymouth colony had died. But that summer they had quite a few crops that put them in pretty good condition and so the governor declared a day of thanksgiving. One of the most remarkable things in history that I love to read is that it wasn't just the colony that sat down together and feasted but they had a new brethren, a people they knew nothing about, as to their background, and they invited them to come in to eat with them; the American Indians.

The custom of Thanksgiving spread to the other colonies and when Washington was made president he issued a general proclamation to have a Thanksgiving Day. That followed through with other presidents. Lincoln did the same thing and finally it was made the national holiday that we celebrate today. I wonder sometimes how well the American people appreciate what went before them. Today we are facing a threat against our traditional values. There's a smoke screen out there, an element that would say, we don't want to remember those things anymore. Other things are more important to many people.

We do have a tradition; a belief in God, a belief in Jesus Christ as it is given in the Bible, that is our national heritage. But can we speak it? Can we declare it? Can we use this in our laws? In our government? Can we present it in our schools? We wonder what has happened! At this proclamation that George Washington gave, he made this statement, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God. To obey His will. To be grateful for His benefits and humbly implore His protection and favor." That can almost be considered scripture to us, but it is a national heritage to the American people.

In the closing words of the Declaration of Independence, which was very important to the independence of this nation in separating itself from all other nations, it says, "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance for protection on a Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Who is speaking there? The fifty-six men who signed it. They had only those words that would determine something, but it wasn't just words, they were words of great value that meant something to them and they knew that they had to uphold these things that they had said, that they pledged to, or they faced death for sure. So they fought for it and many of them did give their lives.

John Quincy Adams spoke to the posterity of those people, he says, "You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

Thomas Paine, said in 1776, "What we obtain too cheaply we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a price upon its goods and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an item as freedom should not be highly

rated." Freedom, as we have enjoyed it, didn't just happen because those people back there decided that they were going to have freedom. It was a thing fore-ordained by God, but still this nation does not know that. And here comes the responsibility, and it overwhelms me, that it should come down finally to just a few people who believe and accept the things that are taught in this book, (Book of Mormon) along with the Bible. The Lord will choose whom He will and He will prepare the way He wants for them. Have we already been told that? Haven't we already been told about the stone that's being polished? We have to add to that kingdom. Yes, each one of us has something to add, to give, to contribute.

As late as 1892 the Supreme Court made a decision, and in it they said this, "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind." Does that sound out of place with what the Supreme Court has said today? It conflicts a hundred percent. What the Supreme Court has been doing in the past two or three decades is astounding. It is directly against God. But in **that time** they said, "It is impossible that it should be otherwise, and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian. This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour there is a single voice making this affirmation and we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. These and many other matters which might be noticed add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances, that this is a Christian nation." Can we say it today? That's less than a hundred years ago. How quick we have departed, as a nation.

Noah Webster said, "The moral principles and precepts contained in the scripture ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils that men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." How absolutely true. Daniel Webster said, "Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens."

In all this, we find that what has been established traditionally and lawfully, in this country, has been substantiated by a law behind the law. We have to put the law of the land into technical terms but behind that law are the moral laws that come traditionally from the gospel of Christ. Willfully the lawmakers have devised ways to get around them as much as they can and they're trying their best to destroy them, and in many ways they have. We have faded as a Christian nation, faded clear back until other things have become predominant.

We have today what Francis Schaeffer called sociological law. It is a godless law that has become very predominant in our schools, in our free press, in the most common of our exchange of thoughts, beliefs etc. in the world. Religion has become contaminated

with it. The Supreme Court, in 1973 invalidated the abortion laws of fifty states. They took law into their own hands and they determined what was law. They opened up the doors to pornography the same way. What has happened in those few years since then, if we are truly Christian, we can't just shrug off!

Our brothers have said that they can't think about Zion except they weep. Yes, Zion is needed. And I feel that what we are facing today is the fact that Zion will have to be! We're going to be forced into Zion, into a Zion state, because we can't live with what's going on in the world today, and have any true sense or feeling of righteousness. We can't look at these scriptures and know what they say and then look at the world, and view our televisions and recognize what is there staring us in the face; every kind of crime imaginable!

Many of our people are not safe. How well protected are your children from the vilest and most evil people on earth? You don't even know who those people are! You can pass right by them and not know them for what they are; but what they would do to your child would make you so sick at heart that you could not stand it. It frightens me to know that my children are going to have to live in this environment except that we be rescued into a Zion state. There is no alternative. We don't have a multiple of choices. We either get ourselves right with God or we go down the mainstream where all the world is going!

Many of the things that are happening, we can see, but in order for the great majority of the people of this country to accept them, they have to be conditioned to them. Humanism is being taught in the churches, and in the schools. It's being shown on our television sets, and it softens us toward many, many things. If I could go back just thirty years these things would be shocking to me! And if I would go back to my parents time, in their early years, the things that are being displayed as entertainment in the world today, would be totally repelling. But we've been softened, conditioned little by little.

A man by the name of Whitaker Chambers said, "Humanism is not new. It is in fact man's oldest faith, its promise was whispered in the first days of creation under the tree of knowledge of good and evil, 'Ye shall be as Gods.'" Humanism teaches an elevation of human value in a sense of our own making. I believe that as we adopt those things that God has given us into our lives, we increase in righteousness but never independent of God. We are constantly dependent upon God. But in the world you do your own thing. You are dependent of others for your values.

Yes, our traditions are still there, they're still intact if we want to hold onto them. I say this with an explanation that we can be traditionally wrong in some things. But the tradition that we have in a belief in God and In Jesus Christ and in His word is something that we will not depart from if we will follow Christ. But if we allow the influence of the world to drag us down into the hopelessness of their humanistic reasonings, we're going to suffer great loss.

Now I ask you, do we have a message to preach to the world? Somewhere along the way there's going to be a transition, changing from the security of our little closed in beliefs and comforts that we have. The Lord is working with us. He sees that the more we turn our backs on the world and get involved within ourselves the more complicated we cause the problem to be. So the Lord wants us to redirect ourselves to reach out. We'll get stronger individually and no doubt we'll get more unified if we depend on God.

A scripture that I think is appropriate to our time is in the 3rd chapter of Joel, the 14th through the 17th verses: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice out of Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but 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 there shall no strangers pass through her anymore."

There are many scriptures that point to the coming of Zion. Zion is going to be whether we are a part of it or not! But the Lord has looked to us as a people who will prepare ourselves for Zion, so Zion can be. But we are in that valley of decision. This is nothing new; for me to speak it now isn't to say it hasn't been spoken to my ears for as long as I can remember. It has definitely been spoken, but the longer the time goes the closer we are to that decision.

We have a consequence that's going to face this people; it's going to face the world. In the 2nd Book of Nephi, the 12th chapter I want to read the 18th through the 21st verses. "O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the pride of their hearts, and all those who preach false doctrines, and all those who commit whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord; wo, wo, wo, be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell. Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of nought, and revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth:" Have we heard that? Has it happened? "For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in the day that they are fully ripe in iniquity, they shall perish." But here's our hope, "But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations, they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of hosts."

In the 18th verse, it speaks of all those that commit whoredoms. How often do you hear anybody talk about whoredoms? Do we have them today? You better believe it. But what do we have that can counteract that? You've already got it. I saw it this morning; the unity between man and wife; the unity in the home. You are a bulwark against the world, because the world is falling apart. They don't have the strength of that true love that is given of God in their marriages. This people

have a big plus that we possibly don't even realize. But the devil could destroy it if we let him. We have to fight to preserve it, we have to hold that standard up.

The devil is working, he wants to draw our attention away from these things. He wants us to say, "Well it's okay, the law of the land says such and such." Are we going to depend on that technical law that the lawyers can twist and turn? Value your marriage, put a high price on it! Value the feelings of love that you have for your children, and that your children have toward you. Do you realize that there are millions of children who feel they aren't even wanted? They have a terrible thing against them to even start with in life!

We also have the decrees concerning this land that cover the Gentiles. We all come under this. On page 663, the 3rd Book of Nephi, the 9th chapter, I want to read verses 99 over into the 10th chapter: "And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, Yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Their hands shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off. Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds; And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers; Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away." He's first telling us that some of the things we value, our automobiles for instance, our cities, our strongholds, are going to be cut off. But then he says something that can make us rejoice if we have a mind to do so. "It will come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away." They are going to be wiped off. What we've been experiencing is perhaps the most cunning of deceptions that there is, and we've been told about that. Christ himself has foretold that this would be a day of deception and only the very elect would be saved.

When Zion is a reality, there won't be lyings, deceivings, envyings, strifes, priestcrafts and whoredoms. Did you ever think about what won't be in Zion? Dreadful things that you experience in your life, you can be assured won't be in Zion.

How different we live today than we will if we are privileged to live in Zion! Is it something to hope for? But it won't be just a matter of escape, it will be a matter of preparedness. I won't just all of a sudden run to Zion and say, "Lord let me in; I need to get away from this." I will be working step by step, I will have done the ground

work. And the Lord may not even have a reason for me to enter Zion. As our Brother indicated, I may have to give my life ahead of time; whatever it is, is it too big a thing to sacrifice? I don't believe so. I've done the same thing my Brother did. At one point I felt so desperate I went to the Lord and I said, "Whatever it takes to save my soul, let it be." Yet I know that in my humanness I slip, I slide back, I fall on my face, I fail and I'm humiliated.

Let's go on to the hope that we have here, "For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard. But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts I will establish my church among them," speaking of the Gentiles, "and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; And I also will be in their midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people."

Yes, the New Jerusalem is our hope. and we can be a part of it; we can be a very important part of it right now. And I believe that the peoples, we call the latter day saints, have had an opportunity for many years to have had, at least, a beginning of Zion.

Our hope for Zion cannot go without a hope to be Christ-like. Whatever the Lord has for us to do, it is not too big a thing to desire and to seek out. Even though I feel greatly frustrated at times, with myself primarily, with us as a church, with the lack that we seem to have, the complacency we sometimes get into, the disagreements, etc., I find that I must go back to the scriptures. When you look around and see these things, you've got to be strengthened; you can't face the reality of the evils of this world, you can't face the reality of the power of the adversary to overthrow you, without the strength of God's word and the power of his Spirit. And just as the Puritans had to constantly fight to overcome their discouragements in this new land, which cost a great price, today we're going to fight for Zion which is going to cost a greater price than our forefathers faced. But it can be done, and we don't have any other choice except that we turn our back on God completely.

Oh, I pray that you and I will be there, or at least that we will be prepared for whatever the Lord has for us to do. If we're not there maybe we can be as some of our forefathers who gave their lives for the cause of liberty for this great nation. May we dedicate ourselves. It makes me feel very weak, but I feel the desire building and strengthening; and I pray it will be likewise in each of you.

CHOOSE A FRIEND, NOT A DRUG

by Susan Butts

The big yellow bus was coming toward Mandy, as she waited anxiously by the rough old road that would take her to a special day. In her hand was a clean white bag that contained the pattern for her prom dress which would be worn on her first date.

The bus stops; Mandy gets on joyfully, sits with a friend and happily pulls from its bag the source of her joy. But the contentment was not to be. A voice from behind orders her to let him (Buddy) see what she had.

"No! You can't!" Mandy answered sharply. She did not like him disturbing her wonderful mood.

Buddy, a good-looking young man, had been Mandy's first boy friend at the new school she had moved to for her Jr. and Sr. years. He was upset when she told him she only wanted to be friends and nothing more.

Because of his jealousy he grabbed the pattern from Mandy.

"Give it back to me," exclaimed Mandy.

Buddy tossed it back, saying nothing.

Mandy's good spirits were slowly fading. She was

becoming quite angry with Buddy, but still felt sorry for him.

The new yellow bus came to a quick halt at the entrance to the small, brick, two-story school that housed kindergarten through twelfth.

Mandy hurried up the wide cement steps at the entrance to the old school. Once again some of her joy returning; not knowing that today she would have to make a very adult decision that would help or ruin a friend.

"I'm not going to let Buddy get me angry today," said Mandy and she hurried off to find Deby, her best friend, and Randy, the boy who had asked her to the prom.

"Mandy, wait up," called Buddy. "I want to ask you something."

"Oh, no, not him again," muttered Mandy.

She turned to see where he was and suddenly a small plastic sack was pushed in her face.

"Take a sniff," says Buddy.

Mandy pushed it away. Angrily Mandy told Buddy

what he could do with his stuff and to leave her alone.

"You're just stuck up," called Buddy.

Mandy knew she should tell someone about what took place.

Christie was the first of her friends in her first class she could talk to. As Mandy told Christie about the morning's events, her round chubby face reddened to match her red hair.

"Mandy, don't tell anyone. Let's wait until we're sure he has some drugs on him so we can get him suspended."

"That sure would teach him a lesson," finished Christie excitedly.

"Christie, I'm not sure what was in the bag," answered Mandy. "I'll think about it. I don't want to get Buddy into any more trouble than he already makes for himself."

Mandy's joy, that morning waiting by the old rough road in the cold sunny winter morning, was gone. Now she had a decision to make, a serious one.

Deby, tall and slender, slid into the seat by Mandy, third period.

"Let me see your dress. I've been anxious all day, I know it's going to be pretty," rattled on Deby, not noticing Mandy's worried look. Mandy slowly handed it to her.

"I thought you would be excited about your dress. It's beautiful," remarked Deby, looking worriedly at Mandy. "What's wrong, Mandy?"

"I think Buddy offered me drugs this morning. I don't know what to do about it," answered Mandy sadly. "He offered me drugs a couple weeks ago," came back Deby.

"What?" exclaimed Mandy, "And you didn't do anything?"

"Yes I did," said Deby, "I told him if he didn't leave me alone, I would knock his block off."

A slight smile came to Mandy's small mouth and a twinkle in her light blue eyes. But then she became serious again. She pushed back her shoulder length sandy brown hair in deep thought.

"We have to talk to someone about this," said Mandy to Deby, coming to a decision.

"Oh, no! Not me." exclaimed Deby. "I might be able to handle him, but not his friends too."

"But we have to, Deby, don't you see. Buddy needs help and if no one with authority knows about his problem, who's going to help him?"

The bell rang and Deby promised to think about telling.

Fifty period arrived and Deby saw that Mandy was still upset so reluctantly she said "O.K., let's go and get it over with."

They got a pass from their teacher and went to the guidance office and told the counselor what had taken place.

Mandy and Deby slowly walked to class.

"We're in for it now, Mandy," and Mandy answered with a light heart that they had done the right thing to protect others and get help for a fellow human being.

Deby and Mandy settled down in seventh period thinking it was over but were asked to come to the principal's office, where they were asked to verify in front of Buddy what they had told the guidance counselor.

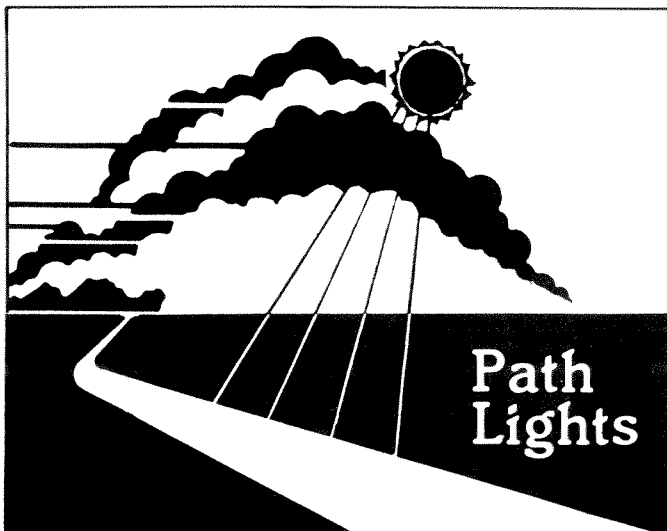
Deby nodded her head yes and Mandy spoke up and said "It was true but I do not want to get Buddy in trouble but want to get help for him."

Mandy was afraid of what Buddy was going to say on the bus home, but Buddy had listened and understood that a helping hand had been extended instead of a hurting hand.

The next day Buddy apologized to Mandy and Deby, and they both accepted. That same day Buddy told her that it took courage and maturity to tell someone instead of letting it pass.

Mandy found with truth, sound thinking and a wish to help someone lost, that maybe Buddy would recognize the good standards and high morals that still exist in this world where you have to make **the** Decision: A Drug or a Friend.

(Prov. 28 - 10; 31 - 9; 31 - 26; 24 - 28-29; 21; 15 -29-33; 14 - 35; 15 - 1-33; Alma 16:113-115)



A few years ago I worked at a steel plant. The atmosphere was not the greatest; so after just a few days I couldn't wait to be laid off. I didn't like the way people acted and talked. It was a whole new experience for me. I kept telling myself the money was worth it. Well, after nine months I did get laid off. Someone asked me if I would go back and I didn't know what I would do.

Later I had a dream that I was on a sidewalk in front of a large building with people sitting in the windows with hands full of money. They were calling to me to come in. I felt a little uneasy and then I woke up. Eventually I did go back to work and I started to backslide. It just seemed easier, and made the job more tolerable, to be a part of the group. I started to smoke. Of course, I hid this from my family, but this went on for quite a while.

Lessons on Angels

(From Warrensburg Local, Feb. & Mar. 1987)

Lesson No. 1: *Fallen Angels and Demons*

Revelation 12:9

1 Corinthians 15:39, 40, "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another."

Each has a body to function and operate within its own environment where God put it. If man had never seen the other kinds of flesh he would not believe birds could fly and fish could live under the water.

The Apostle Paul gave an account of celestial life:

1. Spirit beings that can exist in outer space.
2. They must travel as fast or faster than light.
3. There is no known life form on earth that can exist in such environments. Yet we know from the Bible that such celestial beings are in existence, and the spirit activity in evidence today indicates that they are here on earth. And they have bodies that will endure the extremely cold temperatures that exist in outer space. They also probably must live where there is no oxygen.
4. Spirits desire to possess the bodies of people, and some people seek after spiritual contact with such powers of the **air**. Often the dimension of the spirits and the dimension of flesh merge into each other and then become visible.

Abraham talked with the Angels who visited him (Genesis 18). Daniel talked freely with Gabriel (Daniel 8, 9). The night Christ was born, the shepherds saw a mul-

titude of the heavenly hosts (Luke 2:8-20). These were all God's Angels.

The heavenly Angels (hosts) faithful to God are made up of

- (a) Seraphim (God's watchers over the creation - Daniel 4)
- (b) Cherubim (The guardian of the third heaven - Genesis 3:24)
- (c) The Angels (God's faithful servants and messengers throughout the cosmos - Psalms 68:17, Isaiah 66:15)
- (d) And the Archangels (God's Princes who rule over the Angels - Jude 9, Daniel 12:1).

As far as we know there were never more than three Archangels, although Michael is the only Archangel identified as such in the Bible. (Some say scripture indicates there are two others? Gabriel and Lucifer). Lucifer fell from his exalted position when iniquity was found in him. Each Archangel ruled over one third of the Angels (Revelation 12:3,4).

The Red dragon in Revelation 12:9 is identified as Satan, and stars are often symbolically Angels, when Satan was the bright and shining one named Lucifer, "...and his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven..."

We read in Isaiah 14:12 that Lucifer was called the "son of the morning", showing he was one of the first to be created. In Ezekiel 28:12 he is said to have been full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Ezekiel 28:12 and Isaiah 14:12, 13 state because of his exalted position he became vain and proud. He sought to exalt his throne above all the stars of God, the Angelic host. He knowingly and consciously rebelled against God. He was the first sinner, the first rebel, the first Apostate. Instead of the "wise one" he became a liar and a murderer.

One night as I was just starting to get into the bathtub, the phone rang. It was Sr. Becky Sheldon. She was asking for prayers for Esther and Alfredo's little boy. He had been missing for quite a while. I said we would pray for him and I told Mike and our boys also. I went on to take my bath, but I was so upset I just kept thinking what if he was mine. I must confess I didn't really know Esther and Alfredo but was concerned for them just the same. I prayed, Lord please let this little boy be found, unhurt, and I promise that I will never smoke another cigarette again. I no sooner said that last word and the phone rang. It was Becky and she said the little boy had just walked in the door. He had ridden his bike too far from home and had gotten lost. An old man brought him home. The old gentleman had brought him within a few houses from his and said he could go no

farther. When they looked outside the man was gone. From the first time Becky called to the last time about five minutes had elapsed.

Now I would like to return to my dream for a few moments. I think I was being warned not to go back to work because I was weak, and the people didn't seem so bad. The money just seemed too good to pass up. Since this experience with Esther and Alfredo's son and his wonderful blessing, it has been easy to say no when they call me back to work. It's also been easy to quit smoking.

Pat McGhee
Independence, Missouri

Mail your testimonies to:

PATH LIGHTS, c/o Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane, Independence, MO 64052

Instead of the bright and shining one, he became the serpent, the old dragon, the king of the demons, the prince of darkness.

Satan used his great wisdom to lie to and deceive the angels under his dominion. They followed him in rebellion against God to conquer the Universe.

He is still using his perverted wisdom and wickedness to deceive the world today. Why?

The fallen Angels, his loyal subjects are invading the earth today to prepare the way for Satan's false Messiah, the Antichrist. This is the reason for the rise in spiritism, witchcraft, and Satanism. It is a sign we are living in the terminal generation.

Lesson No. 2: Daniel in the Lion's Den—Daniel 6:22
Angel sent as messenger or guardian.

The agents of Satan today are some of the best educated men and women who may be even leaders in their professions. Satan's helpers are changing their looks and actions to deceive more people; it is not illogical to believe in witches and spiritism, Satanism and evil spirits are popular subjects. These activities are a sign that the tribulation period of sorrows is at hand. Let's look up Revelation 16:13, 14. The demons can work miracles, demons spreading over the earth, (words) frogs coming out of the mouth (deceiving) of the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, they are the spirits of the devils which go unto kings of the earth "etc."

War in heaven, . . . Michael and his Angels fought against the dragon and his Angels etc., Revelation 12:6-8. Notice John saw, by revelation, the final battle—but the war began millennia ago when Satan declared in his heart, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;" etc.—Isa. 14:13, 14; Ps. 48:2 tells us where the sides of the north are. Who are the stars of God?

God's people are participants in this spiritual war between God and the Devil. Paul gives us the best advice in Eph. 6:10-12.

Satan is determined to annex Earth to his kingdom. This battle of life and death struggle during the coming tribulation, will determine the future of the heavens and Earth. We know the outcome from God's word because God is the Supreme Ruler. Eph. 6:13-18, Ps. 116:16.

Now let us go back to the other side again, concerning God's Angels. Revelation 4:4,6,8,11.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The Watchers | Daniel 4:13,16,17 |
| 2. Cherubim | Genesis 3:24 |
| 3. Seraphim (means serpent) | Isaiah 6:6,7 |
| 4. Angels (messengers or servants) | |

There are so many they can not even be counted. Their travel is associated with the Chariots of God. Isa. 66:15 Ps. 68:17.

Lesson No. 3: Angels look like men and Angels eat food, they are a little higher than man.

Psalms 78:24,25

Archangels are the only ones mentioned by name since the fall of Lucifer. There are only two mentioned by name—Gabriel and Michael. Jude 9 and Daniel 8:16

Princes, ". . . Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; . . ." Archangel, Daniel 12:1. As a king is the head of a kingdom his son is a prince which gives them certain rights, so the identification of the archangels as princes gives them throne rights in the kingdom of God. Gabriel and Michael each rule over one third of God's kingdom and each commands one third of the angelic host. These are the spirits which are faithful to God.

Now back to the spirits that are in rebellion to God. At the head of the "kingdom of darkness" is Lucifer, who became Satan the devil. Isaiah 14:12,13; Psalms 48:2.

Nothing is said about the creation of angels within the six days of creation in Genesis. Angels are called the sons of God because they are created beings. They do not reproduce or have the power to reproduce themselves. It appears the spirit world falls into two categories.

1. The sons of God (the Angels) and first created.
2. "The morning stars." Both orders were created prior to the creation of the world. In Job 38:4, 7 it speaks, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

As we trace the career of Satan, remember that God rewards faithful service. To the redeemed from the human race, God has promised that some will sit on thrones, some will sit in heavenly places with Christ.

There are many rewards and degrees of authority and responsibility to be determined at the judgment seat of Christ. If this rule is for people, then it would be also the same rule of rewards for service of the Angels.

From the higher Angelic order which was created in the beginning, the Morning stars, it appears many were selected to fill positions of leadership in God's kingdom.

1. Lucifer was originally a son of the morning. Is. 14:12
2. He advanced to the status of a Cherubim.
3. Then he became a Seraphim. Eze. 28:14,16
4. Probably the next promotion of Lucifer was to a watcher before the throne of God because of similarity in appearance, a watcher is apparently a higher order of Seraphim. Rev. 4:7 Why—The face of a lion, the face of a calf, the face of a man, the face of an eagle. We find no watcher of the reptiles, creepy things, etc. We ask why? Habakkuk 1:12, 14 gives

some explanation. God's watchers have the appearance of that part of the life of creation over which their responsibility lies. Satan appeared in the garden of Eden in the form of a snake, and one of his names is "the dragon" or "that old serpent". Satan's promotion left a vacancy within the order of watchers which never has been filled; the result of the curse that God put on the creeping crawling things because of Satan's sin.

5. The fifth and last promotion of Lucifer was the rank of Archangel. Only the Archangels are named, and Lucifer was Satan's name when he fell. (Isa. 14:13) Satan commanded one third of the angelic host, and only Archangels are said to command the armies of God. (Rev. 12:3-9)

Lucifer was the most intelligent and beautiful angel in

God's universe. He was found perfect in service. (Ez. 28:15) God recognized and rewarded him accordingly; yet he became ambitious and would stop at nothing to extend his kingdom (which God had given him) over the entire Universe.

With the rebellion of Lucifer, the spirit world was divided into two opposing forces. Ez. 28:18 They wage war. Paul warns in Eph. 6:11, 12. Never have visible manifestations of these unseen wars been so evident as in our day.

A few years ago the American Medical Association issued a warning against people becoming involved in the occult movement that is sweeping across the world. Both mental and physical health could be destroyed. Only the power of God can overcome, as in 1 John 5:56.

—Sister Sarah Brantner

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.

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.

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.

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.

OLD ZION'S ADVOCATES AVAILABLE

Much labor has been put forth by some volunteers and, as a result, numerous old Zion's Advocates are available for the taking at no cost. Copies left in "the upper room" at the Temple Lot church are archived and are not to be disturbed or taken without permission of the Advocate Business Manager.

All available old Advocates will be at the 1987

Missouri Reunion, Warrensburg, Missouri. Afterward, Brother Andy Brantner, Route 1, Box 49, Centerview, Missouri 64019, will have any remaining copies. All volumes and numbers are not available, as little care was given to preservation of "spare" copies in the early years of the Advocate (1920's and 1930's). Write to Brother Brantner for further information.

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Mallory

Born: November 2, 1913

Went to be with the Lord on December 16, 1982

Edith Mallory was my wife, Beverly's, mother. I will refer to Edith in this as my mother also, not mother-in-law, for after our marriage we became one. This means to me that if we are one, and we are so, Edith is my mother, also.

I would like to say that mother was one of the greatest mothers and ladies that ever lived. Mother spent all of her life doing the best she knew how to do in service to her God and our God.

Mother kept the two great commandments of the Lord as we find in St. Matthew 2:37-40. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Mother spent all the strength the Lord gave her serving her Lord. She read the word of the Lord, and believed it and lived the way the Lord told her to live. You did not have to ask her if she loved the Lord, all you had to do was to look at the way she lived, and you could tell she loved Him.

Mother had a heart full of love for all. If you asked her for something and she had it, she would give it to you, and want nothing in return. If mother had a fault, it was that she was too good-hearted to all, and never talked bad about anyone. The Lord tells us that this is love.

In the Book of Mormon on page 768 v. 50-53, it says, "And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers

of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen."

Mother truly had this charity that we just read about, for she did have the pure love of Christ. I pray that the Lord will help me to have charity, as Mother had, for I know if I'm found with charity at the last day that I will be in heaven with Mother.

Mother had twelve children. Two preceded her in death, and she did her best to teach the ten God let her raise to love the Lord, by what she said, and most of all by the way she lived her life in service to the Lord.

In the Book of Mormon on page 577:115,116 we have the words of Nephi. "Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou hast done; for I have beheld how thou hast with unwearyingness declared the word which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but have sought my will, and to keep my commandments."

Mother was to her children, and all she came in contact with that would listen, like Nephi was to the people of his day. Both of them (Nephi—Mother) declared the word of God with diligence, and kept his commandments.

Mother was a very quiet lady who loved raising her children and being a housekeeper to them and her husband. She never worked outside of the home, because she wanted to raise her children herself in the fear of the Lord, as the Lord said she should do, in his word.

On page 749:36,37 Moroni gives us these words. "And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord that he would give unto the Gentiles grace, that they might have charity. And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me, If they have not charity, it mattereth not unto thee, thou hast been faithful; wherefore thy garments shall be made clean."

All of Mother's children are not following Christ as they were taught to do by her. I am sure that Mother prayed for them just as Moroni did for the Gentiles so we find in verse 37 that the Lord told Moroni that he was faithful and his garments shall be made clean, I know that Mother's garments have been made clean, also.

Your brother in Christ,
Jeffery Butts

Minneapolis News

Our business meeting was held on May 17. For the most part, the same ones were elected for duty through another year. We will have the Tri-State Reunion and Fair Booth projects as usual.

Brother John and Sister Nana Gill are developing ever wider contacts through their relief project. The vast and growing amount of goods is now stored in donated storage to free the farm buildings for farm use. Senator Rudy Boschwitz, who was in a German prison camp when young and is sensitive to refugee problems, plans to go down with the next shipment to Honduras.

A new little boy, Amos Barrett Ferrier, born May 19, weight six pounds and nine ounces arrived at supper time! And now (June 17th) weighs nine pounds three ounces. Amos is content to fill a special need as second son in the Leah and Doug Ferrier family's new home, as the baby brother of Isaac, Liza, Amy, and Crystal.

We had an invitation to go to Ed Linton's dairy farm in Goodhue County for our May 31, Fifth-Sunday Dinner. Brother Ed's backyard was thoughtfully furnished with a huge wide-spreading Maple tree which became an outdoor cathedral for Sunday School and preaching by Pastor Maley, and for the sweet blessing of Amos Barrett Ferrier by Elder John Case and Elder Benny Case. While the adult class had their study beneath the Maple tree, Brother Tom Maley and Sister Barbara Case took the delighted kids on a field trip to collect samples of God's spring flower creations. After the Sunday School hour the youngsters lined up and told us in turn, the names of the flowers they had picked. One practical minded boy, Matthew Case, displayed a stalk of rhubarb among his finds. (We liked their variety!) Two-year-old Seth Gould, made the trip with many tumbles and no complaints. Bless 'em all! We predict some children will remember that beautiful valley, and the wonderful freedom of Sunday School there, as a memory worth keeping. Brother Ed, a bachelor, has spicily fragrant pink roses blooming along his back fence and peony bushes of deep red and of white as evidence of his late mother's love of beauty. Ed and helpers grilled hamburgers and the table held compatible foods, including a big pan of cinnamon rolls made by Brother Stephen Gould. As a finishing touch, Ed provided ice cream cones. All us kids enjoyed them.

I lack words to describe the beauty of Ed Linton's peaceful valley. To anyone who has a deep love for the rural scene and for sleek cows as part of that beauty, it was a respite for the city weary soul just to look out over the springtime scene. Black clouds had gathered as the last of us headed for home. Then a heavy rain pelted car, road and the rolling countryside. Back in Minneapolis the sky was clear and there was no sign of rain. The air was hot. In fact, our dryness has thwarted the mosquito population!

The Gary Bentson family in Hallettsville, Texas, in flood condition, called for the prayers of the Minneapolis local. We relayed the request in many directions. In the evening Gary Bentson telephoned to let us know they were safe. The rain had turned off soon after the call for

prayers had been made to us. They had been able to get their morning milking done before the day was over. The deep water had run off and the sun came out while the goats had green grass to munch on. The Bentsons did find out that there was no road out of their flooded area, only the avenue of prayer which they had relied on! They were rejoicing and thanking God! The "60% chance of more rain" did **not** come to overflow their nearby river in the night. Our prayers are the finest gift in time of crisis or non-crisis!

We will have a report of our July 3, 4, and 5 Tri-State Reunion next month. We expect a new baby on July 3! And we will perhaps announce an engagement. Life is busy and varied. We must run to keep up with all that is happening.

Have a blessed and safe summer seeking ever to grow in understanding and in Christian Love.

Irene Maley, reporting.

Oklahoma News

It has been such a long time since I have written any news. When your local is small and you meet only once a month, it is hard to write news articles.

We continue to meet in someone's home on the second Sunday of each month with priesthood from Independence supporting us. We appreciate their help, their love, and their devoted support. For the past several months we have had the Sarratts, the Marvin Cases, the Grzincics, and the Fanns join us.

We have had several interesting developments in



Know Your Scriptures

"Study to Shew Thyself approved unto God..." II Timothy 2:15

Youth: The book of Mosiah, in the latter few verses of chapter 9, records that newly converted King Limhi and his people wanted to be baptized, but Ammon chose not to fulfill their request. Why?

Adult: The Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible is the only version of the Bible officially recognized by the Church of Christ, while all others stand on their own merit, or lack of it, as the case may be. The KJV was translated in the year 1611 by theologians appointed by King James of England. They translated from an earlier English language Bible which was derived from earlier Latin versions which were derived from some early manuscripts.

Question: None of the earliest manuscripts or original writings that make up the Bible can be found. What significance has this fact to believers in the Restored gospel?

(Answers can be found elsewhere in this issue.)

each of our families that I'd like to share with you. First, after twenty years of elementary teaching, I have retired. My friends honored me and for a couple of hours after school one day in May, I thought I was a queen. I shall miss teaching!

When I called Barbara Kimball for her family news, she said, "Tell everyone to stay off the roads. Steven has his driver's license." The big news about Jeff is that he graduated from high school in May. He has received numerous scholarships in music and/or academics. He has chosen OSU (Stillwater) as the school.

Dorothy Deewall and Dolly continue to live in Edmond where Dorothy is preparing to become a teacher. She is scheduled to finish the degree in December. They visit Dorothy's father in Ava at every opportunity.

Laura May and M. G. Elwell are very busy with their respective professions. M. G. works as a field auditor supervisor for the state of Oklahoma. Laura May continues to teach in Edmond. She is scheduled to receive her master's degree in Foreign Language Education in July. In conjunction with earning this degree, she is taking a class called "Maya Culture and Civilization in Mexico." She will be visiting the old ruins in Yucatan and Mexico.

Mike and Barbara Martin continue to be busy with their two teenage daughters still at home. Donna will be an OU student again this fall. Missy was one of the lucky ones chosen for the Oklahoma Chorale and they have been in New York City performing. Their son, Darrel, and his wife are in the Air Force. They are stationed in New Mexico.

We are all very thankful for the many blessings upon us. We are thankful we have our local so we can meet and worship together. Remember us in your prayers.

May the good Lord bless and keep you.

Alzada Massey, Reporter

Houston (Missouri) News

Greetings from the Houston Local. We have had many blessings here, but we still need your prayers for Brother Clifford and Sister Roberta McGuire. They have both been hospitalized recently and Brother McGuire is in the hospital at this time.

Sister Dorothy Wilson, her sister-in-law Mae Walker, and Chris Ely were blessed to escape injury in an accident on the way to Wisconsin recently. Sister Dorothy is in need of your prayers for her health.

Brother Ireatess Keeney escaped serious injury or death in a severe accident in May. He blacked out due to low blood sugar while driving his truck. He is in need of your prayers. We are so grateful that the Lord has spared our lives and has given us a little longer to prepare to meet Him.

We are so happy to report a baptism here in our local in May. Rick, how happy we are to have you in the great family of God. Rick Lotz is a student at the School of the Ozarks. Keep up the good work there "Ye Saints of God." You truly are letting your light shine! We were privileged to have Allen and Czerna Kauffman and Jack

and Betty Martin here with us that Sunday. Allen baptized Rick in a little creek named Indian Creek just south of town.

We had a wonderful rally on Memorial weekend. Our speakers gave us real food for our souls. Brother Jack Martin spoke on "Love" as Christ loved His Church. Apostle Roland Sarratt spoke on reverence to God and that His mind must be revealed to man. We are to be like Him. Brother Joe Smith spoke in the afternoon and he kept us awake, too! His question to all of us was, "Do you savor the things of God?" We were especially overjoyed to have our dear Sister Minnie Smith with us at the rally.

We were happy to have cousins of Grandmother Keeney here to visit us on Sunday, June 14. George and Edna Morgan from Hood River, Oregon, and their son, Frank, from Kodiak, Alaska. Brother Gerry Case was our speaker and he gave us such good food for our souls. The main thought for us to remember was thoughts from Apostle Paul, I Corinthians 10:15, 27.

On Sunday, June 28, we gathered at the church for a big dinner to celebrate the birthdays of Grandmother Keeney, Brother Ireatess Keeney and Brother David Keeney. Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hume of Rolla; Mr. and Mrs. Jess Fisher of St. Charles; Kim, Jane Ann, Justin and Trevor Stencil and Florence Kommer of Springfield; Dee Anna, Grant, Nancy and Andrew Hutcheson of Republic; David Keeney of Columbia; and Mr. and Mrs. Doug Keeney of Springfield. We missed having James and Sandy Addie with us this year. James' birthday is also June 28.

We all need your prayers! Many times in the scriptures we are told to pray and who to pray for continually. If we make a promise to pray for someone, let's keep our promise.

Reporter,

Mary Jane Medders

Ravenna (Michigan) News

We are very pleased to announce the gathering of another into God's flock. Norma Rose Keith went into the waters of Baptism with Elder Gale Brantner, June 7th, at Lime Lake near Sparta. It was a beautiful day, although a bit windy; the sun shone brightly as our new sister arose from the water with a glow that we'll never forget. We welcome you into our family, Sister Norma!

Special guests were her husband, Kenneth, Elder Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner from Leeton, Missouri, and Brother Richard Brantner and his wife Charlene from Eagle, Michigan. Brother Charles was assisted by Brother Gale in Sister Norma's confirmation. Afterward we all enjoyed fellowship at the lakeside with a potluck dinner.

June 14th we were again blessed to have Elder Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner join us while doing missionary work in our area. Brother Charles stood in for our pastor while Brother Gale took a few days to visit Hill Cumorah, The Sacred Woods, and the Kirtland Temple.

June 20-21 was a fulfilling weekend with the Michigan State Reunion taking place at the Bradley local. It was truly wonderful to see such a good turnout, nearly 100 people, with almost every seat filled, even in such warm humid weather. Saturday's services were opened by Elder Laverne Lussenden and consisted of excellent sermons from Elder Ed Toulouse from the Flint local, Elder Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse, and Elder Bob Oldham both from East Independence, Missouri. All three fit together beautifully as though it had been planned that way. After filling ourselves physically as well as spiritually the afternoon was filled with the sound of voices singing in praise of our Lord.

Sunday's Sacrament service was conducted by Elders Charles and Gale Brantner with the message given by Brother Gale. Brother Gale felt he was directed by the Holy Spirit to give that particular message, which turned out to be the "capper" to the previous day's sermons, admonishing us to follow **all** of the **Lord's Commandments**. After a season of prayer there were several administrations, one of which received an immediate healing, and many, many, beautiful and wonderful testimonies of God's Blessings: one of which was the rain we received that we needed so badly. And it was truly a blessing to see so many familiar faces again. The Holy Spirit was felt very strongly within us all, and Blessed are we!

Saturday, June 27th, 31 of us gathered at Brother Johnny and Sister Irene Reed's trailer at McLaren Lake for a picnic. It was a cool blustery day with rain earlier in the day but clearing for our afternoon of fellowship. It was a heartwarming day despite the coolness outdoors.

Sister Jean Shevock returned from several months of helping her sister, who had broken several ribs, in southern Indiana, and attending her grandson's graduation.

Brother Max Spencer is recovering nicely from hip replacement surgery, although the doctor keeps having to remind him not to overdo.

June 28th, back at Ravenna, we were again pleased to have a very special part of our family present, Elder Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner. Brother Charles gave us an informative message, reminding us that we might be able to fool the preacher but that God knows all!

I want to say how truly blessed I am to have parents so special, it seems they are always where they are needed, not just by chance either. I believe it's our Lord's plan that they are following. I know our local feels they are a very special part of our church 'family' and that we are very blessed to have them as missionaries in our area because they are so dear to our hearts. I've enjoyed them staying with me so much that I really hate to see them go on down the road, but I know I must share them with you all.

May God continue to bless and keep you.

Your sister in Christ,
Your reporter,
Debbie Brantner Vogel

SERMONS ON VIDEO TAPE

Your AVVAA Committee voted to experiment with video-taping Church of Christ sermons this past year, and with the permission of the Council of Apostles, three sermons were taped at the recent April general conference in Independence, Missouri.

These sermons are recorded on "VHS" type video cassettes and are playable on any VHS Video Cassette Recorder (VCR). If you do not own one of these machines for use with your television set, a VCR can usually be rented at any video store for as little as two dollars and usually not more than five or six dollars.

The committee especially had in mind the isolated member who is unable to attend Church of Christ services, feeling that being able to **see** the preacher and congregation would allow a closer, more realistic communion with the Saints and enhance the ability to discern the spirit of the sermon and service. Another foreseeable use might be for "cottage" meetings to introduce others to the Gospel of Christ in the absence of a Church of Christ Minister.

Church of Christ members write to Elder Gary Housknecht to borrow one of the below listed sermons on video cassette — at no cost. If there is enough positive response to this new service, attempt will be made to offer video-taped services on a regular basis.

Tapes presently available:

"And Ye Would Not" — Elder Robert Oldham

"Christian Love" — Elder John Schut*

"Nourish and Prune the Vineyard" — Elder Samuel Gould

"The Building Up of Zion" — Apostle Don McIndoo

*Includes the inspirational "hand of fellowship" given Brother Schut and lovely wife, Ina, at the conclusion of his sermonette

One of the requirements that must be met in order to be baptized into God's Church is to find a minister called by God and given special permission (we call it "authority"), by God to baptize people. Ammon did not have God's special authority to baptize so he wisely asked King Limhi and his people to wait until they located one of God's special ministers. You may read in Mosiah 1:94-96 where King Limhi and the others were baptized by Alma.

Critics of the Book of Mormon frequently like to point out that no one is able to produce the plates from which Joseph Smith translated Reformed Egyptian into English. The critics say that if the Book of Mormon is authentic, "prove it." Sometimes it can be frustrating not being able to answer these critics by showing them the plates — even though there are other ways to "answer" those critics.

So, the significance of there being no original writings or even any of the earliest manuscripts of the Bible, is that the same situation exists with regard to the only other sacred text in the world — the Book of Mormon. Evidently, according to some wise purpose in God, the whereabouts of original writings of the Holy written word are known only to Him.

ANSWERS TO "KNOW YOUR SCRIPTURES":

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

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.

The 1987 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19 through 21 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	6.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
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Changes to the Revelations	1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony	
(Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are in packs of 6-\$50¢, 100-\$5.85.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send all orders to the General Sunday School Association c/o Becky Sheldon, Rt. 1, Box 315, Grain Valley, MO 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as indicated. Write for more information, or see Synopsis in June, 1985, Zion's Advocate.

CHURCH HISTORY for JUNIORS—34 page booklet includes a teachers guide.

THE BOOK IN THE STONE BOX—7 page booklet

BIBLE STORIES TO GROW BY — 52 lessons in 12 themes about God and Jesus (ages 5-7). (Free to local Sunday Schools)

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WE SING and WE TALK ABOUT JESUS—14 primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette (On loan only)

WHO AM I?—A Bible game (cards) with multiple uses (Free to any local Sunday School, but \$1.30 for individuals)

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "Advocate" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to address listed on the inside cover page.

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 30¢. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than on its return to us.

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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

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

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

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

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

"The Return" (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the dedicated Temple Lot.

Holy Scriptures on Cassette Tapes

Complete sets narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and the entire Book of Mormon.

Sermons on Cassette and Video Tape

For "regular" cassette tapes write to Joel Yates, 18819 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85024, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., K.C., MO 64136.

For video tapes, write to Gary Housknecht as listed above.