

# 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 • October, 1987

No. 10

## The Bible

This book contains the mind of God,  
and the state of man,  
the way of salvation - the doom of sinners  
and the happiness of believers.  
Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding,  
its histories are true, and its decisions are  
immutable.

Read it to be wise,  
Believe it to be safe,  
And practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to  
support you and comfort to cheer you.  
It is the pilgrim's staff, the traveler's map  
the pilot's compass, and the soldier's sword,  
and the Christian's charter.  
Here, Paradise is restored, Heaven opened and  
the gates of Hell disclosed.  
Christ is its grand subject, our good its  
design, and the glory of God its end.  
It should fill the memory,  
Rule the heart and  
Guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully.  
It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory  
and a river of pleasure.  
It is given to you for life, and will be opened  
in the judgment, and will be remembered forever.  
It involves the highest responsibility, will  
reward the greatest labor and will condemn all  
who trifle with its sacred contents.

From *The Jewish Hope*  
(Used with permission)

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# Zion's Advocate

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

## 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...

# Where Are Your Summer Wages?

At about the age of eleven, working at my Dad's service station, I would often hear the old-timers ask, "Mac, where are your summer wages?" They would usually laugh, joke and sometimes talk very seriously about the past summer and their hope in the next year. This usually happened about this time of the year which caused me to wonder. What can the difference be between summer and winter wages? I was paid the same year around and was convinced I earned every penny!

Later I realized that if my wages were earned in a farming community the seasons were important and each held special significance. Spring, a time of planting; summer, a time of growth; early fall, a time of harvest. Each season had its own special worth but with summer this was the time the crops were grown (the wages earned).

With winter came a time to rest and enjoy the fruits of the season's growth. A time to be thankful for the

harvest and the summer wages earned. This was also a time to repair and prepare tools for the next year. Next year there would be a need for renewed strength and tools in good working condition. The old-timers realized the danger in whiling away a long summer; the danger in wasting time with frivolous pastimes; the danger in wasting seed money on luxuries of the world; the danger in wasting strength on temptations of the flesh. The old-timers realized winter could be a fat or a lean time depending on how they wasted or invested their wages!

Spiritually speaking we are farming. The term farmland is not of earth or soil but the whole human family of Adam down to you and I and our posterity. Unfortunately, many wait until the afflictions of life have softened their spiritual soil that they may receive the word as a seed. I thank God that in His wisdom he has provided this way back for those who would pro-

crastinate their "Summer" with hardened hearts! God's desire is that we would desire to believe. (Alma 16:144, 151) This desire causes our spiritual soil to be prepared, or plowed, to receive his work at the proper depth that it may swell, sprout and begin to grow. (Matt 13:3-9,19-23; Al 16:152-162) This is the spring or planting season, with the summer or growing season our work must continue. We are admonished of our responsibility to nourish and care for this new growth within us, for without proper root the trials of life will cause withering and in time spiritual death. (Al 16:164-173)

Spiritually speaking with winter comes a time of rest and if we have earned "Summer Wages" we may enjoy the fruits we have labored for during our short lifetime. This is called: 'paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc.' (Al 19:44) If you or I waste our time of "Summer Wages" we may: 'be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil.' (Al 19:46, see also vs 47) In my own words: paradise is for those who choose full-time employment with God

thus earning their "Summer Wages"; Outer darkness is for those choosing not to work for "Summer Wages", those choosing a summer vacation paid for by the devil. For those not in full-time employment with God but yet not on a summer vacation (planned by the devil), these I would term as choosing part-time employment with God. I cannot say whether winter will find these in paradise or outer darkness, to these I say, why take a chance?, why waste "Summer Wages"?, why tempt God?

Just as the old-timers realized a danger in physical procrastination, do we recognize a spiritual danger? Do we recognize this short life is our growing season? The responsibility is ours to believe—trust—obey—endure. The responsibility is ours to nourish this seed within us and seek to spread this seed or gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Our wages cannot be inherited or given away or borrowed. They must be earned! With this spiritual winter will come a reckoning when all our works will be made known!

The question asked us may be: "Where Are Your Summer Wages?"

—Priest Michael E. McGhee

## Advancement of the Fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

by Elder Samuel S. Gould

Part Two (Conclusion)



In Part One, the Bible manuscript history was discussed in establishing it as an accepted and reliable standard, the next large work to be considered is the Book of Mormon.

Does the Book of Mormon measure up to the Bible standard of faith? The Bible makes particular mention of the Book of Mormon as being the truth of God. "Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven." (Ps 85:11). Isaiah 29 provides a more detailed description of this "truth" that would come forth from its burying place in this country among our Indian brothers during their distress caused by our white brothers according to the words of the Lord. "And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee (our white brothers — SSG). And thou (our Indian brothers — SSG) shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall be out of the dust." (Is 29:3-4). From this passage we see that the forefathers of the Indian people would speak out of the dust and it would require divine intervention in interpretation which many would discount as being from an occult source. The coming forth of this truth would be in the form of the words of a book via the

very specific manner given here. "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned." (Isa 29:11-12). The words of the Book of Mormon were delivered to the learned Professor Anthon (one of the foremost Egyptologists of the Day) to read and he could not. The words of the Book of Mormon were then brought forth by Joseph Smith (an ill-educated farm boy) by divine intervention.

This truth was to come forth prior to the return of the "former and latter" rains of Lebanon. "Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness." (Isa 29:17-18). The spring and fall rains returned shortly after the springing forth of this truth, the Book of Mormon, from the ground through divine intervention. This is the only work that has ever come forth claiming to be that truth and it is now too late for some other work to be examined. The time spoken of is past and therefore the truth has already sprung forth and that truth is the Book of Mormon. Measure it

against the standard and see how it witnesses to the truths contained in the Bible. It is, therefore, an accepted standard to measure other works by and to be used as a guide for the faithful, just as the Bible.

The two standards we have discussed thus far are discussed in detail also in the prophecies of Ezekiel in this manner: "Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph (Book of Mormon written by our Indian brethren — SSG), which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows (our white brethren — SSG), and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah (Bible — SSG), and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand." (Ez 37:19). From the Book of Mormon we hear this same evidence: "And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; Wherefore, they both shall be established in one; For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth;" (1 Ne 3:194-197). These passages clearly show that the two standards are to be used as one in the hands of God and man to measure all other works by, as the fullness of the gospel of Christ is given increase through the workings of the Holy Spirit upon the servants of Almighty God. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim 3:16-17).

As these two standards are combined with latter day revelation we see a singular standard emerging which is referred to as the fullness of the Gentiles. "That these sayings which ye shall write, shall be kept, and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fullness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth, because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer." (3 Ne 7:28). In our quest for the building up of Zion in this latter day we should earnestly seek for the moving of the spirit of God upon His servants as in times of old. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Pe 1:21).

Joseph Smith was moved upon by the Holy Ghost in this same manner as he received, for the benefit of the Church of Christ, revelations and prophecies from our head, even Jesus, the Christ. Has the latter day "canon" of scriptures been filled? Some would think that the latter day "canon" was filled when the Urim and Thummim (Ex 28:30) seer stones were taken again to heaven, yet many very valuable revelations and commandments came after that time, even in our lifetime. The fullness of the gospel must continually grow if the gospel of Christ is to be built up in our day as in days of old. "Behold I have manifested unto you, by my Spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true: Wherefore you know that they are true; and if

you know that they are true, behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; for in them are all things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock." (BofC 15:2-3). Here God includes latter day revelations and commandments as a standard of measure concerning His church, gospel and rock. The example given here is to measure the things which God has caused to be written and the Spirit of God will establish the truth for you. We do not have a need to look outside of that which God has caused to be written to find reliable guidance.

Once the truth has been established, it is then to be relied upon for the building up of the Church of Christ and for the building up of the fullness of the Gospel of Christ. "Wherefore if you shall build up my church, and my gospel, and my rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you." (BofC 15:4). There must then be provisions made for the building up of the fullness of the gospel of Christ which we have thus far included as standards of faith for the building up of the kingdom of God upon this earth. Just as the religious organizations of the past have had difficulty adding to the fullness of the gospel that they have received so it is with many today but we are admonished not to be of such spirit. "Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways, save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God." (Jac 3:9-11). In order to know the mind of God concerning the building up of His Kingdom of Zion in this day, we must be willing to fully commit our very lives to the words that He causes to be given in this latter day. If all that is received is measured by the first two standards, then NO new or foreign doctrine will be brought into the accepted as reliable within the Church of Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will NOT change even when additional light is given and our understanding enlightened by the power of God.

As the "fullness of the Gentiles" standard is believed and relied upon, it advances to include other works of God. "And also others who have been, to them hath he shown all things, and they have written them; And they are sealed up to come forth in their purity according to the truth which is in the Lamb, in the own due time of the Lord, unto the house of Israel." (1 Ne 3:249-250). The Book of Mormon has been brought forth to try our faith, if we will accept the scriptures that God has given this people we will receive more as the fullness of the gospel advances. "And now there can not be written in this book, even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people; but behold the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which he taught the people; and these things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people. . . . And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they believe these things, then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them. And if it so be that they will not believe these

things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation." (3 Ne 12:1-4).

If our faith has been tried, where do we stand before God? Are we a believing people, or do we reject and doubt all things first until they are proven beyond all shadow of doubt? We are to receive with a ready mind and then use the Lord's standards to measure as we accept through the urgings of the Holy Spirit of God. "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few." (Acts 17:11-12). We should earnestly seek for a voice of the Lord to advance the fullness of the gospel that it be not taken from among us. "And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them." (3 Ne 7:35).

There are a number of people in the restoration who are feeling more and more ashamed of the Book of Mormon and rejecting it, others are rejecting the Bible, others latter-day revelation until the gospel of Jesus Christ is beginning to diminish from our midst. Acceptance of all the fullness of the Gentiles is required of the Lord's people, not just the more popular portions. "And you that will not partake of the goodness of God, and respect the words of the Jews, and also my words, and the words which shall proceed forth out of the mouth of the Lamb of God, behold, I bid you an everlasting farewell, for these words shall condemn you at the last day." (2 Ne 15:17). How much more plain can it be said, "both the Bible and Book of Mormon, as well as the inspired revelations of God to His Church in these last days, which are the standards of our faith" (Articles of Faith and Practice, Number 20). Yea, in fine, all the words of God, both of modern and ancient date that we have among us, shall be the guide of our faith and the standard for which we will be judged. "Wherefore, we

search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, in-somuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea." (Jac 3:7). The "canon" or "standards" have been established by God Almighty for a light unto His children. Let us diligently search in that light that we may partake of His great condescensions. "Wherefore I beseech of you, brethren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ." (Mi 7:18).

In summary, I look forward with great earnestness for the coming forth of more of the words of God. I yearn for the day when the angel of the Lord returns the sealed portion of the records that Joseph Smith held for translation by a chosen vessel of the Lord. That the words of God may be spoken from the roof-tops according to the promises of God. "For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed, shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth: for, behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof. And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed, shall be read upon the housetops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; And all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be, even unto the end of the earth." (2 Ne 11:130-132). We have the full potential to receive the greater blessings. Are we willing to submit to the personal responsibilities and faithful dedication that such blessings require?

"For unto him that receiveth, I will give more: and from them that shall say, We have enough, shall be taken away even that which they have." (2 Ne 12:38).

## A LETTER HOME

This is a letter that I wrote to my parents about a month ago, telling about my weaknesses and temptations. I want to share it with the people of the Church because I feel like you are all a part of my family, too. I believe that many of my blessings have been the result of the prayers that you all have offered on my behalf. It was very hard to admit that I had a problem and ask for help; but I did, I was overwhelmed by the love, compassion and acceptance that you showed me. I want this letter to be a thank you note for everything that my family and Church family have done for me, and a testimony of the blessings that God has given me.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm writing this letter for a bunch of different reasons, but most of all because I love, respect and trust you. As

part of my therapy and recovery, it has been suggested that I write to someone, explaining who I am and the nature of my disease. This is a difficult thing for me to do, because it involves telling someone about my faults and failures. It is in the hopes of gaining some measure of understanding about myself that I have undertaken such a difficult task. I wanted to direct this project to you because I can trust you, and because you're my parents and you have to love me no matter what — ha! ha!

First of all, I am a Bulimic. I've had some difficulty in using this term because it implies self-induced vomiting. This is a common misconception. Bulimia refers to a compulsion to binge on enormous quantities of food, and then to purge out of guilt or some other emotion. The

method of purging makes no difference at all. Some vomit, some use diet pills, diuretics, or laxatives. I have done all of these except for the vomiting. My binges are set off by a variety of emotions ranging from extreme happiness to extreme depression, guilt or desperation. Sometimes these emotions sneak up on me without any warning at all. Sometimes I can feel them coming on for days before they reach the breaking point. The foods that I am most likely to binge on are foods with refined sugar or high in carbohydrates. Sometimes one bite of such a food will send me into a binge, sometimes I can eat an entire serving without any negative effects. My response is totally unpredictable. I have no way of knowing how I will react to such foods at any given moment. The most I can hope for is abstinence one day at a time.

Although this is a disease which involves isolating myself from people, it also causes other people pain besides myself. I used to think I wasn't hurting anyone but myself, especially since no one else even knew about it for a long time; but this just wasn't true. Often, the massive amounts of sugar that I consumed would cause severe mood swings, and my behavior would be unpredictable and uncontrollable. When this happened, I would often hurt people by cruel and thoughtless remarks. I became controlled by the drug "sugar", rather than controlling my life or my behavior. I often saw these outbursts as totally justifiable – "Righteous indignation" is what I called it. But this was all too often not the case at all. I have always had difficulty controlling my emotions, and sugar made it impossible. But I was completely unaware of this for a long time. Rather than live in reality and deal with life and problems, I chose to escape into a sugar "high", and then come crashing down and feel totally weak and exhausted at the end of a binge. My binges frequently ended with me falling asleep exhausted and sick on the couch or in my bedroom. Very much like an alcoholic passing out with too much liquor. Often I would be in such an eating frenzy that I couldn't remember what or how much I ate. If I felt the urge to binge, it was usually in the car where no one I knew could see me and be disgusted at the way I stuffed the food in my mouth. I would be so obsessed with eating, that I would not let one crumb go. If a crumb fell on the floor or on the seat, I'd go after it, even while driving. I'm amazed that I never had a wreck while bingeing in the car. Surely God was looking out for me. When I finally came out of the bingeing, I would be full of guilt, disgust, and desperation. I was terrified of becoming fat, and yet I would binge regularly. I don't know where I got the idea of purging with laxatives, but I began to use them regularly. At first I would just take one, but soon one was not very effective. I began taking one, waiting an hour or two, take another, wait an hour or two, etc. The most I have ever taken at a time is six, I think. It's hard to tell, because I would lose track in my hysteria and desperation.

What began as a way of losing weight, soon became a way of coping with any negative emotion in my life. Fear, anger, hurt, etc. My daily routine was to take at least two diet

pills, a water pill and often a laxative at night. I didn't know it then, but laxatives are not only highly addictive, but they can ruin your body's natural ability to function. Laxatives also have a very strong stimulant. Many nights I would stay up until 12 or 1 in the morning, my eyes stuck open and my brain not functioning – from the sugar, laxatives and diet pills. The humiliation came when I had to run to the bathroom every 15 to 20 minutes, even while at work. I'm sure people realized something was wrong, but no one knew exactly what.

Bulimia is truly a progressive disease. The longer it went on, the more obsessed I became with bingeing and purging. After Steve and I were married, I would plan my binges and purges on the night that he went to school. If he should decide at the last minute to stay home, I was angry at being denied my binge. I refused to ever binge or purge when he was home. Later I even broke that rule. I lost all self-respect. Because I was so disgusted with myself, I assumed God was also disgusted and unhappy with me. I could not love myself, and didn't think God could love me either. I knew it was only a matter of time before Steve found out how crazy I was and left me. I was pretty hopeless. I didn't know I had a disease, I just thought I was insane or evil or both.

Then one night while Steve was at work, I saw a movie about a woman who was Bulimic. I began to shake and cry – but more from relief than from fear. I had a disease with a name. I wasn't just losing my mind. There was hope! That night I tried to tell Steve, but it was so new, and I was so stunned, that I couldn't explain what I was feeling. The next day I bought a book on Bulimia, and read it from cover to cover. This was me. Someone else did the same things I did, and felt the same ways I did, and they recovered. That meant I might be able to also. I found out the name of an eating disorder doctor, made an appointment, and was scared to death. I knew that he would tell me he couldn't help me because I didn't vomit. But that isn't what happened. He said I was bulimic and he thought he could help me. I was on the road to recovery. Later on a friend suggested I check out Overeaters Anonymous. Just like with anything new, I was scared to death. I thought that because I wasn't 50 pounds overweight, they wouldn't accept me. Boy was I wrong! They welcomed me with open arms, and loved me for what I was at that very moment – faults and all! They put no conditions on their acceptance of me. Through OA I have come to trust people again. They gave me the courage to step out of my world of isolation and love and trust people. Slowly I began to unravel pieces of my story, afraid that they would think I was crazy. But they seemed to understand and share my feelings. They knew what I was going through because they had been there too.

I'm a long way from being abstinent, but I'm better than I was before. Today I don't have to worry about tomorrow, or next week or next year. I only have to live one day at a time with the help of God. Today I know that God loves me and knows that I am trying to do the best that I can. He doesn't excuse my faults, but He forgives me, and we go on one day at a time together.

Once I was afraid to pray because I felt unworthy. Now I know I must pray because I am unworthy. Once I thought that I was in control of my life. Today I know that I cannot control anything – I must turn control over to God and ask what His will is for my life. I must ask for His guidance and then take action – “Faith without works is dead.” Today when I say the blessing over my food I ask that God will relieve me of the obsession with food, and help me that I might eat only to nourish my body.

Because of turning over my life to God, I have come to trust and love my church family more than ever. For a long time I refused to say anything to them because I didn't think they would understand, or I was afraid that they would be disgusted and repulsed. When I finally mustered the courage to ask for help and prayers and explained my situation, I was flooded with loving people who offered only encouragement, prayers and genuine Christian love. I used to ask “Why me, God?” I don't ask that so much anymore. I thank God for who I am, and allowing me to be blessed with such a wonderful family and church family. I pray that through my experiences, I might be able to help someone else who is suffering, feeling alone and helpless. I want to share the happiness that I have found. I have been administered to twice for this disease – once by Daddy and once by the ministers at the Temple Lot. Both times I have received a wonderful blessing, and I truly thank God. I know that He has poured out blessings on me. I am still Bulemic, but I am getting better all the time. I have good days and bad days like everyone else, but there are more good than bad now.

I owe so much to you, Mom and Dad. For your love and support. You were there when I was desperate and needed to call for support. You were loving and understanding about so many things of which I was so ashamed. I owe my church family a lot for the way they have supported me in my desperation. And I owe my wonderful husband, who loved me, supported me and understood me as much as anyone could. I know I've caused a lot of pain for the people I love at times. I would like to make amends if I possibly could. Maybe God will show me a way someday.

I'm going to send along a good book about Bulemia if you are interested. It helps explain about who I am. It might be interesting to you. Send it back when you are finished. Ask me questions about it if you want to. I don't mind talking about it so much anymore.

Thank you for letting me write this to you. I've gotten rid of a lot of negative feelings in the process of writing this. Writing it down has really helped me, and shown me how much I have to be grateful for.

I love you both so much! Words can't express it. I hope you can feel it!

Nanette

Addendum: Since I wrote this letter, I have been administered to again and have received even more blessings, both spiritually and physically. Thank you all so much for your love and prayers.

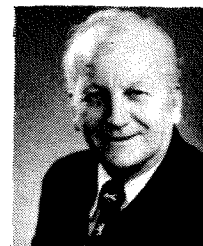
Nanette (Wheaton) Smith

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## Faith, A Determining Factor

A Condensed Sermon by Apostle William A. Sheldon

(Part One)



“Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JE-HO-VAH is everlasting strength.” Isaiah 26:2-4

Our subject that we have in mind to bring to us today is really the most basic subject connected with the gospel of Christ, and that is the principle of faith. We may wonder why this should be considered as we think of ourselves having been in the faith. We had faith toward God which brought us into a covenant relationship with Him through the waters of baptism; but we think also of the scripture as we find in the Bible. In the King James authorized version it says, “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ let us go on unto perfection”. But I do like the way it is in the inspired translation where it says: “not leaving the principles of the gospel of Christ”. Certainly we cannot

leave the principle of faith, no more than any of the others. Faith must be that which girds us from day to day in order that we may be equipped to meet the difficulties that may arise. It may indict our minds in the ways of truth and righteousness, and may enable us to be pleasing unto God.

We must have faith in God. We must have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are reminded that upon one occasion the Master said, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” This really ought to be a sobering thought to us, and I hope that you will let it sink deeply into your hearts this morning, for indeed we're living in the times of which He spoke, the times just prior to His second coming to the earth, and He was able to foresee the day and time in which we live. While there would be those who would loudly proclaim His name (and the proliferation of churches that are built to honor Him is great) yet He, by seeing into the hearts of the children of men, saw that there would be very few

(continued on page 153)



### Faith, A Determining Factor—from page 151

who would truly have faith in God. By this I want to emphasize the fact that faith is not simply a belief in God, but as we had brought out in our Sunday School class this morning, that which really undergirds and demonstrates our faith toward God is our obedience to Him. This is something that the world in general (and I'm speaking of the Christian world) does not comprehend at all, and I fear that the principle of obedience to God as a primary factor involved in our faith toward God, is too little a matter of concern, even within the ranks of the body of Christ.

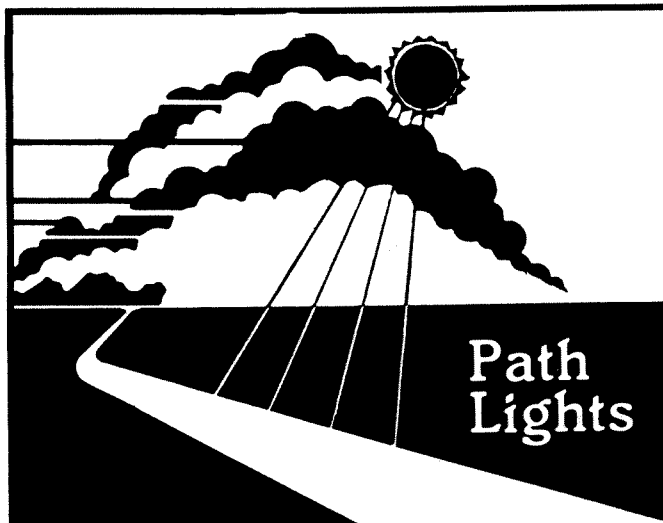
Before I go further, I believe I'll read as a text, again from the words of Isaiah, this time from the 52nd chapter, which I consider to be a companion text to that which we read in the 26th chapter of Isaiah. It gives us an understanding of what was spoken there, and I might, before I do that, go back again to that text, and especially in the 3rd verse. It says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JE-HO-VAH is everlasting strength."

Now then in the 52nd chapter and the first verse it says, "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city." I'm not going to read the rest of it because it's not especially pertinent to the thought that I'm wanting to bring to our attention; but we are to awake and put on

our strength. What is the strength of Zion? What is the strength of the people of God? It's their trust in Him—faith if you will. The principle of faith must be an active part of our lives. We're told in Hebrews 11, verse 6 (and you've heard it time and again, but I'm going to repeat it to us this morning): "But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Now, you can't please God without faith. Are you interested in pleasing God? Well you can't have faith then, according to what I have just referred to, unless you diligently seek Him. Diligently seek God! This is the key to our faith and our acceptance with God. It's the key to our being able to please Him. You know, if we do not please God, then it goes without saying, that we displease Him. If we displease God, where will we stand in the great and last day when everyone will come up before Him to be judged according to His works, and according to His desires? Where will we stand? There will not be answer to God at that day from those who stand before Him, for their mouths will be shut if their lives have been displeasing unto Him. They would not dare open the mouth and speak to such a great one as He.

The principle of faith is important today, perhaps as never before, because of the fact that we're living in a time when faith has waned, and is virtually non-existent, except it shall be within the ranks of a very few who



Almost 10 years ago I dropped out of college to move to Arizona. I told myself that I would go back to school and finish my education as soon as I was able. The outrageous out-of-state tuition provided me an excuse not to attend college that first year. The next year I was too busy with my job and taking care of my sister. Then the third year I got married, and so the excuses continued until I lost all interest in ever returning to

school. I was making enough money at what I was doing and I was happy with my job.

Anyone who knew me when I was growing up knew that I wanted to become a doctor. This dream also went by the wayside as I got busy with my life.

About six months ago, when I was talking to my boss about the nature of my job, he pointed out to me that I have a talent and natural ability to diagnose and solve problems from microscopic to technical, to mechanical, to personal. In his words, I am able to take a symptom and identify the problem and the cause. He also pointed out that not everyone has that ability. As I listened to him, I realized these are things doctors do. My desire to become a doctor was not just by chance. God, who is the master planner, programmed me to have such a desire when he gave me these talents and abilities.

With renewed desire to fulfill what the Lord had planned for me, I went to Him in prayer seeking His wisdom as to whether or not I should return in school. I had some serious concerns that returning to school may jeopardize my marriage or consume more time than I had to offer.

One evening after fasting and prayer I turned to Romans 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things: If God be for us, who can be against us?" I enrolled in



strive to live in keeping with the commandments of the Saviour.

I'm going to turn over to the book of Ether now in the Book of Mormon, and read to you somewhat from the first chapter. We find here some very interesting things that are going to develop in the latter days because faith has been exercised. I'm going to begin reading with the brother of Jared. You'll recall, that upon that occasion, hundreds of years before Christ ever came into the world, the Lord had provided that Jared and his brother and their families should be brought to a promised land. He commanded them in the building of boats by which they might come here; and you remember that the brother of Jared molted out of the rock 16 small stones for the 8 vessels that they had in coming over here. Evidently two of these stones were to be in each of the vessels. The reason he did that was because he knew that, as the Lord gave the instructions how these vessels would be built, there would be no light in them. So he, with perfect faith toward God, said: Lord here are these stones that I have prepared. We need light. Touch them in order that we might have light in our vessels.

When he did that (the account goes), God stretched forth His finger and touched each one of those stones. The brother of Jared saw the finger of the Lord. Now he knew that God could touch them. He knew that God was. He believed in God. But he was willing to put God to the test of doing the thing that was necessary in

order that provision might be made that Jared and his brother and their families might come here, and not be in darkness. He knew that God could touch those stones with His finger. God did that, he saw the finger of the Lord. He supposed that it was flesh and blood that he saw there, but it was not. It was the spiritual finger of Jesus Christ he saw touching those stones, because Christ was in the spirit form; He had not yet taken upon Himself flesh and bones. After God had revealed Himself unto the Brother of Jared at that time, He knew, then, because the brother of Jared saw Him, that this man had been brought within the veil. There was nothing that separated the brother of Jared from God, from Jesus Christ. Therefore, he had faith no longer. He had knowledge. It is said in these scriptures that God could not withhold anything from Him, because of this faith that he had.

And now I'm going to read beginning with the 94th verse: "And the Lord commanded the Brother of Jared to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord and write the things which he had seen..."

I failed to say that he not only saw the finger of the Lord but he was able to see all things, even from the beginning of the world down unto the end. God could not withhold that from him because of his exceeding faith, so the Lord tells him here that he shall write the things that he had seen. "And they were forbidden to come unto the children of men, until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross."

(to be continued)

school.

The class I signed up for was calculus. There are several I work with who have tried to take this class but had to drop out because it was so difficult. I was very concerned that I would not be able to handle it. After all it's been 10 years since I've had any math. So again I, joined by my husband, made it a matter of prayer. The semester is nearly over. I've had four tests and I am one point from the top score.

I don't know if I'll be a doctor some day. If I were to consider all that's involved in becoming a doctor I'm sure it would look impossible. I am confident though, that if that is what God wants for me, He will provide the way wherein I will be able to accomplish His purpose.

Marji Frank  
Phoenix, Arizona

I would like to relate a blessing which I have just recently received from the Lord. This blessing is quite simply the *Zion's Advocate*. Once a month, if that, my family and I are blessed with the visit of other church members as we gather together to worship. This once a month gathering was to me very important. I would feel very strong (in faith) after each of these visits, but then

as the month continued I would feel myself growing weak, and slipping away, until, **thank goodness**, it would be time for us to go down and worship again. I have always read *Guidepost*, and the *Hand of Fellowship*, but for some odd reason I would always ignore the *Zion's Advocate*. The other two mentioned pamphlets were mainly testimonies and didn't quite touch me the way hearing Brother Don McIndoo or Brother Hubert Yates speak a sermon did. Then just the other day for some strange but wonderful reason I had a desire to read a *Zion's Advocate*. Inside I found sermons, teachings, testimonies, and events that are occurring in our church locals.

Now whenever I feel myself slipping away I reach for one of the many *Zion's Advocates* which my mother so "luckily" saved over the years. Reading it helps me to feel stronger, and it also helps me to feel closer to all of you and what you are doing. You who are at the locals should be **very** thankful that you are surrounded almost continuously with people who love you and love God as you do. You are one big family always there for each other. That is a **very great** blessing.

I love you,  
Susie Seibel  
Ridgecrest, California

# Make Space for the Eternal

by Amy Schrader

Time is measured only to man (Alma 19:38). That which is eternal has no measure comparable or definable within the limits of the comprehension of time. It is without beginning or end, or rather He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega (3 Nephi 4:48). We are, by virtue of his creation, creatures of the eternal, but by the nature of the flesh we are prisoners of time, subject to, ridden and impoverished by, the strictures of time. Our three-score and ten shadow our days and rule us like a tyrant.

Even though being imprisoned by time, we are immersed in Eternity. The void of space is not empty but filled with that immensity of life, the essence of that Being from whom all life must flow. Eternal fecundity occupies all space.

The Orientals in their art, articulate a few specific items leaving much space on the canvas untouched which is filled, in their view, with whatever Deity they have vision of. The artistry of the west is crowded with the images of the things of the finite leaving no niche of the picture open for even a thought of the infinite. We can do this with our hearts and minds and lives, too. We can fill these so full of the tangibles which perish that there is no space left for the imperishables, the gifts and graces of the Eternal.

Perhaps we all, or most of us at least, have known those moments, but no moment is a measure of time only; we have known those occasions when out of the depths of some overwhelming distress we have found ourselves face to face, as it were, spirit to Spirit with the Eternal; we have heard some cadence beyond the reach of mortal ears; we have breathed an air so pure; we have felt the brush of the hem of the garment of the great I AM, and are left unable to do ought but echo the words of Paul: "... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

So then we must know that the Eternal invades time to that extent that the prisoners of time make space and give place for its presence and habitation, and to the extent that this is sought and so received one finds a great spiritual leisure from the pressures of time. It is possible while still mortal to live far more in the liberty of the spiritual than within the confines of the reaches of the flesh. It is all a matter of what we set our hearts upon, to what we give that first place in our lives. Let us, then, leave space, nay, let us first and foremost **make** space for the Eternal in our thoughts, our desires and in our busy lives.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Have you ever had that little flutter of surprise and joy when opening your mailbox and you find an unexpected letter from a far away friend? You can just barely contain your desire to open and read it right on the spot. But again, you'd like to read it when you have time to enjoy each word and each thought, and with no interruptions.

That's how it is for me when I find an issue of the *Zion's Advocate* waiting in my mailbox. It's usually unexpected because life's been so busy since the last month's issue, that I don't realize the time has already arrived for another one! And thanks to the fact that there is always a poem on the front cover, I do have a chance to read part of it "right on the spot" as I desired. And the rest is read the first chance I have a minute to myself, free (hopefully) from too many interruptions.

What prompted me to sit and write this? The fact that my *Zion's Advocate* surprised me by arriving in the mail this morning, and added a joyful boost to the day, for one. But mainly, this reason: It seems like I'd just sat down to enjoy a feast with my friends, to share thoughts

and stories, when all of a sudden, to my great disappointment, everyone had to leave and I was left by myself. The feast was over, but I was still hungry!

That's how I felt as I turned the last page of my *Advocate* today, there was no more news from my brothers and sisters in Christ. I was still hungry... hungry with the desire to know more about this special family of mine, how they think, how they feel, what they are doing, how they are serving God... hungry with the desire to know them better and to be filled with the joy that comes from sharing and being drawn closer to one another through the common bond of love we share for our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

So this is my plea: If anyone finds the time, please pick up a pen and paper and share a little of yourself. I may not be the only one who's still hungry!

Lovingly Submitted,  
Nancy Wiley  
Rt. 1, Box 26  
Chilhowee, Missouri 64733

# —NEWS—

## Sarratt-White Wedding

On May 30, 1987, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, in the little white church at the cross-roads, a beautiful and very sacred ceremony took place uniting in holy wedlock, Sheila Jean White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Generaux, and Eric Lindsay Sarratt, son of Apostle and Mrs. Roland Sarratt. The quiet dignity of the chapel filled with friends and relatives who had come to wish these young people well was a fitting spot for this sacred rite to take place.

Sheila's sister, Sherry, was her maid of honor and her aunt, Danette Generaux, was bridesmaid. Eric's best man was his brother, Stephen, and his groomsman was Sheila's brother, Virgil. Apostle Roland Sarratt performed the sacred rite for

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## YPCL Activities

What more fun could there be than a Country Carnival! It was held at the Penningtons on August 1st. The day was hot but we were cooled off with a water balloon toss. There were games for young and old. If you were hungry there was plenty of food like hot dogs, pie, snow cones, ice cold watermelon, and corn roasted on the open fire. The day ended with an auction. Even if you didn't want to join in the games, there was plenty of fellowship.

Submitted by Heidi Temple

My first day at Young Peoples, August 8, was a blast! We went on a scavenger hunt, and had to find lots of crazy things. We were all trying to beat each other and find all the things before anyone else did. Then we totalled up all the items and found out that Jennifer, Michelle, Ruth, and Tamar won. Then we went to Pizza Hut and had pizza. It was a very thrilling night.

Submitted by Melody A. Christian

The Young People, while attending the Missouri Reunion August 14, 15, and 16, went out to the Brantners for fellowship and fun. We enjoyed a taco salad, and afterwards enjoyed celebrating Bobbi Olson's 16th birthday. Later on that night there was a study conducted by Jay Moser and Buzz Brickhouse on the subject of marriage. Afterward we had watermelon. We'd like to thank the Brantner's for letting us use their farm.

Submitted by Bryan McGhee

August 22, Joel Yates and Jennifer Kidd joined as one in holy matrimony at the East Local (Independence, Missouri). Chris Moser, Jeff Oldham, Annette Yates, Crystal Gill, and Bobby Hedrick sang, and David Rudd sang "The Lord's Prayer." Michelle Brockman was maid of honor and Andy Brown was best man. Alicia Yates and Jacob Kidd were flower girl and ring bearer. Helen Kidd, Mother of the Bride, made a very beautiful cake. Best wishes to Jenny and Joel in their new life together.

Submitted by Wendy Smith

The 29th of August, the Young People met at the Brockmans and had a study held by Mike McGhee. We studied about how the young people are the future of the Church.

Submitted by Bobbi Olson

## OBITUARY

### Earl V. Bergey 1895-1987

Earl V. Bergey was born January 13, 1895, to Etheibert and Anna (Harmon) Bergey and passed away on June 25, 1987, at Loomis, Michigan, in the same house in which he was born 92 years ago. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers — Bert, Carl, John, and Russell, and two sisters — Mae Armentrout and Ruby Lindell.

He was united in marriage to Mabel Welch on September 18, 1920. To this union were born a daughter, June Haines, of Roscommon, Michigan, and a son, Glenn, who also preceded him in death. Besides his wife and daughter, he is survived by his son-in-law Kenneth, one grandson, and three great granddaughters.

Brother Bergey was baptized into the RLDS Church by Elder L. E. Welch in 1918, and later transferred his membership to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). He never wavered in his faith and will be remembered by those who knew him for his always praising the Lord in song. No matter where he was — working in his garden, picking berries, or sitting in the doctor's office — he was always humming or singing a hymn.

He proudly served his country with the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I.

Services were Monday, June 29, at the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home, with Elders Conley Addington and Ed Toulouse, of the Church of Christ, officiating. Burial was in Cherry Grove Cemetery at Clare.

## Collins Local News

The hot dry days of July and August are making their presence known and felt. Our yards are getting brown and dry—not to mention our gardens. But I'm sure that soon the fall rains will begin and lift our spirits a bit.

We here at Collins mourn the loss of our young brother, David Guffey. He passed from this life July 2nd at the Children's Hospital in St. Louis where he had been a patient for several months undergoing treatments for leukemia. Davey believed in God and placed himself in His care through the administration of the Elders.

Please remember Davey's family in your prayers from day to day. If you've ever lost a family member then you can understand all the more my request for them. Davey's family is: Larry and Pam Shaw, Tina and Gary Guffey, also David Guffey Sr. and Tana.

We have had some very welcome guests in July. Marvin and Samantha Cook, Sister Norma Cook's son and granddaughter from Nebraska, joined us for church one Sunday. Marvin played and sang for us "The Old, Old Path". Sisters Esther Caviness and Sharon Kelley were also among our group that day. Such a happy surprise! Esther was hugged and hugged. We just couldn't seem to get to her fast enough. Speaking of hugs, another very dear lady and her daughter-in-law were visiting too, Sister Francis Yates and Eduardo Yates.

After church that day the Bruners, Rodger and Martha, Allen and I got together with Marvin and sang and played til around four or five that afternoon. Several stayed and listened. We had a real nice time. Getting to sing and play with Marvin is for me a privilege.

I would like to give a special thank you to the Bruners, who

directly under our noses planned and pulled off a surprise anniversary party for Allen and I. It shall long be remembered and forever appreciated.

Let me share with you a couple of thoughts from some recent sermons. From Brother Leslie Case: Love is unlimited. The more we use it the more it grows—not just for our best friends, but for everyone.

From Brother Allen Kauffman: Do we tell others how to love or do we show them by our lives lived?

From Brother Jack Martin: If we claim to be God's people yet walk in darkness we're kidding ourselves. We need to determine what is sinful and what is not.

May God bless you each one.

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

Collins Rally:  
October 18th, 1987  
Beginning at 9:00 A.M.

## Ravenna Local News

Greetings one and all, we hope and pray that you all are well and enjoying the bounty of Our Lord's blessings. As our vegetable gardens produce in abundance we hope also that we all bear fruit on the vine in God's great plan for us all.

We are saddened to report a loss at our little Ravenna local, our brother Maynard "Rex" Weaver passed from this life July 10, 1987, at 77 years of age. He was born March 23, 1910, and was baptized in 1960. He had been married to our dear sister Marie (Heath) for 54 years. A special memorial service was held July 12, 1987, which many of his dear friends, relatives and loved ones attended.

July 26th we were blessed with a visit from our dear sisters Sarah Brantner and Jeanette Cunningham from Warrensburg, Mo. We are always happy to see them even if it's only for a short visit.

The first part of August our pastor brother Gale Brantner, brother Aaron and sister Sue Heath, sister Lois Heath, sister Marie Weaver and sister Ellen Van Duine were able to make a trip to Warrensburg, Mo. for the Missouri State Reunion. They not only had three days of very good sermons, they also enjoyed a fullness that comes from being well spiritually fed along with the fellowship of those of like faith. They also made stops at Carthage and Nauvoo.

We are very pleased to announce that during the trip to the reunion our brother Aaron Heath received a calling into the Priesthood as a Priest, which he accepted with many many witnesses to the truthfulness of the calling. We are all happily awaiting his ordination which will be taking place September 6, 1987.

May God Bless,  
Your sister in Christ,  
Debbie Brantner Vogel

## Minneapolis News

An introduction is past due—to Charity Elaine Gould born July 14, weight 7 lbs. 1 oz. and 21 inches long. Charity's sweet blessing took place on Sunday, July 19 in the hands of Elder Merlin Eddy. She is an up and coming young miss who has already been to Independence, Missouri Reunion with her

parents, Brother Stephen and Sister Judy Gould.

We had the pleasure of a number of visitors through the summer months. Elder Glenn Gill and wife Margaret, and Brother Jim Case and his wife Bonnie and their family came up at the end of July with Refugee goods. Margaret Gill, Carmen, Bonnie, and Nancy Case sang for us, "God's Way Is The Best Way". With all those talented singers we could have given the morning over to song; but Brother Glenn brought us a fine sermon. Brother Bill and Sister Gladys Nast and Sister Nast's sister, Ethel, walked in during the Sunday School hour one morning, a wonderful surprise! Brother Don Winegar's daughters, Calla and Lilly came for a visit from Detroit Lake, MN. Then it was time for the boys, Benjamin and Micah, to visit.

Adriane Alyssa Gould had asked her parents about the blessing of babies. Then Elder Forest Maley was asked to visit with her on the subject. On the evening of July 26 at the home of Merlin Eddy's in Rosemount, eight year old Alyssa sat on Elder Forest Maley's knees to receive the beautiful blessing. We were reminded of the picture of Jesus with the children around Him and the inscription, "Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven". Alyssa is the daughter of Brother Jon and Sister Jeannine Gould.

We are more than happy to have our son Mark Maley and our daughter-in-law Rita living in our state, and in our congregation. They have moved from Austin, Texas and now live in Apple Valley, next door to Rosemount. We pray for their success and happiness. August 1 was the day of their move to Apple Valley.

Also on August 1, Sister Elisa (Gould) Brown and Larry D. Ernst were married at Cross of Glory Church in Hopkins, Minnesota. This ceremony performed by Minister Bill Malam, united parents and children of the bride and of the groom into one family. The lovely bride in orchid, ankle length gown and matching small hat with veil was given in marriage by her young sons, James and Bill Brown. The daughter of the groom, Vicky Ernst, served as Maid of Honor. The groom's uncle, Jack Boese was Best Man. The bride's brother, Stephen Gould, sang "There Is Love". A lovely reception followed in the fellowship hall directly behind the Chapel area. Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Ernst and family reside at:

340 Oregon Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426

Nigerian, "Gentlemen and a Scholar", Benjamin has become dear to us and is making excellent progress with his education and comes to church regularly. On Sunday, August 23, after preaching service, he drew an outline of Africa on the white board with a square indicating the location of his town. Then with a gentle smile he drew a small red heart inside the square. Like any other young man far from home, Benjamin is lonesome for family and friends and hopes for his father to come for a visit. In the meantime Benjamin's heart is back home.

Wayne and Leona Krause were at church on August 23. They are in need of physical health blessings, and ask our prayers. Gary and Gloria Bentson and daughter Carmen were in town briefly to sell their home in Milaca, Minnesota, during the week of August 16.

The Dakota County Fair Booth project is over for another year. In the afternoon of closing day a brisk wind brought a drop in temperature and cool days have ensued. We feel a bit like Summer has pulled down a shade and gone to sleep. The geese sing their departure song and wing across the sky in V formation. Have a lovely fall! God is in charge of each season.

Irene Maley, reporting

## Phoenix News

To our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Greetings from Arizona.

It was a busy, but enjoyable summer for the Phoenix Local. Besides the usual local activities there were several special events and new additions to our church family.

Patricia Yates, daughter of Hube and Louise Yates, graduated at the end of May from high school. She is now working. The young people gathered early in the month to work with leader Joel Yates on how to use the concordances in studying the scriptures.

On June 9, Tabitha Christine Grim, daughter of Don and Tammy Grim, was born. She weighed 7 lbs. 1½ oz., and was 18¾" long. She was blessed by her great-grandfather, Apostle Don Housknecht and Elder Joel Yates. A shower was held for Tabitha at the home of Cindy Gill.

Another shower, a wedding shower at the home of Kim Yates, was held in June for Jennifer Kidd while she was visiting in Phoenix. The kitchen gifts will be helpful in the home she and Joel Yates will set up here in Phoenix after their August 22 wedding in Missouri.

With temperatures averaging around 110°, it was a pleasant evening for those who gathered in the church yard for visiting and homemade ice cream and cookies on June 27.

One of the highlights of June for about forty of our local was being able to travel to Grand Junction to worship at the Colorado Reunion. The sermons, prayer and testimony services, musical specials and song services were very special and spiritually uplifting. Of course, there was also the pleasure of meeting again with our brothers and sisters in the gospel—making new friendships and nurturing old ones.

July was no less eventful. During the 4th of July weekend, we gathered in the Arizona mountains for our annual Camp For All Ages. We had friends from Colorado, California and Missouri worshipping with us. We thank all those who made sacrifices of time and money to meet with us. We were pleased to have several of the Missouri young people return to Phoenix to spend some time with our local. During their visit, the young people traveled north to Showlow to camp out. They contributed to the regular monthly service held there on Sunday.

The children in the local, plus several visitors, were again gathered together for Vacation Church School in July. We expanded to five classes and felt very blessed by the end of the week. Chris Moser was VCS director again this year. On the following Sunday evening, the children shared in a program of music, scripture and a skit.

On August 10, we welcomed another long-awaited arrival. Andrew Ammon Brown, son of Andy and Debbie Brown, was born weighing 6 lbs. 6½ oz., and 19½" long.

A few days later, 30 brothers and sisters traveled to Missouri for the reunion and Ministers Conference. Most of us were able to attend the wedding of Joel and Jennifer at the East Local in Independence the following weekend. It was a joy for us to have Ken Oar attending the Ministers Conference as a newly-ordained elder. He was ordained on August 9 by Apostle Don McIndoo and Elder Jay Moser.

Now vacations are ending, school is starting and many of us are happy to enter into the daily routine again. Our prayer is that each day will be a joy to you as we serve our Lord together.

## 1987 Colorado Reunion

The mornings were deceptively cool as we gathered in the little white church on Orchard Mesa. As the day wore on, the temperature rose, as did our joy in hearing of how richly God has blessed his people. So many of us heard our very thoughts expressed in testimony and song which seemed to soar to the very heavens. It was a reunion of hearts and minds, bringing us close in spirit as we approached our Heavenly Father in behalf of brothers and sisters who stand so greatly in need. Admonition from the pulpit reminded us of our personal duty in ridding our lives of those sins and errors which hinder our growth in the gospel life, and which prevent a full commitment to God. Our glimpse into the future through prophecy has made us aware of the times that we live in and of the urgent need to be aware of the world around us, without partaking of the sinfulness. The speakers emphasized the importance of teaching the younger generation of what the Book of Mormon tells about the promises which God has made to those on this land who would serve Him, and the certain destruction of those who will not listen and obey. Our meetings seemed blessed with a quiet and attentive spirit which enabled us to appreciate the concern with which we were addressed in the sermons, and to feel a kinship with those who rose to share their blessings and heartaches. As hearts were laid bare and reserve stripped away, the Holy Spirit moved among us, bringing the realization of common frailties and insecurities, of vulnerability to similar discouragement and temptation. Our fellowship at mealtimes furthered that closeness and brought us delight as we renewed friendships and formed new bonds. There were no fireworks, no earth-shattering manifestations, only the humbling revelation of hearts and minds which share the love of God. As we learn to better understand and love each other, we will find ourselves in closer service to God.

The music during this reunion was particularly pleasing to me, as we found ourselves moved by the rich blessing of talent among God's people. We were ministered to through this offering by young and old, with special numbers at the opening of preaching services, and several spontaneous groups of children during the evening song services.

As always, there is a certain amount of sadness as we bid friends goodbye. Hopefully, they will carry with them as much happiness as they have given us, perhaps more, knowing that they have encouraged and strengthened our resolve to serve the Lord in closer harmony. Long after the memory has faded, of what we wore and what we ate, of who made the winning points in Saturday night's volleyball game, of last-minute automobile repairs and distracting health upsets—the memory will remain of faces beaming with joy and hearts touched by the Master's hand. In the Zion's Hymnal, on page 268, look closely at the words of the song, "Take time to Be Holy". Read the words in the middle of the first verse where it says, "Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek". We have done these things during the reunion here in Colorado, and they will color our lives until we meet again. Pray for us, and our prayers are with you.

If you would like more details of the reunion than I have provided in this abbreviated report, please write to me.

Debra Vogel  
5432-B Jemez  
Glendale, Arizona 85307

Becky Downs  
299½ Holly Lane  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

### **Sarratt-White Wedding**—from page 155

Eric, uniting him with his lady, making them one.

Martha Bruner presided at the piano playing wedding music as the people arrived, also accompanied Eric's uncle, Jim Smith, and Eric's adopted sister, Cathy Decoste, who flew here from Boston especially for this happy event. They sang three beautiful songs, "I'll Forever Love You", "You Light Up My Life", and "Just You and I". The words of these songs truly express the love that Sheila and Eric have for each other.

A reception was held for the guests in the lower auditorium where wedding cake and punch was served. A sit-down dinner was given by the bride's parents later that evening for the bridal party and a few invited guests.

Eric and Sheila are making their home in Spring Lake, NC, near the army base, Fort Bragg, where Eric is stationed. We invoke God's richest blessing to surround these two young people as they journey down life's pathway together. Much happiness to you.

## **1987 Northern Michigan Campout**

The 4th of July week-end saw approximately 50 Michigan saints gathered at Lime Lake Campground, near Maple City, partly to escape the unbearable heat of the city, but mostly to join in a week-end of fellowship. Some arrived as early as Thursday to enjoy the outdoor activities; some arrived later for the Sunday services.

Sunday morning we opened the Sunday service with the singing of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," followed by prayer by Brother LaVern Lussenden. For our second song we sang "Great and Marvelous," after which Brother Lussenden introduced Elder Conley Addington as the speaker for the morning. Brother Addington read from Ill Nephi 6, the sermon on the mount. He also made reference to the 100th Psalm, which tells us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord," and pointed out that when we are out among the world we should make that joyful sound and make ourselves known. Jesus warns us, in his sermon, to "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged." Brother Addington pointed out that we have a tendency to judge our brothers and sisters, but, rather than judge them, we should be praying for them. It is his feeling that one of the things hindering the Church of Christ today is that we can see our brother's problems but not our own. We all have problems, but the right place to take them is to God.

Following the singing of "Love Divine" we enjoyed a short sermon by Elder LaVern Lussenden, who used for his text, I Kings 3:5-9. This is the scripture wherein the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, asking what he would that he should give him. Solomon replied, "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad . . ." It was pointed out that we are all guilty of looking at and finding fault with other people when we should be looking at ourselves. God is willing to give us knowledge between good and evil if we seek for it. Brother Lussenden also read from the 2nd chapter of Isaiah, concerning the last days in which the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains. We closed the service with the singing of "Living for Jesus," followed by prayer by Brother Addington.

In addition to the sermons on Sunday, we enjoyed several song services throughout the week-end; sometimes accom-

panied by Mary Lee on Brother Lowell Scott's portable organ, sometimes by Duane and Larry Lee on their cornets.

Reported by June Haines

## **Tri-State Reunion— A Testimony**

Generally, reunion reports are made by someone in the hosting local, but in this case, I would like to tell you of our experience at the Tri-State Reunion held in Wisconsin, at the Wyalusing State Park. There, nature trails beckoned us into the deep woods, where one could discover the green beauty under the canopy of trees. The Mississippi River provided nearby swimming one afternoon, for a van full of young people and their young-at-heart chaperones. One of the ladies supplied craft materials for the children, and my three each brought home a self-made memento of their stay.

The meals were gracious and simple, with fresh fruits and vegetables complementing the wholesome fare. The large building at the center of the camp housed the kitchen, along with a large dining hall and separate meeting room. The convenient arrangement there made it easy for the cooks, and also was handy for parents to get little sleepy heads into bed, then return to the meetings.

How precious was the meeting where we testified to each other of the truth of the Book of Mormon, and how that knowledge came to each one through spiritual enlightenment. One of the sisters moved quietly among us with a hand-held cassette recorder, documenting accounts of awakening and conversion to Christ. We never shall forget the heart-moving evidence these people received, the reason for the hope that lies within them.

Uncle Tom's little organ was available during services, and we enjoyed an organ solo of "Jesus Loves Me", by a budding young talent, Alyssa Gould. My sister Bonnie, unjustly claiming no talent of her own, hosted an afternoon talent show, which included offerings in song, verse and story. She produced a novel musical instrument, which she attempted to tune—a multi-bladed egg slicer. Little touches of levity such as this were evident during the reunion, as our gathering was relaxed and congenial. I couldn't help reaching for my camera when the local kids, who evidently had spent much time in practice with their mothers, offered their tribute to our country, as we celebrated Independence Day on July 4. This reminded us of the great struggle to win liberty and justice for all, that we are a nation founded on Christian principles. What a rousing thrill to see them parade in, dressed alike in red, white and blue, carrying the flag of the United States of America.

Our thanks to Merlin Eddy, camp coordinator, and all the energetic people who worked so hard to make our stay so pleasant. Thank you, dear friends.

Becky Downs  
299½ Holly Lane  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

## **Missouri Reunion - 1987**

A wonderful time of worship and fellowship began at 9 a.m. Friday, August 14, 1987 with the start of the Church of Christ, state of Missouri Reunion. The CMSU facilities in Warrensburg were again used as the setting for our gathering.

Saints from far and near were welcomed by Elders Jim Yates, Sr. and Jay Moser as we assembled for the first prayer



service of the Reunion. We were admonished to pray continually by day and give praise by night; to humble ourselves, and continue in prayer morning, mid-day and evening; and to live in thanksgiving daily.

Throughout the service, it was noted in prayers of a need for humility in everyone.

In his sermon Friday morning, Elder Jack Martin reminded us of a need to go forward together, in a manner that we can teach the truth as the Lord would teach. We enjoyed hearing sweet voices blending in the song "My Jesus, I Love Thee", preceding the sermon.

Our brother, Elder Andy Brantner, stated in his sermon Friday afternoon that there is no room for compromise in the Church of Christ and that judgment begins at the House of the Lord. The Lord has much patience but we were counseled to remember that we must be prepared to spend a little more time each day on our knees, seeking the Lord, who requires the heart and willing mind. Truly, the Church of Christ is on the threshold of many marvelous things.

The Friday evening message was brought to us by Apostle William Sheldon following the gentle, touching words of "Sweet Unto Me." He told us we should be making plans to come out of Babylon, and come to Zion, or the new Jerusalem. We're at the midnight hour, and we need to be ready to go to meet the bridegroom. We should be **living** the Gospel of Christ.

Our number had grown considerably when we met Saturday morning for prayer service, under the direction of Elders Allen Kauffman and Rodger Bruner. We were admonished of the Lord's promise that His Word endureth forever. Brother Bruner also gave us these words to remember: That our Lord and Savior feeds us and strengthens us, and through prayer services we feed and strengthen each other.

A beautiful rendition of "The Last Mile of the Way" opened the Saturday morning preaching service. The fourth speaker of the Reunion was Elder Leslie Case. His one desire would be to encourage us, to tell us that all is well in Zion, but says he cannot, because all is **not** well in Zion. Speaking of these last days, he reminded us that God **is** in Heaven, He **is** in charge, and that He does answer prayers. He admonished us, too, that without charity we are nothing; we need to have that pure love for God and for each other.

At the beginning of the Saturday afternoon preaching service, we enjoyed very much a special offering, "Spirit of God." Referring to the scriptures that tell us of the virgins and their lamps, Elder Eugene Gould reminded us that we are in that time of slumbering and sleeping; that there is a need to prepare ourselves; to turn unto Him, with one purpose of heart; and to make a greater effort of serving our God.

We were reassured that God is always there when we need Him by the words of the song, "Lord, You Make it Rain for Me", at the beginning of the preaching service Saturday evening. Elder Hubert Yates very ably occupied for this service. He said that we've come here because we've felt a love and a bond here that isn't found any where else, and that's the bond and the love of the body of Christ. We've come here because we love those who gather together here. We come here because we meet with them in one accord.

He reminded us that we do have an anchor that keeps the soul. That anchor is free for all mankind and is a stable anchor, and has since the beginning and henceforth forever. There is nothing and nothing has been created from the beginning to the end that can destroy the soul who has taken upon him the name of Christ and endureth to the end. We do have an anchor that will keep the soul!

The Sabbath morn dawned bright and beautiful. A wonderful warm Spirit prevailed throughout the service, which was in the

charge of Apostle Roland Sarratt.

Speaking this morning was Apostle Don McIndoo, and he stated his prayer is that we have come here today seeking the Lord, and seeking the opportunity to give ourselves more fully to Him. This is the prayer of Jesus, for them then, or for us today: I pray unto thee for them, and also for all those who shall believe on their words, that they may **all** believe in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one.

And O to God, that that is our prayer today, that we may be one people, that we may be one instrument in the hand of God, in unity, in fullness of purpose and desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that we have come here this morning, desiring that gift of the ministering of Jesus Christ, for He has promised to be here in our midst. May God bless us to this end.

The Spirit of God embraced us and bound us together in love and purpose as several administrations were performed. Many names were given to be remembered in prayer, and numerous testimonies were offered. We should especially take to heart some words of Brother Randy Sheldon: Let us pray, that we not be overtaken by prosperity and the cares of this world. . . . that we'll always rely on Jesus Christ.

The last preaching service of the Reunion began with two very special offerings, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" followed by "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit." Apostle Marvin Ely reminded us of the perilous times that are to come, in this, the time of the end. And that that which has passed, was already foretold, as well as what we can expect in these, the last days. He admonished children to obey their parents in the Lord. Too, that there is hope in these last days. There is a Jesus Christ and a God who cares for each and every one of us. Let it show that we love them by caring for them. Jesus Christ said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." So I give that charge to you.

At the close of this service, a goodly number traveled to the Brantner lake to witness the baptism of Cristy Lynn Feely. We welcome you into the family of God, Sister Cristy.

We were truly well fed, spiritually and physically, throughout these last three days together.

The young people enjoyed their time at the Brantner lake on Saturday. The 'young' young people went on a nature study hike on Saturday, also, at Pertle Springs, here in Warrensburg.

Especially touching were letters from our brothers in Yucatan read by Apostle McIndoo. Brother Jay Moser gave us an insight on what it really is like to live in Yucatan and of the generous and loving people who live there.

We were privileged to hear musical selections from all ages, from small children to older adults; from solos and duets to quartets and choral groups. Especially enjoyed, I believe, were the children from the Phoenix local singing "This Is The Day The Lord Hath Made," and "He's Still Working On Me"; and from the East Independence local, "How Great Is Our God" and other selections, sung by Steven, Terry, Kevin and mom, Sister Melissa McGhee.

Sunday afternoon the Glenn Gill family offered several musical selections, as did the Allen Kauffman's and the Rodger Bruner family. A visiting group of members of the Church of Jesus Christ from Monongehela, Pennsylvania, sang for us also.

My prayer is that all of you who attended went home enriched by the prayers and testimonies of others, and will be strengthened by the fellowship and love that we shared. May God bless each of you.

Reunion Secretary, Jeanne Brantner



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

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