

# 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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## Dear God

If there be some weaker one,  
Give me strength to help him on;  
If a blinder soul there be,  
Let me guide him nearer Thee,  
Make my mortal dreams come true  
With the work I fain would do;  
Clothe with life the weak intent,  
Let me be the thing I meant;  
Until all things sweet and good  
Seem my natural habitude.

John Greenleaf Whittier

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# Zion's Advocate

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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## EDITORIAL FROM THE PAST . . .

# THEY ALL SLUMBERED AND SLEPT

(Condensed from a 1967 *Hand of Fellowship*)

A sense of urgency impells me to bring certain thoughts to you, the membership of the Church of Christ, which I feel have been impressed upon me. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord revealed an important truth to all mankind with these words:

"Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

The history of mankind, the Bible, and the Book of Mormon reveal clearly how frequently man has pursued paths which seemed right to him, but which in reality led to destruction. How clearly we see the pattern repeated in the early days of the Restoration. And now, as the minutes of this "eleventh hour" hurry by, I am caused to look at my Church, at my Local, and at myself and

ponder one vital question: "Do we walk in His ways or do we pursue our own?" If we are walking in the safe ways of the Lord, then we shall see His power and blessings manifest in us, and that to accomplish His purposes.

The answer that is impressed upon my mind does not appeal to me, it brings me no comfort, nor does it lend itself to my nature and my ways, but I must carefully and prayerfully consider it. You are asked to do the same.

I believe with all my being and would proclaim to anyone that this Church of Christ holds and teaches the gospel more fully than any denomination of which I know. I also am convinced that this knowledge has worked a disadvantage to some in several ways:

1. Some of us have grown to feel that knowing the truth is enough, and it is not.
2. Some have thought that the primary mission of the Church of Christ was to preserve the Gospel in its purity, and it is far more than this.

3. Our knowledge of the gospel has brought to some a sense of superiority, of well-being and ease, rather than a great humility and a burning desire to share with all people what we possess.

4. Many in this little Church of Christ have taken pride in the assertion of Jesus that "... strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Consciously and subconsciously we have used these concepts, and numerous others, to rationalize for our lack of growth and our inactivity. How easily they have popped into my mind and fallen from my lips, and how difficult it is to follow the injunction of Paul, "Examine yourselves. . ." I am persuaded that an honest examination reveals the Church of Christ to be wandering in dangerous straits, her people pursuing their own ways rather than the Lord's. The time has passed for us to awaken from our slumber and to be about the Lord's work.

The Lord has given us certain measuring devices by which we are to measure our spiritual health and progress. Further, He has given us accounts of the progress made when peoples have adhered to His ways and walked in His paths rather than their own. A small amount of honest, critical thinking coupled with our powers of observation is enough to convince one that our Church and our people are in a dangerous condition of poor spiritual health. The symptoms of this ill health are numerous and pronounced. Let us momentarily review some of them, with the understanding that they are true in degree only and do not apply to every individual and Local.

1. In the beginning of this Restoration work the Lord indicated that "... the field is white already to harvest. . .", yet this Church has not begun to harvest and save the souls of this nation, let alone preach the Gospel to the nations of the world. Our membership yearly grows smaller and smaller: The 1966 report shows our membership to have dwindled from 2556 to 2549. If the truth were known we must admit that entire Locals have disappeared without trace. (This number has dwindled yearly to 2,348 in 1987-Editor)

2. Even in locations where there are Locals, "inactivity" is the byword. Poor attendance and support by members is not conducive to growth or stimulating interested persons. Our people do not seem to realize that they are a vital key to attracting or discouraging others from learning about the Gospel.

3. This inactivity is emphasized when we examine the interest in Church affairs shown by the ballots cast by the Church members on Referendum measures. These ballots are mailed out to every member "active" enough to give the Church his address. In 1963 there were three Referendum measures. The highest number of votes cast was 435. Think of it! There were only 435 people in all the world interested enough in God's work to mark an X on a ballot and put it in the mail.

And how have we progressed since then? Last year the highest number of votes cast on a Referendum measure was 305. That is real progress!

4. Another measure of our spiritual well-being is evidenced by the financial support we give the Lord's work. In the year 1964 people paid \$20,088.56 to the Church in tithing. By the year 1966 this amount had dwindled to \$18,001.51. Using our membership rolls as a guide this is a per capita tithing of \$7.02. And that for an entire year! How dedicated we must be to God's work and His ways! Using a more realistic figure of the 300 persons active enough to vote, this is a per capita yearly tithing of \$60. This is the very reason the Master had to speak to His people and tell them: "... ye have robbed me." That is not an indictment that would be incurred by a spiritually healthy people.

5. We regularly pray for spiritual gifts and direction. Not so long ago the elders of this church met in fasting and prayer to call upon the Lord for special direction in these trying times. It would be misleading to say that we did not receive blessings from time to time, but it would be deceit to say that we receive the blessings and direction we ought to receive and which have been promised to those who follow in His ways.

This list of symptoms is very short and very general; I refrain from becoming more specific. This is sufficient to indicate clearly that we belong to a faltering Church, a people who are more interested in their ways than in Gods, a people who have not met decisively the challenges of Christ's mission. Do not misunderstand me: I am not pessimistic about the future, nor is my approach about the road ahead that of a defeatist. It has been impressed upon me that I must awaken myself (and perhaps there are others) from slumber and the illusion of ease, well-being and satisfaction with our present status. This is a time for hope, optimism and, above all, work.

It is an easy thing to criticize; it takes no talent nor concern. But we are concerned and we want answers to the dilemma in which we find ourselves. We are tired of making excuses for our lack of growth, for our inactivity, for the small attendance within our congregations, for the poverty of our missionary program, and above all, for the contention within our midst.

When we think of the tasks and the mission given to the Church of Christ and then consider our own lack of success in accomplishing those tasks, we are forced to arrive at one of two conclusions: Either the basic philosophy we have adhered to is incorrect, or we have pursued the wrong paths, employed the wrong ways and means in implementing that basic belief. Years of careful study have reassured us that this Church of Christ is

built upon the foundation of truth. Our belief is sound! Therefore, our responsibility is to examine carefully, even while praying for divine guidance and direction, the methods we are using today, the paths we have pursued, the action or the lack of action that characterizes our Church, for these must be faulty.

Where shall we go from here? Let every citizen of the Kingdom make this a matter of concern, a matter of prayer, and a matter of examination. If deficiencies or solutions are brought to our attention, let us make these things known. Remember that God has forewarned us that our ways are not His ways; one of the ways of human nature is to feel hurt and go on the defensive if someone is critical of our ideas or behavior. This we must overcome if the Church is ever to assume its rightful place in the scheme of things, for there are many things amiss in our behavior and ideas. Here follows a list of areas where change and improvement are indicated. Many of the necessary changes will require greater effort and change on my part, for they are contrary to my ways and my nature - yet I know this is the purpose of the Gospel: To work a great reformation in the world, beginning with me.

1. Every individual in the Church must become converted to the will of God. Just as Peter walked with Jesus for three years and ministered with Him, and then was told "...and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" so must we become converted even though we were baptized long ago. We must come to the point where we desire God's will and God's ways more than our own.

2. Every individual in our Church must heed the great commandment - "...that ye love one another." For too long there has been ill will and resentment among us. Dislike, lack of unity and prejudice are commonplace. With reluctance do I admit that our elders and apostles have written an indelible lesson in the minds of many that is contrary to the doctrine of love. These things cannot be if we are to be fit vessels for His Spirit.

3. The scriptures give evidence of the duties of the apostles, and nowhere is it stated more clearly than when the Lord told the newly restored church that the apostles were called to "watch over the church." In recent years the "Twelve" have neglected their responsibilities in watching over the Church. They have not shown that dynamic and vigorous leadership necessary for a growing church. I am convinced that this has been done in their attempt to maintain a measure of peace in the church. With the advantage of hindsight we can see there was little peace in the Church. There was, however, a great deal of confusion and dissension, and many have become disillusioned and led astray because of a lack of

inspired leadership; not, as some would have us believe, because of **too** much leadership. Let us forget our own ways and return to God's ways.

4. For this Church to carry out its responsibilities and to represent God to the children of men, it must have a strong program and the financial support of its members. This is God's way. Every member who desires to serve and who desires to see the Church grow must begin **now** to pay his tithing as diligently as he pays his income tax.

5. For too long we have argued points of doctrine with believers in Christ and neglected the responsibility of carrying the Gospel to those who are unfamiliar with its sound and blessings.

6. The Church has no true missionary program. This Church, which received the injunction, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." has to be content to send a few men out over this great continent to visit with a few scattered members. This work is essential, but it is not the missionary work that is going to build up the Kingdom of God. Other (churches - ed.) all over the world are doing it, but we can't seem to gather up the resources or people to carry out the primary function of the Church.

7. Locals... must be ready and willing to meet their responsibilities. This means more than having services several times a week. I believe that many of our Locals and the Local priesthood, beginning with me, have too long neglected our duties.

- a. The Local must carry out missionary duties in its locale. We have tended to minister only to ourselves. Many living right in the neighborhood have not even been invited to attend. Months go by without a visitor outside our own ranks entering the Church doors. These things speak of negligence.

- b. Let the Local assume the responsibility of sending ministry to the isolated living in that area. Let all those isolated members living in the region of a Local become members of that Local, visit them occasionally, feel themselves a part of the Local and support it financially.

- c. Our ties that bind us together as a people need to be further strengthened. The Local needs to be the center of our life, socially as well as spiritually. We need to engage in activities that will bind us more firmly together. Our young people need to be provided with more social activities. We must find better ways of meeting their interests and their needs. They must be encouraged to provide leadership in these areas. In many Locals, because of their small size, if a few people are going to be absent for some event, the event is cancelled or postponed. This should never be the case. If only two or three are to be present, continue with all scheduled activities. This binds those present ever closer.

d. Regular attendance cannot be stressed too firmly. Every member of a Local does a disservice to the church and to its mission when absent unnecessarily. Many people are embarrassed to invite their friends to church when they fear the attendance will be small. This points out two areas of concern: First, let us be a dependable people, aware of and meeting our responsibilities. Secondly, let us all attempt to overcome our feelings of shyness and embarrassment when it comes to doing the Lord's work.

We can never convince another, whether it be a friend, a husband or a child, that the Church is important to them if it is not the

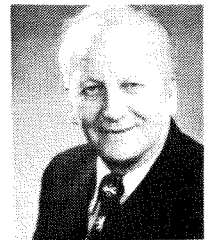
most important thing to us. And we can only point out its importance to us by our service and dedication to it. This is our task.

These few thoughts have been impressed upon me as being changes we need to effect for the well-being of our people and the Lord's work. Consider them prayerfully. Our Church is in need of help from God and from its members if it is to carry out its mission in these last days. Its mission is to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. It seems an impossible dream, but we know that with the Lord's help, and if we wake to our responsibilities immediately, it can, and will, be accomplished.

—Elder Don E. McIndoo

## FAITH, A DETERMINING FACTOR

A Condensed Sermon by Apostle William A. Sheldon



(Part Two)

Did you ever really notice the language of Ether 1:94 (as quoted in Part One last month)? They were forbidden to be revealed unto men until after Jesus Christ should be lifted up upon the cross. "And for this cause did King Benjamin" (We have it as Mosiah, because it is evident that Moroni here, in making this record, made a mistake; he was human too. At any rate, it was Mosiah.) "For this cause did King Mosiah keep them, (that is, those things that were written) that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should shew himself unto his people". Get that language! They were to be kept until Christ should show Himself unto His people. "And after Christ truly had shewed himself unto his people, he commanded that they should be made manifest."

By way of further reference on that, let's go back to page 657 in the Book of Mormon, 9th chapter of Ill Nephi, 36th verse. Here we have the words of Christ as He spoke to the people on this continent. It was because of their exceeding faith that He makes this statement: "Verily I say unto you, There are none of them that have seen (speaking of the Jews) so great things as ye have seen; neither have they heard so great things as ye have heard." I am persuaded that this not only refers to the manifestation of healing power and miracles that were performed in the midst of this people upon this continent amongst the Nephites, but also refers back to the statement that I read from the first chapter of Ether, where the things that the Brother of Jared saw, even from the foundation of

the world unto the end thereof, would be revealed unto the people of Christ after He showed Himself unto them in the flesh. I believe that they saw and heard those very things that were given unto the Brother of Jared—a revelation of all things. I'm going to read on from Ether 1:97: "And now, after that, (that is, after He had showed Himself and they had seen these things) they have all dwindled in unbelief, and there is none, save it be the Lamanites, and they have rejected the gospel of Christ; therefore I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth. Behold, I have written upon these plates (Moroni speaking) the very things which the Brother of Jared saw; and there never was greater things made manifest, than that which was made manifest unto the Brother of Jared; wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord."

Going down to the second chapter of Ether and the first verse: "And now I, Moroni, have written the words which were commanded me...and I have told you, (Here he's speaking to Joseph Smith.) the things which I have sealed up; therefore touch them not, in order that ye may translate; for that thing is forbidden you..." I feel that they were physically sealed up. Evidently this was done by Moroni, or by the power of God work-

ing through Moroni.

Going back to Ether 1:99-101, we read: "...I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me, They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord; And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the Brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me..."

I understand the word "sanctified" to mean, to become the saints of God. We sometimes call ourselves "latter day saints"; or this is so within the restoration movement; but we're really only latter day saints when we become sanctified in the Lord through our faith in Christ, through our keeping of the commandments of God, by the endurance of our faith. When the Gentiles exercise faith unto sanctification "even as the Brother of Jared did...then will I manifest unto them the things which the Brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations..."

How would you like to see all the revelations of God be made manifest unto you, even from the beginning of the world down to the end? Do you think it would be something marvelous? Do you think it would be worthwhile? Oh, you say, "yes". I'm sure we say that within our minds and hearts. Well, let me tell you, just as it says here: It will come, and it's going to come in our time, in this last dispensation of time just before the coming of the Son of God to the earth again. It's going to come when the Gentiles exercise faith in God as did the Brother of Jared.

We understand by the scriptures, that according to the prophecies given, the Gentiles would be rebellious against God. Even though the gospel would be given unto them in the latter days through the power of the Holy Ghost and through the visitation of angels, yet the Gentiles would reject the fullness of the gospel. We're told by Christ Himself and others of the Nephite prophets, that the Gentiles would reject those things, and it would be taken from them and given to a people who would bring forth the fruits thereof. We understand this to mean that it's going to go back to the people of the House of Israel, to the Lamanites, or the Indians, and they will come in and remember the covenants of the Lord. They will become obedient to it, and they will be numbered with the people of the House of Israel in the latter days; that is, I'm speaking of the Lamanites now. They are of Israel, of course. He will gather them all together. "There shall be one fold and one shepherd."

We think of those things, and we wonder; what is He speaking of when He says, "When the Gentiles shall exercise faith as the Brother of Jared, then shall these things be made manifest?" It's certainly not speaking of the Gentiles as nations,

but it's speaking of the people of latter day Israel who are among the Gentiles, who will exercise faith in God, despite the terrible tribulations, despite the wickedness, despite the unbelief that exists all around us today. There will be a portion of people of the Gentiles, and I believe it will be primarily those of latter day Israel amongst them. Ephraim was to be scattered amongst the Gentiles. These people who will exercise faith in God in the latter days, are going to have revealed unto them—not to the world. Not to the Gentile nations, but unto a few who believe in God unto the keeping of His commandments, and who are trusting in Him to the extent that, regardless of what may develop in their life's experience, they will believe on Jesus Christ. They will keep the faith! They're the ones that are going to receive the manifestation of all things that were made known unto the Brother of Jared, as he recorded in his record, and which is yet to come forth. I want to emphasize the fact that it's going to come to the Gentiles. Yes, it will be the House of Israel amongst the Gentiles, but it will be to the Gentiles—those who will have faith, who will receive these things.

There's been somewhat of an error perpetuated within the Restoration, by some at least; that is with regard to the second chapter of II Nephi, where we have the record of the coming forth of one in the latter days who is to do a mighty work amongst the descendants of young Joseph, the son of Lehi. People have said, "Well, there is that choice seer who is to be raised up, that one who is to be a descendant from Joseph, the son of Lehi." It doesn't call him a seer. It says he's going to do a mighty work amongst his brethren. I believe that with all my heart. There is yet to be one raised up who is to do a mighty work amongst his brethren the Lamanites.

Really, I don't think there's going to be a great deal of work done in the conversion of the Indian people, the Lamanites, until that individual comes forth, who will go forth among his own people, and by the power of God, will convict them of the truth of the gospel restored in these the latter days. I believe that, as I say, with all my heart. But he is not that seer who is to bring forth the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon, because whoever that seer is, he is going to bring it forth unto the Gentiles. He's going to bring it forth unto you who are faithful in the Church of Christ, and those whom Christ will have gathered together into one body, who will exercise faith in Him as did the Brother of Jared. Yes, it is going to come to such as these. There is going to be a Gentile who shall be raised up and be given the power of the Holy Spirit and the Urim and Thummim, by which he may translate that sealed portion of the Book of Mormon, that there shall be great knowledge and the power of God in the midst of His people.

We are to have faith in God, as did those wor-



thies of old. I am suggesting that we are going to have the faith that Joseph Smith had, young Joseph who went to God upon the terms of his belief in the word of God, in which he read, "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God...and it shall be given him". He believed that with all his heart. Would he have received the desires of his heart unless he had poured out his heart to God, and then believed that God would give him the thing that he wanted? He would not have done so.

It was the faith of Joseph Smith that resulted in those plates being delivered to him by the hand of an angel. It was by his faith that he literally saw God.

There has been a great deal said about that first vision of Joseph Smith. Some have questioned whether he really saw two personages. In fact, I've heard the thought advanced that he really didn't see God at all. What he saw was Mormon and Moroni, because, where he spoke of two persons and one said, "This is my beloved son, hear Him," that was Moroni. I discard that entirely. I definitely believe he saw the Father and the Son.

The Book of Mormon records something that really will verify this, in II Nephi, 11:146. Then I am going to turn to the history and read you something similar.

"And again it shall come to pass, that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him". Who is that? Joseph Smith, of course. Now the Lord is going to say to him: "Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men, therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people;"

Now from the history itself, page 16 of the Outline History; a statement in which Joseph Smith gives an account of his meeting with the Lord. He says, "My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself so as to be able to speak, than I asked the personages who stood above in the light which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong), and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them for they were all wrong, and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in His sight, that those professors were all corrupt (and then he quotes): "They draw near me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of Godliness, but they deny the power thereof". The Book of Mormon says, "Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men".

We don't have to depend upon Joseph Smith's claim that two personages spoke to him. The Book of Mormon says that the Lord spoke unto Joseph Smith the very things as recorded in his history. To me, that's a very important point of consideration as the proof of the fact that this work is divine; that the claim Joseph Smith made is true; that two personages did speak to him and set up the beginning of the Church of Christ in the latter days, and the way whereby that men through faith might come unto God in the end, that they might be pleasing unto Him.

(To be concluded next month)

## BAPTISM – THE CRITICAL STEP

by Harvey E. Seibel

I write this article out of concern for all you young people who, though knowing the gospel of Christ and having been raised in the church, continue to put off your decision for the Lord. I mean all you young folks, who have an understanding of these things, put off the day of your repentance and baptism. I write this article so that you may more fully understand what is at stake here and so make that decision which must be made and which you cannot avoid. For a non-decision to commit your lives to Him is a decision not to commit your lives to Him. We must all face up to this fact or else we will lose our salvation simply by default. And if there be some of you older ones who have also put off your salvation, this article is for you also. Consider very soberly that which follows.

An incident occurred nearly 6000 years ago in which because of an act of disobedience the whole human race came under condemnation, becoming sensual and devilish. Thus mankind became carnal and fell from the presence of God. And so it became necessary for God Himself to come down in lowly flesh and to offer that flesh in a holy sacrifice for the sins of us all. For say the scriptures, we, in our natural state, are an enemy to God and are in the bonds of iniquity.

Though Christ came down out of His great love for us to make atonement for our sins, yet all was not done, for we also have a responsibility to perform if we want to avail ourselves of this great gift. Says the prophet, "Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be, save they should

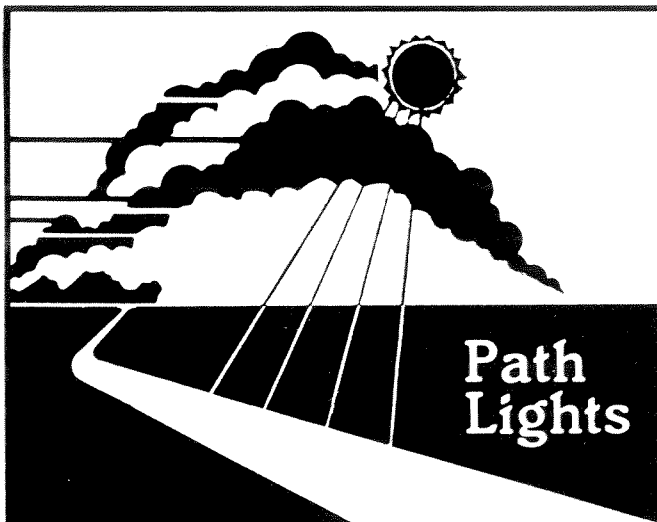
rely on this Redeemer" (1 Nephi 3:6).

So now we know what we have to do but in what manner are we to rely on this Redeemer? For answer we read, "... Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men, and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; Yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; and thus they become new creatures; and unless they do this, they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God" (Mosiah 11:187-188). So we must be born again if we desire to be saved. But how? Again we read, "Now I say unto you, that ye must repent, and be born again: for the Spirit saith, If ye are not born again, ye can not inherit the kingdom of heaven; Therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness; Yea, I say unto you, Come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction; Yea, come and go forth, and shew unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins, and enter into a covenant with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day, by going into the waters of baptism" (Alma 5:24-27). Are we willing to do this? Is there anything or any reason why we would not want

to avail ourselves of such mercy? And if you "... Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: And now, if you believe all these things, **see that ye do them**" (Mosiah 2:16-17).

But let us consider the alternatives. Why should we be concerned about baptism? What happens if we don't and what will happen if we do? These things need serious consideration if we are to make a decision with conviction. The choice is ours. "Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil" (2 Nephi 2:119-120).

This is quite an awesome decision. Do we believe it? Do we take these things lightly in our slothful and careless walk of life? Are these things of insufficient importance to make us stand up and take note of ourselves? We may go our own way if we wish. Says the scripture, "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: **but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.** Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity" (Ec-



## Path Lights

### An Administration and a Testimony Out of the Past, September 6, 1960

My mother had continued to slowly improve since the last administration on 4 September 1960, for the affliction of her heart, until 6 September when she was able to be up and out of bed most of the morning. She sorted a few clothes for my Father to take to the laundry, and stepped outdoors for a very few minutes to enjoy the experience of

being outside the house for the first time in a week and a half. She had company who came and stayed for about an hour. By noon she had become quite weary and began to feel worse as the day wore on, spending the remainder of the day in bed. By supper time she was having considerable pain in her chest from her heart. My father fixed her something to eat as she became terribly hungry. After eating, though not resultant therefrom, she became much worse until the pain was unendurable and her breathing and pulse became so rapid that it seemed impossible for her to get her breath.

I called on the telephone that evening at 7:15 PM, supposing to hear of her continued improvement from the last administration, but my father informed me somewhat of her condition, but not entirely because she had made him promise not to alarm or worry me. But I immediately felt an intense urge to go there without delay, and drove over as fast as I could, arriving about 7:50 PM. Mother was lying in bed with a fixed stare in pain, and her breathing and pulse accelerated beyond anything I had ever seen. She was unable to speak or even move a hand.

I asked her if she wanted to be administered to, and she was able only to faintly nod her head, so I immediately washed my hands and performed the ordinance beseeching God in the most humble and pleading manner of which I was capable. As I lifted my hands from her head and sat by the bedside I witnessed the return of her normal breathing and pulse within 3 or 4 minutes. Shortly she was able to



clesiastes 11:9-10).

Let's consider the consequence of a refusal or simply, just not getting around to a decision, or perhaps we think we are not ready and that we have plenty of time to make up our mind. "...remember, O man, for all thy doings thou shalt be brought into judgment. Wherefore, if ye have sought to do wickedly in the days of your probation, then ye are found unclean before the judgment seat of God; And no unclean thing can dwell with God; wherefore ye must be cast off for ever" (1 Nephi 3:33-35). "For the day should come that they must be judged of their works, yea, even the works which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation; Wherefore, if they should die in their wickedness, they must be cast off also, as to the things which are spiritual, which are pertaining to righteousness" (1 Nephi 4:52-53). "Whereof, they shall be judged, every man, according to his works, whether they be good, or whether they be evil; And if they be evil, they are consigned to an awful view of their own guilt and abominations, which doth cause them to shrink from the presence of the Lord, into a state of misery and endless torment, from whence they can no more return: therefore, they have drunk damnation to their own souls" (Mosiah 1:126-127). "Therefore I say unto you, **that he that will not hear my voice, the same shall ye not hear my voice, the same shall ye not receive into my church, for him I will not receive at**

**the last day"** (Mosiah 11:136). "For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance, even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his" (Alma 16:233). And because this is so, "...if they are condemned, they bring upon themselves their own condemnation. And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold ye are free, ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge, and he hath made you free; He hath given unto you that ye might know good from evil, and he hath given unto you that ye might choose life or death, and ye can do good and be restored unto that which is good, or have that which is good restored unto you; or ye can do evil, and have that which is evil restored unto you" (Helaman 5:84-86). "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I beseech of you in words of soberness, that ye would repent, and come with full purpose of heart, and cleave unto God as he cleaveth unto you. And while his arm of mercy is extended towards you in the light of the day, harden not your hearts. Yea, to-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts: **for why will ye die?"** (Jacob 4:8-10).

On the other hand consider the blessing of accepting the proffered mercy. "...Blessed is he that believeth in the word of God, and is baptized without

speaking very slightly and said she felt better and that she could feel the pain clearing out of her chest. She remarked still a little later that whereas she had felt cold all over during her terrible suffering and had no feeling in her hands or arms, she was now warm and the feeling was coming back to those parts, flexing and clenching her fingers as she spoke. By 8:45 PM I brought her a drink of water which she drank by raising herself up on one arm. In a few minutes she arose and went to the bathroom and returned to bed unassisted. She then reaffirmed that she felt alright and had no pain, though she continued to look very poorly. My father told me that for a while before I arrived he thought she was going.

God had thus wrought a miraculous blessing within her, and it was the most spiritual and immediate experience that I, an unworthy servant of the Almighty God, had ever received thus far in the ministry of my office and calling. I can think of no greater and divine gift than that of the gift of healing, except to be instrumental in saving souls from hell through the preaching of the gospel of Christ with power and authority given from God. **All the praise, honor and glory be given to God the Father in the name of His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ:** and may I walk worthily of God's continued love and mercy to me and those whom I shepherd, is my most earnest prayer.

Mother cried so hard after her relief had come. She said she didn't mind going, but couldn't bear to leave the rest of us here.

I shall always stand with a glad heart to give testimony of her life before God. Throughout the years of her life her friends have been the sick and the afflicted ones of this world, and the aged, the poor and needy, and the oppressed - the ones to whom our Master was sent to preach and minister to. She has always given freely of that which she had - hope, comfort and encouragement, and shared with others the necessities of this physical life. And my father has always been her willing and loving companion in all, laboring mightily to provide and to share every joy and heartache, every trial and every blessing.

My prayer shall continue to be that God will be pleased to touch her with his hand and raise her from her bed of affliction that she may continue with increased strength and vigor to minister unto those who stand in need of her friendship; and may this testimony cry itself aloud before His Majesty, that even in these recent days while confined to bed there have been many who have come to her door seeking from her comfort and encouragement; and through it all she has been the means with my father's help of providing food and clothing to the destitute.

O God! What glorious saints such as these two, my earthly parents, Thou hast here below to work for Thee!!!

Elder Robert H. Jensen

Postscript, August 5, 1987:

From 1960 my mother lived another 18 years to the age of 82; my father lived another 16 years into his 95th year.

stubbornness of heart; yea, without being brought to know the word, or even compelled to know, before they will believe" (Alma 16:138). "...he cometh to redeem those who will be baptized unto repentance, through faith on his name" (Alma 7:41) "...whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God" (3 Nephi 5:34). "And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; And if they hold out faithful to the end, they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never ending happiness" (Mosiah 1:88-90).

Which do we want, the happiness that comes from obedience or the misery that comes from disobedience? Look again at the consequences of sin. "...whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned" (3 Nephi 5:35). "And if they will not repent and believe in his name, and be baptized in his name, and endure to the end, they must be damned" (2 Nephi 6:49).

There is one exception to all this but this exception does not apply to us who have been taught or who have the gospel. "...I know that good and evil have come before all men; or he that knoweth not good from evil is blameless". "**But he that knoweth good and evil, to him it is given according to his desires: whether he desireth good or evil, life or death, joy or remorse of conscience**" (Alma 15:56). This latter does apply to us.

Now for the conclusion of the whole matter. We know of the consequences and the blessings we may receive depending on our choice in the matter. But there is one further consideration that we ought to think about.

Perhaps you thought that you could get into heaven by your good works even though you may not have been baptized. If so you had better think again. For the Pharisees themselves sought to establish their own righteousness and will thereby receive the greater condemnation. And except our righteousness should exceed that of the Pharisee we ourselves shall not enter heaven. Rather, our righteousness should be of Christ by our taking upon us His name. Why? Because our own righteousness is counted before God as filthy rags.

Consider the following: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:11-13,15).

Does this scripture strike you as strange? What

was it that saved the man, his works, or the foundation upon which he built those works? Wasn't it the foundation? And the works performed thereon did not condemn the man even though some of those works were of such quality as to be burned. Those works not burned however will gain for him a reward. The fact is, that as long as a man is founded upon Christ then no matter what the quality of his works may have been, he is saved. **Understand that this does not give one license to sin**, if so, we would have exchanged our solid foundation for a sandy one. Or as Paul tells us, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2).

The point is that as long as we are trying and striving to live for Christ and **do not partake of the spirit of antichrist**, that is, we are not against him, and though we slip periodically and sin on occasion because of the weakness of the flesh, we are saved even though we suffer the loss of unprofitable works.

This salvation and hope does not apply to the wicked who sin with impunity and continue in sin, pursuing it as a way of life. Consider the opposite scripture found in 3 Nephi 12:23-24: "But if it be not built upon my gospel, and is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you, They have joy in their works for a season, and by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return; For their works do follow them, for it is because of their works that they are hewn down; therefore remember the things that I have told you."

These works, though they may appear to be humanitarian and good in the eyes of the world, neither save them or are recognized of God for righteousness, for these have gone about attempting to establish their own righteousness, as all do who do not accept Christ and enter in by the door of the sheepfold. These have attempted to climb up into heaven by another way. Sounds like those who will say in that day, Lord, Lord, have not we done many mighty works in thy name? And He will say to them, depart from me ye cursed, for I never knew you.

So, what is the key point in all this? In the former case the man was saved regardless of the quality of his works. In the latter case the man is lost because of their works, works which were built upon a sandy foundation instead of the Rock. What was the difference? The difference is baptism by one having authority. Only then can we be about establishing the righteousness of Christ instead of our own righteousness.

Do we want our works to count for a righteous reward? Then baptism is the key. Without baptism these works are counted evil in the sight of God and can reward us no good thing. This is why a bitter fountain cannot bring forth good water and a good

fountain bitter water. If our labors are done in the Spirit of God our works are counted unto us for righteousness. If not, all our work is vain.

So if we want our works to count for our soul's welfare we must be baptized. Otherwise we will have lived our lives in vain. Baptism then brings to us a twofold blessing – the free gift of salvation and the reward for good works.

Do we want this? Can we afford not to be baptized? **Think about it!!**

## POINT OF VIEW

"How can you believe that rot!" exclaimed a university student coming on a classmate reading the Bible, "Don't you have difficulty with such a miracle as the dividing of the Red Sea?"

"Yes, I have difficulty with the Red Sea," was the reply, "but my difficulty is not how it was divided, but how it was made. For He who made it could divide it."

Be not simply a reflector of Christ, be a radiator.  
—Philip W. Bemis

## WHAT IF I'M NOT ALLOWED IN ZION?

"God's love can brighten the darkest night and warm the loneliest day."

This verse was on a card I received, and as I thought about it, it rang true to my heart. A lot of people ask how a person can commit himself to something— whether it be a person, a cause, or, most importantly, God. It's not difficult if you keep the right frame of mind—**spiritual** frame of mind, that is. God is always with you. No matter what you do or what you say, He's still there, watching you. It's up to you whether He's happy or sad. God can help you through rough times. Just get on your knees and **truly** ask Him to help you. Give your all to Him; don't leave any "minor troubles" for yourself to deal with. Give them to God and **trust**

that He'll do what's best. I am trying very hard to put God first in my life and my heart each day, and it's hard for a while, but God is helping me to be strong. A lot of people don't take God and religion seriously enough and that's frightening. I mean, what if when Zion comes some of my friends aren't allowed in? Or what if I'm not? That's why I'm trying to shape up my life **now**, not later. **Don't procrastinate!** Some people don't believe in God or religion and that's sorrowful. I hope someday they will give Christ a chance so they can feel the joy that I now have in my heart that He put there. I love each and every one of you.

Jennie Yates

## A LETTER TO THE CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My heart is overflowing with the Spirit, as I write this letter. On August 17, 1987, at the home of Elder Charles Brantner in Warrensburg, Missouri, a small group of people was assembled (the reason yet unknown), that group, being comprised of Elder Gale Brantner, Elder Charles Brantner, Sister Jeanne Brantner, Elder Andy Brantner, Sister Carol Brantner, Elder Eugene Gould, Sister Bernice Gould, Elder Isaac Brockman, Sister Ruth Brockman, my wife, Sister Sue Heath, and myself.

After arriving, Brother Isaac said he had a special reason for gathering us all together. He then asked for a season of prayer. When we arose Brother Isaac, through the Spirit, called me to the office of Priest in this Church of Christ. There were then those who stood and bore witness to the calling and to the truthfulness of it. At that time a feeling of being overwhelmed by it all had come over me. And even though I **knew** (there was never a doubt in my mind as to the truthfulness of the calling) it was right I testified that my witness had not been received yet therefore acceptance could not be made.

My dear Sister Carol Brantner had stood and bore witness to the calling **and** that it was given to

her to know that I would have a witness to the call myself.

The meeting ended with all of us holding hands in a circle and as the closing prayer was given the warmth of the Spirit filled my body. There was no denying that God's Spirit was indeed with us that evening.

Prayer is always the answer, and pray I did. Within the next couple of days following the call, through much prayer, my witness soon became known to me and I accepted the calling.

The Ravenna Local, in which I attend, voted and accepted the calling and with the blessing of the Missionary in charge, the ordination was performed September 6, 1987, at our Local with Elder Gale Brantner giving the ordination prayer assisted by Elders Charles and Andy Brantner.

My prayer, Brothers and Sisters, is that you will welcome me into the Priesthood of The Church of Christ and that I may always keep myself humble before the Lord and perform the duties of this office according to His will. I love each and everyone of my Brothers and Sisters. Please remember my wife and myself in your prayers. As God directs us, we will follow. Our prayers are for **all** of you, also.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Aaron Heath

# —NEWS—

## YPCL Activities

The Missouri Camp for All Ages, September 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1987:

The camp was in a beautiful spot in the Ozark country along the banks of the river Elk. The scenery around was wonderful – rolling hills, tall trees, lots of tents, and too many bugs!

Events started with the canoe trip. We all traveled down in two buses which had been provided, and towed the canoes behind them. Eight miles further on we stopped and proceeded to get the canoes into the river. The cowards among us donned themselves in life jackets, and everyone got smeared in sun block. Then we all wandered down to the canoes and climbed in.

Off we went, one by one, slowly down the river, and what a sight we must have looked–some scooting off to one side, others to another. We made several stops along the journey: some purposeful, others not! The river was quite deep in parts, and then would unexpectedly be very shallow. Many of us were caught out by this and ended up getting out and pushing the canoe along until we had gotten free of the rocks! Then, of course, there came the dreaded trees whose branches just seemed to leap out and grab you when you least expected it. Most people escaped injury from this–except one person who shall remain nameless because she is writing this article!

The picnic stops were eventful, too. After the consumption of untold amounts of food and drink, people who had at first appeared tired after a couple of hours canoeing suddenly received new energy and leaped into the river, tipping any poor passing canoeist in sight and generally showering everyone in water with make-shift water pistols–soggy sandwiches all around!

When the bedlam had died down the trip continued a little further, and as you sailed past you could see certain members of the group participating in what appeared to be suicidal leaps off very high rocks into the river–suicidal because the rope kept breaking.

Eventually we reached the camp and breathed a sigh of relief. It was late afternoon and we ached.

That evening we had a campfire, and we all sat around it watching mimes, plays, and quizzes, which we finished off with some songs. We had a great deal of fun that night, and it was obvious that a lot of work had gone into the preparation, so congratulations to everyone who took part—a job well done.

Sunday after breakfast we had Sunday School where we split into two groups and had discussion groups. Afterwards we came back together for the service in which Randy Shelton was the preacher.

The afternoon was quiet. People played some games, we had a scriptural quiz, and chatted, getting to know everyone that little bit better.

The evening service took place round a bonfire and was led by Glen Gill, and was a prayer and testimony meeting. I am sure that everyone there felt the presence of the Spirit and received a blessing from that meeting.

Monday came round all too quickly and it was time to pack up and go home, but everyone had a wonderful time, and it could not have been done without all the

work and enthusiasm of its organizers. A big thank you to them.

Reporter: Kate Rosen  
Nelson, England

It's health food vs. junk food, and slothfulness vs. exercise –can eating health food be as fun as junk food? The YPCL had a chance to find out Saturday, the 12th of September, at Holly Smith's house. After exercises, eating followed. First we sampled junk food. After we were through we lounged while we were served health food. I think I like health food after all!

Submitted by Heidi Temple

Saturday, September 26, 1987, the young people met at the East local at 7:00 P.M. From there we went to George Owens nature park. We had a study by Martin Rosen from England. He asked some of the young people why they were in the church. Then he asked some of the young people how they were different from other young people. It was a very good study. Then we went bowling at King Louies. We bowled a lot. It was very fun. Then we went home.

Submitted by Harvey L. Seibel

## OBITUARY

### Clifford E. McGuire

1910–1987

After a few months illness, Clifford E. McGuire, of Mountain View, Missouri, passed from this life on September 6, 1987, at the Ozark Medical Center at West Plains, Missouri.

He was born December 15, 1910, at Vera, Texas, the oldest child of Ed and Cora McGuire.

Clifford married Roberta Henson on December 15, 1934; five children were born to their marriage. They moved to southern California in 1936 where he became employed in the citrus industry, achieving high honors as a field manager for marketing the entire southern California district.

In 1940, he was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was active as a member and in the ministry for thirty-five years. Failing health forced him into early retirement to Texas County, Missouri. In 1975 he was baptized into the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, and was an active member of the Houston local. His loyal worship of his God will be missed by that church group.

Along with his wife, Roberta, he is survived by two daughters, Barbara Kincaid of Mountain View; Dorothy McGuire of Independence; three sons, Bill of Porterville, California; Ed of Independence and David of Kingsburg, California. There are twenty grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Also surviving is a brother James E., Lub-

bock, Texas; two sisters, Nova Robertson of Mountain View, and Lois Billingsley of Farwell, Texas.

The funeral service on Saturday, September 12, was conducted from the Duncan Funeral Home at Mountain View, Missouri, with burial in Greenlawn Cemetery. Elder Arthur G. Smith was in charge of the service, assisted by Elder Fred Worth of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. "An Evening Prayer" was sung by Ruth Smith, and organist Sharon Nesbitt, Mountain Home, Arkansas, accompanied Arthur and Ruth Smith as they sang "The Old, Old Path."

May the Holy Spirit bless and comfort the family and many friends of our loved brother who now is resting from his earthly labor.

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## Calico Local Rededication Report

For those unable to attend this event, I present the notable occurrences of the day of September 6, 1987.

Although it was a rather rainy and chilly day, it began with a baptismal service, warming the soul. Surely the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by all as Mrs. Rebecca Burnett made her confession before the church and went down into the waters of baptism at a nearby river with Priest Peter Gould officiating. The laying on of hands took place back at the church with Apostle William Sheldon and Elder Samuel Gould officiating and following the pattern given of old, that she would receive the "Abiding Comforter" by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

After extending the hand of fellowship to our new sister in Christ, we partook of the sacramental bread and wine and the service was then opened for song, prayer, exhortation, or testimony. Many were moved upon by the Holy Spirit to sing songs of praise and dedication of our lives. Others stood in thanksgiving testimony to the ways in which our Lord has touched, influenced, and molded them. Truly ours is a God of grace and mercy! Just before closing an administration was asked for by Brother Don Burnett, who was then administered to through Apostle William Sheldon and Elder Samuel Gould.

After lunch and a time of informal fellowship, there was a song service during which a few visitors from the Cherokee area sang, and also the four Gould brothers present sang. Special acknowledgement was given to Honourable Seaborn and Sally Bradley, who were celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary that same day.

Directly following was a sermon by Apostle William Sheldon, which key scripture is found in Luke 6:46, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" For, if we are truly His people, we MUST have a faith that causes us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

Supper was then served followed by a sermon by Priest Peter Gould, who warned that "...in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..." (1 Tim 4:1-3) and that we must be EVER watchful that we do not fall

prey to such traps. Our safety lies in engrafting the words and nature of God into our lives that we will not be as those who erred "not knowing the scriptures, neither the power of God" (Matt 22:29).

In closing, Elder Samuel Gould called for a season of prayer after giving strong warning to all in the church to get our temporal matters settled and become spiritually prepared for the tribulations that will shortly come to pass.

For those of you who came to worship the Lord with us and even those not able to, we earnestly hope that you will come again to partake of the Spirit of Peace here, for we so dearly appreciate your visits as well as your prayers.

Reporter: Elaine Gould

## Phoenix News

To our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Greetings from Arizona.

September passed quickly here, with several special activities and visits. Apostle Don McIndoo and Elder Jim Yates returned from their missionary trip. After Minister's Conference in Missouri, they traveled through Arkansas and Texas visiting our brothers and sisters who are unable to meet in locals. In Arkansas, they visited Albert and Mary Cobb in Fayetteville and Sister Bertha Akin in Texarkana. In Texas, they brought ministry to Sister Nellie Raleigh of New Boston; Sister Rhonda and John Alf and family of Dallas; Sister Marian and Kenny Martin of Houston; Sister Mattie Bell Jordan, also of Houston; and Brother and Sister John and Judy Jeschke of San Antonio. Also in Texas, they visited Gloria and Gary Benton in Hallettsville; and Sister Eugenia Partain of Lubbock. On their way to Phoenix, they stopped in Tucson to bring ministry and fellowship to our Sister Lola Haygood. Elder Gordon McCann and family also visited Sister Lola during September. Regular missionary trips were also made to Payson on September 20 and to Show Low on September 27. Twenty-six people were at the service in Payson, much larger than their usual meeting. Priest Martin Rosen, from England, was in charge of the sacrament service and Teacher Andy Brown preached in the afternoon.

A special service was held September 13, at 2:00 p.m. for the blessing of Andrew Ammon Brown, son of Andy and Debbie Brown. Andrew was blessed by Elders Joel Yates and Jay Moser, following remarks by Joel. Debbie's parents, Stan and Bertie Berringer, and Andy's parents, Elmer and Betty Brown of Payson were at the blessing. Two special songs were sung: "Suffer Little Children" was sung by Joel Yates and Chris Moser; and "Bedtime Lullaby" was sung by Michelle Yates, Debbie Brown, Kathy Ely, and Chris Moser. A shower, given by Michelle Yates and Karen Berquist, followed the blessing.

Many of the local met on Labor Day evening for homemade ice cream and cookies, cake and volleyball. It is hard to say who had the most fun, those who played or those who watched the players' interesting "maneuvers and styles".

We had the special pleasure of having Priest Martin and Sister Kate Rosen and children, Timothy and Jennifer, visit with us during September from England. It is always a special joy to meet and worship with a brother and sister that we've prayed for and have grown to know



through letters and calls. Brother Martin preached God's word to us September 13; and we had a special ice cream potluck, with volleyball on September 19, so that we could all become better acquainted. The Rosens were also taken to see the Grand Canyon. There was an outing to Seven Springs and local sights. They were kept busy with the visiting and church activities. While they were here, the local extended the hand of fellowship to them. That "hand", that love which has increased, will always be extended to them, though they are now far away...until we meet again.

We invite all of our brothers and sisters to come and worship with us during the Phoenix Reunion. There will be a special program on Thanksgiving evening, November 26. Reunion will be Friday, November 27-29. Those needing housing should call Pastor Gordon McCann, (602) 867-7681.

In a recent sermon by Apostle Don McIndoo, we were asked to look deep into ourselves and determine what things were separating us from God. What habits needed to be removed from our lives in order to become totally submissive to our Father? He led us through the scriptures to the challenge given in II Nephi 13:27-30: "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life."

Debbie Vogel  
5432 B Jemez  
Glendale, AZ 85307

## Houston Local News

Fall is here and wonderful to smell the good clean air in the Ozarks. We thank the good Lord for providing us with the good rains and the beauty that surrounds us.

On July 12, Elder Nicholas Denham came from Independence to deliver the Gospel Message. That same Sunday we were pleased to welcome as a guest in our congregation Earl Apperson from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, who was spending a few days with his mother, Sister Lois Helseth.

In August we were privileged to have Apostles Roland Sarratt and Marvin Ely as our speakers.

On August 19th a baptismal service was held in the beautiful clear waters of Indian Creek a few miles south of Houston. Tanya Rose Carney, daughter of Joseph and Alice Carney, Newark, New Jersey, made her covenant with Jesus Christ as she entered the waters of baptism, with Elders John Jones and Virgil Addie officiating. Welcome into the family of God, Tanya. We all miss you and hope you have a good school year.

In September our congregation enjoyed a visit from Glenn and Margret Gill. Unfortunately, I was unable to be there, but I was told about the good sermon and the beautiful special music by Margret Gill and Johna Ely.

Mary Jane, Janna and Jared Medders were in Republic, Missouri, on the weekend of September 12th and 13th to help Mary Jane's granddaughter, Nancy Hutcheson, celebrate her 4th birthday.

We enjoyed having James and Sandy Addie home on a visit recently. We miss having them here to worship with us all the time.

Our dear Brother Cliff McGuire took his journey home to be with his Father again. His dear family and loved ones will miss him, but we know his release was a blessing for him, for now is resting until all his family and loved ones go to meet him there. He left a wonderful family here with us, but most of all, he left an example of true faith. He reminds us to hold fast to that "rod of iron."

In Memory of  
**Clifford E. McGuire**

### TO THOSE I LOVE AND THOSE WHO LOVE ME

When I am gone, release me, let me go  
I have so many things to see and do,  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,  
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love, you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness  
I thank you for the love you each have shown,  
But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for if grieve you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part  
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on  
So if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near  
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear  
All of my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile, and say, "Welcome Home."

Mary Jane Medders, Reporter

## Ravenna Local News

Dear Readers we at the Ravenna Local are very happy to announce that we have another in God's service among us. Brother Aaron Heath was ordained into the Priesthood as Priest, September 6, 1987, during our Sacrament Service. Special guests for the service were Elder Charles and sister Jeanne Brantner, who represented the Missionary in charge; Elder Andy and sister Carol Brantner with their two children, Jacob and Vanessa; all from the Warrensburg, Missouri Local. Also attending were sister Mabel Bergy, sister June Haines and her husband Ken, also brother Aaron's father-in-law, Ken Keith, and his sister-in-law, Karen and her husband Dave, which made the day just that much more special. Elder Gale Brantner was assisted in the laying on of hands by Elders Charles and Andy Brantner, while brother Gale gave the Ordination Prayer.

The wonderful day also included many beautiful songs and testimonies in praise of our Lord. We enjoyed the fellowship of those so dear to us with a potluck dinner and were spiritually fed with a sermon from brother Andy. It is fitting that the Ordination took place over the 'Labor Day' weekend since brother Aaron is committing and focusing his life laboring for Christ. Congratulations



and may God bless you brother Aaron.

Wednesday evening, September 9, we met at brother Gale's home once again for a Scripture Study which was an introduction for some very special guests. We were reminded of the history of The Church of Christ through Elders Charles and Andy Brantner. It was truly a spiritual-ly fulfilling evening; the Spirit being strongly with us.

Since it is harvest season in this part of the world, let us remember that our Lord is also readying His harvest. We must prepare ourselves by storing up the spiritual necessities that will carry us through to an eternal life. And as the Thanksgiving holiday draws near let us also remember that each and every day we need to give thanks to Our Lord for the countless Blessings we have received daily.

May our Lord continue to watch over, guide and protect us.

Your reporter and sister in Christ  
Debbie Brantner Vogel

### Bradley (Michigan) News

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I have recently been elected, by the Bradley Local here in Michigan, as News Reporter. Please bear with me as I am going to back-up a bit and pass some "old news" on to Advocate readers.

The 4th of July weekend was a cool one but the Lord saw fit to pour His beautiful sunshine on us as about 50 Church of Christ people from different areas in Michigan turned out for a campout at Phil's Campground at Lime Lake in Northern Michigan. There were songs of praise around campfires in the evenings with special music on trumpet and coronet by Brother Duayne and Larry Lee with Brother LaVerne Lussenden joining in on occasion and Sister Mary Lee aiding on a portable organ brought by Brother Lowell Scott. There also was special music by Sister June and Ken Haines and the Lussenden Quartet. To top off the holiday, we had a beautiful Sunday Service with messages given by both Elder LaVerne Lussenden and Elder Conley Addington. There was a potluck after services that signaled the end to the weekend.

August 8th we had the pleasure of a guest speaker, Brother Ron Temple and his lovely family from Missouri. He gave us a message with much emphasis on "We must pray for one another and the affairs of the Church of Christ".

Some Sundays we had rather small groups as vacations of summer sometimes kept us few in number, but as we are winding down from various summer activities we are back to a more normal size congregation of about 60 persons per Sunday.

Our Sister Mary Lee, who is our organist, is expecting baby number 3 any day now. By next report we will let you know if she has a boy or girl to go with her and Randy's other 2 beautiful little girls.

Our loved ones from Virginia, Brother Dennis and Betsy Trudgen, were here to visit for the Labor Day Holiday. It is always a blessing to have our brothers and sisters visit when they can.

Until next report, God be will us all.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Pam Lussenden  
2563 30th St.  
Allegan, MI 49010  
616/673-8258

## Oklahoma News

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him and praise his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalms 100:4,5)

The harvest is in, except for the cotton and the peanuts. It has been a good harvest. Our friends have shared their vegetables and we have shared our fruit. From the grocery stores, we found watermelon. How great has been the Lord's blessings in our area.

Most of all, we are thankful for the blessings brought to us from the church. Each second Sunday, we are not disappointed for we have our church brothers and sisters from the Independence area coming to visit us. We LIKE that!

On August 9, we all traveled to the Kimball home in Shawnee. The Grzincics visited us this day. Brother Tony taught our Sunday School lesson, gave the sermon, and served the sacrament. His sermon was centered around Psalms 23 and as usual, it was a good sermon. His sermons always inspire us to be better Christians.

September 13 found us at the Elwell home in Edmond. The Fanns drove those many miles to be with us. Brother Frank taught our Sunday School lesson, spoke a sermon, and served the sacrament. His sermon was about prayer. We are to pray with thanksgiving and faith believing. We are to praise Him!

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

May the good Lord bless and keep you,

Alzada Massey, reporter  
416 N. Texas  
Weatherford, OK 73096

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