

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

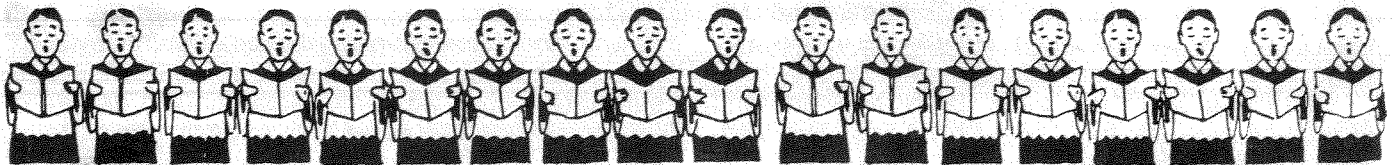
Independence, Missouri • December, 1987

No. 12



**Tho Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If He's not born in thee
Thy soul is still forlorn.**

Angelus Silesius



IN THIS ISSUE

Christmas Time 1987 p. 178
God's Eternal Purposes in the End of Man p. 180
Keep Your Mind Stayed on the Lord p. 182

Path Lights p. 184
Faith, A Determining Factor p. 186
Index to Zion's Advocate-Vol. 64 p. 191

Zion's Advocate

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

Christmas Time 1987

The fight to keep Christ in Christmas will intensify each year, and soon "Xmas" day will be all that is left of a day, that in the past, made people aware of God. In some cases people even came close to living that pattern, of doing unto others as we would have done unto ourselves. "Oh, if we could only keep that spirit all year," is an oft repeated statement. The fact that Christ is being taken out of Christmas and that the wished-for Spirit doesn't last all year, are victory flags for Satan.

Christmas day has been both honored and stomped upon by believing Christians. The controversy has been brought about by letting the things of the world come into the picture and our lives. The love in the Christmas story is endearing to young and old alike. The young can relate to it and feel it in their parents touch, and tone of voice when the story of the birth of Jesus is told to them. The old have found that the gift of God has been an abiding gift that has grown the more precious, with the passing of each year of their life.

While Christians debate the merits or demerits of

Christmas we never stop to think that if the world was full of true Christians, Christ would stay in Christmas and the spirit of treating others the way you would want to be treated yourself, would last all year, year after year.

If God reacted like people, even the pleading of Moses would not have saved mankind. But God wouldn't, couldn't act like people, could He? Then how do the followers of God excuse themselves for being so caught up in the things of the flesh, power, authority, riches and possessions? God has all of these, not hidden away, not abused nor flaunted before us, but they are offered to everyone who will come to Him through Jesus Christ. The inheritance of His beloved Son is gladly offered by the Father and the Son, as a gift to those who would step out of the ways of the world and take the hand of Jesus Christ and follow His teachings to become a joint heir in the kingdom of God.

How do you measure the love involved in the birth of Jesus Christ? He was with the Father in the beginning and through Him were all things created, yes,

even the plan of salvation that brought the Son of God into the world in the form of man; not to be waited upon and given the honors of the Creator, but to die, beaten and spat upon. The cross was to hold Him above the crowd, the same as the brass serpent that was raised before a sinful people in the wilderness much earlier, but here the similarity stops. The brass serpent was for one time, one group of rebellious people, while Jesus Christ brought the promise of eternal life for all generations who would believe that the way to the cross was the way to a rewarding life. The Baby of Christmas was the last sacrifice for mankind. His mission, to die on the cross for our sins, did not necessitate Him to be born a baby. He could have walked out of the wilderness and taken up His cross. He was born a baby because His mission had a double purpose and both equally important. He came to teach us how to live and He lived it as He taught, no theory, but rather, hands on experience. The way of life was to bring us home, the cross was to pay any fines that we might encounter on the way. The cross did not pay our way into that hallowed kingdom of His Father's because that price had to be paid by us. The price? Believe that the Christmas Baby lived and taught the only way of life that would bring us home, and that before He went home He voluntarily went to the cross so that all the mistakes we would make while we earnestly tried to follow His teachings, would be forgiven (through repentance) by His sacrifice on the cross.

You cannot be loved more than God loves you. When you look into the mirror of your life can you see the path that Jesus Christ marked for you showing there? This time of probation is as one tick in the clock of eternal life, it is hardly enough time to get to know the true path let alone to wander in the maze of Satan, who offers nothing, gave nothing and cares not a whit for you. You have an advantage that many have not and that is the Book of Mormon, an added witness that becomes one in your hand with the Bible. The way is set before you as a rod of iron. You don't grab it with your hands, you clutch it with your heart. Love forged that rod of iron and only love can hang onto it. It is Christmas, give yourself to God and you will find that the gift is really yours. You cannot give your husband, wife, child, brother, sister or friend anything more precious than yourself, dedicated to God, for then they know that they have a loving, caring husband, wife, child, brother, sister or friend. One who has found the way of the cross becomes a victory flag for God. You have no excuse not to be a bright banner for God all year long, year after year, because the way is marked, the price is paid. The steps of the Christmas Baby, the blood of the Son of God will bring you home to the love of the Father only when you have faith enough to diligently follow His example.

God bless you and may we find each other on the path of life, holding firm in our heart, the teachings of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas.

Elder Edward J. Toulouse

"Thanks" from England

To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently we had the pleasure and privilege of visiting the United States and other local churches. We could not have done this if it were not for the generosity of our brothers and sisters and their sacrificing. We would like to say a humble "thank-you" to everyone who made our stay five weeks of heaven. Space does not permit me to mention all. We would dearly have loved to stay with you all, but the work of the Gospel in these parts is very important to us and, although, tears were shed, our task is clear. We love you all very deeply and miss you terribly. Hopefully, one day we will meet again. But until that time God be with you and keep you. You are always in our hearts and prayers.

We love you very much,
Martin, Kate, Tim and
Jenny Rosen.
Nelson, England

Baptism Birthday Cards (A LETTER TO THE EDITOR)

We still send birthday cards (birth into the fold of Christ through baptism - Editor) to all members of the Flint

(Michigan) local. Normally we do not have any comments on the cards, but this year we have had about six replies. Your statement is very much appreciated and is uplifting to the Spirit. Sometimes we wonder about such projects and a response such as yours makes it all worthwhile.

Brother Eugene Gould and Brother Isaac Brockman, Sr., showed an interest in the project and they took a card with them. On a return visit, Brother Gould said that they had started the sending of (baptism/birthday) cards in the (Independence, Missouri) East Local. We need to touch all of our people and remind them of the bond that they have with God.

We send our prayers and know that you have a big job putting the Zion's Advocate together. Many times you must find yourself in the middle of some strong positions and this makes it hard for you. Keep on doing what you feel God would want done. You will receive His help, I am sure.

Yours in the Gospel,
Ed Toulouse
10165 Bray Road
Clio, Michigan 48420

Editors note:

Elder Ed Toulouse was the pastor of the Flint, Michigan, local in 1967 when I was baptized (and still is) and assisted in my confirmation. I am certain that brother Toulouse would appreciate your questions or comments on the program he has of sending "birthday" cards to baptized members on the anniversaries of their baptisms.

G.H.

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES IN THE END OF MAN

by Apostle Roland Sarratt



God's greatness is beyond the natural man's ability to fully comprehend. However, some of God's servants have been privileged to see through the veil enough to testify of God's superiority to man. Paul was one who expressed himself of God's unsearchable ways: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." (Romans 11:33-36)

Jacob, the son of Lehi, also testified that the mysteries of God are unsearchable except they be revealed at His will: "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. For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth; which earth was created by the power of his word. Wherefore, if God, being able to speak, and the world was; and to speak, and man was created, O then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure." (Jacob 3:9-13)

We are confident that God's will and pleasure is good. There is no question in the fact that God can command the earth according to His will and pleasure. There is no question in the fact that man was created by the power of God's word. There is no question in the fact that man cannot find out all the ways of God except they be revealed unto him by God.

Nonetheless, the divine purposes of God are seldom contemplated by man. Modern science has given little or no credit to the existence of a divine intelligence, especially in the thought that such a divine intelligence conceived the existence of man and that man is accountable to that divine intelligence. The athiestic influence in our educational system in this nation and elsewhere has caused a great void in the lives of many people which leaves them without a sense of purpose of mankind's existence.

From our standpoint, what is the purpose of mankind's existence? Man's existence is based

upon the existence of God. It was God who conceived our existence. His divine motivation, as well as we can determine, was to share His qualities of goodness with those who could comprehend and appreciate Him. Therefore He created mankind in His own image and with the potential ability to respond to Him by obeying or disobeying His will. Our purpose of life then is to know God and His goodness. So we come back to the fact that that which God has done is good.

God is a spirit. And He has created man with a spirit. Man's greatest relationship with God is spiritual. God has commanded that we be spiritually minded. Science cannot explain things that are spiritual nor does it accept the fact that there is a spirit in man. The spirit of man is that which gives him the ability to reason and determine right from wrong. It is that which gives him the ability to have compassion.

"And now, my son, I speak unto you these things, for your profit and learning: For there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them is; Both things to act, and things to be acted upon; And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition; Even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the bitter; Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. . . Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free for ever, knowing good from evil; To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Law, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. 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: For he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself." (2 Nephi 1:94-100, 115-121)

God's eternal purposes in the end of man is that man is to know good from evil and to ultimately make a choice between the two - the ultimate choice being liberty and eternal life or captivity and death. For most believers in God, eternal life is their goal. However, many people give little or no thought about what eternal life is and actually what is required in the way of their personal preparation.

How do we prepare for eternal life? We strive to obey God by keeping His commandments. Does keeping His commandments earn us our salvation? No. There is one who has paid the price by giving himself as an infinite sacrifice, even the Son of God. It is Jesus Christ who has atoned for the sins of all mankind including the sins of our first parents who fell by disobeying God in the beginning.

Jesus did more than atone for our sins; his very life is an eternal example of how we should live. He obeyed God in all that he did. He kept the commandments of God. He suffered the will of God even when it seemed to be against his own will. But Jesus was sent of God to save the world, not to condemn it. To save the world was not to save mankind from their sins only but to show them a way to overcome sin and the will of the flesh (natural man) while in the process of being saved from their sins.

We find in God that which is good. We find in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God's goodness in the very life and works of Christ through his obedience unto God. The example is set before us; we are to follow Christ and he will lead us back into the presence of God. In Jesus is the fullness of life - the richness of God's goodness; if we strive to be like him we will have that goodness also.

An example that Jesus gives us in obeying God's will is in his being baptized by John the Baptist. John said that he had need to be baptized of Jesus. But Jesus said to suffer it to be so now that they may fulfill all righteousness. Jesus did not need to have his sins washed away like we do because he had no sins, but he witnessed unto the Father that he would obey him. Therefore he made a covenant by demonstrating his willingness to humble himself before the Father to keep His commandments.

Another example is found in the experience of Jesus being tempted of the devil. Satan promised all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus if he would fall down and worship him. Jesus answered: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matthew 4:10)

The example was made complete when Jesus suffered the will of God by partaking of the "bitter cup." Jesus endured to the end; that is our requirement also.

The purpose of life then is to follow Jesus' example to the end. We follow Jesus through having faith in his words and deeds. We follow Jesus in having hope in his resurrection and the promise of an eternal reward. We follow Jesus initially and continually by repenting of our sins, by obtaining a remission of our sins and retaining a remission of sins through humbling ourselves before God in asking forgiveness. We follow Jesus through our motivation of love for him and His goodness, this love, in its purest, form is charity.

Jesus has provided for an atonement of our sins which has made it possible that our sins be remitted through our repentance. He has given us an example both in word and in deed of how to live through his own life here on earth by his works and ministry. He has demonstrated the goodness of God through his own character and personal qualities. He has given us assurance of being resurrected through his own resurrection. He has given us hope for eternal life through the promise of his word.

"And he said unto the children of men, Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus, save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father? And the Father said, Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my beloved Son.

"And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism: yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; Yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.

"But behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying, After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this, should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me.

"And I heard a voice from the Father, saying, Yea, the words of my beloved, are true and faithful. He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved." (2 Nephi 13:12-20)

Keep Your Mind Stayed on the Lord

(A sermon by Priest Gilbert Schultz at Portland, Oregon)
October 16, 1955

Text: "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself."

Preachers, psychiatrists, psychologists and writers are kept busy these days trying to dish out comfort to distraught humanity. Tension, frustration, strain, mental disturbance, neurosis and insecurity are the highlights of periodicals, sermons, radio programs and television. At bedtime children and parents see television scenes built around characters who should be in the insane asylums. "The percentage of mentally ill on TV," writes a reporter, "far exceeds the percentage of mentally ill in real life; and the mentally ill in real life are said to occupy a quarter of all the hospital beds in this country." A noted doctor said that "ninety percent of the people that come to me are suffering from unconfessed sins and conviction;" he said, "their physical symptoms and their mental diseases disappear when they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior." Psychiatrists are beginning to realize that most of the cases are spiritual problems, and require spiritual treatment, and it is becoming more and more obvious that truths pitched out the front door by modernists and apostate preachers are being brought back through the back door by secular thinkers.

What has brought about most of the weariness of heart and mind prevalent today? The remedy offered thousands of years ago suggests the cause: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)

Men's minds are too much stayed upon themselves. They are trying through entertainment, money, divorce, immorality and drink to give themselves the peace which only God can give: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you." Too few people are willing to meet the conditions which will secure to them genuine peace. There is a mandatory price to pay; whole-hearted allegiance to Jesus Christ the Lord, and his way of life.

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14) God does not suspend his moral law to please carnal minds, or even to please his own followers. Many prefer to do what some worldly teacher, philosopher, psychiatrist, or their self-centered interests urge them to do. If they acknowledge God's authority at all, their concern is merely to determine how they may safely follow their own will and stay out of trouble with God.

Popular with some people are the writers and the preachers who tell them they are in reality

gods themselves; that they can do anything that they set their minds upon; that they are unlimited in mental power if they but call it into action; that they need no outside or spiritual assistance; and that a merciful God will overlook their human failures if they are sincere about what they are doing. With this carnal and false assurance many have been led to create a "god" easy to please, make their own bible which is kind to sin and assures them of a heaven which will accept their kind of spirituality.

A cartoon in a local paper graphically expresses this tendency. A customer asked for a Bible. The clerk replied, "We are all out of Bibles, but here is something just as good."

The God of the universe, the God of omniscience, the God of the Bible knows well what is in man; and that he is prone to exalt himself, and loves to be exalted, and the warning is sounded: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;..." (Romans 12:3)

Apart from God man is truly an abnormal creature and he seldom improves if he has no model but himself, or others like him to copy after. It has been well said that "we can choose our model, our guide, our way; the low way offers immediate and trivial rewards. The high road is the harder road, but it has the nobler company."

With the persistent tendency of man, to lead him to establish his own moral law, revel in his scientific achievement, be reliant upon self instead of upon God, his progress is almost wholly materialistic, and fruitful in increasing his problems and bringing down upon him his certain destruction. It is self-evident that the more technology he develops, the more wars he has to fight. The only hope for man in his self-exalted state is that he will look to God to intervene and rescue him from himself.

To come to the rescue of a languishing and morally bankrupt world of men, there is but one God powerful enough and one church holy enough. There are "churches" but only one church—a company of redeemed souls, born-again souls, the invisible church, who are watching, hoping, praying for their Lord's return.

We are today living in the latter part of the time mentioned as the "time of falling away" when the man of sin was to arise, the son of perdition, the

anti-christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:9), "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs of lying wonders." According to prophecy when the wickedness and iniquity of this world would reach its culmination this man would appear. Some believe the antichrist means a certain system that would arise. There would be a certain system it is true, but there would be a man at the head of that system who would rule in diabolical power, one whose coming would be after the working of satan. We read in Revelation 13:2 that the dragon gave this man his power, and his seat, and great authority. The dragon is that old serpent the devil, and this man of sin is given power to rule over all kindred, tongues, and nations—entire political power is exercised by him. In Revelation 13:7, we read that during this rule the time would come when no man might buy or sell, save he had the name of the beast or the number of his name. All the necessities of life are under his control; all economic power is in his hand. Military power is his also. In his estate he shall "honor the god of forces." (Daniel 11:38) All the world will wonder after him. Multitudes will worship him. When a man arises and gains world-wide control of political power, economic power, military power and religious power, he has control of the world. Such a ruler is portrayed. In speaking to the Thessalonians of the coming of the Lord, Paul told them of a falling away which would pave the way for this man of sin to appear before Christ comes to reign.

Paul said:

"Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 9, 10)

One of the marked characteristics of the religious world is the "falling away" which has taken place in the denominations that once had power. Many have turned away from the truth and denied the cardinal doctrines that once constituted the bulwark of the Christian faith.

There has been a radical change since the days when Christians as a whole believed and clung to those teachings which made them strong in the Lord. Those teachings once believed, are now called "superstitions." What is the result of this change that has swept the world? Religion has been modernized. The Bible has been revised and modernized. Religion has been brought up to date, they say, to deal with modern times. But we know that the one who gets results and obtains God's

favor, is the one who believes the eternal word. God's inspired word, as it was written in the beginning still stands true today, regardless of the multitudes that deny its truth.

This "falling away" is alarming. It has become a state of apostasy, and one of these days the apostate church will assert itself. We can see its workings. People by the thousand are being deceived by so-called ministers of God who no longer believe in God's miraculous power. They no longer believe in the miracles recorded in the sacred word. They are athiests at heart, standing behind the pulpit professing to preach the gospel.

From a survey of 1500 clergymen 50 percent did not believe in a Devil; 60 percent did not believe in angels; 80 percent did not believe in hell; 73 percent did not believe that a spiritual birth was necessary; 86 percent said it was not necessary for Christ to shed his blood; and 89 percent did not believe in the supernatural virgin birth of Christ. The Bible has been modernized. The revised standard version gives question to the divinity of the Son of God through eliminating the word "virgin." Christ is now regarded as merely a man on the level with all other men.

A professor in a theological seminary says: "The field is open for any one at any time to mean more to men than Jesus has meant. He was a human being." A very prominent theologian also denies Christ's divinity. He blatantly says, "I do not believe in the virgin birth, or in that old-fashioned substitutionary doctrine of the atonement; and I do not know any intelligent Christian minister who does." This new revised version has abandoned the sacred forms of "thee" and "thou" except they say, when addressing God; but in Matthew 16:16 they quote Peter addressing Christ as "you" instead of "Thou" art the Christ. And Christ Jesus is one of the Godhead!

Truly the "falling away" has taken place, and we can expect the fulfillment of all the prophecies which are to follow this departure from the word of God. The rule of the antichrist is no longer an event to be expected in some far distant future.

Today there are at least 300 claiming to be Christ or God. Another fulfillment of prophecy. One of these men claims a following of 50,000 throughout the world. The world has been and is yet ready to worship antichrist, who, the Bible says, would exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he as God would sit in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. God's word is being fulfilled at a rapid rate and the day of trouble is near at hand.

In Matthew 24 Jesus foretold wars and rumors of wars, of nation rising against nation, a condition that would exist prior to and after the appearance of this man of sin, the antichrist. And we have witnessed disturbances, tumults and wars, and preparation for still greater wars, until today the world is a fearful place in which to live. The officials of our

(See **Stayed on the Lord** page 189)

"He'll Be There"

The Lord doesn't always keep me from making mistakes. Occasionally He lets me go my own willful way, perhaps to bring to my remembrance that He is always there and mindful of those who believe and trust in Him.

I had persuaded myself that I had to make a trip to Scotts Bluff, Nebraska. It was a hurried trip - a little more than one day there, a few hours in Scotts Bluff, and I had hoped to make Rawlins, Wyoming, on the return before stopping.

It was almost dark when I left Kimball, Nebraska, but I like night driving so long as there are no storm threats. I knew of none so I happily made my way along the sometimes treacherous stretch of I-80 known to the truckers as the "Ho Chi Minh Trail."

Rain began to fall just before reaching Cheyenne. It was a gentle rain and so far as I could see, posed no threat, so I kept driving. After I had reached the point of no return for a Cheyenne exit I was suddenly aware that visibility was approaching zero and my windshield wipers were useless. And it wasn't rain, it was driving, blinding snow. I couldn't believe it. Without warning I was unable to see the road. Truck traffic was heavy. I couldn't tell whether I was on the right or left side of the highway, in the middle, or on the pavement at all. Trucks were passing me and for a few feet I could see their tail lights. I crept along at ten to fifteen miles per hour with tail lights to follow at sufficient intervals to keep me from hav-



ing to stop in the middle of the highway or wherever I chanced to be.

I prayed like I've never prayed before - for myself, that is. It's much easier to pray for others. But on occasions such as this the survival instinct rears its head and it isn't hard to see that you have only one source of help and you'd best not be timid about asking for it. I prayed, "Please, God, make the snow stop." Almost immediately the snow stopped falling and I thought I had clear sailing. I said,

"Thank you, Lord" and began to make headway.

I hadn't gone far until the snow began to fall again in all its fury. I cried aloud, "Please, God, show me the way and help me to survive." A truck passed me at a much slower speed than the other traffic and began to creep along in front of me at a close enough range that his tail lights were dimly visible through the heavy snowfall. I followed every track he made, from right to left and back, for what reason I didn't know but it was my only choice. Occasionally he blinked his lights in a pattern I didn't understand but suspected it was a signal intended to convey a message. (My CB radio had been removed from my car in Scotts Bluff.) It appeared my understanding was sufficient as he continued to creep along in front of me while I gripped the steering wheel, thanked the Lord and followed the tail lights.

After an interminable distance the snowfall abated to the point that I could see the exit signs at the edge of Laramie. I watched closely for the Third Street exit and with a deep sigh of relief and profuse thanks to God I pulled onto Third Street. Just before I took the exit the eighteen-wheeler who had been my guide took off and was out of sight within seconds. It was as though he had said, "You can handle it from here."

My Wyoming neighbor observed, "Yeah, that's the way truck drivers are - they always watch out for four-wheelers - and the reason all the other trucks passed you by was that they knew you had all the help you needed."

They may have seen that I was being guided but they couldn't know I had "all the help I needed." Probably at least a few of the drivers would have acknowledged that God did indeed have a hand in it. Only God and I knew to what extent. I'd been having trouble with my car for several months and hadn't been able to keep it running while driving at slow speeds. It had a habit of stalling in traffic, leaving me without braking or steering power. (I was to have driven a new car home from Scotts Bluff but those plans went awry.)

I didn't think about it until I was safely inside my motel room at the Third Street exit. Then the thought struck me - not once did my car stall!

I fell to my knees to thank God, and I thank Him still today - that He was mindful of my need, and in ways of His own choosing brought me safely through the storm on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

"He'll be there without your asking
He is there without your knowing.
He'll be there - It is His promise to you."

Elma M. Hooker
2859 Hall Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

(Article submitted by Elder Alvin Harris, Independence, Mo.)

Recently I have been worrying about getting clothes for the children - especially Timothy as he is growing so fast. We find it hard to keep up with clothes sizes since children's clothes are so expensive. Then, today, I was looking through a cupboard for some maternity clothes, for a girl who hasn't been able to buy any, when I discovered a box of children's clothes. These had been sent over by some Church members a few months ago but were too big for the children at the time, so I had put them away until the children had grown and eventually forgot about them. Now they fit perfectly! It just goes to show that worrying does no good. God is in control and I thank God that I found them. Doesn't He care?

Kate Rosen (British Isles)

"... the place where thou standest is holy ground."
Acts 7:33

Thirty-five years ago, my husband and I spent a winter in the Independence area. The lay of the city, streets and directions, was totally strange to me, and during those months, as I would be riding about with Sr. Gladys Nast, I rarely had any idea where I was in relation to anywhere else.

As everyone knows, who knows the city well, there are as with every block, at least eight streets or directions by which one approaches the Temple Lot; but in the case of the Temple Lot there are three more approaches. At the time of which I write these streets were not familiar to me so I never realized when we were in the vicinity of the Temple Lot when enroute to... wherever.

At this time of not knowing my whereabouts, I began to have a very singular experience, repeated time and again. While riding along I would feel an invisible eminence, a sensation of light and warmth and blessedness as though something very beneficent was smiling upon us. The impression was so strong that I would look about me to see from whence the source, and always we would be coming up to, or passing the Temple Lot. So profound was the sense of the blessedness emanating from that place, I would turn and smile in response.

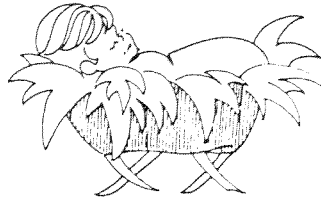
This experience never occurred when I knew I was approaching that sacred spot of ground, nor does it now that I am familiar with the area and always know when I am in the vicinity of it.

To me this is a witness and a testimony that when God consecrates a place for a specific purpose, it does indeed become holy ground, and that hallowedness is more real and all but a tangible thing.

Amy Schrader

Do They Know It's Christ's Birthday?

by Kate Rosen
(British Isles)



It's Christmas time again, a time to turn our thoughts, more than usual, to Jesus and His birth. A time to rejoice and be glad at His marvellous conception, His life and ministry. But how many people in today's society can say that they really understand fully the true meaning of Christmas? How many can say that they think about Christ at Christmas and how many really care anyway?

Christmas has lost all its meaning for a lot of people and instead has been turned into an advertising tool for big companies. Instead of a joyous time it is a time of sorrow for many people who scrimp and scrape to buy presents for people that they really can't afford and yet they are made to feel guilty if they don't. The "goodwill towards men" has been turned to greed in a "gimme, gimme" world. Everyone wants bigger and better things to keep up with fashion and don't seem to care about getting into debt to do it.

Do we as Christians spend as much time as we should at this time of year thinking of Christ or do we, too, get entangled in the commercialism of it all? Has Satan found the perfect tool with which to rule us? Can he, now, get at our very nature, our selfishness, and distract our thoughts from the important things? With a lot of people in today's world I think he has and we must fight back.

A dilemma which I suppose has faced a lot of parents at one time or another during this season, is whether or not to tell our children about Santa Claus. That nice, fat, jolly old man who very kindly comes down the chimney, leaves lots of presents, has a minced pie and disappears until next year. Santa might be a nice story, but could he, too, be a tool of Satan to divert our thoughts from Jesus? Have you ever realised that an anagram of Santa is Satan? This could be an interesting and very important point in your decision next time you think about what to tell your child. Surely the best thing to do is **not** to tell a fairy tale that you are going to have to say isn't true in a few years (and perhaps have your child distrust you in the future), but to tell them the wonderful truth of His birth.

Perhaps we should all, this year, make a special effort not to be dragged into the commercialism of the season and spend more than we can afford. Instead, let's share the good news with as many people as possible to help them understand the real meaning of Christmas.

FAITH, A DETERMINING FACTOR

A Condensed Sermon by Apostle William A. Sheldon



PART THREE (Conclusion)

In the Book of Mormon, Mormon 4:89, we read: "...Now behold, who can stand against the works of the Lord? Who can deny his sayings?"

There are people right within the ranks of the Church of Christ that are denying the sayings of God. I mean by that, there are revelations given of God in the latter days, and they will not have anything to do with them. They say all we need is the Bible and the Book of Mormon. That's a fallacy, because God has spoken in the latter days just as well as He has spoken to the ancient ones, as we find recorded in our Bible and Book of Mormon. It is important to recognize that God has spoken in the latter days, and the things which He has given are just as valid and scriptural as those things which are recorded in what we call the scriptures, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. It is true that we have to be discerning. We need to be careful that we do not swallow all things that come to us professing to be the word of God, but God has spoken in the latter days. There is a spirit of unbelief in the world, and there is a spirit of unbelief in the Church of Christ. Do not think that just because you're a member of the Church of Christ that all is well. If you are possessed of a spirit of unbelief, you are not going to be numbered amongst those to whom will be revealed the things that the Brother of Jared saw. You will not be numbered amongst them unless you are of the disposition to believe God. Let's read on: "Who can deny His sayings? Who will rise up against the almighty power of the Lord? Who will despise the works of the Lord? Who will despise the children of Christ? Behold, all ye who are despisers of the works of the Lord, for ye shall wonder and perish".

Those who are despisers of the works of the Lord shall wonder and perish! Wonder carries with it the thought of doubt. We cannot be a doubtful people. I am saying this just as much to myself as I am to any of you because I'll have to admit that there have been times, because of things that have developed in which we have seen the innovations of men, in which we have seen the changes in the revelations, I also have been somewhat disposed to doubt. But there needs to be a turnaround. We need to turn ourselves around and become a believing people, not doubters.

"O then, despise not...Doubt not, but be believing..." (vs. 92-93) There is the answer. "Doubt not but be believing...."

Do you see why I feel it is necessary that we really lay hold upon the faith that has been

delivered to us in the latter days, not only a faith in the words that have come and in the truthfulness of the latter day work, but really a faith in Jesus Christ that will enable us to stand against the terrible times that are in the world today which are to increase in their terror and their afflictions upon the nations of men insomuch that many will be destroyed both physically and spiritually. It can come, and already is coming, to some extent within the church. We need believers and not doubters, believers unto the keeping of the commandments of God.

Two elements of faith are 1) Belief. You have to believe upon God. You have to believe upon the name of Christ, or you can't possibly have faith. You have to be willing to believe, at least. The world is full of those who claim to believe in Him, and yet the fact is that they do not keep the commandments of God as are recorded in the scriptures; this gainsays their claim of belief in Christ. 2) Trust is the second element connected with faith. We found that in our scripture text. Trust in God, for He is our Jehovah, our everlasting strength. There must be, not only a belief in God, but a trust that He will save His people, and that He will accomplish all things that He has set His hand to do. How many of us firmly believe with all of our hearts that this sealed portion of the Book of Mormon is yet to come forth? I believe that all of you who are older would raise your hand to that. But do you believe to the degree that your trust is in God, insomuch that you are willing to yield yourself in complete obedience unto Him, that you might have His spirit to be with you? I have mentioned the element of obedience. We have belief, trust, obedience, and faithfulness.

I am going to talk about belief a little bit more because I think connected with belief is the principle of reverence to God. You really cannot say that you believe in God if you do not have the spirit of reverence. And that is a holy awe of that divine being who is so much greater than we are, for we are nothing in comparison to God; yet we are great in His view because He has made us and He loves us. Speaking of reverence and how much we need to be motivated by the spirit of reverence in our conversation and in our daily life and activity, I want to draw you a word picture that cannot be put any better than is found in Revelation 5. I am going to ask you to imagine that you are standing some place and suddenly, just as it was with the apostle John, your vision is opened up, and this is what

you see (11th verse):

"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"

Angels! This isn't the total creations, but angels of God. You are looking up and you are seeing that.

"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

Can you feature yourself seeing a vision like that? Perhaps none of us have seen the likes of it; but John saw it, and he saw something that was real. Can you imagine him looking up and seeing that, and saying, "Well, the man upstairs is quite a fella, isn't He?" No, I am sure that he was saying within his heart, "My Lord and my God! My Creator! I worship you! I adore you with all those hosts of heaven!" I am suggesting that we need to be careful how we talk about God. We need to be filled with a spirit of reverence. We need to feel that awe of the majesty of our almighty God and Father in heaven. Not only that, but to realize that even though we may not be seeing Him in vision, He is seeing us. He is looking within our hearts to see the things that are there.

I am going to read Revelation 5:6: "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." Do you know what those spirits are: Those are seven angelic beings. They are going throughout all the earth, and are looking to see where the faith toward God is, the faith in Jesus Christ. They are looking to see what is in the hearts of the children of men. Seven bright spirits (angels) of God are going upon the face of the earth and looking to see if they can find faith toward God.

What about it? Is it in your heart? Can they see it? Will there be that faith that will permit us to be, indeed, the children of God? That we should not be ashamed when He shall come again upon the earth? Is there that reverence within us? Where are we in the hour of the preaching service? Well, you're right here right now, just exactly where you should be. Again, where are we in the hour of prayer when the saints meet together to worship God? Some of us may be there and some of us may not. I am saying: that is where we should be if at all possible, because these are the things that will be a determining factor in the sight of God as

to whether or not we shall have sufficient faith so that He can reveal the things which were revealed to the Brother of Jared.

We say that we believe in the building of a temple of the Lord in the latter days where Christ will come again. I want to say, as I ponder these things in my mind: I cannot see how in the world the Church of Christ can build a temple unto the Lord, of ourselves. I do not see any possibility. We will have to develop the kind of faith that believes it shall be built, a place where Christ shall suddenly come to His temple, and where He will perfect His ministry in the doctrine of Christ and in all things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and prepare the way whereby Zion shall be a reality, a people dwelling in His presence; this because of faith, real faith that keeps the commandments of God; faith, also, that reaches out toward brothers and sisters in their need, and others in their needs as well, and imparts unto them as God has imparted unto us, just as the son of God imparted as He walked upon the earth. I have said it before; I'll say it again: Zion will never be a reality except upon the terms of "all things common" operating within the lives of the people of God. This, too, is an element of faith, a faith that produces love, a faith that produces a desire to obey God, which obedience will bring down the favor of God and will be a determining factor as to whether or not we will be numbered with the saints of God when Christ shall come again upon the earth. These are sobering thoughts. They are thoughts that I would that we should take into our hearts because there is a weeding out process right now. There is a separation that is taking place of the righteous from the wicked. We read that Christ is going to do that when He comes, but already it is in process. There is a separation being brought about between those who will have faith in God and those who will not.

Marvelous things await those who will keep the latter day restoration faith, and whose personal faith will increase to liken that of the Brother of Jared; a faith which can only come through righteousness and obedience to God.

PICTURES

by Angela Wheaton

(Reprinted from the May, 1933 *Zion's Advocate*)

Years ago, when I was a child, I stood and eagerly watched an artist as he prepared to paint a picture on a canvas stretched on the easel before him. Taking his palette in one hand and his brush in the other he began, to my utter amazement, and I might almost say disgust, to smear the whole surface of that pretty, clean canvas with an ugly, almost colorless paint. And then, even worse, he began to daub first one color, then another, here

and there over the surface.

My soul fairly gasped with an urge to grab his arm and stop him. It was just an ugly mess, as if some child, for want of some better way to amuse himself, had taken all the colors of paint he could find and had flipped them all over it. There was not even harmony of color. I thought to myself, "I'll bet if that canvas could talk, it would cry out with all its might against that man (for I could not even think of him as an artist) for smearing its surface with those ugly daubs of paint." I wanted to close my eyes tightly to shut out the sight, but curiosity was too strong.

As his brush deftly swept here and there, I began to notice the colors blend and - yes, there was a lake and beautiful trees on the shore line, a field of waving grain, a flock of wild ducks in the distance, the pink and gold and purple of the setting sun; then beyond a knoll, a house seemed to take form and up the country road, leading to it, came the lowly lord of it all, with his team and wagon and his faithful dog trotting contentedly behind, the day's work done.

The artist stepped back a little distance and, tipping his head a bit to one side, viewed his creation there before him. It was beautiful indeed, and I marveled that a thing so beautiful could come from such an ugly beginning. But he had seen the end from the beginning, as I could not.

Through the years that have passed over my head since that day, I have, in my moments of calm, silent reflection, perceived another Artist who paints day in and day out, never tiring, never ceasing. This time you and I are the canvases, and as the picture of our life is completed, the Master Artist will place us one by one in his collection, in a "place prepared" for us. But the beauty of the picture of our life depends upon our willingness to submit to the stroke of his hand.

Sometimes, as those ugly daubs of paint are placed upon our canvases, we cry out with all our hearts and souls against it, just as I thought, as a child, the other canvas should. And we wonder why God ruled and over-ruled this way or that; why he did not give us this thing or that which we wanted so much; why he gave it to another who did not appreciate it; why this burden or that cross was placed upon us instead of some other, upon whom it would not have been such a cross; all of which, to us, are ugly daubs of paint in which we can find no beauty or harmony. And looking upon the picture of our own life, as thus far painted, we say, "Where is the beauty? Where is the harmony? It isn't right. Now if I had had my way, this would have been left out," or, "that would have been put in."

But wait - The Great Artist has not yet finished your picture. That ugly daub of paint, under which you now chafe and which seems to spoil the beau-

ty of the whole picture, has not yet taken form. Perhaps it is destined in the mind of the Great Artist to develop in your soul that which will be the most beautiful part of all. And you, if you were allowed to control the brush, would leave it out?

Yes, we poor, weak human beings are like that, unable to see the end from the beginning, as our Creator can see. But, thank God, there are things over which we have no control. There are things which God will not, by giving us our way, allow us to spoil.

As you stand beside the flower-strewn bier of a loved one and your heart is crushed within you, could you not sweetly yield to that stroke of the Master Hand, if you could look ahead and know that that touch was necessary to cause to bloom forth in your life, gentleness and sympathy?

Could you not bear the sickness or sore affliction which seems your lot to bear, without murmur or complaint, if you knew it to be the stroke required to develop in your soul that sterling quality, patience?

If your canvas be touched with some great disaster, so powerful in its stroke that it almost destroys reason, could you not face it with a brave heart, if you knew that it had to be in order to bring out that latent virtue, courage?

If what you long for most in life is continually just beyond reach, would you revolt and become bitter, if you could see that that was the mellowing influence needed to work within the deep recesses of your soul a sweet and humble spirit?

When one you love dearly has given you a deep hurt, would you not continue to pray until you could say from the very depth of your soul, as did our Savior, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," if you could realize it would make you know the true meaning of charity?

Would you long for personal charm or beauty, if you knew it would become that deadly barnacle, vanity?

Would you have the faintest desire for a place of honor, if you knew it would be the means of sending your soul to hell?

Ah! dear fellow-works-of-art, that Great Artist who is working with us tirelessly to make our lives something useful, and, because of their usefulness, beautiful, desires to blend those ugly daubs of paint into something infinitely lovely; and he will, if we but submit to the strokes of his brush, painful though they may. We shall look upon our canvas then and be thankful.

God tries us, not to hurt us, not to crush us, but to perfect, polish, and beautify us. Let us, then, who feel the stroke of the Master Hand, though it be as a death blow, yield, remembering that He has said, "All things work together for good to them that love God."

The Broken Heart of Christmas

by Priest Martin J. Rosen
(British Isles)



Have you ever wondered where the story of Santa Claus comes from? Legend has it that there was an old man who lived in central Europe hundreds of years ago. He knew all the children in the area and, once a year, would reward their good deeds with gifts.

As we come upon this Christmas season perhaps we, as the Church of Christ, should take time to remember and reconsider our beliefs and standards relative to the birth of our Saviour.

We only need to look around us to see that mankind is in a lost and fallen state. None of us are truly righteous and all of us continually fall and commit sin despite our most ardent efforts. Isaiah (64:6) describes our situation most aptly when he says: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." The Apostle Paul, also, was in the same situation as we all are: "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do." (Romans 7:15) What is the answer?

Israel, the chosen nation of the Lord, wandered literally and spiritually, for hundreds of years, oppressed by many nations, awaiting and praying for the coming of the Anointed One, the Messiah, to save them. The ancient American inhabitants also knew of the coming of the Holy One. Lehi, Nephi, Alma and others knew about the birth, life, mission and death of Christ. But, due to human nature and the wiles of the devil, the people in general forgot the prophecies or treated them as naught.

God's chosen ones tried and tried to bring the people to repentance preparatory to the coming of Christ. We just need to look at the example of Samuel the Lamanite: Threatened with death and thrown from the city, he could not, nay, he **would** not stop his witness for Christ (Helaman 5:2-5; 111-119).

Stayed on the Lord from page 183

land are puzzled. Statesmen are trying hard to solve the problems facing them, but they are failing—failing because the world is rejecting the Prince of Peace. Fear has gripped the hearts of many. We read statements by various prominent officials: The third world war is inevitable. The end cannot be far distant. Time is short. Humanity has had its last chance, like in the days of Noah. Our President says that unless there is a regeneration throughout the world, there is no hope for mankind. Jesus said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

At both the birth and death of the Saviour there were many signs and wonders on both continents but we find that, no matter how miraculous His birth, still the people would not receive Him or believe in Him. The very people who saw His miracles in the land of Jerusalem, denied Him and demanded His torturous death. On the western hemisphere, apathy and disbelief led to the persecution of the believing few and thus we see how things are even down to this present day.

All the works and mercies of God and still the people would not believe!!

Even now at the Christmas season people forget the Christ-child and are too wrapped up with the giving of gifts and commercialism. The name of the Master has even been removed and now we have just an anonymous "X-mas." (In the London Borough of Lambeth last year the figure of the infant Christ was removed from the town's nativity scene because it was male and therefore sexist!!) Santa Claus has replaced Jesus Christ as the centre of the celebrations and the true meaning of Christmas is lost from people's thoughts and desires. No longer is it a sacred time to remember the first advent of our Lord, but a time to "eat, drink and be merry."

We can deeply appreciate the lament of Christ over the unbelieving at Jerusalem. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." Matthew 23:37

Let us not be like those of old who forsook and ignored the words of the prophets. As we remember the birth of our only Saviour and Redeemer, let us prepare ourselves for his re-appearing – **let us be ready**. Let us unite together in the worship of our Lord.

"Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."

These awful conditions are the result of centuries of sin. We are nearing the day of the consummation of the world's iniquity. Every individual needs to awaken to the fact that the predictions made in God's word are being fulfilled. We need not question the matter. The Bible tells us what is coming to pass. While the true gospel is being preached, the Lord is holding in restraint the powers of Darkness that are about to burst forth. But there is a day that will end that restraint.

How are we going to escape? We were told to establish Zion, as it is prophesied man must needs flee to Zion for safety. And again, "Blessed are

(Continued on page 190)

they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost." Please let me quote a few verses of the Luff poem of prophecy:

"The vials of fury, poured forth everywhere,
Shall fill the ungodly with woe and
despair;
No bond shall withhold them, no cov'nant
restrain
From slaughter for vengeance nor pillage
for gain.

"Though millions are heedless and
scoffers deride,
'Twill come, and come shortly, and WHO
SHALL ABIDE!
Make answer, O Zion, for surely within

Your borders shall cleansing and
judgment begin.

"If, loving your God and neighbor, you'll
purge
Yourselves of all selfishness—fear not
the scourge!
For angels shall camp where beholding
this sign
Of sainthood, and guard you, because ye
are mine.

"The Father saith 'Yea!'—the spirit 'Amen!'
Repeat to the nations this warning again:
The end is approaching—Redemption is
near
And Jesus, ere long, will in glory appear."

—NEWS—

British Isles News

Hello again from the British Isles.

Most of you reading this will know that we have just recently returned from the States after a lot of Church members raised the money to help us reach the U.S. We had a great time during our five week visit and managed to visit both Independence and Phoenix, not to mention some isolated members in Payson and Missouri. Being isolated members ourselves we could relate very well with the situation these people are in. We know how difficult it is to keep strong in the faith and not get discouraged.

However, since we arrived back in England, things have begun to happen. We are holding meetings regularly in Burnley; a nearby town; and are teaching six other people in Nelson. We also have a few other people who are interested in the Church, but who want to take things more cautiously, although we are not in the business of rushing people. Also we are trying to contact a couple of people in Wales who are on the Advocate mailing list, to see if they would like to be visited or if we could be of any other service to them. (If you are reading this, **please** contact us!)

As well as these contacts, we are learning other languages so we can be of use to the Master in whatever situation and to do some missionary work, abroad perhaps. We are in the process of having various Church literature translated into Italian for some of the Italians in the community and also for help in overseas work.

We have managed to get permission to place copies of the Zion's Advocate in library reading rooms in a few towns around about, so hopefully we will have some contact us through this. (Your prayers would be gratefully appreciated in this matter, as some District librarians forbid the use of religious materials in their libraries.)

So as you can see, things are really starting to move over here. I feel that this is the Spirit of God, but that also it is due to the help and encouragement we had from meeting our brothers and sisters in America. I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all the people who made our trip possible; we could not have done it without you.

Pray for us as we pray for you. Stay strong and true to the Gospel and you will be blessed. We have been - and still are. The Gospel is TRUE: let's share it.

Reporter Kate Rosen

Minneapolis News

Greetings to our Brothers and Sisters:

Elder Merlin Eddy continues to meet with our people in Wisconsin. On October 18, there were ten present at the home of Sister Margie Caine in Black River Falls, to hear Brother Merlin speak. Merlin's parents, "Hook" and Grace had returned from a vacation trip which started with a birthday party for Grace's sister in Kansas; took them through several western states where they visited family and friends, and was of a month's duration. We were

delighted to see them looking happy and rested on October 11, at our Minneapolis Church.

After presentation of an appeal for the Honduran refugees at a church of another denomination, Brother and Sister John Gill were approached by a woman who asked, "Just how much do you really need to take care of the expenses of the trip to Honduras?" John named the sizeable amount the trip will require. To their surprise the woman's reply was, "I think you will have that amount on Saturday." She continued, "My husband and I have been abundantly blessed, and have been looking for someone to help, where we would know that our assistance would go directly to the people who need it." The woman sent the specified amount to the Gills; and That Miracle will send Nana and eighteen other volunteers to Honduras on Wednesday, October 28. The tally of volunteers is eleven from this area, six from Iowa, and two from Missouri. Among that number are Sister Jo Eddy from Clinton, Missouri, and the Gills young son, Ronnie, who will receive "life experience" credits from his school for the trip. The length of their stay will depend upon how quickly they can distribute the 100,000 pounds of goods. The return trip is scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving; but they hope to return to their families before Thanksgiving. A happy experience is anticipated: Our prayers to that end, and for their safety, health, and early return will accompany them. The Lord has been with them in their enlisting of assistance and volunteers to help with the distributing.

Our Pastor and wife were gone for three Sundays on a trip to the West Coast. During their absence the life of the Church continued with the help of the Local ministry. This points up the wisdom of the ministerial structure of our Church of Christ, which provides stability and continuity to our Church Life.

A telephone call on October 24 to Sister Lillian Brown was a special joy to Forest & I! Lillian who lives alone in Gladbrook, Iowa, had been quite ill in August and had gone home to Missouri with her daughter, Mary. We were delighted to find her back home and well. She told us she received a "Volume Control Receiver" (an August-89th-Birthday gift) which enables her to hear telephone callers' voices really well. Lillian has wonderful enthusiasm for life and always tells us how good God is to her. She is in our prayers regularly. (She is a doll maker.) And she is also an inspiration!

I hereby make apology to Alice and Joe Carney of Bloomington, Delaware for mis-stating their relocation as the State of New Jersey. Their move for job reasons has held much difficulty for them. They are in our prayers.

As we look forward to the Christmas Holiday Season we are sharply aware that what we are celebrating is not merely the birth of a baby: But is the beginning of the preparation for the Great Sacrifice which provides the Salvation of mankind. In keeping with this thought—to you all—we extend Congratulations on Your Opportunity for Eternal Life. We wish you much Joy, therefore, as we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord and Savior.

Irene Maley, reporting
201 Satellite Lane N.E. Apt. 9
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Index to Zion's Advocate

Volume 64 (1987)

Title/Author	No.	Page	Title/Author	No.	Page
An Ability We All Have—G. Housknecht	7	98	Mission of Christ to the Dead		
Advancement of the Fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (part 1)—S. Gould	9	133	—H. E. Seibel	4	58
Advancement of the Fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (part 2)—S. Gould	10	147	Obituaries:		
Baptism Birthday Cards—E. Toulouse	12	179	Bergey, Earl V.	10	155
Baptism—The Critical Step—H. E. Seibel	11	167	Caviness, Oren A.	5	73
Big Words for Little People			DeGroot, Nellie	5	75
—Warrensburg Local	6	90	Hanes, Edith	4	62
The Broken Heart of Christmas			Hedrick, James A.	7	109
—M. Rosen	12	189	Johnson, Mary Esther Bell	3	43
Calico (N.C.) Local Studies Zion	4	60	Lussenden, Wayne O.	3	43
The Cause of Zion—D. McIndoo	4	52	Richards, Nellie Jones	6	91
Charity—V. Filley	1	10	Willard, (Yates) Ruth	5	76
Choose A Friend, Not A Drug—S. Butts	8	119	Of What is There to Boast—A. Schrader	2	27
Christmas Time 1987—E. Toulouse	12	178	Path Lights:		
The Cleansing Power of Blood			Childhood Remembrances—G. Nast	1	7
(part 1)—R. Jensen	3	36	God Speaks—S. Bailey	5	70
The Cleansing Power of Blood			He'll Be There—E. Hooker	12	184
(part 2)—R. Jensen	4	54	Indeed A Blessing—J. Banta	6	88
Concerning Our Whereabouts—V. Filley	2	26	No Accident—S. Bailey	3	41
1987 Conference Report—B. Sheldon	7	102	My Place of Solace—D. Vogel	5	71
The Desire of All Nations—J. Schut	1	8	Testimony—M. Frank	10	152
Devorah—J. Welch	7	105	Testimony—R. Jensen	11	168
Do They Know It's Christ's			Testimony—P. McGhee	8	120
Birthday?—K. Rosen	12	185	Testimony—K. Rosen	12	185
Faith, A Determining Factor			Testimony—A. Schrader	12	185
(part 1)—W. Sheldon	10	151	Testimony—S. Seibel	10	152
Faith, A Determining Factor			A Testimony of the Power of God		
(part 2)—W. Sheldon	11	165	—M. Ely	2	24
Faith, A Determining Factor			Thank You—B. Downs	5	71
(part 3)—W. Sheldon	12	186	Unseen Friends—K. Rosen	1	7
The Father's Work—H. E. Seibel	1	4	Uplifting As Rain to a Field		
A Future of Despair or Hope—R. Temple	5	66	of Rye—G. Bentson	3	41
God's Eternal Purposes in the End			A Warm Welcome—F. Yates	2	25
of Man—R. Sarratt	12	180	Where is the Church of Christ		
God's Judgment - The Law of Cause			—S. Bailey	2	25
and Effect—T. Maley	8	114	The People of Zion—W. Sheldon	7	99
Our Heritage—R. Sarratt	8	115	Pictures—A. Wheaton	12	187
If They Will But Serve The God			Rekindle the Cause of Zion—R. Sarratt	1	2
of The Land—R. Sarratt	2	18	Set Time to Favor Zion—M. Ely	9	130
Judge or Judge Not—H. E. Seibel	6	89	Sexual Activity Outside Wedlock		
Keep Your Mind Stayed on the			is Forbidden—G. Housknecht	3	34
Lord—G. Schultz	12	182	Steps Toward Zion (part 1)—S. Gould	5	67
The Law of Liberty—G. Gill	9	131	Steps Toward Zion (part 2)—S. Gould	6	83
Lessons on Angels—Warrensburg Local	8	121	The Strictness of God—H. E. Seibel	9	136
A Letter Home—N. Smith	10	149	They All Slumbered and Slept		
Living Up To and Defending Our			—D. McIndoo	11	162
Heritage—K. Smith	4	50	To All Mothers on Mother's Day—J. Butts	5	72
The Lord's Holy Day—S. Gould	2	20	Tribute to Dad Caviness	5	73
Love Me—J. James	1	10	Use It or Lose It—Dr. C. Frazier	1	12
Make Space for the Eternal—A. Schrader	10	154	What is in Your Hand—J. Schut	6	82
In Memory of Edith Mallory—J. Butts	8	124	Where are Your Summer Wages		
			—M. McGhee	10	146
			Zion—J. Schut	9	135

YPCL Activities

Saturday, October 3, the Young People held elections at the Temple Lot. Randy Shelton is still Leader; Harvey Seibel is still Assistant Leader; Michelle Brockman is Treasurer; Aimee Brockman is Secretary; Heidi Temple is Reporter/Recorder; Bryan McGhee, Ruth Seibel, and Heidi Temple are on the Planning Committee. On October 10, the YPCL met at Bryan McGhee's for an educational. We saw a video entitled *The Mystics*, a film exposing some of the beliefs and practices of the eastern cult religions, including transcendental meditation, now invading the western cultures.

Submitted by H. L. Seibel

On the 17th of October, the Young People met to go on a bike hike on a gravel road along the Missouri River. We enjoyed the reds, oranges, and yellows of the leaves. After riding awhile we turned back because it was getting late. When we got to where the cars were parked the Young People decided that they were hungry, so we headed for Pizza Hut. We were thankful for the enjoyable time and the Lord's protection.

Submitted by Heidi Temple

Saturday, October 24, the Young People met for bowling, only the lanes were all filled except for one, and there were ten of us. So we decided to go to the bowling alley at the mall. The lanes were filled until 9:00 p.m. We had two lanes held, and went shopping during the remaining wait. We bowled a game or two, and then some went to Jeff Oldham's house for a small get together.

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Merry Christmas

