

# 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. 65

Independence, Missouri • February 1988

No. 2

## ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH

God has never done anything  
only half way.  
Remember this always  
when you take time to pray.

The blessing He gives,  
how much you receive,  
Will always depend,  
how much you believe.

Don't put limits  
on what He will do.  
The power is there,  
the faith's up to you.

In prayers for healing  
or whatever it be,  
Don't accept half a blessing,  
look up and see.

He's ready to give,  
when we've the will to receive,  
But He'll never give more  
than our minds will believe.

Bonnie Sanders

---

### IN THIS ISSUE

---

Deceptions ..... p. 18  
Editorial Policy ..... p. 19  
Some Interesting Bits &  
Pieces From Early British History ..... p. 20  
Perilous Times Shall Come ..... p. 22

No Other Time ..... p. 24  
We All Must Overcome  
Natural Man ..... p. 25  
Wherein is Faith Proven? ..... p. 27  
Wisdom For Our Day ..... p. 28

# Zion's Advocate

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

## EDITOR

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

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

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

## BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

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

## PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Temple Lot) 200 South River Boulevard, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

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

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

## GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

# DECEPTIONS



The first recorded deception we can read about as recorded in the Bible (Genesis, second and third chapters) is after God told our first parents that they could partake of all in the garden except the fruit of the tree of "knowledge of good and evil", and if they did in that day they would surely die. Satan comes into the picture and convinced them that it would not be so. We all know (or should) that as soon as they partook they died a spiritual death and also died physically before the end of that day as counted by the Lord (II Peter 3:8).

Books have been and could be written on all the deceptions of man and Satan. It seems man is always eager to accept them because of his enmity to God as we are told in His Holy Writ: "*Because the*

*carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*" Romans 8:7.

What I'd like to address most pointedly in this writing is the thought expressed by some persons that I've had conversations with, and I'm sure many have had this same experience, that they can worship God, worship and love Christ, be faithful to their Heavenly Father, etc., without joining a church, without assembling with other people, without going to church, or be as close to God out in the woods as in church. To this last I would agree that on an individual basis we may walk as close to God out in a secluded place as in church, but this does not do away with the need to assemble together. Many have

testimonies of the Holy Spirit coming to them while in their secret places or in seclusion.

The restoration of the wonderful Gospel of Christ in its fullness has its beginning when Joseph Smith went into the woods in solitary and humble prayer inquiring of the Lord for direction (as per James 1:5) and received instruction from our Heavenly Father and His Son.

Some or many of the most spiritual and rewarding times in our lives can be when we are in our secret places or walking in an area close to nature, where we can marvel at and glory in all the creations of God. But for these experiences to be truly rewarding they must be shared with other of God's children. We must voice in testimony of the things that are given to us, of God's love for us.

When we do this we strengthen our brethren which we are instructed to do in scripture: "*And let us consider one another to provoke [instruct, direct, encourage - emphasis by CWB] unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting [helping, encouraging - emphasis CWB] one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" Hebrews 10:24-25.

Without offense, I would make the statement for those both within the body of Christ and those without, that to consider it unnecessary to assemble together to worship God is just one more of the many deceptions Satan desires us to believe. Because he knows that without fellowship and the hearing of the word, we soon would become dormant and different. Then we start to find all kinds of reasons and excuses for not going to church services and meetings. These are put before us by the evil one.

One brother puts it very aptly that, together, we can be like a lively fire, but if we take a burning stick out of that fire it soon becomes a piece of cold charcoal, or dying ember with no heat or light in it, and if it has never let itself be a part of that fire, then it is just a piece of unused fuel, with no purpose of being. Of course, this little allegory uses a piece of wood as a similitude of man, but it does point up the very positive need for each and every one to assemble together as often as possible to strengthen each other by sharing the God-given gifts and blessings that we have; and we do have them. Let them not be hid under a bushel.

One other deception that is very prevalent and goes along with these reasons or excuses for not giving time to our Heavenly Father is that it is not "macho" (a modern phrase for whatever it may mean of being strong, independent, self-sustaining and self-supporting). When in fact and truth, we may come closer to this descriptive word when we make a firm commitment to God and ourselves that we will not allow ourselves to be led away from worship and fellowship by those deceptions that are Satan inspired.

There are many more scriptures that invoke us to assemble. I would quote part of one from Isaiah, God speaking to all mankind: "*I have not spoken in*

*secret, in a dark place of the earth: . . . I declare things that are right. Assemble yourselves and come: draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up wood of their graven images, and pray unto a god that cannot save."* (Isaiah 45:19-20)

Now it is mandatory of each to decide what that wood of their graven images are that separate them from the body of Christ. Is it our personal possessions—house, car, television, boat, yes even our employment? Maybe one of the most innocent appearing can be the visit of friend, neighbor or relative as you are about to leave for church service.

The impetus for these words are a strong feeling that we are in the days as stated: "*as ye see the day approaching.*" Hebrews 10:25. Paul is talking about the same time or the fulfilling of the time Jacob is talking of when he called his sons to him and said: "*. . . Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.*" Genesis 49:1.

So for those of us that have made the commitment, let's go forth with a renewed determination to serve, not allowing Satan any opportunity to sidetrack us. And for any that may read this that have not made the all-important commitment to the Savior, I would implore to seek that straight and narrow way that leads to life everlasting. The Savior tells us Himself that we must search for the way as recorded in Matthew 7:13-14. This tells us we must read and study His scriptures to find His ways and not be led astray by the deceptions of man and Satan, but in earnest study and fellowship, walk that narrow way.



Elder Charles W. Brantner

---

#### EDITORIAL POLICY: THE ZION'S ADVOCATE IS . . .

- A. To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour and His teachings;
- B. To promote His church, the Church of Christ;
- C. To be a voice of warning to His people;
- D. To be Zion's advocate;
- E. To be an organ for the Church of Christ for official pronouncements, bulletins & notices;
- F. To avoid primarily negative articles;
- G. Not to be a platform for debate over any subject;
- H. To avoid slanderous or defamatory remarks about any person or persons or organization.

This, we believe, is an important work. Please remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

Elder Gary Housknecht  
Editor, *Zion's Advocate*

Diane Brockman  
Associate Editor

Priest Mike McGhee  
Associate Editor

# SOME INTERESTING BITS AND PIECES FROM EARLY BRITISH HISTORY

by Harvey E. Seibel

"When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple; He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed." (Matthew 27:57-60).

In 37 A.D. Joseph of Arimathea along with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, the wife of Cleophas and others set sail from Judea and at length arrived in southern Gaul (France) where they were received by Apostle Philip who was there preaching. From thence they traveled on arriving in Glastonbury, England, at which place they established the church.

Joseph of Arimathea was an uncle of the virgin Mary being a younger brother of her father. He gained his wealth as an importer in the tin trade which existed between Cornwall and Phoenicia. He is recorded as having taken Jesus with him on at least one occasion when a boy. Besides being a highly respected member of the Sanhedrin he was minister of mines for the Roman Government.

Gildas, the historian (516 A.D.), wrote, "We certainly know that Christ, the True Son, afforded His Light, the knowledge of His precepts, to our island in the last year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 36-37)." Christianity was first brought to Britain by way of Joseph of Arimathea followed by Simon Zelotes, the Apostle, then by Aristobulus, the Elder (Bishop) of the Britons, then by Paul. The first converts were members of the Royal Family of Siluria consisting of Gladys, sister of King Caradoc (Caractacus), Gladys (Claudia) and Eurogen, the king's daughters, and his son Linus. Caradoc, Bran, his father and the rest of the family converted later after they had been carried captive to Rome.

In A.D. 43 the Emperor Claudius ordered a full scale invasion of Britain with 4 Roman legions commanded by Aulus Plautius. British forces under Caradoc put up indomitable resistance for more than seven years. Then, through treachery, Caractacus (Caradoc) was betrayed by a neighboring queen who handed him, along with his wife and daughter Gladys, to the Roman invaders who then carried them captive to Rome. Upon their arrival in Rome Caractacus gave the following defense which in turn won for him the Emperor's respect and pardon. The Emperor granted him his life and the freedom of Rome so long as he did not attempt to return to Britain.

Said he: "Had my government in Britain been

directed solely with a view to the preservation of my hereditary domains, or the aggrandizement of my own family, I might long since have entered this city an ally, not a prisoner; nor would you have disdained for a friend a king descended from illustrious ancestors, and the dictator of many nations. My present condition, stript of its former majesty, is as adverse to myself as it is a cause of triumph to you. What then? I was lord of men, horses, arms, wealth; what wonder if at your dictation I refused to resign them? Does it follow, that because the Romans aspire to universal dominion, every nation is to accept the vassalage they would impose? I am now in your power - betrayed, not conquered. Had I, like others yielded without resistance, where would have been the name of Caradoc? Where your glory? Oblivion would have buried both in the same tomb. Bid me live, I shall survive for ever in history one example at least of Roman clemency."

Gladys was about seven years of age at the time she was taken captive. The Emperor Claudius adopted her into his own household giving her the name of Claudia. She later married a Roman Senator named Rufus Pudens Pudentius. He was the friend of the Poet Martial who in writing of Claudia said: 'The fair one from a foreign shore. Our Claudia, named Ruffina, sprang we know from blue-eyed Britons.' This Rufus Pudens is thought to be the Rufus Paul greeted in his letter to the Romans where he says, "I salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine." In later years Pudens and his four children all suffered martyrdom. In Paul's letter to Timothy, Paul wrote, "Eubulus greeteth thee, and PUDENS, and LINUS, and CLAUDIA and all the brethren" (2 Timothy 4:21). Eubulus (Aristobulus) was made bishop (elder) in Britain.

Caradoc (Caractacus) was converted after his arrival in Rome by his granddaughter Claudia Pudentiana. One of Caradoc's sons, Lleyn (Linus) was consecrated by Paul to be the bishop (elder) of the church at Rome. This church was located in the home of Claudia where Paul preached when in Rome. It was known as the British House and this little building still stands today not far from the Vatican.

King Lucius was a grand nephew of Claudia. This Lucius also known as Llewrug Mawr was the grandchild of Cyllinus and the great grandson of Caractus. British and Roman history say that Timotheus, son of Pudens and Claudia of 2 Timothy 4:21 traveled to Britain to baptize King Lucius. This same Lucius in 156 A.D. proclaimed Christianity as the national faith of Britain at the National Council of Winchester.

We mentioned above that of the companions that accompanied Joseph of Arimathea on his journey to England was Mary, wife of Cleophas. This Cleophas was Joseph's brother and though his children would have no direct blood relationship with Jesus, they are referred to as his brethren, that is, James the Less, Simon Zelotes, Judas Labbaeus or Thaddeus. Cleophas's wife Mary was the virgin Mary's sister as we find recorded in John 19:25: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene." Elizabeth and Mary Salome were first cousins to the virgin Mary. Their children, John the Baptist, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee were therefore Jesus's second cousins.

What of Paul's travels to Britain? Of Paul we read in the scriptures, "But the Lord said unto him, go thy way; for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear My name before the GENTILES, and KINGS, and the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. . ." (Acts 9:15) (emp. H.E.S.); But when did Paul minister to the children of Israel? While it is true that he first preached to the Jews, Paul himself tells us that it was Peter who was specifically the apostle to the circumcision (the Jews) and he Paul would go to the Gentiles. So if Paul was specially commissioned to preach to the Children of Israel who were not Jews, how and where did he do so?

According to Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea, some of the Apostles passed over to the British Isles. Archbishop Ussher wrote that the British National Church was founded in A.D. 35. In A.D. 435 Theodoretus wrote that Paul, liberated from his first captivity at Rome preached the gospel to Britons and others in the west. Says he, "When Paul was sent by Festus on his appeal to Rome, he traveled, after being acquitted, into Spain, and thence extended his excursions into other countries and TO THE ISLANDS SURROUNDED BY THE SEA. Eusebius wrote in 320 A.D. that the Apostles passed beyond the ocean to the isles called the Britannic isles. Clement of Rome wrote a letter in which he stated that Paul went to the end of the west. There can be no doubt that Paul visited and preached in Britain. Such is verified by the testimonies of Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, Mello, Eusebius and Athanasius.

Are the inhabitants of the British Isles the children of Israel to whom Paul preached? Consider the following:

The Anglo-Saxon chronicle begins in its opening paragraph by saying "The inhabitants of this land were Britons; they came from Armenika and first settled in the south of Britain." Then came the Picts and these entreated the Scots that there they might abide and so subdued the land northwards. The Picts obtained wives for themselves of the Scots.

The Scottish Declaration of Independence now in the Register House in Edinburgh. . . was drawn up. . . on the 6th of April A.D. 1320. This document among other things states they passed from greater Scythia through the Mediteranean Sea and the

Pillars of Hercules and sojourned in Spain through a long course of time, having come thence 1200 years after the outgoing of the people of Israel. Having acquired for themselves possession in the west which they now hold. . . in their kingdom 113 kings of their own royal stock, no stranger intervening, have reigned. . .

The Prayer Book of Queen Victoria's time contained the following: "Let there never be wanting in her house to succeed her in the government of this United Kingdom that our posterity may see her children's children, and peace upon Israel, so that we thy people and sheep of thy pasture, shall give thee thanks for ever!

Queen Victoria had her genealogy, at great expense, traced showing her descent from King David. This great chart hangs in the British Museum.

The law under which our British Queens have taken the throne is set in the judgment given before the door of the tabernacle in the wilderness which still controls the succession in Britain.

The old legends feature Joseph of Arimathea and his progeny amongst the ancestors of Welsh royal fold. An old manuscript (10th and 11th centuries) now in the British Museum traces Tudor descent to Anna, a daughter of Joseph of Arimathea and a cousin of the virgin Mary.

Both King George IV and his consort Queen Mary are direct descendants of the House and lineage of David by way of Charlemagne.

Eochaidh the Heremon, of the royal line of Ireland (formerly Hibernia - phonetically the Hebrew 'Ibri') met Tamar Tephi, one of the surviving daughters of Zedekiah, brought to Ireland by Jeremiah. With Jeremiah's consent they were married and both were crowned on the coronation stone (circa 583 B.C.). The kings of Ireland continued to be crowned upon this stone until 506 A.D. when it was moved to IONA, Scotland where it continued to the time of Edward I in 1296 who moved it to Westminster Abbey in London, England. The sovereigns of England have been crowned on it ever since with the exception of bloody Mary.

Early Irish history abounds in reference to the Coronation Stone which was brought to Ireland about 583 B.C. by a man named OLLAM FODHLA (wonderful seer) and an Eastern Prince from Egypt, named Tamar Tephi and a scribe named Bruch. Says the scriptures: "Even men, and women, and children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, AND BARUCH the son of Neriah. So they came into the land of Egypt; for they obeyed not the voice of the Lord" - Jeremiah 43:6-7.

The Scottish kings derived their right of rulership from the Royal House of Tara (in Ireland) through which direct descent from David was derived in the person of the King's daughter brought there by Jeremiah. The coming of Jeremiah, though a powerful tradition in Ireland, is often dismissed as mere

legend.

Evidence of the passage of Israel through Spain is abundant. Spain and Portugal are located in the Iberian Peninsula. Iberia means, land of the Hebrews. The Spanish river Ebro is derived from Eber the grandsire of the Hebrews. The river Guadalquivir was originally Wadi-al-Hibri which in Moorish means 'the river of the Hebrews.' The Spanish city Cadiz was originally Gaderia or city of God. It was named when men of the tribes of Gad and Dan worked the mines in Iberia during King Solomon's reign. An ancient tombstone in Sagunto, Spain has this epitaph in Hebrew. "This is the tomb of Adoniram, an officer of King Solomon who came to collect tribute and died the . . . day."

Ireland is the modern spelling of the island's ancient name of Hibernia or Hebrew's land. Ptolemy says of the British Isles - "They were peopled by descendants of the Hebrew race, who were skilled in smelting operations and excelled in working metals."

Conclusion: The Anglo-Saxon people with the tribe of Ephraim as its head is none other than lost Israel found. The northern kingdom of the Ten Tribes was ruled by Ephraimite rulers. This kingdom became known in scripture variously as Israel, Ephraim and Samaria. When they were taken into captivity to Assyria in about 721 B.C. they disappeared from history, never again returning to Palestine. Instead they mixed themselves with the Gentiles and lost their identity and by the time their migration into northwestern Europe had ended they were no longer known to the world by the name of Israel. With this scattering among the nations of the British Commonwealth the prophecy to Ephraim that his posterity was to become a multitude of nations was fulfilled. Thus, as these Ephraimite Gentiles settled America, we find the Stick of Joseph, the Book of Mormon, in the hand of Ephraim as declared by the prophet Ezekiel whom the Book of Mormon calls Gentiles.

In early Britain we pick up a thread of history about 283 A.D. during the time of King Coel's reign in

eastern Briton. He had no son. His only child was Helena. Constantius Chlorus married her and continued to live in Britain till his death 11 years later. He bore a son by her who later became known in history as Constantine the Great. Prior to his death, however, Constantius Chlorus was appointed ruler of Gaul and Britain. In 293 A.D. he was adopted by the Emperor Maximian and appointed Caesar. When Diocletian and Maximian abdicated in 305 he became supreme ruler with the title 'Augustus' a position inherited by his son a few years later. Thus he became the first British Roman Emperor reigning in Britain from A.D. 240-306. The interesting thing about this bit of history is that this King Coel (II) is the 'King Coel and his fiddlers three' of the nursery rhyme. His grandson was Constantine the Great who built and then ruled at Constantinople and who later convened the famous Nicene Council in 325 A.D.

King Arthur reigned from A.D. 483-542. He was the son of Ygerna and Uter Pendragon. His genealogy is given by historian John of Glastonbury who lists him as the 10th descendant from Joseph of Arimathea. Today's Queen Elizabeth is a direct descendant of King Arthur.

Finally, the tomb of Joseph (in Glastonbury, England) is inscribed with the following simple epitaph:

AD BRITANNOS VENI POST CHRISTUM  
SEPELIVI. DOCUI. QUIEVI.

Translation: I came to Britain after burying Christ. I taught. I rest.

The Christian and Israelitish ancestry of our British forbears have long been hidden in the mists of obscurity yet God's hand has been evident throughout the centuries. He has not forgotten his people and the time is coming when it shall be said of them, "Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God" (Hosea 2:23).

It has fallen to the British and American people to give Christianity to the world. . . It is they who have translated the Bible into about a thousand tongues. It is they who have been responsible for more than 90% of all missionary activity.

## PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME

It is with a tumult of emotion that I set my hand this day to pen the burden which sits upon my heart, for I feel within me the joy and consolation which awaits the children of God in the days at hand. Yet, there is sorrow in my heart as I see the afflictions which His beloved children must wade through to take full hold upon that promised rest.

I would have you be mindful, my brethren, of this truth that, ". . . in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affections, trucebreakers, false accusers, inconti-

nent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: . . . Yea, and all that will live godly after Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Timothy 3:1-12) Indeed, these are the last days of which the apostle Paul spoke, as at every hand we see the marks of depravity even clearer, making plain the Saviour's words - ". . . as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:37)

It is impossible, it seems, that the sins and iniquities which are so prevalent in the land should

tend to make our hearts callous, so that to hear the works of sin and darkness hardly brings the raising of our eyebrows. Indeed, we may even find ourselves entertained by the humorous but sin-filled jokes and tales and shows of the world. Oh, my beloved brethren, such things should never be. How we ought, instead, to fast and pray, beseeching the Lord to renew in us always hearts that abhor iniquity; that we may be as Lot, of whom it is written that God "...delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds);" (II Peter 2:7-8) How shall we, brethren, hear the warnings and guidance of the Holy Spirit if our hearts are caught up in the naughtiness of the world? Indeed, how shall we hope to escape the judgments of God which are to be poured out upon the wicked, if we be fellows in their perversion? For, to the degree which we partake of their doings, we must surely also partake of their judgment.

As I spoke of the judgments of God, I say also, let us not be ignorant of the works of God in these days, my brethren; for, for this cause has he commanded us to study the scriptures (II Timothy 2:15), and especially the prophecies of Isaiah (Nephi III 10:27-28, and Mormon 4:27). And has not the Lord spoken of the judgment to come upon the "daughters of Zion", how that He will take away from us the finery of our delicate lifestyles and leave instead a "stink"; yea, and great mourning and lamenting? (Nephi II 8:54-65) Who are the daughters of Zion, if not we who have sprung forth in this land of Zion? For surely, this is the land of the Zion of God as is stated in the Nephite record (Nephi II 7:18-25). And surely (for God's word is sure) the Assyrian which is Russia will come upon this land according to the words of the prophets, and only the "holy" will escape when the Lord purges the filth of the daughters of Zion, so that it is written: "And it shall come to pass, them that are left in Zion, and remain in Jerusalem, shall be called holy. . . .When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion. . ." (Nephi II 8:67-68)

Again, let us not be deceived, to think that belonging to the Church of Christ will exclude us from suffering. For, even if we be truly righteous we will suffer persecution even as those who have gone before us - not only in ancient times, but also in this age. For how many of the innocent suffered unjust abuse and even horrible deaths at the hands of those whose hearts, being fired with the fires of hell, senselessly murdered and beat and maimed those of the saints whose only crime was a firm belief in this latter-day work. Truly, the blood of those fair sons and daughters of God, these prophets and saints, rests rightly in our capital city which stood idly by throughout these atrocities, though redress was twice requested. And she will receive her reward, that great city which makes the merchants of the earth rich with unfair trade. That city, Washington,

which ties our hands and binds them fast, while many of those nations, whom we ought to consider our brethren, seek our aid against the tyranny of communist oppression, but send up their pleas in vain. Their blood, too, shall surely be found in that city, as we are told: "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." (Revelation 18:24)

Let us then prepare our lives and hearts to suffer such abuses and not that we should suffer the judgments of God against the unrighteous and against the slothful, "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." (I Peter 3:17) Let us turn fully to the Lord lest we be found among those whose hearts are deceived by the luxuries of our present condition, who say in their hearts, "...I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor and blind, and naked:" (Revelation 3:17) Yet, if we will not hear this warning, and suffer the judgments of God, we ought to treasure this thought, at the least, that "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:19) Indeed, if we must suffer the chastening of the Lord to open our eyes, let it be unto repentance, and not to the hardening of our hearts, that in the end it will yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness (Hebrews 12:6-11).

So it is, that this land will be chastened by the "Assyrian", the "rod" of the Lord's anger. And we must now choose whether we will suffer for good or for evil; Whether we will remain in our wretched and blind state or seek wholly for the true riches of God; Whether we will come out of that great city, "Babylon", or partake in her desolation. Our suffering will be great on either hand, but for the "holy" which will pass through this purging judgment, there is great promise and hope to be partakers of the true Zion state which will be established upon this land as a refuge for the righteous.

This hope, above all, is the message which I desire to bring to you, my brethren. For, if our hope and trust is in the Lord God Almighty, then there is no fear of what man may do to us. How often is it written to the righteous: "...and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled." (I Peter 3:14) More especially, though, is this message to us, which the Lord caused to be written by the prophet Isaiah: "Therefore, thus saith the Lord God of hosts, O my people, that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the Lord of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb. . ." (Nephi II 9:105-107)

I have seen this thing also in a dream which was given, I believe, to encourage us that the LORD, is God in heaven and earth, and though we be smitten

to turn our hearts fully unto the Lord, yet, will He return unto the Russians and their allies the recompense of their works.

~~In the morning hours I saw this vision as I slept: I was sitting by the river of our old home in Minnesota when my attention was turned to a huge ever-green tree near me which was larger than any I have seen in my lifetime. As I beheld it I marveled at its great size, that it towered into the heavens. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and moved me to stand and prophesy against that tree.~~

~~Accordingly, I stood and spoke "O thou great tree, because thou hast exalted thyself against the God of heaven thou shalt surely be cast down." Even as I finished speaking, the tree was lifted from its stump and broken into many pieces and cast onto the river and carried away. I continued to marvel, however, at the stump as it was not rough and jagged, as a stump would be when a tree is broken by the violent forces of nature. Rather, it was very smooth and flat.~~

~~I then went and stood before my father and rehearsed to him the things which I had done and seen, and he asked me what these things meant. I told him that it was a warning against all those who would exalt themselves against God. But in particular, it was a prophecy against the Russian forces that would come upon our homeland, and, exalting themselves against God, would be taken away, even as I had been shown.~~

~~Here the dream ended and I awoke still marveling at the smooth stump that I had seen, and wondering what it might mean. After many days of consideration, and prayer, the meaning was revealed to me, that even as I had been caused to marvel at that stump, so would men marvel at the cutting off of~~

these forces from our land, and would be caused to know, as I knew, that the forces of nature could not have done this thing, but that it was the hand of God.

Last of all, I would bring to your remembrance the writings of the prophet Moroni unto us, for truly, he too saw our day and knew by the Spirit these words of counsel which were most necessary for our understanding: "And again I would exhort you, that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing. And awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion, and strengthen thy stakes, and enlarge thy borders for ever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled. Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind, and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God, ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot." (Moroni 10:27-30).

Let us, brothers and sisters, heed this counsel. God be with you all.

Your Brother and Servant  
in Christ, our Lord,  
Priest Peter P. Gould

## NO OTHER TIME

by Waldo Spear

Reprinted from *Jewish Hope* with permission

The mystery of time has captured men's thoughts from the beginning of history.

Solomon said that to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Benjamin Franklin once remarked that we should guard well our time, for it is the only ingredient of life.

C. S. Lewis declared our future is what we are all rushing into at the rate of sixty minutes an hour.

Nothing is able to impede the relentless march of time. From the cradle to the grave, time circumscribes our whole being. As the great hymn writer Isaac Watts poetically echoed:

Time, like an ever-rolling stream  
Bears all its sons away  
They fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the opening day

Time is not only persistent; it is mysterious. When did time begin? When will it end? From the Scriptures we know that time began at creation, for "in the beginning" everything was created by God. (Genesis 1)

At some point in God's sovereign plan, the Scriptures also tell us, time will cease. The God who created the heavens and the earth, at the beginning of time, has said that they will one day be replaced



by a new heaven and a new earth, and this age of time will come to an end. (Revelation 10:6; 21:1)

Time is the great parenthesis between two mighty acts of Creation!

But time is not fully exploded until we recognize its momentous significance! During the time that a person dwells on this planet, he is called upon to make a decision that will determine his eternal destiny. How that choice is made here and now will have everlasting consequences.

God has given us His word so that we might make our decision in line with His will. The Scriptures tell us: "The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (I Peter 3:9). God translated man's willingness to repent into the most wonderful act of love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

It is the response we make to Jesus Christ in time that determines our eternal destiny. The only way that you and I as sinners may become acceptable before God and be assured of spending eterni-

ty with Him, is by receiving full pardon for our sins which was secured on the cross and resurrection.

It is a choice that each person must make - a choice that may soon slip away:

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just where the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.  
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed  
To lose one's health is more;  
To lose one's soul is such a loss  
As no man can restore.  
The present only is our own,  
To seek to do God's will.  
Tomorrow holds no promise, for  
The clock may then be still.

With our faith in Christ we can face time and eternity without fear, knowing God is with us both now and forever. If we believe in Him, let us redeem the time, using all God has given us to share what Christ has done for us. There is no better time to begin than today.

## WE ALL MUST OVERCOME NATURAL MAN

by Jeff Butts

The desire of my heart is to become an instrument in the hands of Christ to do the things that please Him, in all things that I do. I know that this is the desire of all of us that belong to Christ's Church. For us to be able to do this we must overcome natural man because the word of God tells us that we must.

(Book of Mormon pg. 218 v. 119-120) "For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; (120) "But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father." We have just read that if we don't overcome natural man, we are an enemy to God, and I know that none of us wants to be an enemy to God. We hear a lot of people say today, when they do something that is wrong in the sight of God, well that is my nature to do that or that is the humanism in me that made me do it, after all we are only human.

(Book of Mormon pg. 254 v. 77-78) "But remember, that he that persists in his own carnal nature, and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion

against God, remaineth in his fallen state, and the devil hath all power over him." (78) "Therefore he is as though there was no redemption made; being an enemy to God; and also is the devil an enemy to God." If we believe what we have just read out of the word of God, we can plainly see that we must overcome natural man, and become holy if we want God to work in our lives as he wants to do if we will let him.

Ammon is talking to his brethren after having much success preaching God's word to the Lamanites in verse 82 pg. 397. "And this is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God, to bring about this great work." (Book of Mormon pg. 399 v. 102-103) "And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there, that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, save it be the penitent;" (103) "Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing: unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed;" But what we have just read we can plainly see that we can not know the mysteries of God unless we overcome the natural man, and become spiritual.

(Book of Mormon pg. 451 v. 75) We have some words of Alma. "And now, my son, all men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God; therefore they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness." We have just read that Alma told his son Corianton, when he is in a state of nature he is without God, by this we can plainly see that if we want to be able to do the work that God has for us to do, we must overcome our own nature to sin, and become spiritual so God can work in us.

(Book of Mormon pg. 373 v. 135) "Yea, he knew that this had overcome his natural frame, and he was carried away in God;". Ammon had been telling King Lamoni (a Lamanite) about God, and all the things God had done for his people since the creation of Adam. After King Lamoni heard the word of God he believed all of Ammon's words, and began to cry unto the Lord saying, 'O Lord have mercy', and after he had said this he fell unto the earth, as if he were dead. If he had not been willing to overcome his natural frame, his own human nature to sin, his humanism, God would not have done this for him.

The Brother of Jared gives us some words of wisdom in the Book of Mormon pg. 720 v. 63 "Because of the fall, our natures have become evil continually; nevertheless, O Lord, thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee that from thee we may receive according to our desires." If we call on the Lord continually all the days of our life he will give us the strength to overcome our evil nature.

(Book of Mormon pg. 718 v. 38-41) "And it came to pass at the end of four years, that the Lord came again unto the Brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him." (39) "And for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the Brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord." (40) "And the Brother of Jared repented of the evil which he had done, and did call upon the name of the Lord for his brethren who were with him. (41) "And the Lord said unto him, I will forgive thee and thy brethren of their sins; but thou shalt not sin any more, for ye shall remember that my Spirit will not always strive with man; wherefore if ye will sin until ye are fully ripe, ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord." By what we have just read we can see that the nature of man is to sin. Because they did not call upon the name of the Lord, after this the Lord came to the Brother of Jared, and he did repent of the evil which he had done. After the Brother of Jared repented the Lord said unto him I will forgive thee and thy brethren of this sins; after this the Lord told him some very im-

portant words "thou shalt not sin any more, for ye shall remember that my Spirit will not always strive with man;" We can see by these words of the Lord that we must overcome our own desires to sin, and not to use the excuse it is my nature to do that, or say that is the human part of me that is why I did it.

Alma told one of his sons, some words of wisdom in the Book of Mormon (pg. 451 v. 72-75) "And now behold, my son, do not risk one more offense against your God upon those points of doctrine, which ye have hitherto risked to commit sin." (73) "Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness." (74) "Behold, I say unto you, Wickedness never was happiness." (75) "And now, my son, all men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God; therefore they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness." The words Alma told his son to live by, we also have to live our lives by. Alma is telling all of us not to risk one more offense against our God, as we have risked to commit sin. He then tells us that if we are in a state of nature, or a carnal state, we are without God in the world, and have gone contrary to the nature of God. By this we know that it is possible to overcome our own nature, if we will get on our knees and ask God to help us.

(Book of Mormon pg. 453 v. 91) "Therefore as they had been carnal, sensual and devilish, by nature, this probationary state became a state for them to prepare; it became a preparatory state." Alma told these words to his son and all of us who will read and believe them. He is telling us we must overcome our desires to be carnal, sensual, and devilish, which we all have a nature to do, if we are not walking close enough to our God.

King Benjamin tells us how we can use this preparatory state wisely, if we want salvation (Book of Mormon pg. 220 v. 12-17) "And there is none other salvation, save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved, except the conditions which I have told you." (13) "Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things both in heaven and in earth;" (14) "Believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth;" (15) "Believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend." (16) "And again: 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;" (17) "And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them." The last verse we just read tells all of us in plain English whether or

not we believe the Word of God, for if we do what His word tells us to do, then we know that we believe it.

Christ tells us in St. John (ch. 14 v. 21) "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest himself to him." We all know that the time is getting short till Christ is coming again, so let us ask of

ourselves, Do we love Christ as we should, and do we love God with all that we have in us? If we do love God as we should, let us prove it to God by keeping all His commandments that He gave us through His son Jesus Christ. If we do this He will bless us beyond what we can imagine.

May we all grow together in faith, and the Love of Christ.

## WHEREIN IS FAITH PROVEN?

by Amy Schrader

It may seem a strange thing to offer yet another article on the subject of faith; but is it? Must not our understanding of faith grow along with all other growth to spiritual maturity? Should we not, as professing disciples of the Christ keep measuring ourselves as to the existence and health of our faith? And what is that measure? In what way is faith proven?

Webster gives as synonyms of faith: belief, trust, confidence, credence in, conviction of, reliance on, loyalty, fidelity and allegiance to. Does any one of these qualify for faith such as we are speaking of, or must real faith include all?

The scripture says (Hebrews 11:1): "Now faith is the substance (that essential element on which hope flourishes) of things hoped for, the evidence (that which receives the witness of the reality or dependability of) of things not seen." This the definition of faith.

Still, is a basis for hope and a witness of unseen things sufficient for the purpose of discipleship? Must not something more follow? There is a premise proposed among faith-professing peoples in recent years, that the existence and strength of faith is verified by believing not only that God *can* do what we request of him, but that he *will*.

I submit that our faith is verified or proven by our love for the Lord. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37; and our love for the Lord is proven by our obedience. John 14:23, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: . . ." and verse 24: "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings, and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." Shall we reverse that last for emphasis? He that *keepeth not* my sayings,

*loveth me not.*

James 2:18 says, ". . . shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." What works? Why the works of obedience, of course. What else is there? He goes on in verse 19: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works (obedience?) is dead?" The devils, too, believe but with the rebellion of disobedience their belief is a condemnation to them. To whatever extent we fail in obedience, to that extent we reveal unbelief, do we not?

Job said (13:15): "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: . . ." Job's allegiance to the Lord was not based on what he did or did not receive of the Lord. There was no "if" in his loyalty.

Habakkuk said in his prayer of acknowledgment of the Lord's sovereignty, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields will yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." 3:17-18. Brave words, that. His love, loyalty and trust did not look first to the Lord's provision of gifts and blessings. Let the means of sustenance all disappear, he would still trust and joy in God. Nothing there to measure faith on how much he received of the Lord.

Diedrich Bonehoffer, the christian Jew martyred by Hitler, said, "Only those who believe, obey; and only those who obey, believe." The truth of those words should be self-evident. Is not herein the true measure and proof of what we call faith; not what we get from Him but by what we bring to Him? Think about it!

## WISDOM FOR OUR DAY

(Reprinted from the *Presbyterian Journal* with permission)

Quite often I come across a few verses from Isaiah 29 which seem to have been written for our times and our country; I've wondered why I never hear sermons from verses 9 through 14. One sentence which particularly sticks in my mind is, "For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Surely we live in days when knowledge has increased and yet never has a prayer been more timely or appropriate than Daniel's, "O Lord, righteousness belongeth to Thee, but unto us confusion of faces." Billy Graham has said that America reminds him of a mental institution where the patients have taken over and locked up the doctors. The author of "Witness", one of the most interesting and important books written in our time—in my opinion—says, "Man has never been so well educated; but wisdom, even as an idea, has conspicuously vanished from the world."

We have been so saturated with stories of the over population of the world that we now think it is perfectly okay to kill unborn children, and some protestant churches have supplied mothers with the financial help to do this. In one Texas town they are now planning to build a home for unwanted pets at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars. Of course, someone will have to be hired to tend to these pets and food will have to be obtained at someone's cost. Isn't this insanity personified?

There could be a food shortage in our country and in the entire world: it will be caused by man's sin and disobedience. It takes hard work and lots of it to produce food; yet our government continues to support men who insist in living in idleness. Some religions teach that cows and other animals are sacred; insects and animals are allowed to live regardless of their damage to crops. Consequently, those nations have a food shortage and poverty, so

America sends millions of tons of food to them.

I agree with the late Nelson Bell who said, "The Church has no right to claim for the unbelieving world those benefits God has promised to those who put Him first." We send food to God's enemies while they use their resources and time to enslave other peoples and build larger shovels with which to bury us.

Reputable independent researchers warn that the use of commercial fertilizers are sterilizing our soils. I can almost hear Winston Churchill saying (if he were living today), "It is an act of providence which passes the frontiers of reason."

In "The Five Horsemen", David Breese writes: "Scripture does not hold a promise of a beautiful utopia being brought to pass by the intelligence and political activities of men, but rather teaches that the world will finally inherit the deadly results of its falsehoods, sins and inner moral contradictions.

Who can deny that that result is being produced today? Christians are producing it because of their denial of truth, because of the erosion of the historic faith. Civilization, in a way that we could not have predicted a generation ago, is turning not only from the knowledge of God but from common grace, good sense and moral values.

"And many have lost the ability to judge anything. The discernment, discretion and discriminating minds by which people used to live . . . careful lives once upon a time . . . are gone. Anyone listening to the world's music on the radio one hour would be quite convinced this nation is rotting into imbecility."

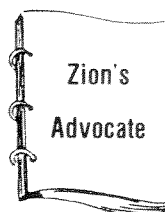
Can't you hear the Lord saying, "I am the Lord that turneth the wise men backward and maketh their knowledge foolish?" I can.

Mrs. E. P. Bradford  
Alpine, Texas

### Pass It On

Would you like to be a missionary for Christ's Church? You can, it's easy!

Pass It On. Yes, by merely passing on each issue of the *Zion's Advocate* to a friend not yet a baptized member of this Church, you will have greatly expanded the missionary potential of this paper.



If you need extra copies of any issue, write or call the Business Manager of the *Zion's Advocate* listed on the top half of the inside cover page before the editorial.

Sincerely,  
Your Editorial Staff

# HE'S ONLY A MAN

Many said, "He's no different than you and I."  
He was born to a carpenter and his wife.  
Yet he says, "I'm the Christ," That's a lie,  
And so, they condemned Him to die.

Put to death for claiming to be  
The Son of God He was.  
They hung Him upon that cursed tree,  
And there He died for you and me.

He was dead but for three days,  
For the Son of God He truly was.  
He from the grave, God did raise.  
Soon He'd return to Heaven in a misty haze.

Still people found it hard to believe,  
Though the empty tomb was proof.  
The body was stolen, they would believe.  
And Jesus they still would refuse to receive.

There were some that followed Him they say,  
Though scorned and hated they were.  
They knew that Jesus lit the way.  
And so they followed Him that day.

He might have been only a man,  
But what a man He was.  
He did what no other man can.  
Being born the son of God and man.

I'm going to trust and follow Him today.  
Won't you do the same?  
He, the debt of my sin did pay.  
I'm going to follow that straight and narrow way.

—Janeen Addie

## —NEWS—

### YPCL Report



December 5, the Young People went to the play, *The Sound of Music*, at the Blue Springs Civic Center. Our brother Gary Welch was the star—the Captain. We all enjoyed it very much.

Holly Smith

On December 12th the Young People met at our house for an educational. We watched a video called

"A Time to Love" which enlightened us on the subject of dating. The main theme was morality versus immorality and the effect it can have on your life as a whole. A short discussion ensued. Then, as a follow-up from the previous week, we watched *"The Sound of Music."*

Ruthie Seibel

The 19th of December, the Young People met at the East Local to deliver goods to a needy family for Christmas. We drove to their house in Oak Grove. When we got there we gave them food and presents. It felt good to give to those in need.

Heidi Temple

The 26th of December, Jennifer (Kidd) Yates was back in town, reason in itself for celebration. Which is why, even though it was but a day past Christmas, a time when most are breaking in their toys and goodies, the Young People met at the Seibels for a roaring good time of fun and games. Scattered games of Chess and Uno began the evening, followed by a ripping good game of Pictionary. A hand of Pit was then enthusiastically played. Refreshments consisting of tasty carrot sticks and succulent hunks of celery were served, as well as...Junk Food. It would appear that another Educational is in order. More games and more fellowship brought the evening to a very satisfying close.

Harvey L. Seibel

On New Year's Eve, Jenny's house was the scene of organized confusion. The home was bedecked with blue and pink crepe paper streamers and matching balloons. The occasion? A surprise going away party for Bobby Hedrick who was leaving us for the dry, arid Arizona desert. Unknown to either Jeff Oldham or myself it was also a surprise party for us in honor of our birthdays.

Indeed it was a gala affair, with a variety of games to be played and everyone in high spirits. The refreshments which we either brought or prepared were more than enough and Michelle even contributed a cake to the cause. To welcome in the New Year a few of the kids blew off fireworks and we had a season of prayer.

The highlight of the evening was a treasure hunt done by Harvey L. Seibel. There were a total of six clues, all of which were very clever. Only one had us stumped. It was done in orange juice magic ink writing. Jenny cracked the last clue which led to the prize which was concealed in an overnight case. That in turn was presented to Bobby Hedrick. His going away gift turned out to be a Bible with his name embossed on the front.

The evening Festivities had gone off very successfully and the fellowship and closeness was enjoyed by all.

Ruthie Seibel

## BRADLEY LOCAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It's time once again to add our news from the small Bradley Local.

Sister Mary Lee had a bouncing baby boy, Jared, on September 14, 1987. Mom and baby are both do-

ing fine. Mary and Randy have truly been blessed with a lovely family of two girls and a boy.

Sister Laura Ritsema had minor surgery this fall and was blessed with a quick recovery and was back at the organ after only a couple of weeks to recuperate.

Mid-November, Elder Lussenden and his companion, Joyce, and Brother Norm and Sister Georgia Trudgen attended a late Sunday afternoon service at the Ravenna Local where Elder Lussenden gave a message of Christ's word.

We had our Christmas program rather early this year as some of our families went out of state for the holidays. Brother Bernie and Sister Laura Ritsema and their son, Brother Rod and his wife, Sister Wanda Ritsema, went to Texas to be with family. Traveling to the other side of the country, Elder LaVerne and Sister Joyce Lussenden, Brother Norm and Sister Georgia and Kendra Trudgen and their daughter Sister Laurie Jones and her husband, Mike and their children, Tony and Kallie, all went to Florida. Meeting them later in Florida were Brother Dennis and Sister Betsy Trudgen to share this blessed holiday with their family. Our prayers are with all during their travels.

Sunday, December 13, was the date this local set apart to give all honor and glory unto our heavenly Father in celebration of His birth. Brothers and sisters traveled many miles from Marion to attend Sunday services. Services were opened with Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. and followed by a Christmas message from Luke 2:7 that was given by Elder Lussenden at 11:00 a.m. After church services our bodies were filled with a potluck for lunch, as always with Michigan potlucks there was an abundance of food.

After the potluck there was food for our souls.

Opening the Christmas program was Elder LaVerne Lussenden with prayer. Kallie Jones gave a welcome to all with a poem. Some members of the Ravenna Local attended our program in the afternoon with Aaron Heath singing a couple of songs and playing the guitar. Special music by Duayne and Larry Lee on trumpets. Laura Ritsema, on the organ and Mary Lee on the piano played a lovely arrangement of songs. Kendra Trudgen and her guest, Connie, sang a beautiful duet. The Lussenden Quartet sang a medley with Mike Ballard to accompany them on the piano. Mike's mother, Gwen Ballard, usually plays the piano for them but her husband was in the hospital with pneumonia so she was unable to help out the quartet, but her son, Mike, is as gifted as she, and he was able to pick up the songs after only one practice and played all the songs by ear (with no sheet music), which was truly a blessing to the quartet and a treat to those who listened. Rick

Lussenden produced a solo of 'O Holy Night', accompanied by Mike, which was a real treat as Rick sings the tenor part with the quartet. Sister June and Ken Haines graced us with, again, another beautiful tune. The little children gathered together with a song accompanied by their Sunday school teacher, Mary Lee, on piano. Her daughter, Alicia, sang a solo. It always touches the heart to have little ones start at such a young age to memorize the words of a song or poem of Christ. It is nice to hear them recite nursery rhymes and sing little children's songs, but when they recite Christ's words it seems extra special. At about 3:30 p.m. Elder Gale Brantner, from Ravenna, closed with prayer. This truly was a joyous day!

Until next writing, God be with us all.

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

## COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

Warm greetings from cold Missouri in this brand new year of 1988. May we all continue to look to God for guidance in this new year.

Let me back-track a little and share a few happenings with you. Our Thanksgiving program with the community churches was held the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving at the Baptist Church. Glen, Margaret, and Donald Gill drove from Independence to take part and help represent our church. I've heard since that they were very well received and the songs they sang were enjoyed by all. I'm sorry that we were absent, but Allen and I left earlier that afternoon for Phoenix with Rodger Bruner.

The Phoenix Reunion was a wonderful time for us. We appreciate so much the hospitality shown us. The time just flew by and we were warmed, and fed spiritually, and on our way home again—already looking forward to the next reunion.

Christmas time is so special for me. This year I believe I enjoyed it more than ever. Our program, the Sunday morning before Christmas Day, was so good. The songs, the stories, a skit done by the children, the sermon afterward—it was all so beautiful. It was Christmas—the real Christmas. Then Tuesday night we were the host to the community Christmas Program. Lots of people came. We sang together and

shared for a few minutes the beauty of Christ's birth. Brother Jack Martin was our speaker that evening and brought a short sermon after the program. So the old, old story was told, sung, and re-told and it touched my heart again and again. Also, to add just a little extra happiness to the occasion, our sister, Wanda Jo Eddy was returned to us. She had been in Honduras doing relief work for the refugees.

Some recent guests have been Glen, Margaret, and Donald Gill of North Kansas City, M.G., Laura May, Gregg, and Jerry Elwell of Oklahoma, Gerry, Cindy, Amy, and Suzanne Case of Independence, and Larry Sarratt also of Independence. Then we had some extra special folks drop in: Joe and Floralise Yates along with some of their family like Joy, Peachie, and Johnnie. (If I forgot someone please excuse me.) I list Joe and Floralise as extra special because they are! They haven't been physically able to come to church for such a long time. We have missed them so much. Joe and Floralise both, though a bit tottery, took part in our Christmas programs. They just capped off a wonderful day for all of us.

For the last two months some of us have been privileged to join with Joe and Floralise in their home with some of their family for a sacrament service. The reward we have received can't be written on paper, but you who have felt the touch of the spirit of God know what I mean. The services have been so sweet and filled with love. It has been a joy to us and a source of strength to share in these meetings.

One last very special bit of news to share with you. On October 25th, 1987, Mike Sedlak of Wisconsin entered the waters of baptism and was baptized by Elder Allen Kauffman. The service was beautiful, quiet, and Spirit-filled. Confirmation was by Apostle Roland Sarratt, assisted by Brother Kauffman.

May God bless you in this new year.

Your Reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

### GOOD! BETTER! BEST!

Good tidings I bring, the Angel said  
The night our Lord was born.  
Better still, the gift of life  
Christ sealed on that glad morn.  
Best of all, He's coming back  
To set His people free,  
Restore the earth, and then to reign,  
Our King, eternally.

—Vida Filley

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES**

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

The 1988 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 17 through 19 at Independence, Missouri.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS**

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

**Price Each**

<b>Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:</b>	Non-Members . . . . .	\$4.00
	Foreign . . . . .	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition) . . . . .		6.00
Outline History of Church of Christ . . . . .		4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound) . . . . .		2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed . . . . .		2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder . . . . .		2.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God . . . . .		2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot . . . . .		1.30
Temple Lot Deed . . . . .		.30
Changing of the Revelations . . . . .		.50
Comprehensive Comparison of		
Changes to the Revelations . . . . .		1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ . . . . .		N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance . . . . .		N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands . . . . .		N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism . . . . .		N/C
The Latter Day Restoration . . . . .		N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which? . . . . .		N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract) . . . . .		N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ . . . . .		N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish) . . . . .		N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon) . . . . .		N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage) . . . . .		N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus . . . . .		N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony		
(Spanish) . . . . .		N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish) . . . . .		N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority . . . . .		N/C
"Why" . . . . .		N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices . . . . .		N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles . . . . .		N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity? . . . . .		N/C
Baptism For The Dead? . . . . .		N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord . . . . .		N/C

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS**

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

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

**THE BOOK IN THE STONE BOX**—7 page booklet

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

**JESUS' LIFE and TEACHINGS**—Series of 4 quarterlies (ages 8-10)

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

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

**CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?**

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

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

<p><b>ZION'S ADVOCATE</b> (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, MO 64051-0472</p>	<p>Second Class Postage Paid Independence, MO 64051</p>
<p>Aaron Heath y 159 E. Beech Fruitport, MI 49415</p>	

**AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS**

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

**Slide Programs with Taped Narration**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Holy Scriptures on Cassette Tapes**

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

**Sermons on Cassette and Video Tape**

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

For video tapes, write only to Ron Temple as listed above.