

# Zion's Advocate

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

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*For anything worth having, one must pay the price; and the price is always work, patience, love, self-sacrifice – no paper currency, no promises to pay, but the gold of real service.*

—John Burroughs

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## Zion's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL . . .

# WELLS OF SALVATION

With the April Conference only a short time away it is my hope and prayer that we have began already to prepare ourselves—prepare ourselves for the yearly business and organization which is essential to exist as a church in this world today, but more than this, to receive the Lord's will and counsel. To receive, we must do more than talk about a Zion condition being possible, we must *condition* ourselves for Zion. One heart and one mind is possible only if we separate the heart from those temptations which we allow to come between us and our God. Separate the mind from compromise which pollutes and dilutes the Gospel Truth.

II Nephi 9:133-137 (p. 134) . . . "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord, JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation . . . Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion; for great is the

Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."

"Draw water out of the wells of salvation." If you would indulge me, please, read Genesis 26 at this time. Wells were very important to this people as they still are today. Verse 1 says that there was a famine in the land but in verse 12 we read that Isaac sowed and received a hundred-fold. Why? "And the Lord blessed him." Verse 14 states that the Philistines envied him; this same envy caused his father's wells to be filled and Isaac to be banished. Isaac dug again his father's wells, verse 18, and dug wells of his own. Verses 20-22 states that Isaac withdrew from the first two wells because people outside his household strove for them. Note their names: Esek = contention, and Sitnah = hatred. Isaac dug a third well without contention or hatred and called it Rehoboth = spacious.

As I look back at our Church of Christ heritage I can see represented these three wells. History tells

us our Church forefathers suffered greatly in Jackson County. It can be argued they brought some of this on themselves but they were met with resistance, bigotry, prejudice, fear, death, contention (Esek) and hatred (Sitnah). They withdrew to find relief from their trials and afflictions. They found space (Rehoboth) to regroup.

I believe we are still beside the third well, spacious (Rehoboth). The Lord has allowed us time to regroup and as in Genesis 26:22 "be fruitful in the land." My question to each of you and myself is: Have we been fruitful? To a degree, yes, but as the Lord intended? The answer has to be - NO! We have allowed the adversary to fill again our wells. These wells are basic and necessary to our spiritual existence: God the Father, Jesus Christ-our Lord and Saviour, the Holy Ghost, Holy Bible, Book of Mormon, Book of Commandments, revelations, all the things we hold near and dear. God needs laborers who WILL WORK to off-set the efforts of the adversary.

As a laborer it is our responsibility, no our joy, to clean - maintain - exercise - share these wells of life. To truly be an opposition to Satan we need also to look within our ranks. Look not at your Brother or Sister in Christ but look deep within yourself. All too

often we have filled some of these wells ourselves or at the very least polluted them. Stone by stone, clod by clod, with the refuse of pride, pursuit of power, riches, envy, lack of discernment, lack of interest, lusts of the flesh, compromise, priorities not in tune with God, we contribute unwittingly to Satan's work.

While paying my water bill (not my favorite duty) I found the Independence area is blessed with over twenty wells to draw life-giving water (physical) from daily. The Church of Christ is blessed with wells without number and without price from which to draw life-giving water (spiritual and physical) from daily. These wells are not restricted to Independence and you are free to take them with you wherever you go.

This next month, whether your situation allows you to physically attend Conference or not, let all of us make deep spiritual, individual and personal preparations to attend in Spirit. As we physically come together as members, I pray we come together spiritually as a body. A body with *one heart - one mind* longing for Zion. Brothers and Sisters, let us collectively "draw water out of the wells of salvation."

—Priest Michael McGhee

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## NOW IS THE TIME GIVEN FOR MAN TO PREPARE

by Harvey L. Seibel

Tomorrow, the coming week, or a year or two from now, we are going to look back at the concerns of this day, and wonder. Our lives are going to be drastically changed by some major world events, and the cares of today will seem small, indeed.

Many of us don't really comprehend how quickly change can occur.

Consider another time, another people: "And it came to pass . . . there arose a great storm, such an one as never had been known in all the land; and there was also a great and terrible tempest; and there was terrible thunder, insomuch that it did shake the whole earth as if it was about to divide asunder; and there were exceeding sharp lightnings, such as never had been known in all the land.

"Nevertheless, all these great and terrible things were done in about the space of three hours; and then behold, there was darkness upon the face of the land." (3 Nephi 4:6-7; 17, p. 625)

How quickly can change occur? In a matter of hours!

Had this people been warned? ". . . And the people began to look with great earnestness for the sign which had been given by the prophet Samuel, the Lamanite; Yea, for the time that there should be darkness for the space of three days, over the face of

the land." (3 Nephi 4:3-4, p. 624) This people *had* been warned!

Have we been warned of cataclismic changes? Yes! The times in which we are living have been looked to, have been prophecied of, for thousands of years! We have signs and warnings unfolding before us like never before! Are we heeding the portents of this day?

Did the people on this land prepare for the three days of darkness? "And there began to be great doubtings and disputations among the people, notwithstanding so many signs had been given." (3 Nephi 4:5, p. 624) They did not prepare. And when it was too late; when many lay dead and much destruction had been wrought, this was the cry of the people:

O that we had repented before this great and terrible day, and then would our brethren have been spared, and they would not have been burned in that great city Zarahemla. And it came to pass that there was a voice heard among all the inhabitants of the earth upon all the face of this land, crying, Wo, wo, wo unto this people; wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth, except they shall repent, for the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice,

because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people; and it is because of their iniquity and abominations that they are fallen. (3 Nephi 4:23, 26-27, p. 626)

Considering the lament of this people, when should we begin preparing for the changes which we know are surely to come? "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors." (Alma 16:228, p. 430) The people on this land had procrastinated the day of their salvation and paid for it with their lives. Will we do the same?

Do we *really* believe that change will occur in our lives? "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Peter 3:3-4)

Be forewarned! Things will *not* continue as they have: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. . . ." (II Peter 3:9-11)

Change will occur! Have we been warned? Time and time again! Will God stay his hand indefinitely?

"I have spoken! Few have heeded! What remains for me to do? Warnings old wait vindication! Man must learn that God is true." (From the Admonition, by Joseph Luff) "Ye can not say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God." (Alma 16:231, p. 431) The times which are before us are fearful indeed!

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and

ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Revelations 14:9-11)

So ought we to be prepared? Know this: each of us was placed on the earth in these days for a purpose. Whether we live up to that calling or not is our choice. Oh, that we may be ready!

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:13, *Read the next five verses of this chapter!*) And again: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (St. Luke 21:36)

Let us be diligent in prayer and fasting! "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (St. Matthew 24:21)

The times and tribulations yet to come seem hard to bear, yet let us not doubt the power of the true and living God! He created the earth; he created you and me; he created all things—should we fear for the morrow? Should we be wrought up because there will come a time when we may neither buy nor sell?

Let us not forget that God preserved an entire nation—by dividing the Red Sea! If he can divide the Red Sea, and bring forth miracles we cannot number, surely He can provide for his children in times of need!

If we are righteous, if we have put on the whole armour of God, then can we take comfort in the Lord: "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance." (Psalms 32:7) Powerful words of hope for a day such has never been seen before!

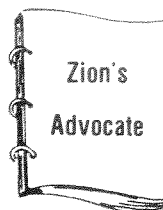
In your preparation, remember this: Those who do not know history, are doomed to repeat it. We have in the Bible and the Book of Mormon the history of most of the human race. Will we repeat the mistakes they have made and be utterly destroyed, or will we learn, and repent, and be saved? It is as simple as that.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." (Psalms 46:1-3)

## 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.



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Sincerely,  
Your Editorial Staff

# A PRE-MIDNIGHT CRY

**The Lord is coming – yes, He is even at the door.**

by Harvey E. Seibel

“...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

Of course, we know that He will, but unbelief and iniquity will abound for “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13).

But what about us of the church? Could the Lord say similarly of us? Will He find faith in the church? The answer is yes, but how much do our lives and daily activity reflect a lack of that faith?

Let's ask ourselves a few questions. How much do we believe in Zion and its coming reality? How strongly do we seek for its fulfillment? What is our expectation? What about the second coming of Christ? Do we wait in daily anticipation and expectation of His near return or do we take little thought for it as we strive with our mundane earthly cares and pleasures?

We had better take stock of ourselves for if we think that the Lord delayeth His coming or that He will not return in the lifetime of most of us today, we are dangerously deluding ourselves, not recognizing the signs of the times in which we live.

What are these signs which today are announcing his coming advent? “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matthew 24:37).

We have heard this scripture quoted many times. And of course you could say that this has always been the case. The only difference today is that marriage, divorce and remarriage on a repeated basis, perhaps three and four times, has become something of the norm. As for eating and drinking, that is probably more true in America and western civilization than anywhere else or perhaps at any other time especially in the abundance and variety available to us year around.

But there is another sign. “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” (Luke 17:28-30).

This has certainly been true more in recent years than at any time previously. The sin of sodom is being proclaimed today as never before and without shame, boldly proclaiming their right to recognition, and as Paul says, “receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet” (Romans 1:27). AIDS? Surely! But most assuredly a sign of conditions just preceding the second advent of Christ.

Another sign. “But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations” (2 Nephi 11:116).

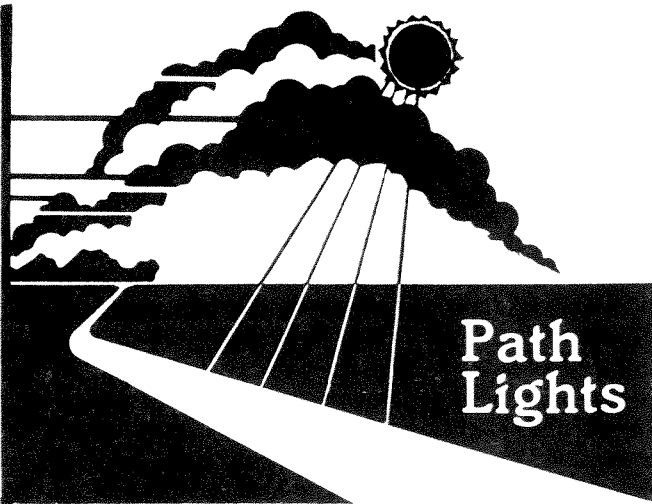
Is not this so? What is the state of the world and of our country today? Wicked men and seducers have waxed worse and worse. Aside from rampant homosexuality and other sexual immorality there is the case of abortion. Today 4000 babies perish every day in our country (1½ million yearly). Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing this murder, between 16 and 20 million children have been destroyed. To put it into perspective this death is more than that caused by all wars and accidents (automobile and otherwise) since our nation was founded over 200 years ago. This is a crime of unimaginable magnitude, yet pales into relative insignificance alongside the tens of millions put to death in China with U.S. funding via the U.N. just since 1979, and other millions destroyed in India and elsewhere around the world.

We could go on to mention filthy entertainments, immoralities of every kind, live-ins, love-ins, drug addictions, alcoholism and all kinds of criminal activity showing the breakdown of Christian ethics. In its place we find the acceptance of every form of substitute – Hinduism, the occult, humanism, etc.; anything but the religion of Christ.

This century has witnessed wars and rumors of wars unsurpassed in any previous century. And now the world is armed to the teeth with weapons such as men had never dreamed of in earlier times; weapons of destruction so massive that the biblical statement, that except those days be shortened no flesh would be saved, is now for the first time capable of a literal fulfillment.

Question: How long suppose ye, will Gog refrain from using her destructive arsenal against the mountains of Israel while our world so quickly is ripening in iniquity? Decades? Hardly! If we think so we delude ourselves and are engaging in a bit of wishful thinking and lulling ourselves into a carnal security.

Another sign which no other century could justly lay claim to, though many did claim that Christ was coming in their day, is the prophecy in Luke 21. “...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;



## Path Lights

### HOW FIRM THE FOUNDATION

There have been a number of occasions when someone has said to me, "Amy, you are one of the strong ones." This causes me to gape in astonishment, the person they think they see is not the me I know. Since I can remember I have been of a fearful nature. I can build a house of anxiety out of nothing. When I was no more than seven or eight, I remember hearing my Father and Aunt Ethel talking and my Dad saying, "Amy seems to have inherited her grandmother Gould's fearful temperament. Even then, it was something of a relief to feel it wasn't all of my own doing. But, of my doing or not, I had to learn early to turn to a strength greater than mine, to someone always present.

Feeling thus, I've probably done far more praying in silent, soul crying out to the Lord, than I've ever done on my knees. Fearfulness doesn't give one time and place to get to one's knees - literally - but oh how quickly one can throw oneself prostrate before him, spiritually.

Over the years, when fear has choked mental capacity into numb dumbness, I learned to use the hymns for the wording of prayer. I have spent long hours of sleeplessness keeping a slender hold of composure and sanity by rehearsing over and over the prayer hymns. Out of this has come a very special gift; in that the Lord sometimes uses these same hymns, brought to my mind as we sometimes say, out of the blue, to reassure me, his response to some aching plea.

One of my anchor hymns, for more years than I can recall, has been, "How Firm a Foundation." I've often clung to the promises made there when I was/am too distraught to do anything but cling.

After my sister Helen's recent heart attack, with a heaviness of heart in her behalf, I awakened in the middle of one night, my thoughts instantly flying to prayer for her, when this life-long favorite came singing itself through my mind:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word;  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

The three middle verses came on this wise:

In every condition, in sickness, in health,  
In poverty's vale or abounding in wealth;  
At home or abroad, on the land or the sea,  
As *her* days may demand so *her* succor shall be.

Fear not, I am with *her*; Oh, be not dismayed.  
For I am *her* God and will still give *her* aid;  
I'll strengthen *her*, help *her*, and cause *her* to  
stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials *her* pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be *her* supply;  
The flames shall not hurt *her*; I only design  
*Her* dross to consume, and *her* gold to refine.

That soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I cannot desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to  
shake,

And oh the glory of the last lines of the last verse:

I'll never, no never, no never forsake;  
I'll never, no never, NO NEVER FORSAKE!

So, I lean, and I cling for repose, to these promises of our Lord, both for her and for my concern for her. Does all this sound too good to be true? Nay, it's so good it has to be true. It does not promise ease, nor freedom from trouble, or sickness, or poverty, or grief. It doesn't even promise a prolongation of time in this life. It promises that one will never be left alone throughout whatever comes. Greater the blessing of God with us in trial than a life of no trials, without him.

And although this was given to me as a specific promise regarding Helen, and for myself in times past, it is his promise to all who flee to Jesus for refuge when life's sorrows and troubles assail them. Dear Brothers and Sisters, if or when you are in some fear causing dark night of the soul, lay hold on these promises for repose, and never let go. And they will work that miracle of hope, and courage and peace for you that they have for me. There is no comfort greater, whatever happens, than knowing yourself cradled in the hollow of His hand.

Your Sister In Christ,  
Amy Schrader  
Independence, Missouri



## HE HANDLED IT

The Lord has truly blessed my family over the years and He is always there when we need Him most. I would like to share with readers of the Advocate an incident that occurred over Christmas (school) vacation.

Our children, Shannon, 14 years old, and Christopher, 11 years old, had Christmas (school) vacation from December 18, 1987 to January 3, 1988, 2 full weeks. Rick and I both work full time so the kids were home all day, each day by themselves. We both work 5 miles from home and both kept in phone contact with them throughout the day. Well, Chris went to the neighbor's house to go sliding as he got a snow tube for Christmas and wanted to try it out on the first snow. He and the little girl were sliding down a bank onto a dead end road in front of her house where her mother was watching them from a window. (I did not know they were sliding into the road, or he would not have been doing it). A young neighbor boy came, in his car, around the corner and started to slow down as he saw the children. Chris saw him coming as he was starting down the hill, so he rolled off his tube. Just as the car skidded to a halt, Chris' tube hit the rear tire of the car and he ended up with a scratch on his eyelid from rolling into a tree branch.

After this incident, the boy's dad called Shannon at home and told her that Chris had been hit by a car. I just happened to call Shannon as she hung up the phone from talking to the boy's dad and she told me that Chris was hit by a car (this is what the dad told her as he was not real clear at the time what exactly had happened). I dropped everything at the office and headed for home, praying all the way. Halfway home I realized that there was no one to administer to him (I was thinking the worst) as dad, Elder LaVerne Lussenden, was in Florida and no other Elder was close by who could perform an administration. My heart just sank and I prayed all the harder that his injuries would not be as severe as I had imagined they could be. I just said, "Lord, I am putting Chris in your hands. Please be with him and handle this situation in the way that Thou will see fit." I need not say more. As you can see, the Lord was there and HE HANDLED IT.

May God's blessings continue to be with us all, with all thanks, honor and glory to Him.

Your Sister in Gospel Bonds,  
Pam Lussenden,  
Bradley Local, Michigan

## CRY from page 37

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THIS GENERATION SHALL NOT PASS AWAY, TILL ALL BE FULFILLED" (Luke 21:24-32).

We have literally seen the fulfillment of the first part of this prophecy, for the Jews have this century, for the first time in 2500 years, regained sovereignty over their own land. What greater proof do we need that the Lord's coming is near at hand and in our day? Consider: The freeing of Palestine from Gentile dominion began to occur in 1917 when the Turkish power in Palestine was broken by General Allenby. The country was then put under British mandate until 1948 when Judah became a nation. Finally the 1967 war restored the remainder of Jerusalem to Jewish control (a year of Jubilee of sorts) completing the prophecy. And in that day when Jerusalem is no longer trodden down of the Gentiles, a man living when these things are fulfilled, will also live to see the return of Christ.

The signs are all around us. The Jews are back in Palestine. Russia is now established and in place to fulfill her part in the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39 and also Joel 1 through 3. Weapons of mass destruction are also in place. Computer systems capable of controlling the lives of all and paving the way for total economic control through a numbering system is rapidly becoming a fact of life and will make the power of the image to permit and prevent buying and selling a reality at anytime. Wickedness, filthiness and immorality are rampant as never before except perhaps in the days of Noah. Our cup of iniquity is rapidly becoming full.

So, what remains to be fulfilled? On one hand the preaching of the gospel unto all nations in power, the literal redemption or establishment of Zion, the return of Christ. On the other hand, war with Gog, the king of the North, and also the battle of Armageddon with the kings of the east, the complete establishment of the image to the beast and the arising of Jacob as a lion among the Gentiles. A great amount of time is not required to see these things come to pass.

Other signs are as follows: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even to the time of the end*: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall

seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings" (Nahum 2:4). "... the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken" (Nahum 2:3). "Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen" (Ezekiel 30:2-3).

What about the last sign? Is it the time of the heathen? What happened when Jerusalem was no longer trodden down of the Gentiles? It marked the fulfillment of the Gentiles times. While the times of the Gentiles was coming to its close after 2500 years of rule, the heathen power began its corresponding ascendancy beginning in 1917 with the coming to national power of atheistic communism. And with the concurrent invasion of Hinduism and the occult into our society with its philosophy and teaching of humanism, we have surely entered the period known prophetically as the time of the heathen. And the coming of that time will mark the time in which the day of the Lord will come.

Today, the new age humanists have announced the coming of their Christ, one whom they claim is a great teacher. They have set up what they call the Planetary Commission for world healing. And 1987 is the year to begin to bring in peace and unity to the earth. Yet the scriptures tell us that when they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction shall come upon them.

What does the scriptures say about those claiming that Christ is here as they now have so boldly and so recently claimed in the January 12, 1987 edition of the U.S.A. Today newspaper? "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27). "... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

What is God's word to us? "But of the times and

the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. *But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.* Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).

If we are not cognizant of the times in which we live, we will be caught unawares. We should be watching and waiting with anticipation. In fact we are commanded to do so. "... take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. WATCH YE THEREFORE, AND PRAY ALWAYS, THAT YE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS THAT SHALL COME TO PASS, AND TO STAND BEFORE THE SON OF MAN" (Luke 21:34-36).

The first century christians understood that Christ would not return until the 6000 years were finished. Now that the 6000 years are nearly at an end, with but 14 years remaining, is it time now for us to go to sleep? Yet that is what has happened. For the ten virgins slept and slumbered clear up until the midnight cry was given. How close are we to that cry now? Our brother and Apostle Leon Yates had a dream in 1957 in which he was shown that it was then five minutes till midnight. Thirty years have now passed and life goes on as before. Let us not fall into the lackadaisical and slothful attitude of those described in 2 Peter 3:3-7, "... there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as

## OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brother Housknecht and readers of the Advocate,

I have put together a number of booklets of copies of the poems that I have written which are meant to show worship of our Father and love of His children and all His creation.

Most of these have appeared in the Advocate in past years; I wondered if possibly any of you would like to have the collection. If anyone is interested, just make a donation of five or ten dollars as you feel able to whatever area of Church of Christ work you choose and write me your request. I'll mail you the booklet right away. My address is: P.O. Box 5430,

Carefree, Arizona 85377.

The poems are a labor of love and I often felt a real compulsion to put them down on paper, perhaps inspiration.

Speaking of labors of love, I am so touched by the request of Martin and Kate Rosen for Books of Mormon. Bless their dear hearts and God love them! We do, don't we?

Much love to all you there and to all the readers. May God bless and keep each and every one and use us to His glory!

Donna Moser



they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

I recently heard of an account of two R.L.D.S. missionaries back in about 1926 who on a trip, I believe through Michigan, were moved by the Spirit to turn down a side road. They did so and came to a house at which they stopped. The woman who met them at the door said she had not been particularly religious but that one day she began pondering when Christ would return. She was sitting before her fireplace and above the mantle was a U.S. flag draped. She said that as she was thinking on this she noticed numbers appearing across the flag. Those numbers were 1994.

It is true, of course, that no man knows the day or hour. Yet we are given the generation and that generation is here now. We also know that the 6000 year history of man upon the earth will end by 2001 but that except those days be shortened no flesh would be saved. Therefore we may expect the Lord's coming to be somewhat less than 14 more years.

There is now a warning given to those who would become careless. "But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:48-51). On the other hand, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? BLESSED IS THAT SERVANT, WHOM HIS LORD WHEN HE COMETH SHALL FIND SO DOING. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods" (Matthew 24:42-47).

"Let us therefore awaken from our lethargy and careless living. Let us be watching and waiting, so that, with joy, we may go out to meet Him and not be among them who are caught unaware, whom Paul calls children of the night or of the darkness. Let us discern the signs of His coming and know that the time is at hand, lest in slumbering we are brought to sorrow.

## CONFERENCE TO CONVENE APRIL 3, 1988

Following instructions of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year, will be April 3.

Business sessions, however, will start at 9:00 a.m., Monday April 4. A Solemn Assembly is scheduled April 1 and 2.

As per Bill #1, 1972 Referendum, "all committees and boards, etc., of the Church empowered to expend general Church funds or collect the same shall be required to submit an annual report of their activities, to include a financial statement of funds received and disbursed and submit to a joint meeting of the Council of Twelve and Bishopric at least one week prior to the opening of Conference, a proposed budget for the ensuing year."

Officers and committees, as noted in the directory, should see that their reports are filed with the conference secretary as early as possible. Persons needing a place to stay should contact a Conference Coordinator. Those wishing to donate food or money to the conference, should contact the Dining Hall Committee.

In accordance with action of the 1985 Conference, all requests for funds should be submitted to the General Bishopric one month prior to the conference convening.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to greeting each of you and pray that the Lord's will be done in all things.

R. W. Oldham  
General Church Secretary

## LOCATION OF SERVICES

Sunday sacrament service will commence at 9:00 a.m., April 3. All services that day and evening plus the business meetings during the week will be held at: Town Hall - 211 Osage, Independence, Mo.

If you have questions regarding conference meetings, parking or housing, contact a conference coordinator.

**Smith Brickhouse**  
5713 Logan Rd  
K.C., Mo. 64136  
tel. 816-356-9214

**Rodger Bruner**  
1705 S. Hands  
Indep., Mo. 64055  
tel. 816-254-6213

**Mike Smith**  
5701 Logan Rd  
K.C., Mo.  
tel. 816-737-0846

## YOUR TESTIMONIES NEEDED

A few years ago an attempt was made to gather and publish a book of testimonies. At that time, the effort was spearheaded by the Phoenix local Church.

The impetus of that effort has been picked up by sisters-in-law Melissa and Pat McGhee. They ask that as many of you brothers and sisters as possible write or type out a testimony or testimonies and send them as soon as possible.

Doing so will fulfill a second purpose, as well - providing material for the "Path Lights" feature in the *Zion's Advocate*.

Send testimonies to:

Melissa McGhee  
2533 Glen Lane  
Indep., Mo. 64052

or Pat McGhee  
18907 E. 6th Street  
Indep., Mo. 64056

# —NEWS—

## CHRISTMAS IN MICHIGAN 1987

At the invitation of the good folks at Bradley, several of us from the various congregations throughout Michigan gathered to participate in and enjoy the annual Christmas program in celebration of the birth of our saviour. Some of us arrived early enough to take part in the Sunday School class which was just finishing up their study of the book of Revelation.

Following Sunday School, we were privileged to have as our speaker, Elder LaVerne Lussenden, who read from the 55th Chapter of Isaiah, which is God's invitation to us to come to him without price - just as we are. It was pointed out that we all are guilty of spending time and energy and money for that which really doesn't satisfy, but God wants us to labor that it might satisfy our soul - that which is everlasting, that which is going to continue on, not only in this life but into eternity.

Brother Lussenden then read from the 2nd Chapter of Luke, which, of course, we all know as the Christmas story, the record of the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. It was emphasized that the message of the gospel of Christ is to every kindred, tongue and people, to all races, and that God would that all be saved, that none should lose their salvation. The purpose of the Christmas message is to bring peace and good will toward one another. It is a message of hope and love.

Brother Lussenden then read from Acts 20:28, which speaks of the responsibility of the ministry to feed the flock and the responsibility of the congregation to take the food and do with it as they see fit.

Referring back to Isaiah, Brother Lussenden made special reference to verse 6, which reads "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." We were warned that we are in a battle for our very souls, with the greatest commander-in-chief there is, God almighty and our saviour Jesus Christ, and we are told to follow God.

Brother Lussenden closed his sermon with the assurance that when Jesus comes to claim his bride there will be peace on earth such as man has never known and good will towards all men.

Following a delicious potluck dinner and a period of visiting, we enjoyed a song service and our annual Christmas program. Among those taking part in the program were: Alicia Lee, Kallie Jones, Jeff Butts, Mary Lee and Laura Ritsema, Larry and Duane Lee, the Bradley children's Sunday School class, Ken and June Haines, Aaron Heath, Kendra and Connie, the Lussenden Quartet, Rick Lussenden and Mike Ballard, and Lowell Scott.

The weather man cooperated for a change and provided us with a beautiful day, with no slippery roads, so that we were all able to make the journey in safety. Once again, it was wonderful to meet with so many of our brothers and sisters from around the state to enjoy the fellowship that

only comes from communion with those of like faith.

Reported by June Haines

## PHOENIX NEWS

To our brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Greetings from Arizona.

It has been several months since I've written - not because I lack activities to report, but because we have been extremely busy these past few months. Allow me to catch up. On Thanksgiving evening, a special program was presented. It was written and narrated by Apostle Don McIndoo. The program reminded us of the Bible and Book of Mormon prophecies about this land that have been, or are in the process of being, fulfilled. Columbus, the Pilgrims, Washington and others were brought to life as historical events were acted out. Slides and music made the inspiring program complete. A spirit of unity was woven throughout the reunion. The services were all inspiring: music, prayers, testimonies and sermons left us with a desire to try again to come closer to the example of the Master. A pre-reunion sermon was given by Priest Randy Sheldon, and sermons during reunion were given by Apostle Don McIndoo, Apostle Robert Jensen, Apostle Marvin Ely, Elder Bob Oldham and Apostle Bill Sheldon.

In December, Apostle McIndoo and Elder Jim Yates, Sr. made a missionary trip to California. They visited Bob and Velma Culp and Brother and Sister Courtney of Bakersfield; Dixie Green and son Brandon of Cathey's Valley; Emery Pinder of Antioch; Gary, Geri and Nick Adams of Greenbrae; Andy Yates of San Jacinto; Frank Knapp of Riverside; and Sister Murphey of Ontario of San Mateo.

We were pleased to be presented with two Christmas programs this year. On December 16, the children produced a play, "Sherlock Holmes in Search of the True Meaning of Christmas." Their many weeks of practice resulted in a play that made us laugh, cry - and most of all, remember the true purpose of the season. The following week we enjoyed a Christmas program which included readings and songs by local members. To close the year on a peaceful note, many of us met in the chapel at 11:00 on New Year's Eve for prayer and songs, following previous hours of visiting and games.

In January, we had our election of officers for 1988. Our new pastor is Elder Ken Oar. He will be assisted by Elder Joel Yates.

It has been the desire of many of us to learn "back to basic" skills, so a group was officially organized to have monthly meetings. Priest Bill Malone is chairman of the group and Brian McIndoo is his assistant.

The Camp For All Ages committee has also met to organize this summer's camp. Teacher Andy Brown is camp coordinator. He will be assisted by Kim Yates. The camp will be held July 2, 3, and 4, in Heber, Arizona. Please plan now to join us.

On January 9, we gathered at the church for a soup dinner to raise money to send with Apostle McIndoo and Elder Jay Moser on their trip to Yucatan. \$1660.00 was donated. Our brothers left January 14 and will return for conference in April. Our prayers go up in their behalf daily and we rejoice that the Lord has opened up the work in Yucatan.

We have enjoyed some special visitors this winter. Sister Francis Yates and Warren and Fern Sarratt have been with us. We will regret seeing them go as the winter draws to a close.

I have saved some very special news until the last. In October, Elder Tom Karas was privileged to baptize his mother, Sister Mary Panichas into Christ's church. Then in January, our brother Steve Kelly was baptized by Elder Hube Yates. Steve was married in October to Hube and Louise's daughter, Patricia. We had come to love both our Sister Mary and our Brother Steve before their baptisms and now the bond is deeper. With their commitments fresh in our minds, we are reminded to strive even harder to remain faithful to our own. May God bless you in 1988.

Debra Vogel  
5432 B Jemez  
Glendale, AZ 85307

## MINNEAPOLIS NEWS

We were happy and relieved to (finally) welcome Sister Nana Gill home from Honduras a week or so before Christmas. Sister Nana and Sister Jo Eddy had flown back together as far as Miami, where they parted company to take separate flights, Nana to Minnesota and Jo to Missouri. Jo's family was hoping she would be with them for caroling. We're sure they did find time for singing praises to our Lord in their thankfulness for Jo - and Nana's return. In the lonely days before Nana's return, little Laura Gill sang for us a solo, "Angels We Have Heard On High". It was indeed sweet.

On December 6, Mary Small, a former young neighbor of Brother Tom Maley, met with us. Visitors on December 27, were Mr. and Mrs. Alan Rightmeyer and children, Chris and Dorey, and Mrs. Rightmeyer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dyke from Tabor, Iowa. They enjoyed with us the singing by the children directed by Eva Lin Eddy, of "Jesus Our Father, Kind and Good". One "Dove" of the song was ill and absent. The other charming dove knew every bit of the song, but refused to sing. Eva Lin filled in for the two doves in a clear, youthful and melodious voice. We loved all the "animals" of the long-ago manger scene and their song, even the little dove who refused to "coo".

The first Sunday of 1988 was exceptionally well attended on January 3. Brother Joe Carney from Delaware was here to accompany his son, Joe, back to Rosemount from Christmas "at home". Brother Peter Gould and son, David, from Tennessee were here. We enjoy also the visits of Meredyth and "Skipper" Martin, great grandchildren of Sister Ruth Maley. This day Elder Thomas Maley read beginning on Page 650 in the Book of Mormon, the account of Jesus conducting a sacrament service, having commanded the multitude of 2,500 souls to sit down upon the ground. . . and receive the bread and wine. It is good to re-read this account and to savor deeply this portentous commandment, its careful instruction, and its wonderful promise "if you do always remember Me, ye shall have My spirit to be with you". There, too, is the ominous warning of consequences of partaking unworthily.

On December 7, our beloved Sister Ida Boettcher departed this life. Her funeral was held on Friday, December 11. Pastor Thomas Maley who conducted the services spoke of our "celebration" of Ida's release from the burdens of her last years. Our grieving had been done when we visited her at the nursing home and longed for the vital and happy natured Ida we had known. Ida was described as the friend of children. Many of those children

are now parents and carry her remembered love in their hearts still, for love is the part of us that never dies. Friends and family of the deceased gathered nearby, after the services, at the VFW facility (where Brother Clarence Boettcher is a member) for a repast with Clarence and Ida's beautiful family.

Sister Grace Eddy, now improving, has been seriously ill with a virus. Elder Merlin Eddy went over alone to administer to her on Sunday, January 17. On January 24, Eva Lin and the children accompanied Merlin. This was in the afternoon following morning church service in Minneapolis, and the temperature plummeted and a fierce wind came up for their trip back from their parents' home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin; but they made it back safely. Charity, baby daughter of Stephen and Judy Gould, had a similar virus and ear infection, and received administration. She attended church on the 24th with her parents. Brother Stephen Gould sang for us an arrangement, "Take Time To Be Holy".

I want to depart from the usual to share a gracious note from visitor, Mary Small, who met with us as mentioned above, on December 6. A rarity, enjoy its flavor of sweet encouragement: "It was a great gift to see you today. Your genuine and enthusiastic welcome was mirrored by your church community. Adults and children alike enveloped a stranger in their evident caring for each other and a sincere love of God. It was a precious, enlightening, and most memorable Sunday which found me on your doorstep. Best wishes." Pastor Maley read Mary's note at the beginning of his sermon. He read Jeremiah 31:33, ". . . saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God and they shall be My people." He said, unless God has made your heart pure you do not have a pure heart. Zion is a condition of the heart; scripture calls them the pure in heart. If a thing is pure it is genuine, it is unsullied. He also read II Corinthians 3:1-3, "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." Other comments were: "In working here I have come to know that every person who comes into this assembly carries a spirit with them. I depend not only on that, but I depend upon a Spirit being here that reaches the people, a Spirit in the house." The word "heart-reach" has been coined here in the Minneapolis Local. (Outreach from pure hearts would change the world! What peace and joy we would experience!) Indeed the requirement for "Zion".

On January 17, we had dense fog and icy streets. The church doors remained closed. I haven't words to describe the pure and incredible beauty created by hoarfrost we awoke to on Monday morning. The ethereal beauty lasted all day! It was cold and the sun made no appearance. Next day we had snow and wind that created havoc for travel, and intense activity for snow removal forces: But again, it was beautiful, clean and white, straight from the hand of God!

Next Sunday we will hold our annual business meeting. The day will be our Fifth Sunday. God willing, we will have our "Fifth Sunday" covered dish dinner at the church.

Our 1988, New Year's message to you is from Alma - Chapter 17, verse 69, found on page 441 of the Book of Mormon: "Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good." May we acquire Spiritual Prosperity increasingly! And share it unstintingly!

Your Sister in Christian Love,  
Irene Maley

**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.

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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.

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**"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.

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