

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;" I Nephi 3:187*

Vol. 65

Independence, Missouri • April 1988

No. 4



*Whosoever will come after
me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and
follow me.*

Jesus of Nazareth

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

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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



MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri State Reunion for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 12-13-14, 1988, at Hudson Hall Conference Center, CMSU Campus, in Warrensburg, Mo. Further details will be given later.

Sincerely,
 Elder Isaac Brockman
 Missouri Reunion Coordinator



MICHIGAN REUNION

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 18 and 19, 1988, at the Sullivan Township Hall, 8318 Hts. Ravenna Road, Ravenna, Michigan.

The following meals will be completely furnished: Saturday-lunch and dinner; Sunday morning coffee and doughnuts will be served, and lunch at noon. Donations will be accepted.

Camping and housing are available.
 For further information, contact:

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 159 E. Beech Street
 Fruitport, MI 49415
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 11610 E. Apple Avenue
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TRI-STATE REUNION

The Tri-State Reunion will be held at Flandrau State Park Group Camp at New Ulm, Minnesota, May 27, 28 & 29, 1988. Further details will be given later.

Tom Maley

Reunion Committee - Norman Trudgen
 Aaron Heath
 Jay Lee

EDITORIAL . . .**MORE GOSPEL**

The following article from the *Truth Teller* entitled, "More Gospel," speaks for itself, but by way of adding comment regarding related circumstances presently at hand in the Church of Christ, three quarters of a century after the article was written, I have this to say:

Let us examine the doctrines that presently separate and divide the Church of Christ into at least two recognizable factions. Then compare these doctrines to Christ's own preaching both on this continent and in old Jerusalem. I won't name the doctrines here, and I will point out that the words of Christ are frequently brought out in support of one side or another of the various doctrines that divide us, *but*, if you will read Christ's entire message as recorded in both the Bible and Book of Mormon, these "doctrines" are peculiarly absent from His teachings!

Is there an answer to our dilemma there? I believe there is. Where does the present body of "priesthood" get the authority to supersede the message of Christ (that of simple belief and faith in Christ, repentance for the remission of sins, baptism, and obedience to the commandments of God - all toward earning our personal salvation and eternal life during our time of probation) by adding complicated and confusing doctrine that only serves to divide His people, His priesthood, and His Church?

Let us read of the concerns of a member of the Church of Christ priesthood many years ago:

It is the practice of some Elders of the church, when they are called upon to preach, to preach, as they say, "great things, deep things, mysterious things; things hard to be understood - only understood by the strong in faith" - things, we think, they do not understand themselves. They had better preach the principles of the doctrine of Christ, as they are commanded in the Bible, and Book of Mormon. . . . More plain gospel teaching, and less mystery and mystifying, is what is needed. It ought to be the prayer of every Latter-Day Saint that God would send into His vineyard, more faithful Elders, such as the Church was blessed with at the beginning when the gospel, without addition or mystery, was preached with great power, with signs following the believers. We often

hear the lamentation, "O, that we could hear old-fashioned Mormon preaching; O, that we could again attend an old-fashioned meeting, such as we once have had." . . . Encourage the Elders to lay aside all additions to the plain and pure principles of the doctrines of our ever-blessed Redeemer, and preach Christ, Him crucified, the only name by which man can be saved. Be faithful in the discharge of every duty to God and to man, and you will hear old-fashioned preaching and enjoy old-fashioned blessings, and see the Church built up with more rapidity than ever before. The first Elders in this church said to the people, when they stood before them to preach, "we believe in primitive doctrine, we want no more, we will have no less." We say, give us 1830 preaching - it will be good enough - and the effect will soon be seen in and out of the church. . . . (From the *Truth Teller* as printed in *The Evening and Morning Star*, September 1915.

Is it possible that part of the reason the "priesthood" of this Church of Christ cannot come to a common understanding of these **internally created** "winds of doctrines" (read Ephesians 4:11-14) is that we, as a body of "priesthood" and the general membership of the Church, have not even yet met the demands of John 3:16-18 and 2 Peter 1:4-11 ("...Whosoever believeth in him..." - *really* believe; and "...that ye might be partakers of the divine nature... If these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off. . . ." speaking of the Fruits of the Spirit).

Instead, Christ gave the priesthood in the last days "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God. . ." Ephesians 4:12-13.

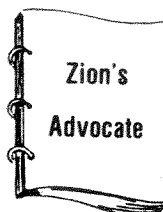
Our "knowledge" of the Son of God is lacking considerably, let alone His own message of salvation, and so we stumble and divide ourselves, and are "tossed to and fro" by the "wind" of doctrine not even meant for us to deal with in this life.

Elder Gary Housknecht

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



Divinely Protected Path to Phoenix

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this letter to give a testimony that I should have given to you at the last Phoenix Reunion during the sacrament service. During the sacrament service, I prayed and asked God if I should give my testimony. Right away the Holy Spirit descended on me in very great strength and shook me for quite a while (I was physically weak for about an hour after this happened). I knew that this was my witness that I was to give my testimony; but still I refrained. Of this, I repent and am very sorry before my Father in Heaven and before all of you. I was given to know, at that time, that if I did not give my testimony I would become physically sick (I have had many physical afflictions which started only three days after I did not give my testimony). I feel that I have well learned my lesson.

So now, if you will bear with me, I would like to give this testimony to you.

My husband Stephen, my daughter Charity, and I were almost prevented many times from attending the Phoenix Reunion. We started on our trip the Friday before the Reunion began. We drove four hours from Minnesota to Wisconsin in our car, which could have broken down at any time. We spent the weekend at my parents home in Wisconsin. That Sunday night I had a dream during which the adversary tried to smother me to death. I was quickly delivered from the adversary's grasp when I cried out to God for help. The next day we were able to get our car fixed. That evening we left my parents home and drove one hour to my sister's house to spend the

night there. On the way to her house, we stopped out for supper. At 12:30 that night, I was awakened with a very bad case of food poisoning. We had planned to leave that morning to drive to Missouri where we would pick up my sister, Patty, and brother, Tom, and bring them with us to the Reunion. We were delayed until nine o'clock that night because I was very weak from my sickness. Thus we had to spend that whole night driving to Missouri instead of sleeping the night in Missouri, in order to be refreshed for driving the rest of the way to Phoenix. However, we were able to sleep an hour or so before picking up Patty and Tom and continuing on our journey to Phoenix.

One last event that shows God's hand, happened the morning of the last day of the Reunion. We stayed with my aunt in Sun City, Arizona, during the Reunion, and thus chose to drive about 20 miles to church. Just as we drove into the parking lot entrance of the church that morning, our car broke down again, but this did not prevent us from attending that day's services.

God surely blessed us and brought us safely to the Reunion.

Your Sister in Christ,
Judy Gould

Story of an Old-Time Missionary

While reason is puzzling itself about mystery, faith is turning it to daily bread, and feeding on it thankfully in her heart of hearts.

—F. D. Huntington

The birthday dinner, in honor of Evalena Sills, was at the temporary home of her sister Ruth, in Mesa, Arizona in 1975. We were sitting around the table after dinner regaling each other with tales of our experiences. We were recording our conversation. These condensed words of Evalena's are taken from the tape.

"This story, a missionary story, occurred about the mid-thirties. My father, James E. Yates, was in Independence, Missouri, at that time. My step-mother, Vida E. Smith Yates, was not in very good health then, and she was not planning to go on this trip. Father was to go to Bemidji, Minnesota, where he was to hold meetings in a schoolhouse for two or three weeks. He asked me to go with him.

"One day I said to him 'Papa, what day are we leaving?' He named the day. Since I don't remember now, we'll say it was Thursday. He said, 'We will leave on Thursday.' And I said, 'Do you have the

money for the trip?' He answered, 'No, I don't.' 'Then, how do you know we will leave on Thursday?', I asked. He replied, 'I don't know HOW I know—I just know that we will.' Well, I pondered that and wondered about it a little bit. But I didn't wonder too much, because, having been brought up in a missionary's family, and having seen such experiences, and having a lot of confidence in Papa, I firmly believed we would leave on Thursday.

"In the meantime, Papa was driving downtown from Inez Davis' home (Inez was mother Vida's daughter). He was driving to town, passing some little boys playing ball in the street. Accidentally a ball hit the old-fashioned isin-glass sun visor that was attached to the old Ford car. The visor was broken so it could not be used. My father drove on home and did not do anything about it at the time. Then he got to studying about it. He had observed the house where the little boy went. He went back to that house and rang the door bell. A nice lady came to the door. She was the boy's mother. Papa told her the story about the broken visor. She called the little boy and asked him if he had done it. He admitted that he had.

"The mother said, 'I'll tell you what I am going to do. First, what do you consider would be a fair price for the visor?' As I remember, they agreed a fair price would be six or seven dollars. Papa would try to get a used one. The lady said, 'I am going to give you that amount now. My son carries a paper route and earns a little money of his own. He can repay me. It will be a good lesson to teach him not to play ball in the street.'

"With that money we were able to leave for Bemidji on Thursday. After we arrived we were housed in the home of the late brother Leon Gould and his family. One day around the dinner table, after we had finished our meal, we were talking about various things—about the Gospel and its work, and about how strange things have happened in the past to give us faith in the things we believe. My father related the story of the broken visor and how he got the money to come on this trip. When he had finished, dear old Brother Gould, bless his heart and bless his memory, said to his son, 'you know we had a sun visor out there in the shed. I think it is still there. Why don't you boys go out there and get it and see if it fits Brother Yates' car.' Well, the boys got up from the table and went out to the shed. They rummaged around and found the old visor. They dusted it off and brought it in. My father looked it over and said, 'That looks like the right size.' So with the boys' help they went out and put the visor on the old car. It was a perfect fit. So—we had the trip and now we had the visor.

"Papa finished the several weeks of services in the schoolhouse. It was just another evidence of the fulfillment of the promise made to the ministers of Christ, who have been ordained and sent out, that they should go without purse or scrip or without two coats, or without worrying about what they should wear or what they should eat. We are reminded that the lilies of the field are clothed, the fowls of the air are fed.

"I remember this story with a great deal of emotion, and I am proud that our ministry through the years have claimed that promise. These promises have been fulfilled over and over again. I am glad to tell this story. There might be someone who will hear it in later years when I am not here to tell it over again."

(Taken from tape by Ruth Willard)

No Man-Made Healing Potions for Me

This blessing occurred to me right after the 1987 Solemn Assembly. Although I received strength from what happened, I did not feel it would be important to others until my brother-in-law requested I send my testimony to the *Zion's Advocate*.

The Monday after Solemn Assembly I was back at college with an upset stomach and a fever. I went to the hospital on campus because I did not feel able to work. The doctor examined me later that morning and prescribed a medication. I am sure he was surprised when I refused to take any medicine.

A little while later a nurse asked me if I would take Pepto-Bismol, and I agreed because I felt it was a mild drug. However, God helped me understand that I should not partake of it. Therefore, when the Pepto-Bismol was offered to me later in the day I refused it. The one who brought me the medicine left my room. Immediately, as I turned over in bed some words to the song, "Higher Ground" went through my mind. I must say even though nearly a year has past since that date, I have not had the need to partake of any man-made healing potions.

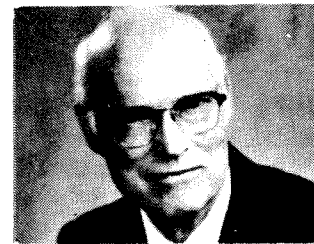
Patty Sedlak
Point Lookout, MO

Please send your Path Lights testimonies to:

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, MO 64052

BE YE READY

by Apostle Marvin Ely
(condensed from tape recording)



Editors Note: A version of this sermon was published in the *Hand of Fellowship*, June 1987. I chose to publish this in *Zion's Advocate*, in spite of its earlier publication, due to the fact that I have no other priesthood-authored material on hand.—G.H.

How quickly the time has passed. It seems but a moment ago that we just arrived. We're now in the final service of the Phoenix, Arizona, 1986 reunion. We're in the last scheduled service of any reunion this year. That's quite a fact to face. I thought upon this and several other thoughts have concerned me as different events have taken place; there was a great concern I had for our people. This great concern was centered around our readiness for the day in which we live, and the events that will shortly unfold. And so I feel to present certain things for our benefit.

I would like to read first from the 24th chapter of Matthew, verses 42 through 44. "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." Some have had their homes broken into, but if they would have known that there would be a thief there at that hour, they'd have been there waiting. But that isn't the way it is, "For ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." And this is the key verse. I want us to think upon it; I want us to put it in our memory bank. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." My sermon tonight is "Be Ye Ready", and my desire is that each and every one in this room might become ready for the events that will shortly transpire. One day the Son of man will return, and indeed for those who are still living then, I would want them to be ready. But in the event that some of us may go before that day, I would want them, likewise, ready.

I thought of the sermons of this reunion, and my mind went back and I thought of the sermons of the Missouri reunion. And my mind went back a bit further, and I thought of the sermons of the Colorado reunion. Each and every reunion held out responsibility. They were sermons of impact. The opening sermon of the Colorado reunion had this thought in it: "The great burden that I have is the potential that we have that we are not utilizing." That was his burden; the potential we have that we're not using. This little group even though small in number, has potential. Don't underestimate it. The Lord has

worked throughout time with smallness of numbers. Look what happened in the days of Gideon. Elijah was a man of faith, look what he did.

Another sermon in the Colorado reunion mentioned the spiritual and emotional problems and transgressions, that they had come from within, and how careful we must be. Another stressed the importance of serving Christ. And the final sermon of the reunion said, "We're called to perform warfare against the evil and wickedness about us," and then he stressed, "There's a great call for men to labor diligently in the vineyard of the Lord."

In the Missouri reunion, one sermon said, "It is the duty of the Apostles and ministry to teach us." You ministry, don't forget that. Each day and hour we have to face the devil, don't forget that. And one speaker said, concerning our world, "He is winning," (the devil) but he doesn't have to win, because with God and Jesus Christ on your side there is power. Another speaker said, "The world is full of causes. And never has there been a time in history when there's been so many causes." Then he stressed, "Among them are economical and religious causes," and then restressed that we must be armed with righteousness, and the power of God in great glory. One day, the only way the saints of the Lord will stand is because they are armed with righteousness and the power of God. And a final statement was made by the Apostle in charge of that field, not as a part of a sermon but as the service was closing. "We have heard sobering sermons." These sobering sermons have carried over into this reunion.

The first three sermons of the reunion were centered around Zion, and the responsibility connected with Zion. One spoke concerning the cause of Zion. One verse he didn't read, and I'm going to take the liberty to read it, in chapter 11 of the Book of Commandments, verse 4. I'll reread verse 3, "Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Behold I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work," Now listen to this closely, it says, "and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love," Did you hear that? Humble and full of love, "having faith, hope and charity, being temperate in all things, whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care." Make a mental note of these things.

Last night we were informed about our heritage. And certainly I marvel about the heritage that we

have. I marvel that you and I have been privileged to be born in this United States of America. We should never take it lightly. But also in the book of Ether it says concerning our heritage here, that you must serve the God of the land, or when any group of people are ripe in iniquity they will be swept off the face of the land. There are some marvelous blessings by serving the God of the land. You shall be kept free from bondage and all other nations on the face of the earth, if you will but serve the God of the land, and that God of the land is Jesus Christ.

I said earlier that I had been concerned for our people, how they might stand in the days ahead. I'd like to turn to the book of Luke the 21st chapter, and read, starting with verse 29. Jesus Christ said, as he oftentimes spoke in parables, "... Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your ownselves that summer is now at hand." Even the children in this room know that when they see the jonquils come up, they know that spring is nigh. When we see the fruit trees blooming we know that spring is nigh; and we see the fruit come and we know that summer is nigh. It's a fact of life. But let's read on, "So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." What things is he talking about? All we have to do is go back here to some of the other verses. Verse 10 says, there will be a time when nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And verse 25 says, it would be a day of distress of nations with perplexity. Perplexity is uncertainty. Is not this true? Is not this unfolding before our eyes? Are you alert, are you watching?

The warning signs have been raised, the signals are flashing. And I thought of a little event as I traveled from Columbia Falls to Spokane in late October. I was on the road from Kalispel to Libby, and up ahead I saw a sign. It said 35 miles per hour and on top of that there was a flashing yellow light. And a thing that's never happened to me before, I thought, these people thought enough of me to put a flashing light there to catch my attention. I slowed to 35 miles an hour and I came around a nice rounding curve, maybe a half mile in length with a concrete barrier like we see on our interstate highways placed around this curve. Now in Montana they still have the habit of placing a white cross for those who've died in an accident. I counted 17 white crosses on that curve. It was a sobering thought to me. A warning signal had been raised. Somehow somebody didn't heed that warning, their life was lost, for over there was a dangerous embankment, and I was thankful that someone thought enough of me to put a warning there. And I hope tonight that I may be able to put out a warning here, and that you might heed. I want you to be part of Zion. I want you to have that hope. I want you to be able to stand in the days that lie ahead. So I've outlined certain things.

When you see these things come to pass know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand, and it

goes on to say it will be a day of famine and of pestilence, of fearful sights, and great signs from heaven. In verse 26, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and looking after those things that are coming on the earth:" and there is fear upon the face of this earth today. One of the great fears of today is of annihilation by the atomic bomb. I thought of a kind of stark fact, that I just read last week in an Associated Press article, and it made mention that 1986 is the United Nations International Year of Peace. And in this year of 1986, it mentioned another fact, that every minute there is one and seven tenths million dollars being spent on the military and defense items, while a third of the people in this world can neither read nor write, and twenty percent of our people live in utter poverty. This article went on to say that in this year of peace, there will be nearly nine hundred billion dollars spent on the military. I find these alarming statistics. Is it any wonder our world is fearful? But let me tell you, the scripture says, perfect love casteth out all fear. I believe it, so we had better work toward perfect love in our lives. We've got the potential. This small group can move mountains because with a people dedicated to Jesus Christ and the God above we can accomplish great and marvelous works through them, armed with power and righteousness.

I would like to turn to the 12th chapter of the book of John and read verses 47 and 48. And I hope as I speak that you might be making mental notes of what I say. I feel it's important for your lives. I have a great compassion for each one of you and for others about me, a concern for your welfare. "And if any man", Jesus said, "hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." But listen and don't forget this, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Don't forget that! These words are important. You better learn what they are because they will judge you at the last day.

Isaiah 55 ties so well with this, verse 11, and I'll give you a little background of it. Isaiah spoke here concerning the rain and the snow and the purpose in it. In the creation of God and our Savior Jesus Christ, nothing is done by accident. The rain and the snow came down and causes that there shall be seed for the sower and bread for the eater. Now he likens this unto his word, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void," and don't forget that, what he says will be, "but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." It will happen in every detail as he has spoken.

Along this line concerning the word of God, let us read 1st Nephi 3:68-69, "And it came to pass that I beheld the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God:" Now this rod of

iron can lead you to the tree of life. "And I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God." Did you hear Sister Ruth Willard say in her testimony today, "Don't turn loose of the rod of iron."? Remember that, it is important.

In Moroni it speaks concerning charity, "which is the pure love of Christ and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them." And then the commandment, "pray with all the energy of your heart," and I charge you tonight, pray with all the energy of your heart that you might be filled with this love which is bestowed upon all the true followers of Jesus Christ. So if you are a true follower that love will be bestowed upon you.

I would like to turn back to the book of Luke again, the 21st chapter and read verses 33 and 34. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." And then another key verse, "And 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 on you unawares." And I want us to think a bit about this 34th verse. Take heed to yourselves; that warning light is flashing, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting; What does that word mean? It means an over abundant supply or excess. And we're living in a world where many people are out to have an over abundant supply or excess. So take heed that your heart isn't overcharged with this, or drunkenness; and it's taking the nation and the world. Christ raised a warning finger concerning the cares of this life. If we become too encumbered with the cares of life, that day can come upon us unawares. And it says in the next verse, "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the earth." The cares of this life are affecting every one of us to a more or less degree, and so the time has arrived that we must take inventory into our lives.

In Matthew, the 13th chapter, I would like us to think upon this particular parable because there is a lot contained therein. I'll start with the 19th verse, and I want to briefly tell you about this parable. A sower went forth to sow. Some of the seed fell by the wayside, and the birds came by and devoured the seed so it didn't get a chance to grow. Others fell on the rocky or stony places and it readily started to grow but because it didn't have much depth of soil, when the sun came out it withered. Some fell among thorns and when the thorns grew they choked the seed. Other seed fell on good soil and some yielded a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty. Now verse 19, "When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he that received seed by the wayside. Again the word of God is good but if we don't understand it, and the wicked one catcheth it away, it does not accomplish its end. "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word and anon with joy receiveth it;"

with happiness he receives the word of God, even converted to it, "Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while," we might say endureth, "for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." Because of tribulation and persecution some will be offended, and we are told that there will be tribulation, a day of trouble such that has never been since there was a nation even down to that same time. You can read about it in Daniel, the 12th chapter and 1st verse.

"He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." The care of this world is something that really concerns me. We must not allow our lives to be so encumbered with the cares of this world, that they detract us from our reasonable service to God, and preparing for a richer, fuller life to come. And another one is the deceitfulness of riches. I like the statement of the book of Jacob on that, the 2nd chapter verses 23 and 24, "But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have attained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted." Now make a few mental notes, these are things that are required of us. Let's point our lives to a greater effectiveness. We will receive more fully when we do this. God is not lax.

The 23rd verse in Matthew 13th chapter, "But he that received seed into good ground," And I want you to note this, "is he that heareth the word; and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Now I would like to turn to Luke 8:13-14 as this gives some other thoughts concerning this rather marvelous parable. And I'm not going to read it all. This time it's concerning what fell on the rock, "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away." The other said tribulation and persecution; now this writer adds, in time of temptation. I would like to turn again to Lehi's vision, 1st Nephi, the 2nd chapter, and start with verse 62. And I want us to think on this. I'm not going to read it all, but he (Nephi) beheld a rod of iron along a river of water and a straight and narrow path, and in order to walk that straight and narrow path one had to grasp the rod of iron. This rod of iron is a representation of the word of God. And as the Sister said, don't turn loose of the rod of iron. I should touch on verse 65 a little, he beheld numerous concourses of people, many pressing forward that they might obtain the path which led to the tree, and in verse 67, he beheld mists of darkness, exceeding mists of darkness that did cloud the way, and they wandered off and were lost. These mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil. He beheld others pressing forward, in

verse 69, he says, "through the mists of darkness". Now I want you to notice that. You're on your way to the tree of life; that mist of darkness will be there; the temptations of the devil will be there to try to cloud your way. And some of these same people he saw in the vision went and partook of the fruit of the tree, and others on the outside were pointing fingers of shame at them, and they couldn't stand it and they fell away, even after partaking of the fruit. But others pressed forward and partook of the tree of life, a happy, joyful experience. And along with that I would like to turn to the 3rd chapter and read verse 125, "And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil," and note this, "which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into the broad roads, that they may perish, and are lost." Keep hold of the rod of iron. The word of God will carry you through. You will see that this is vital in your life. You must put your trust more fully in God and his Son, Jesus Christ.

I feel that one of the greatest temptations that will be placed before man, will shortly unfold. Greater than the others, and that is the one that's centered around the mark of the beast. There will come a time when man will neither buy nor sell except he have this mark in the right hand or in his forehead. Now this is going to be a concern to many people, it will be a temptation, in order to survive, to receive that mark. That temptation will be there. There will be those who will bow down and worship that image. And as many as will not worship that image, it said, will be killed. But I find that even though it says that they'll be killed, I find there are those that got the victory over the image and the mark of his beast, and I would like to read that from Revelations 15: verses 2 and 3, "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, "so there's going to be those who don't accept that beast, "and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name," which, incidently, we all know is 666, "stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God." So we can gain the victory! We don't have to fear because we can't buy nor sell without that mark or the number of his name. We don't have to worship his image because with God there is power; and one day his saints will be armed with righteousness and the power of God in great glory. And that great and abominable church will tumble to the earth.

Now let me tell you another side of the picture. Let's read in Revelation 16, verses 1 and 2, "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image." It doesn't sound like a fun thing, does it? For survival they will receive that. This is what it says. But those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over the image, and over his

mark, and over the number of his name, will stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God.

Let's turn back to Luke the 8th chapter, 14th verse concerning the parable of the sower, "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Now you notice the other said the cares of the world and the riches, this adds, and the pleasures. And listen to this, "And bring no fruit to perfection." Paul the apostle said, you can read it in 2 Timothy, 3rd chapter, verses 1 through 5, he said, "This know, in the last days perilous times shall come," and one verse said, "and men shall be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." Look around you, open your ears, what's happening on the face of this earth today? I heard a newscast as I traveled this year, and this newscast said, the number one desire for good wages and well paying jobs is, that they might buy pleasurable items and pursue pleasurable activities. That's the number one desire. I think that we've got our priorities in the wrong place. I'm not saying this is all, but this is an average. Now it isn't wrong to have some pleasure. But one of the fruits of the Spirit is temperance. Adam fell that men might be and men are that they might have joy, but he didn't say that you have to be in pleasure all the time. It can be happiness serving the Lord. That is pleasure too, even greater than all the pleasure of this world. Didn't Lehi say that partaking of the fruit of the tree of life is the most joyous of anything? It's a happy experience, yet all about us people say, "I'm not happy, I'm bored with life." Well do you want to be happy or don't you want to be? Is it the way to get happy to go out and drink more of the juice, or something like that? Or is it to pursue a lot of the vices of the world, or to get involved in the lustful acts of the world? Is that happiness? No; it really isn't the way, it doesn't last. I've seen the heartaches; I've witnessed them first hand; it isn't fun. It tears me to pieces to see people hurt because they've chosen certain ways of life. And when they've chosen these ways they're in heartache and sorrow, and then they come for help when it's almost impossible to undo what's been done. My heart bleeds for them. I would like people to have this happiness I've been talking about. There is no happiness in the vices and sins of this world. Not any! Even the devil, it says, deserted his own, you can't depend on him. But there is hope with Jesus Christ and God. Praise the Lord for it. Verse 15, and listen to this, pay attention to it, "But that on good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it," don't forget that, "and bring forth fruit with patience."

Now I'd like to turn to the 16th chapter of Alma where they sowed some seed, I'm going to read verse 169. Recently in my travels I found those who mentioned what they felt concerning our salvation, and that it really wasn't tied to works. They made the statement that, you're rewarded for your works but

your salvation is a gift from God. And I explained to them you can't separate works from salvation. And so I'll read one that shows that our works are vital to our salvation, even though the scripture says we will be rewarded according to our works. "And thus it is," and this is the tree or the word in our lives, "if you will not nourish the word, looking forward with the eye of faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life." It's important to nourish and take care of it, it says, if you don't do it you are not going to partake of the fruit. Now that's what it says. Alright, verse 170, "But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold, it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life." So you can't separate them. Our salvation is tied to this. We must nourish the word by our faith with great diligence and with patience. This is the thing that's tough. We really don't like to wait. We're in a society that wants to go everywhere at full steam and even faster if they could. Patience, Paul said, works experience. Let's read on, "And because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure;" Isn't that a beautiful thing to hold out for you? "And ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst." I find these are significant words, "Then my brethren ye shall reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long suffering," this is something isn't it?, "waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you."

Now I've already read concerning the cares of this life and that this day of the return of the Lord shall come as a snare upon the face of the earth. So I have another reading in Matthew 24, starting with verse 36, concerning the coming of Jesus Christ. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." So I don't claim to know either. I do not know when certain things come to pass that it is near, even at the door. Christ gave us certain signs and a lot of them are being fulfilled before our eyes, like the unrest among

nations.

In 1964 on August 7th, at the Colorado Reunion, Brother Barton arose and spoke in tongues. Brother Jordan interpreted. I believe it is scripture. "Open your eyes that you may see; unstop your ears that you may hear, for thus saith the Spirit, I have already begun to bring to pass the fulfillment of prophecy already given showing forth my power in the disasters that are coming upon the peoples of the earth." Incidentally, this was 22 years ago. "They shall come from the heavens above and from the earth beneath. The elements will be loosed, even all the elements that I have created. Come ye out of Babylon that ye be not a partaker of her plagues." Babylon is connected with sin and the vices of this world.

Now, I read that because of what I'm about to read from the 37th verse, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." This just said things are going to be going on just as they were then. And it doesn't mean that it's wrong to marry, that isn't what that means, but it just said people will be doing these things. There's another place I'd like to bring in about that which preceded the flood. It says, "The imaginations of the hearts of the children of men were only evil continually." How quickly man is following such a trend. "And the earth was filled with violence and great wickedness." That's why he destroyed them and how quickly things are turning that way, as it was in the days of Noe, so also shall it be at the coming of the Son of man.

Okay, verse 42, and I'm going to reread it again, "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." And so I charge you tonight, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." And so it is my hope and my prayer that we might be ready. It is my desire that these words I have spoken tonight might sink deeply into your hearts.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?

In a recent issue of Reader's Digest there is a story about a young man on a Pacific island who purchased a wife for eight cows. The interesting fact is that he could have purchased the same wife for only two cows because she was very plain and backward. When asked why he offered eight cows rather than just two, he explained that he wanted his wife to be worth more than any other wife on the island. Truly when she was seen thereafter she was radiantly beautiful because the price paid for her gave her a

sense of self worth.

The story, though fiction, made me think of a story that is not fiction, but rather the greatest story ever told. That story is about the price that was paid to purchase you and I a place in heaven. The price paid was worth far more than our worth. But speaking of self worth, can we, knowing the price that was paid, do less than our very best to be worthy of the price?

Apostle Roland L. Sarratt

EXCUSES

CHORUS

Excuses, Excuses, You hear them every day.
How the devil he'll supply them, if from church you'll
stay away.
When people come to know the Lord, the devil
always loses.
So to keep them folks away from church, he offers
them excuses.

READING

In the summer it's too hot, in the winter it's too cold.
In the Springtime when the weather's just right,
you'll find some place else to go.
Well it's up to the mountains or down to the beach
or to visit some old friends.
Or just to stay home and try to relax, and hope some
of the kin folks start droppin in.
Well the church benches are too hard and the choir
sings way too loud.
Boy you know how nervous you get, when you're
sitting in a great big crowd.
The doctor told you, now you'd better watch these
crowds, they'll set you back.
But you go to that old ball game, because it helps
you to relax.
Well a headache Sunday morning and a backache
Sunday night.
But by worktime Monday morning you're feeling
quite alright.
Why one of the children has a cold, pneumonia,
do you suppose.

QUARTET

Why the whole family has to stay home just to blow
that poor kid's nose.

CHORUS

Well the preacher he's too young, and maybe he's
too old.
The sermons they're not hard enough, and maybe
they're too bold.
His voice is much too quiet, sometimes it gets
too loud.
He needs to have more dignity, or else he's way
too proud.

REPEAT

Well the sermons they're too long, and maybe
they're too short.
He ought to preach the word with dignity, instead
of stomp and snort.
That preacher, he must be the world's most stuck
up man.
Well one of the ladies told me the other day.
Why he didn't even shake my hand.

CHORUS

Excuses, Excuses, you hear them every day.
How the devil he'll supply them, if from church
you'll stay away.
When people come to know the Lord, the devil
always loses.
So to keep them folks away from church, he offers
them excuses.

(Author Unknown)

Words to this song were submitted by
Sister Pam Lussenden
Allegan, Michigan

Addendum: Many of us have sung this song, perhaps
not the exact words, but the meaning was the same.
How About you?

TRIALS

by Harvey L. Seibel

"Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Job 5:7.

And again: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Peter 4:12-13.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines "trial," thus: 1. the act or process of trying, testing, etc.; test; probation 2. a hardship, suffering, etc.

Trials disrupt the continuity of life; bring sorrow and pain, and burden the mind.

Yet time and time again we are subject to trials. Is this the will of God?

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and

scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Hebrews 12:6.

"For behold, they have been a chosen people of the Lord; yea, the people of Nephi hath he loved, and also hath he chastened them; yea, in the days of their iniquities hath he chastened them, because he **loved** them." Helaman 5:90.

Trials come to those whom the Lord loveth. Therefore, there must needs be a reason for this chastening:

"And thus we see, that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death, and with terror, and with famine, and with all manner of pestilences, they will not **remember** him." Helaman 4:52.

Besides calling us to a remembrance of our Creator, how do trials benefit us?

"...But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh **patience**;..." Romans 5:3.

"Nevertheless the Lord seeth fit to chasten his people; yea, he trieth their **patience** and their **faith**." Mosiah 11:23.

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he **obedience** by the things which he suffered;..." Hebrews 5:8.

"...There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest I should be exalted above measure**." II Corinthians 12:7.

Some must suffer trials before they will humble themselves unto repentance:

"...For he beheld that their afflictions had truly **humbled** them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the word." Alma 16:127.

"...For a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh **repentance**;..." Alma 16:134.

There was another purpose to the trials suffered by the prophets of old:

"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have

spoken in the name of the Lord, for an **example** of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10-11.

Two notable examples of excessive trials and sufferings are Jesus Christ and Job.

Let us examine more closely the trial of Job:

"Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blest the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, **Behold, all that he hath is in thy power**..." Job 1:9-12.

A trial indeed! The measure of Job's trial is evidenced in his lament:

"Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up." Job 6:2-3.

Yet Job did not curse the Lord, but learned patience and obedience and faith in his Lord. And his end was better than his beginning:

"...The Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." Job 42:10.

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." Job 14:1-2.

What is our end if we endure our trials and tribulations?

"...If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:17.

—NEWS—

Send all "news" type items to Mike McGhee. See address on inside front cover of each *Zion's Advocate*.

OBITUARY

Brother Raymond Gilbert Schultz of Springfield, Oregon, passed away December 26, 1987. He was born to Gilbert and Josephine Schultz on December 27, 1924, at Little Fork, Minnesota.

He was baptized into the Church of Christ, September 10, 1933, at Turtle River, Minnesota, by B. Q. Winnegar and Leon A. Gould.

In 1943, he was drafted into the Army. Ray was in the infantry and served during World War II in France and Germany. He landed on Normandy the day after the invasion, and fought on the front

lines in Germany. While in Germany, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

After he recovered from his injuries he was transferred to grave registration in France. He served there until he separated from service, November 11, 1945.

In the fall of 1947, Ray decided to go visit an old war buddy in Montana. While there he met and fell in love with his buddy's sister, Evelyn Beard. They were married soon thereafter.

To this union were born three sons, Wilbert, Arthur and

William, and one daughter, Loretta Neet.

Ray worked in the logging business most of his married life. The last seven years he drove his own logging truck in Oregon.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, four children and eight

grandchildren; also two brothers: Marvin and Leon; four sisters: Bernise Gould, Romona Kitzman, Frances Twillrager, and Warlene Thomas; and a host of friends. His father and mother, and one brother preceded him in death.

IN MEMORY

Minnie Catherine Smith, who was well loved by many friends and relatives in her home town of Ava, as well as countless people she befriended all over the country during her years as a member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, passed from this life on January 30, 1988.

Mrs. Smith was born to James Smith and Catherine Coble, May 20, 1894, in Charlestown Indiana. She married Arthur Marion Smith on May 21, 1922, at Des Moines, Iowa. They had four daughters and one son: Georgia Tate, Lorraine Welton, Myrl Darlington (deceased), Barbara Burgin, and Joseph Smith, all of Ava, Missouri.

In addition to her own children she raised five stepsons and one stepdaughter: Verl M. Smith (deceased); Carl K. Smith, Highland, California; Alexander M. Smith (deceased); Kenneth J. Smith, Independence, Missouri; Elizabeth M. Smith, Fair Oaks, California; and Arthur G. Smith of Ava, Missouri. One foster son, Clifton Engle, is deceased.

Minnie and Arthur had thirty-one grandchildren, many great grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, two stepsons, three brothers and two sisters. Three sisters and one brother survive: Edith Dockstetter, Illinois; Ed Smith, Detroit; Marian Lohart, Indiana; and Martha Kestler of Florida.

Minnie was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day Saints at Des Moines, Iowa, and transferred her membership to the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, in 1927.

Arthur and Minnie moved their family to Ava, Missouri, in 1932. In the 1950's she made three missionary trips with her husband, Apostle Arthur M. Smith, to England, as well as several throughout the United States.

In writing this memorial to my grandmother, I felt the need to say a few words about her, shedding light on how special a person she was to so many people. She was not one to turn her back on any person who needed help. Always one to boost the spirit in fellow church members, Minnie was a woman who believed in the gospel to every word and wasn't a person who lived by that word just on Sundays, but every day.

My grandmother was born in the days when this world was much slower in its growth and a little more innocent. It must have been amazing to grow with the changes of the world, but I think the most rewarding thing about her life is that she lived to see many of the latter day prophecies come to be fulfilled.

In all the years that I knew her I never once heard of her asking anyone for help, and up until her last few days she was as active as people half her age. She was bright, and very giving and she will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

This comes from all of
Minnie C. Smith's family

News from Grand Junction

Hang on to your hats! The spring winds are blowing in a brand new season. That's good news in Grand Junction, where we tend to grow weary of the brown haze hanging over the valley, and we welcome a breath of fresh air.

To usher in the holiday season in December, David and Kathy Larsen hosted a gathering where we sampled the good cooking of others. The menu included steaming pots of soup, served with munchies of all sorts, and topped off with tempting holiday desserts. Although it was cold and snowy outside, the holidays were warm and happy with the help of visitors from Missouri and Arizona. Bob and Shirley Ely had a houseful to make their season bright. Their daughter Patsy McCann, her husband Gordon, and their daughter Jennifer were here from Phoenix. Their son Duane, his wife Kathy, and their children Michelle and Jared braved the icy roads from Phoenix. Filling our holiday household were my sister Bonnie Gayle Case, her husband Don, and their children Nathan, Aubrey and Lisa from Higginsville, Missouri. We are thankful for God's protection over them on their journey home, braving the winter wonderland of storms and icy roads. Warren and Fern Sarratt, from Bates City, Missouri, had visited during the fall, and made good their escape around Thanksgiving, when they left to visit their children in Phoenix. We missed our sister Charlotte Hinkle while she was making her annual visit in Phoenix with family members. She missed the worst part of our snowy season and it's good to have her back.

Some of our visitors were here for the Christmas program on December 23, which included a puppet play of the journey to Bethlehem, several vocal selections, a reading of Christmas poetry, and a short message concerning the hope that was born on that starry night so long ago.

We have started a new course in our Wednesday evening study class, led every other week by Bob Ely. He is helping us sort Bible references which reaffirm our convictions and outline the basis

for our belief in the Book of Mormon. We hope to formulate a workable outline which will help us define the truth for ourselves and others we may contact.

Our annual business meeting was held in January, with few changes in officers or procedures. Our pastor again is Marvin Carroll, and our Sunday School Superintendent is Bob Ely. The Colorado Reunion date is set for June 10, 11 and 12. It would be our great pleasure to see you here, so do contact our reunion committee and let them know of your plans. They will help you find a place to stay, either in our homes or in convenient motels and campgrounds. If you can get here, we will feed and shelter you. Please contact one of the following committee members:

Marvin Ely, 236 - 32 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303) 434-8149

Bob Ely
3201 - B½ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303) 434-8090

David Larsen
3040 - B Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303) 434-7830

Their addresses may look rather odd to those unfamiliar with the lettering and numbering system of the roads out here, but I guarantee that mail will reach them at these addresses.

Our prayers are for you, and please remember us.

Becky Downs
299½ Holly Lane
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303) 243-5777



Stephen Kelly and Patricia Yates

It has been said that "all the world loves a lover." Those of us who attended the wedding ceremony of the clean and devoted lovers, young Stephen Michael Kelly and Miss Patricia May Yates, were happily aware of our love and affection for them and our joy in witnessing their exchange of sacred marriage vows.

This beautiful event took place in mid-morning, on November 21, 1987, at the Church of Christ, 2929 E. Siesta Lane, Phoenix, Arizona.

A quarter-hour of appropriate piano music—love ballads—with the bride's grandmother, Patsy Yates at the keyboard, melodiously set the mood for the rituals to follow. As the sentimental tunes filled the chapel, the male participants took their place on the rostrum: The young officiating minister, Elder Joel Yates (brother of the bride), Groom Steve Kelly, his Best Man Jim Yates, Jr. (the bride's cousin), and Groomsman Ed Yates, brother of the bride. The three of them wore informal, but becoming attire—Joel, the minister in a dark suit, and the two attendants in gray suits with dusty rose ties.

Following Melvin Biringer's beautiful rendition of the *Wedding Song*, the familiar strains of the Lohengrin *Wedding March* introduced the formal procession. First came Maid of Honor, Miss Dawn Marie Razzo, followed by Bridesmaid Crystal Rene Gill, both attractively gowned in floor-length, dusty rose dresses, and both wearing captivating smiles.

The bride, on the arm of her father, Elder Hubert E. Yates, glided gracefully down the aisle to the altar.

Following the minister's opening prayer, Chris Moser's bell-like soprano sang out the impressive lyrics of "Give Me Your Hand." Before the vows were spoken, Elder Joel Yates emphasized the sacredness of marriage, that it was instituted by God Himself, and that it was a lifetime commitment to keep themselves "for each other and from all others," as long as they both should live. Then Chris Moser's beautiful song, "Walk Hand in Hand," seemed an appropriate invitation to proceed with the vows.

After the double ring ceremony, Melvin Biringer sang *The Lord's Prayer*.

About three weeks after the wedding a wonderful event took place! Stephen, the groom, who had been studying the Church of Christ beliefs and practices for many months, became a baptized member, thus bringing bride and groom together in the Gospel where they can live and serve and work side by side in greater happiness here on this earth as they strive for a place in God's presence one glad day.

The newlyweds are at home and those of us who love them, (and we are many!) say, "happiness always!" And God bless!

Joy Summers and Edward Tucker

Marriott's Tan-Tar-A Lodge, Lake of the Ozarks, Osage Beach, Missouri, was the scene of a beautiful wedding on the evening of February 14, 1988, when Joy Oleta Summers and Edward Leroy

Tucker, both of Preston, Missouri, spoke their sacred marriage vows.

This mature couple, having lost their former mates by death, will now find solace and comfort in their new and sweet companionship.

The bride is the daughter of Elder Joseph E. Yates and his wife, Floralice, of Preston. Despite health problems they were able to attend their daughter's wedding and to add their blessing to the union.

All of the formal wedding participants were family related, indicating a spirit of unity and love so good to see.

The officiating minister, Darell D. Yates of Lee's Summit, Missouri, a brother of the bride, performed the impressive ceremony in which the sanctity of marriage and lifetime fidelity were emphasized. The bride's sister, Mrs. Johnny (Peaches) Mathis was the charming Matron of Honor, and the pretty candle-lighters were the bride's daughter, Mrs. Tweet Echhoff and granddaughter, Miss Amber Arnett. Son, Monte Ray Summers and nephew Sterling D. Mathis served as ushers.

Albert E. Tucker, of Weaubleau, Missouri, served as his brother's Best Man, and seven-year-old Byron Tucker, the groom's nephew, as Ring Bearer carried the symbols of unending love on a heart-shaped, red satin pillow. The Flower Girl, little Miss Summer Dawn Arnett, granddaughter of the bride, looked like a flower herself as she tripped gracefully toward the altar, dropping scented, multicolored petals on the white, paper-covered aisle.

The bride, on the arm of her son, Monte Ray Summers, looked radiant and beautiful in her white and pink satin gown, and carrying a bouquet of red, white and pink carnations attached to a malibou fur muff worn over her left wrist.

Appropriate music was provided, beginning a half-hour before the ceremony. Kinswoman, Mrs. Dennis (Olivia) Yates presided at the piano, and Sammy Hughes, a family friend played the violin. Timothy Tucker, the groom's son, an officer in the Navy Band at Charleston, North Carolina, sang his own composition, "Our First Step," to his own guitar accompaniment. Mr. and Mrs. (Sandi) Gumm sang a beautiful duet, "You And I," to a recorded orchestral accompaniment. Johnny Mathis, brother-in-law of the bride sang "The Master's Touch," and accompanied himself on the guitar.

About 150 guests enjoyed the reception, following the ceremony, in the beautifully decorated, round Parasol Room which joined the spacious, improvised Chapel where the "I do's" had been spoken.

As the mature newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Tucker, looked into each other's eyes, they seemed to be repeating the immortal words of the well-known English poet, Robert Browning:

"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life,
For which the first was made. . . ."

Reported by
Evalena Sills

YPCL ACTIVITIES

February 13, 1988

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, **To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction. . . .**" James 1:27.

In keeping with this scripture, the Young People fellowshiped with members of the body of Christ who are unable to attend with us as their spirits desire. The Young People presented Sr. Randall and Bro. Maynard Case with fruit baskets and cards. They expressed their appreciation for these gifts, yet surely we benefited more than they, for their gift to us was of their wisdom and experiences.

"And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to **heal the sick.**" St. Luke 9:2.

Maynard Case bore witness of the mighty miracles which he has seen, and which have transpired in his own life. He testified that the Lord has seen fit to preserve his life on more than one occasion; of the healing power of administration; and even of the dead being raised.

Would that the miracles attendant upon our fathers be restored to us today in like measure! Yet we know what holds us back, for the scriptures have plainly warned us of our day.

"Wherefore, if these things have ceased, wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of **unbelief**, and all is vain; for no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have **faith in his name. . . .**" Moroni 7:42.

Oh, that we would seek more diligently the kingdom of heaven! Let us put on the whole armor of God, that we may be worthy and profitable servants.

Harvey L. Seibel

RAVENNA LOCAL NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As springtime approaches we hope and pray that you all are enjoying God's beautiful plan with the springtime renewal of life on this earth. We must remember the renewal of our lives was made possible with the resurrection of Christ so that we might have everlasting life. It is truly a wonderful season of birth and rebirth.

Conference time is near again and we also remember the wonderful rebirth of The Church of Christ here on earth, how fitting that it should also be in the springtime!

Our local began having all-day meetings last November 22, and plan to about every 3 months. November 22 we welcomed Elder Laverne Lussenden from the Bradley local as our guest speaker. It was a very nice, spiritual meeting. We sang especially good that day too, I might add, thanks to the extra beautiful voices! On December 27th we welcomed family home again in an all-day meeting, here from the Warrensburg, Missouri local were Elder Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner, Elder Andy and Sister Carol Brantner and their two children Jacob and Vanessa. Which made the special "filling" day just that much more special to us. February 21 we again held an all-day meeting which was again very good, a very spiritually filling service, with many beautiful testimonies. It was especially good to welcome home Sister Lois Heath, Sister Vivian and Brother Max Spencer who had been off visiting relatives in North and South Carolina for the past 3 weeks. It seemed like longer to us (we missed them very much!).

Christy and Michael Horn we also missed for a few weeks, they had been ill so much. First with the chicken pox followed with scarlet fever and various flu bugs. Thankfully they are well now

and getting stronger. Sister Jean Shevock and Brother Max Spencer have both undergone biopsies and we are very happy to announce that both have received good news.

As we are busy making plans for our Michigan State Reunion on June 18 and 19, it may not be too early to remind all of you that we are working very hard to make it a Reunion that you won't forget. We're looking forward to seeing each and every one of you so please put it on your calendars!

See you soon,
May God Bless You!
Your Sister in Christ,
Debbie Brantner Vogel

OKLAHOMA NEWS

After weeks of real winter weather, we woke up to a beautiful sabbath day on February 14. And so it was that we began our drive to gather in for worship services with the Kimballs in Shawnee.

Apostle Roland Sarratt and his devoted wife, June, were guests. Even though it is a long, long drive for them, it is made more interesting by a little blond headed boy who lives in Tulsa. You see, on their way to Shawnee, they stop off in Tulsa to have a short visit with their son, Stephen, and his family, Karey and Brandon. All of you who know June know how captivated she is with Brandon!

Love of family is one of our greatest sources of happiness. Love of friends brings untold happiness, too! Many of us believe the LOVE is the ultimate of this earth's happiness. The scriptures tell us that if we love God with all our might, mind and strength, His grace will be sufficient for us to become perfect in Christ. (Moroni 10:29) When we learn to love, when we learn to give and receive love, we are a happy people.

It is love that we share when we meet together in our little church group. It is love that brings the ministry from independence to visit us. Again, it is love that motivates us reporters to share our church family with others in the church. This love also includes our joy of reading the church news from other locals from over our great land and from other countries.

In the past several months we have appreciated and enjoyed the following families visiting us: the Sarratts, the Marvin Cases, the Grzincics, and the Fanns. We are looking forward to their visits again this year.

A few news items about our families that might be of interest to you are: Jeff Kimball, a freshman at Oklahoma State University, comes home often. He seems to be adjusting well as a university freshman. He looks good! Laura Mae Elwell and Mike Martin were happy to have their parents, the Jack Martins, visit them recently. Alzada Massey had the joy of visiting her mother, Anna Keeney, in Houston, Missouri in late February. While in Missouri, she visited her sister, Mary Jane Medders and her brother, Ireatess Keeney, both of Houston. Her sister, Florence Marie Kommer, in Springfield was on her list to visit. All the nieces and nephews in the area come by now and then. Aren't families wonderful?

Winter has been especially hard for us this year. We had to cancel one service. Missing one service for us is like missing four services for others since we only meet once a month. We are "hungry" to meet together. Perhaps we will have a beautiful springtime and a delightful summer. Most of all, we pray for a continuation of our second-Sunday services.

In the words of David: "Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

Alzada Massey, Reporter

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

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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.

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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.

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