

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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YOU TELL ON YOURSELF

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
by the very manner in which you speak,
by the way you enjoy your leisure time,
by the use you make of dollars and time.

You tell what you are by the things you wear,
by the spirit in which your burdens bear,
by the kind of things at which you laugh,
by the records you play on your phonograph.

You tell what you are by the way you walk
by the things of which you delight to talk,
by the manner in which you bear defeat,
by so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from a well-filled shelf,
in these ways and more, you tell on yourself.
So there's really no particle of sense
in an effort to keep up false pretense.

You tell on yourself.

—Author unknown

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THE ZION'S ADVOCATE IS . . .

To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour and His teachings;
 To promote His church, the Church of Christ;
 To be a voice of warning to His people;
 To be Zion's advocate.

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

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

Guest Editorial . . .

Which Way to Zion?

In a fashion of their own, those of the Latter Day restoration look forward to a Zion; a city founded on spiritual ideals, where the presence of the Spirit of God will prevail in social, economic, and religious affairs.

Attempts to establish such a community proliferate in the history of that Restoration. They sing of it, expound upon it, and devise various schemes to bring about what they feel will represent "Zion Living." Such attempts at corporate living have largely, if not all, ended in failure.

Concordances and dictionaries relate the term "Zion" to a place in the city of Jerusalem. But our criteria, the Bible and Book of Mormon, use the term "My Zion", "God's Zion", inferring a spiritual locale. Commentaries showing common usage describe it as "the pure in heart", "God's elect", etc.

Such a community has existed before in the history of the world. It was in Central America beginning at the time of Christ and continuing for 200 years. Research has established it as a fact and our Book of Mormon proclaims it.

Examination shows that that society came about because there were people of a particular socio/spiritual character and that this character controlled their living and produced the most desirable society the earth has ever known.

The people of that society were its basis. It came about because of them. They were moved by a spirit, the Spirit of God, which moves souls to righteousness.

These people were of "God's elect." They were of the pure in heart, motivated by the love of God which is charity in its purest form.

If there is a hope for such a community to be again, there must first be, as before, people moved by and possessing the qualities giving birth to the term "righteousness." Some etherial, mystic presence is not demanded. Good solid chastity, charity, honesty, humility, equity, morality, piety, and Christian faith compose the requirement.

Souls of this stripe are found in the earth today. They are God's elect. And where they are, Zion is, for Zion is the pure in heart. We repeat, "They are to be found in all the earth." Our Book of Mormon says it would be so, and also says His hand of blessing is upon them wherever they may be found.

To the extent that we follow righteousness and rely upon the mercies afforded us in the Christ, we can rightly assert, "We are Zion!"

If Zion is sought in our day it will be found in the hearts and souls of truly practicing Christians.

The way of righteousness is the road to Zion.

—Elder Thomas Maley

THE HOLY WORD

by Apostle Robert H. Jensen

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel of Christ is a living force, even as the Apostle Paul said. Because of that living power, every human life can be tempered and brought unto it. There are no problems of our modern society which cannot be solved through its application.

One of the foremost beauties of the Gospel of Christ exists in the fact that it is a living force for the lives of all people in all eras of time. Its applicability does not diminish with the passing of time. As a perpetual fountain from an inexhaustible source, its living waters, today, flow as abundantly, clearly and infinitely as in the days of Adam; and truly they shall never cease until time has merged into eternal immortality, and then only to stand as a memorial of the reflection of God's love upon the former stage of His mortal earth with all of her children who were given their brief privilege to obey His will in a realm subordinate only to Heaven itself.

Even after the advent of nearly 6,000 years, its light still illumines the pathway of mankind as brightly as in the beginning, when he enters into its sacred covenant. Indeed, every exquisitely beautiful facet of that priceless divine gem still radiates to the farthest nook of the universe. There can be no wonder at all to its students that the Apostle of old (Paul) was caused to declare through inspiration, that: "... It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" (Romans 1:16)

Its power will strengthen our lives from childhood and sustain us until we reach that spiritual shore upon which our Father's mansions stand and the full warmth of His glory shines.

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Our Lord and Saviour brought to us that Heavenly



message known as His Gospel in such loving simplicity, that even a mortal child can understand when taught with loving care. Only through divine providence could anything so elegantly magnificent be understandably communicated to the mere mortal mind of man.

Jesus once exclaimed: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

The Lord's Gospel was sent forth with an invitation equally unto all, with special concern for the poor, the meek and humble, the broken-hearted, the captives, the blind, and the bruised of this earth. No other government, doctrine, or creed has ever reached out especially to them with total effectiveness. Surely, only a loving Father and His children inspired by Him could be firstly mindful of them! Those were the ones to whom Jesus was first sent. They were the ones who gladly heard Him. They were not too busy or haughty. They could understand His meager birth and His barely sufficient clothing and food and no house to call His own. They were not too doubting to observe and accept His miracles. They desired to believe! They understood the love in His commandments wherein all could live within the beauty of the Heavenly realm, shadowed only by the thin veil of mortality. The promises through perfect obedience stagger the imagination.

Jesus commissioned men to perpetuate His message upon the earth:

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, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of me, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 12-16)

COMMANDMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MINISTRY

Christ's life during His ministry was totally devoted to spreading His Gospel. His ministers are required to be diligent in their labor of teaching the people. The disciples of old apparently did just that. For example: "Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they

assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:25-26). "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him. Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." (Acts 28:30-31)

His commissioned ministry were commanded to teach and preach His Gospel in all the world to all peoples. They were given power to heal and cleanse the sick and afflicted through faith. His instructions were explicit, teaching them first of all how to pray, and then how to teach and preach to others.

The prescribed way to the promises of Christ's Gospel is simple, but each step must be taken in its proper order with precise action and firm intent. It follows the pattern of all other things in this life - a flight of stairs must correctly be climbed one step at a time, a building must be built one block at a time beginning at the foundation, with each block in its proper place, a family is built first by marriage, then one birth at a time. The steps in building a life for eternal salvation are: 1. Faith, 2. Repentance, 3. Baptism, 4. Laying on of Hands for reception of the Holy Ghost; and, belief in 5. The Resurrection, and 6. The Eternal Judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2)

God has promised to work among the people in this way: "...When a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost, the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men. But behold, there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them;..." (2 Nephi 15:1-4)

The marvels of today's systems of communications and travel hold a potential means of spreading the word of the Gospel unparalleled in the annals of history; and yet, with these existing exceptional expediencies, it is the heart of the individual that determines whether the way shall be viewed with open eyes or blocked out with voluntary blindness. "This say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." (Ephesians 4:17-18)

CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE

Probably the greatest perplexity to the human mind in those who have accepted Christ and obeyed His Gospel, is the rejection by others who turn away from it in a preference for the murky mire of the pits of sin and spiritual famine. The Gospel is presented to the world in an open book. Truly, the Apostle said: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Corinthians 4:3-4) "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all

uncleanness with greediness." (Ephesians 4:19) "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." (I Corinthians 1:26)

The solemn warning from the halls of Heaven: "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." (II Peter 1:9-10) "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22) "For not hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." (Romans 2:13)

REQUIREMENTS TO THE PEOPLE

All have the opportunity to partake of the divine nature, if they will, thereby escaping the corruption in the world that has developed through lust. The way is simple, but must be followed with the greatest of care and diligence in this direction: "... Add to your faith virtue*; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For 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." (II Peter 1:5-8) (*Definition: "Moral excellence".)

All who would desire baptism must take upon them the name of Christ with a determination to serve Him to the end. They are the ones who shall be wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, and effectively receive that necessary spiritual nourishment from the Word of God. They are the ones who shall delight in meeting together often to partake of the Sacrament and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls; yes, and to delight in singing hymns of praise to their Heavenly Father. (Ref: Moroni 6:3-9) "... Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually." (Hebrews 13:15)

We are also instructed to admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts, and doing everything in word and deed in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to

God. (Ref: Colossians 3:15-17)

Only those who open their eyes and their hearts to the Gospel can begin to fully understand the preciousness of its worth: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." (John 1:1)

A full understanding of the Gospel must be diligently sought. It requires a concerted effort on our part. "But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith; yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words." (Alma 16:151) "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious; but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed." (I Peter 2:7-8)

"... Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." (2 Nephi 14:4)

CONCERNING THE DIVERSITY OF WORLDLY CULTURES

The diversity of allowances and prohibitions specified by the civil governments of the many nations oftentimes runs contrary to the commandments of Christ's Gospel - sometimes in the name of religion. Whenever these situations are encountered by the minister of the Lord, his only course pursuable is to preach and teach the Gospel in its fullness and exactness. Because of some practices among many peoples of the world today, it requires a much greater time and effort to bring them to an adequate understanding of the Lord's commandments and the reasons for them. We note how slowly and what relatively few numbers even Christ's first ministers were able to bring to a saving knowledge of His divine Gospel from the scattered nations.

THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN

by Priest Martin J. Rosen
(British Isles)

There are many accounts in scripture of men and women who would listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit of the Lord and obey the commands of God. There are also many accounts of people who would not listen and obey as they were commanded. God wanted to work through them, in them and with them - but only if they would be submissive to His

will and guidance; it was all dependent on them.

You know, as we look around us at the beauty there is in creation do we not stand in awe? The words of praise penned 100 years ago echo through your mind:

When through the woods and forest glades
I wander,



And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
 When I look down from lofty mountain
 grandeur
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
 Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee;
 How great thou art, how great thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee;
 How great thou art, how great thou art!

What majesty! What Might! What Love! Our Father provided us so much to enjoy, so much beauty to appreciate, how can we ever thank Him? Solomon puts very clearly and concisely just what is asked of us by the Almighty: "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13

How much simpler can you get? Our whole complete duty is to fear God and to keep His commands! Not fear as we might suppose when we think of terror and being afraid, the concise Oxford Dictionary terms it as 'reverance', looking to our creator with awe and worship.

Having looked at the meaning of 'fearing God' it leaves us with the subject of keeping the commandments. Most people, I suppose, would think they keep the commandments quite well: "I don't steal, I don't murder, I don't do any harm to anyone." But God has, for us, a moral code, a set of guidelines for us to follow. We find these within the pages of the books we hold dear as Holy Scripture.

But there is something else that I feel needs to be touched upon when we consider keeping the commandments, and that is faith. It takes faith to obey God, to put everything on the line and do as you are told. No one likes being told what to do, but the Master of men has a purpose in all He says.

Let's look at some examples of faith when others had to trust and obey. Firstly, Lehi, commanded by God to testify to the people of their wickedness and then flee into the wilderness with his family. Nephi was commanded to return to Jerusalem to retrieve the records from Laban, tolerating the moans, whines and complaints of his elder brethren and even facing death at their hands. Then, they finally reach the promised land, as God had promised if they kept his commands. The same happens again and Laman and Lemuel separate from the rest of the family and from there become bitter enemies to the rest of the family.

Think of the faith of the Jaredites. Would you set sail in a carved-out tree trunk with no windows, only stoppers to prevent the sea flooding in, not knowing where you were going but believing you were guided by the hand of God? What faith these people had!

The early Church of Christ in this latter day also had many trials and tribulations because of their trust in God and their obedience to His commandments. Many were murdered for their beliefs, the prophet Joseph, himself, with his brother, Hyrum,

suffering death at the hands of an angry mob. The price for obedience was their very lives - but they still held fast to their hope and obeyed. They obeyed even to the very end.

Today, is there any less asked of us as the Church of Christ? You know, keeping the commandments is really possible! Listen, if you will, to the testimony of the prophet, Nephi: "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father, *I will* go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save *he shall prepare a way* for them that *they may accomplish the thing* which He commandeth them." 1 Nephi 1:65 (Emphasis mine M.J.R.) Read it again. It says you *can* do it, and Nephi should know, he went through more in his life than, hopefully, we ever will in ours.

But one of the best examples of faith I have found is that of Abraham. He and his wife Sarah had been childless for about 100 years and then God promised them a son. As always (and never forget that "*always*") God kept His promise and gave them a beautiful bouncing baby boy. Think of the joy of his parents. Now Abraham could see how another promise of God could be fulfilled: "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." Genesis 15:5.

Now Abraham could see the promise in action through his son. But God had one more test - the ultimate in obedience - Abraham was to sacrifice his only son and offer him as a burnt offering. The anguish and agony he must have gone through as they made their way up Mount Moriah. Finally, bound and submissive, Isaac was laid upon the altar and Abraham raised the knife into the air. At that moment, a voice shattered the silence "Abraham, Abraham. . . lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." Genesis 22:11-12. Abraham had passed the ultimate test from God. His love of the Master and his faith in Him was so great he would not even hold back his only son! Abraham received a title, if you will, as a result of his faith and trust: "the Friend of God" (James 2:23). Could you be classed as one of God's friends?

The commandments we have are solely there for our benefit and well-being. The Lord would not ask us to do anything that would not be good. At the time, perhaps, we may not see the reasoning, but, then, we are not God.

Tithing is an often misunderstood law. It is not only here to provide an income for the Lord's Church. If you don't pay your tithing, *you* will suffer as a result of disobedience. The Lord God only wants to give. Read Malachi 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and *prove me now* herewith, saith the LORD

of hosts, *if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*" But not only that, read verses 11 and 12. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and *he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground*; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And *all nations shall call you blessed*: for ye shall be a *delightful land* ("people"-M.J.R.), saith the LORD of hosts." (Emphasis mine M.J.R.) What a promise! How can we doubt?

There is one other commandment I wish to mention. It is rarely mentioned as a command and, I feel, not appreciated seriously enough as such. I am speaking about baptism. There are people, many people who attend this Church of Christ, who have studied and *understand* the principles of the Gospel but fail to take that step of faith, obedience and humility into the waters of baptism. Now, before I go any further, let me say that I do not advocate just baptizing anyone. There are conditions which *must* be met before this serious step is taken and the ministry are quite rightly concerned that a conversion should be genuine and followed by real, actual repentance before the rite of baptism is administered. But do we warn the people as to the result of forsaking baptism? Jesus also said "He

that believeth *and is baptized* shall be saved: but he that believeth not *shall be damned.*" Mark 16:15 (emphasis mine M.J.R.). Baptism is *essential* to our eternal salvation and cannot be taken lightly, nor must it be forsaken.

The world may 'offer' us things that sound and seem very attractive and enticing, but remember these things are only momentary and will vanish away - the things from God are eternal. Solomon was a wise old man who, in his life, tried many a pleasure: wine, women and song, a life of excitement and thrills, but he came to a most profound truth during his search for happiness - everything is vanity; it is all meaningless, a chasing after the wind. He summed it up in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. "Let us hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: *for this is the whole duty of man.* For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (emphasis mine M.J.R.).

Jesus said "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). He does not ask us to sacrifice anything except for that 'Isaac' we may have in our life, standing in the way of our relationship with God. Brothers and Sisters, may we always strive to please the Almighty God by keeping His commands.

ADDRESSING AIDS

I think it's appalling the way rehab programs and the Media approach AIDS and its associated problems. What youngsters today are taught is how to avoid AIDS, not how to prevent it entirely. We're dealing with a generation of people raised willy-nilly and permissively who are accustomed to doing what they want, when they want and how they want.

Where is the old-fashioned discipline that was a part of our homes years ago? How could a whole nation of intelligent folks let their children do their own thing, to their own destruction, without someone noticing? What happened to judgment? Or self-esteem? Or moral integrity?

Our children are taught in schools today how to have sex safely, not how NOT to have sex. Has it occurred to anyone that if the human race is permitted to let its standards go down the tubes just for fun, something terrible might happen to our future—to our children's futures?

Not long ago I heard about a school where more than half of the teen-age girls were pregnant, and apparently glad of it. They had all the necessary classes to attend to teach them how to be mothers, their expenses were paid by the state. It sounded to me like they were all having a ball, and worse, that it was normal to have outrageous statistics like these.

I can remember when children were taught NOT to have sex outside of marriage, not to steal and lie and cheat to get their own way, but to uphold the

concepts of the Bible and to live upright lives. Today, if you meet someone with these good qualities it's a miracle. It's obvious in our government that decent standards have long since disappeared around the bend! Politicians whom we are taught to look up to for guidance are lying, and it's accepted. True, they have investigations, and then when it blows over, there they are smiling and waving to the cameras as their adoring followers jostle to get near them. What's this got to do with AIDS? I'll tell you. Our whole moral structure has been allowed to crumble down around our ears and it all comes back to our young folks who have been allowed to almost raise themselves on their own weak childish levels and have not been taught HONOR.

How about having classes in the schools where girls learn how NOT to get in bed with everybody and boys learn how to control themselves? I want to know what's wrong with chastity today, from both sexes? How come it's lost its popularity? Instead of a nation filled with AIDS victims and child mothers, let's go back to square one and sit down and take our inventory for the day, take a walk in the clean air—and stop long enough to smell the flowers!

—Juni Dunklin
Sandersville, GA

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A HERITAGE OF THE LORD



"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalms 127:3) Can it be disputed that children are the Lord's and that He gives them to men? "And he lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children: and said, who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant." (Genesis 33:5)

It is logical to assume that children, no matter where or to whom they are born, are carefully placed there by the holy hand of God. Each and every one has been formed with "a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay, that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness, and rest our souls in the kingdom of God." (Moroni 9:6) Consider the duty given to Jeremiah prior to his birth: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5) And, the duties of John the Baptist which were prophesied of years before his birth: "And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the book of Esaias the prophet..." (Luke 3:3-6) Even though everyone's duty is not this remarkable as to require prophecy, their commission is still very important to the overall cause of God.

Even those children who die very young or before birth fulfill their duty in life by touching the lives of family and friends by the trying of their faith, or by teaching the value of life, and that God alone can give and sustain life. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." (Acts 17:28) In any case, the family and friends can rest secure in the faith that the child is in the peaceful rest of the Lord, for "...behold I say unto you, that little children are redeemed from the foundation of the world, through mine only Begotten;" (Book of Commandments 29:53), and "...little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world..." (Moroni 8:13)

However, let us also take into consideration those little ones for whose loss of life their parents are accountable. Certainly, those children have also given their lives for Christ but the parents are under terrible condemnation and have need to diligently seek repentance and forgiveness with all the strength and diligence they can muster, wherein it may also be necessary to seek prayerful guidance at the hands of the Eldership. "Know ye not, my son, that these things are an abomination in the sight of the Lord; yea, most abominable above all sins, save it be the shedding of innocent blood, or denying the Holy Ghost?...and whosoever murdereth against the light and knowledge of God, it is not easy for him to obtain forgiveness..."

(Alma 19:7,9) Although it is not easy, it surely is possible to receive forgiveness. "I also thank my God... that he hath forgiven us... since it has been all that we could do... to repent of all our sins and the many murders which we have committed, and to get God to take them away from our hearts, for it was all we could do to repent sufficiently before God, that he would take away our stain." (Alma 14:32-33)

Though little children are alive in Christ, they eventually grow into what is called the "age of accountability" and are no longer considered "little children." "There cannot any one be received into this church of Christ, who has not arrived at the age of accountability before God, and is not capable of repentance." (Book of Commandments 24:50) Parents are responsible to prepare them for their entrance into the Kingdom of God. Little children must be sufficiently instructed and adequately prepared for the time when they will become accountable for themselves to God and can present their sacrifice of a broken heart and contrite spirit for their own sins; as the Holy Spirit calls them to take upon them the name of Christ through their covenant with God through baptism.

There are a number of scriptural passages that give good counsel in the instruction and preparation of children, but I'll cite just one here which puts away the "new age" method of raising children. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Proverbs 29:15) One of the biggest follies of child rearing today is the persistent idea that to just let children do as they like will allow them to "find themselves." But they DO NEED the boundaries and guidelines to map their way lest they wander too far off the "strait and narrow," for we do know that NONE belong on such a side path which leads to destruction. "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth." (I Timothy 2:3-4) But let us also bear in mind that, though parents must teach, it is the Holy Spirit that brings a soul to an understanding, and it is up to that soul to either accept or reject the path of righteousness.

A certain responsibility as parents in this Church of Christ is the blessing of children by the Elders, as given by the example of Christ in blessing the children during His ministry on earth (Matthew 19:13-15), during His visitation to the Indian peoples on this land (III Nephi 8:23-26), and also by commandment: "Every member of this church of Christ having children, is to bring them unto the elders before the church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of the Lord, and bless them in the name of Christ." (Book of Commandments 24:49) Such a blessing give both advan-

tage and responsibility to the child, as he grows into accountability, according to the blessing pronounced and sealed, and to the faith of the parents. "...Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the PROMISE are counted for the seed." (Romans 9:6-8 emphasis - EMG)

It is, indeed, by the faith of the parents that a blessing is bestowed upon a child through the Elders, just as the healing of sickness or affliction through administration by the Elders is bestowed only by faith. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:4-5) If the parents do not bring forth the child in faith, the blessing which would have been there is lost. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." (James 1:6-7)

Many times at the blessing of a child there are revelations or prophecies given, in addition to the prayer of blessing. We have for examples the accounts of prophecies while Jacob (Genesis 48) and Lehi (II Nephi 2-3) blessed their sons as well as the blessing of John the Baptist by his father who prophesied, again bringing to light that the "... child shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways." (Luke 1:67-79) Besides scriptural accounts, there are testimonies in the church of prophecies and/or revelations given in like remarkable manner. There are also many who do not experience such a magnitude of blessing pronouncements or revelations, and this being *either* to the will and purpose of God or, again, because sufficient faith was not present.

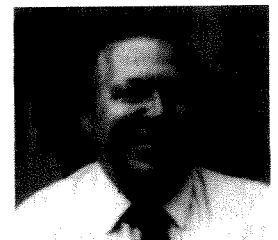
Turning to the subject of "guardian angels," a quote from Christ is in order. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10) This gives indication that those angels are given charge of the children. There are numerous testimonies within and some without the Church of Christ of angels watching over the safety and well being of children. Certainly, angels are given charge of ALL children, but

greater blessings are to be had within the kingdom of God, that those in the world cannot and do not conceive. Consider the children blessed on this land by Christ, after whose blessing Christ "...saith unto them, Behold your little ones. And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about; And they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself;" (III Nephi 8:23-26)

In summary, I should again stress the tremendous importance of faithfully teaching our children the ways of righteousness. What a tragedy that so many of our youngsters raised in the gospel are falling into various forbidden paths that lead away from the tree of life!

"Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God." (Psalms 78:1-8)

Elaine M. Gould
Rt. 8, Lot 37
Hillview Ln.
Lenoir City, TN 37771



GOD SPEAKS

I have a personal testimony that I would like to share with all the membership of the Church of Christ, and all those who will read this letter.

I would like you to know that God does speak to mankind in these latter days, just as He did in all times past and just as He will in all times future. God speaks to *whom* He will; *what* He will; *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* He will!

I can bear testimony to the truthfulness of these

things for three reasons. One reason is because God has spoken and caused His words to be written, that tell us this *is* true. His words tell us beyond a shadow of a doubt that He will speak as it pleases Him. The word "as" in the previous sentence refers to who, what, when, where, why, and how; yes, and even IF. This is not open for debate, this is fact if you

believe in the word of God!

Another reason that I can bear testimony to the truthfulness of this is because I have *heard* testimony from those I know and love and trust; that they have heard God speak as He would. They have heard God speak thru a dream or vision or a small still voice, through manifestation or revelation. Their known honesty, demands my belief.

The third reason that I can bear this testimony is because of personal knowledge of latter day revelation. I have heard God speak as He desired to speak. It is for this reason, and on this topic that I desire to write to you today. I would like to tell you of four different times that God has spoken to me; times that He has verified to me, personally, that I should hold the office of Elder in His Church.

The first of these revelations was in June of 1984. I was given a vision that showed me receiving and accepting a call to the Eldership of the Church of Christ. I was even shown who the call would come through, even though I didn't understand that part of the vision at the time.

The second revelation that I had, occurred the night before the call was received. In a state of half-awake and half-asleep, I spent the night preaching two sermons and performing a baptism service, and it seemed to be normal and natural and proper for me to be doing these things. The following day, I received my call and knew then that the previous night had been a second witness of its validity.

The third witness was after I had been ordained, and it was the voice of God speaking to me in the middle of the night, April, 1987. I had been asked to assist with a Prayer Service in the Temple Lot building during Conference that spring, and I was gripped with fear and was thinking to decline. I had prayed about this before going to bed that evening, and during that night, I was awakened by a voice speaking to me. The voice said, "You have been called to occupy; so, occupy!" I will never forget that experience and the third witness to my call.

The fourth revelation was received in a dream. I dreamed that I was about to open a preaching service, and I called for song #26. Someone asked what the name of the song was and I said, "I don't know." This caused me to wake up from the dream and I wrote down the #26 on a slip of paper and went back to sleep. This all occurred in a motel room in New York state, where I had spent the night during a visit to the Hill Cumorah.

I might back up a bit, at this point, and explain that I had taken this trip to visit Hill Cumorah in an effort to sort out my mind concerning my personal life in relationship to my marriage of 34 years. My wife had just filed for a divorce because she could not accept my church and because I had allowed myself to be ordained as an Elder. I needed this time and this solitude to be able to seek the Lord and to reflect and sort out my thoughts, and I thought, what

JUDGE YE

Judge, I say, betwixt Me and thee.
Is your glory for eternity,

Or do you wane and fall away,
Thinking to repent some other day?

Oh, why do you labor for that which is vain?
Do you not know that satan does the same?

Within your own heart you must lift this dark cloud,
That through My mercy may salvation be found.

If you honor My birth, My death, and My resurrection,
then obey ALL My words, ye of Mine election.

For the hour is near and nigh at hand,
when I am coming back to earth to claim My lambs.

Those without spot, pure and fair,
shall rise up to meet Me in the air.

And so shall they ever be with their Lord,
but only those that love Me and heed My word.

Oh, bend thy knee in humble prayer,
And trust on Me for all thy care.

My light doth shine and is easy to see,
but blind are they who bask in their own glory.

Therefore humble yourselves, ye who are proud,
sing praises to God with voices aloud.

Consider My words with an open mind,
yea, soften your heart and be ye mine.

It is very near now, till your Lord doth come,
so obey My commandments and be ye as one.

For 1,000 years shall My reign be,
have you mightily sought to be there with Me?

Yea, I come with a shout, and judgment I bring,
for there entereth into Zion no unclean thing.

Hold tight to the rod of iron, both sure and fast,
endure to the end, yea even the last.

Therefore judge ye, I say, betwixt Me and thee,
for surely only My Glory is for all eternity.

Received by Inspiration
Elder Andy Brantner

better way, than to return to the roots of the Restoration of the Church of Christ.

I had my "Zion's Hymnal" with me, so I looked up song #26, but I didn't know the song, and as far as I know, had never heard it sung. I did, however, offer up one fervent prayer before I left that place, and I prayed long and strong concerning the state of my marriage and its effect on my ministry in the Church of Christ, thinking that this must be the reason for

the dream, and the asking for song #26. When I got home from that trip, I found a letter waiting for me, which notified me of a court date for June 26th, concerning this pending divorce.

I was telling all this to my brother, Charles, a couple days later, and showed him the motel receipt on which I had written the #26. He noticed that I had stayed in room #26, for which I had paid \$26.00. I concluded, at this point in time, that the dream must have been given to me to warn me of the court date on the 26th, so I hired an attorney to represent me in this divorce and the first thing I asked him to do was to get that date changed to some other time, I didn't care what other time! As it turned out, I had unwittingly hired an attorney that was on the 11th floor, in room #26!

I was by now becoming very sensitive and concerned, even paranoid, by these events, and I prayed several times about this, seeking understanding from the Lord. Then, on Saturday night, as I was meditating on the sermon that I would give the next day at the Michigan Reunion, the "still small voice" brought to my mind that it was a year ago, on June 26th that the voice of the Lord spoke to Brother Eugene Gould and bid him to call me to the office of Elder. I immediately went to my desk and looked up the letter to verify that date. I found, of course, the date was true.

It was now, finally made clear in my mind and to my understanding, the reason for this dream. This dream and all the subsequent events were all trying to shake loose a foggy mind and to remind me of "a call from God" that had been given on the 26th. I now accept this dream and subsequent events to be yet another witness, the fourth, to the reality of my call and also another witness to the truth that God does speak "as" He will in these latter days. I also accept this dream to be an admonition to me to NOT forget my call, and to not allow this divorce to have a negative impact upon my ministry.

I pray that the sharing of this testimony, may be of some small help to the reader. I know it has been of great help to the writer, and I KNOW that God speaks!

Sincerely,
In Gospel Bonds,
Elder Gale I. Brantner

AFTER LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF CHRIST

by Ron Church

I have found that being perfect isn't as hard as some might think or feel. If you are doing everything you know to be right, or in other words do the right thing all the time, you will be perfect in that understanding or knowledge. However, as God gives us more light some of us have to change or add the

new light to our knowledge. It was written that man is given to know good from evil. Moreover, it is also written that where more is given more is required. In other words, everyone receives a degree of knowledge. What you do with that knowledge determines whether or not you are becoming perfect in that knowledge by doing the right thing all the time. The dictionary shows being perfect in this manner:
1. Complete in every detail; 2. Without defect.
3. Exact; precise.

Therefore, when you do something right it's showing perfection. When you do the right thing God requires aren't you perfect in that thing? So you could say that perfection is a degree of thought or action.

In Hebrews 6:1, we read: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection;" . . . go on unto perfection, referring to the members of the Church of Christ. Can this be? Yes, even as Christ told us to be perfect in the writings of Matthew (5:48). It is written, "if you love me, keep my commandments." Even after reading this, some will still doubt that it is true - just as with the commandments to repent, have faith, be baptized and endure unto the end, also as Christ has told us to do (even as He Himself has done as an example for us to follow).

Have there been any in the past that have been perfect? Yes! For example, Christ and, perhaps, Job. God has promised that He would not command us to do something or be something (like being perfect) if He did not provide the way that it could be done. Yet, the Devil works hard to put just a little doubt in our minds - and just like a drop of water through a dam grows until the whole dam is broken, the Devil will cause that little bit of doubt to destroy our souls. Has anyone ever told you that you cannot be perfect? Beware, the Lord tells us, and watch always - both to avoid falsehoods such as the idea that you cannot be perfect, and as Matthew 26:41 reveals the word of Christ to say that we must watch "that ye enter not into temptation . . ." and thus avoid another pitfall that can lead us away from perfection. For other references about being perfect, read Deuteronomy 18:13, Moroni 10:29-30, and Third Nephi 5:92.

Love is the key to the first two "greatest" commandments (as found in Matthew 22:36-40). Love comes from desire, desire by understanding, understanding by learning, learning by searching, and through searching, the book of Job (11:7) indicates we can find God "unto perfection." The way unto perfection is through Christ (read James 1:5-8 and Alma 5:40). Christ has asked all men to repent, be baptized and have faith in the power of God and His promises. How to be perfect? Be always given to charity, hope, patience, long suffering, and be diligent in keeping the commandments of God. Also be humble, submissive to God, meek, lowly, thankful, prayerful, joyful in righteousness, love one another and be kind, and endure unto the end in so

doing. For still more scriptures about perfection, read also Colossians 3:12-14, Moroni 7:52, and First Peter 4:8. These speak of the "bond" of perfection and of the importance of charity in that quest.

The power of God through prayer is needed daily (read Matthew 21:22, Psalms 55:17, Luke 18:1, and Second Nephi 14:10-12. The power of prayer will heal the sick, increase your faith, give wisdom and understanding, for the power of God is endless.

There are many things for us to do to please God, but I would like to close with a reminder of God's commandment to be thankful, looking to scripture in Second Nephi 6:103, Mosiah 11:149, Alma 17:70, Ephesians 5:20, and Phillipians 4:6.

There are passages that point out that the Bible and the Book of Mormon go hand in hand to give us more understanding of God's mercies toward men. My prayer will be for hope to all and that we each trust in God, even as a little child. A psalmist declares (Psalms 125:1-2), "They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever." Let us pray for one another.

A NOTE FROM PARIS

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Church of Christ:

I would like at this time to tell all of you what a wonderful time my mother and I spent with you at the Missouri Reunion.

I'm glad that we were able to meet so many of you and what it meant for us to be there can't be put into words.

As this was our first time to be there, as many of you know, we really didn't know what to expect. But you made us feel so welcome and so loved that we are hoping to be there again next year if the Good Lord is willing.

Any time that any of you are down our way please feel free to drop in. You are always welcome. Our little church here has been struggling along as many of our churches have, but we have been blessed now that we have someone to come down on the second Sunday of each month. Elder Samuel Gould or Priest Peter Gould comes the fourth Sunday of each month. The other Sundays we have Sunday School and Book of Mormon study.

We thank the Lord for giving us these people that care, and we thank you for thinking about us and praying for us, for we here pray for all of you, too. Praying *really* works.

I can hardly wait for the time that we will be able to meet together again, to fellowship and have the spiritual up-lift that we received while at the Missouri Reunion.

We send our thanks to Glenn and Margret Gill for

(continued on page 153)

JUST PASSING THROUGH

As I sat alongside Dad
On the side of the bed one night
He related thoughts within his heart
As he saw the end in sight.

My heart it seemed would burst
For the love I felt for him.
And as I rubbed his back and listened
My eyes with tears grew dim.

I paused once and hugged him close,
He relaxed so it appeared.
His head fell on my shoulder
As he let me hold him near.

The softness of his snow white hair
As it gently touched my cheek,
The quiet moments that we shared,
I waited . . . till I could speak.

"I want to thank you, Dad," I said
"For all you've done for us."
And I tried to put my thoughts in words
Of gratitude and love.

As he sat there with his hands on knees
A memory came to view,
Of his Dad, many years before:
He had sat that same way, too.

But Dad just quietly listened
And gently shook his head,
Then spoke so soft and low
I had to ask him what he'd said.

The words he spoke so touched my heart
It was the Dad I loved and knew.
As he looked up and told me:
"I said, Just Passing Through."

I think of this so many times
His love just grew and grew
And many folks were richly blessed
With Dad, "Just Passing Through."

For Dad did nothing just halfway
If he knew it to be true.
His energy was always felt
When Dad was passing through.

by Patricia (Eddy) Burmiester

(To her father, Orville Eddy, who "passed through" before he could read how his energy was felt and put into words by one who loved him dearly.)

A NOTE FROM PARIS FROM PAGE 152

keeping us in their home Wednesday night and to Jim and Bonnie Case who put up with us Thursday night.

Also our special thanks goes to Roger and Martha Bruner for showing us the Church headquarters there in Independence. It was our first time there, also, and they must know how much it meant to us.

We thank you *all* from the bottom of our hearts, for the love, the care, and the feeling of being "at

home." We are all truly one family.

We send to you our Love and may God Bless and keep you.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Robin and Cathy Cox
Rt. 3, Box 351B
Paris, Tennessee 38242

-NEWS-

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESULTS OF 1988 REFERENDUM VOTE

Referendum bill #1 of 1988, regarding the recording of a member's withdrawal from the Church, passed with 198 in favor, and 74 opposed

William A. Sheldon, Secy.
Council of Apostles

THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN

This is just a brief note to say a big "thank-you" to everyone who answered an appeal from England earlier in the year for copies of the Book of Mormon. We did not expect such a response and are so very grateful for the help and encouragement we have received from our brothers and sisters in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Space and time do not permit me to mention everyone who helped, but may I say a very sincere "thank-you" to all. We are very touched at the response

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Martin & Kate Rosen

KENNETH J. SMITH

Kenneth Julian Smith, 77, Independence, died June 16, 1988, at the home. He was born in Wray, Colorado, and had lived in Independence since 1940. Mr. Smith was an office machine mechanic for Royal Typewriter Co. Later he worked for the Missouri Office Equipment Co., Independence, for 19 years and retired in 1966. He was an Elder of the East Local congregation of the Church

of Christ (Temple Lot). Survivors include his wife, Edna Rae Smith of the home; three sons, Alexander H. Smith, Raymore in Cass County, Kenneth James Smith, Independence, and Robert O. Smith, Clear Lake, Iowa; a daughter, June C. Sarratt, Independence; a foster son, G. Patrick Brown, Leawood; three brothers, Carl K. Smith, San Bernardino, Calif., and Arthur G. Smith and Joseph F. Smith of Ava, Mo.; four sisters, Elizabeth M. Smith, Fair Oaks, Calif., and Georgia M. Tate, A. Lorriane Welton and Barbara Jean Burgin of Ava; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

INDEPENDENCE NEWS

Hello Again!

Well another school year is upon us. I don't know where the summer went. Our prayers are with all the children that they will have a safe and productive school year.

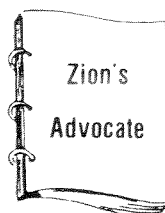
Congratulations to Ray and Chris Feely on the birth of their daughter Asenath Christine Feely. Asenath was born on August 8, 1988. We ask the Lord's blessing on this little one and her parents.

There have been six baptisms here in Independence. On July 31, 1988 Cherish Taylor was baptized by her uncle Priest Isaac Brockman Jr. and the confirmation given by her grandfather Elder Isaac Brockman Sr. with Elder Robert Oldham assisting. On August 7, 1988 Heidi Temple, Holly Smith and Julie Gordon entered the waters of baptism. Heidi was baptized by her grandfather Apostle William Sheldon and the confirmation given by Apostle Sheldon with Elder Robert Oldham assisting. Holly Smith was baptized by her uncle Priest Steven McGhee and the confirmation given by uncle Elder Robert Oldham with uncle Elder Frank Fann assisting. Julie Gordon was baptized by Elder Roger Bruner and the confirmation given by Elder Robert Oldham with Elder Smith Brickhouse assisting. On August 17, 1988 Curt and Margaret Zabriskie were baptized at the Temple Lot by Elder William Zabriskie (Curt's father) and the confirmation was given

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

by Elder Hubert Yates with Elder William Zabriskie assisting. Our love and prayers are with each as they start their new life with Christ.

The Missouri Reunion came and went so quickly as it always seems to do. It was a time of being uplifted and recharged. It was also a time to hug and kiss loved ones whom we haven't seen in a while.

I thank my Heavenly Father for this church family that I love and greatly appreciate.

Advocate Reporter,
Patty McGhee

MINNEAPOLIS NEWS

Just how important are our Church meetings anyway? One man of our local was scheduled by his employer to be in France at the time of our Tri-State Reunion. He didn't go, but was present at reunion where he received administration and a blessing from a higher Master. Future candidates for baptism were there (some of them only babes in arms). How quickly the babes become men and women. To the casual eye we were only a comparatively small group of people; among whom no one person stood out spectacularly among us. Were we — and were you at your Church of Christ Reunions through the summer in reality a small segment of something greater than the whole universe? Did you sense that you were a blended bouquet amidst a harmony of love and praise to present to our Master? Didn't joy and peace testify to warm hearts as He accepted our Praise of Him who met with us? Did we verily taste of the elixir of life?

As the word "elixir" presented itself to my mind I took dictionary in hand and found the definition "1. an alchemic preparation for transmuting base metals into gold". Yes, that is the precise word. In my limited knowledge of words I could have searched long and never have found it. The experience summons up the word to describe it.

Here the heat and drought have been almost unbearable through this busy summer. But the doors of our meeting place have been open each Sunday, except one. On that day, July 31, a fifth Sunday, Brother Ed Linton had invited us to his home. It was a beautiful, though warm, day at Brother Ed's beautiful farm. Stephen and Judy had thoughtfully mowed the yard for us. Some had taken lawn chairs. Elder Thomas Maley's sermon was on the very important subject of baptism. Brother Hook and Sister Grace Eddy were over from Wisconsin. Instead of formal Sunday School Elder Merlin and Eva Lin Eddy took the children for a nature walk and talked about the beauty and wonders God has made for man and little boys and girls. Can't top that for Sunday School learning! Michelle, Maari, Chuck and Marissa were there with the families of our local. The lunch of ham and cheese sandwiches and salads was just perfect, as were the ice cream cones Brother Ed served for dessert.

Brother Max and Sister Elaine Lee were here on August 21, and Brother Ken and Sister June Haines dropped in on August 28. On August 21, Elder John Case and Barbara and boys just returning from vacation and Nauvoo came in and Brother John was invited to speak to us. We heard John Case instead of Forest Maley. On August 28, Elder Thomas Maley was our speaker.

On July 3, Sister Leila Bodin, and Elder Sam Gould and children were with us. We are always pleased to have visitors.

This summer saw the sixty-fifth wedding anniversary of Elder Maynard and Sister Bertha Case which we would have loved to attend in Independence, Missouri. Sister Lillian Brown is now living in that area where she has a daughter and son and grandchildren. Sister Lillian suffered a fall in her home in Gladbrook, Iowa; and it became unwise for her to live alone. It affords us pleasure that her grandson's generous and caring employer loaned his "Cadillac" to Dennis to bring his grandmother back to Missouri. I know it isn't customary to divulge a lady's age. However, even Nancy and Ronald Reagan sent her birthday greetings these years, for Lillian attained her 90th birthday on August 31.

Prayers were for RAIN. A large agricultural venture seemed doomed in spite of two wells drilled and irrigation equipment set up, and computers in use in the shed where the floor had been black-topped to cut down the dust. Special delivery clouds rolled out and watered the lagging crop and a praying neighbor's field. Prayers of thanks ascended and more showers came. Brother Mike Gould in Bemidji, summoned to "come man the irrigation pumps," arrived with the rains. The largest delivery for a day to the canning factory was 109,000 pounds. What influence did these rains bring to bear upon the many workers depending upon that crop of cucumbers? We wonder how many folk, other than our church people, recognized that the blessing of rain was granted in answer to prayer.

Next the Dakota County Fair saw Brother Ed Linton opening up the Fair booth each morning. Pastor Tom and Sister Ruth Maley came to the booth for the day. Brother Stephen Gould, Elder Forest Maley and Irene, Elder Merlin Eddy and Eva Lin and children, Liza Ferrier,

Sister Jeannine Gould and Alyssa came in the late afternoons and evenings. On Saturday Michelle and "Chucky" Gill came with their grandparents, Tom and Ruth. Every day people of all ages strolled past the booth with their balloons of many colors and other baubles of the Fair, with no more than a glance at the pen and ink Face of Christ and facsimile of the Bible and Book of Mormon. (We hoped that the scowls we sometimes saw were only from the wind and dust coming in at the door.)

Nevertheless, some in this Fair atmosphere were interested and took time to stop and talk awhile. Some knew Jesus Christ and appreciated that we represented Him. Some had read the Book of Mormon and its truth had lodged in their hearts and shone from their eyes. Only one came to jeer and denounce; a young woman. We are told there must be opposition in all things.

Perhaps you are acquainted with "God's Eyes" children make from colorful yarns and sticks? Joey Eddy was first to come with a grocery bag of the finished product, and make his "FREE" sign to put up at the corner of the table where he placed them neatly. Jakey Eddy, Alyssa Gould and Liza Ferrier brought some on other evenings. Children loved them. A Chinese mother and father with two young, polished daughters questioned who had made these, and upon learning the ages of our church children who had made them, she found them "incredible". This colorful touch was secondary in interest only to the cold spring water. Children loved choosing one to take home, from the many combinations of colors there.

Whether we could staff the Fair Booth this year was a question. But God's blessing of increased vitality has accrued for the Church family. In spite of the strenuous week, a number of our local went on to Missouri Reunion, and/or Minister's Conference. Brother Tom and Sister Ruth with grandchildren, Michelle and Chucky made it to Minister's Conference in Independence, Missouri. Much encouragement has come from the efforts of the fair booth. We pray that they may yet bear good fruit.

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

MISSOURI REUNION - 1988

The 1988 Church of Christ Missouri Reunion is over. 'Tis a sad time for us all, bidding farewell to loved ones that some of us might not see for weeks, even months down the road. But what wonderful memories we have to tide us over, 'til we meet again!

We can rejoice at the great feast of the last three days. Feasting on the Word of God, feasting on the love circulating among us in abundance, feasting on the testimonies and prayers, and feasting on the knowledge that the Holy Spirit was in our midst throughout our time together.

The first meeting of the reunion, a prayer and testimony service, was opened Friday morning by Elder Charles W. Brantner, who extended a welcome in the name of the Lord, to each one present. Elder Isaac Brockman, Sr. read scripture telling us the way we should pray, and that our prayers should be prayers of praise, and that our testimonies should tell of God's goodness and blessings received.

We were admonished by Apostle Roland Sarratt that we should pray that we, as a people, can reach up for greater blessings and gifts that God has for us. Blessings that will prepare us for what is to come.

Throughout the reunion we were admonished to prepare, to make preparation. Elder Ken Oar rehearsed to us that we have a great work before us, and we need to prepare ourselves, individually and as a body, to do the work of Jesus Christ. The whole duty of man is to serve God, and the more and easier it is to serve Him when we keep His commandments.

Again, in the Saturday afternoon preaching service, we were admonished to prepare, to gather our children, by Elder Sam Gould. He said we have a mission to gather our children. It is the job of every local, man, woman and child. Don't let the burden be on someone else. Don't leave it up to just the ministry. Teach your children how to feast on the Word, that they hunger for it, that they might be nourished by it. Go ye, and do the work of the Gospel.

Friday evening, Elder Tony Grzincic demonstrated with toy boats and anchors that we do indeed need an anchor in our lives, and that Christ is our anchor and His Word our compass. He admonished us that Jesus only lives to the degree you let Him live within you, and that our Lord requires us to have humility, no matter what our pathway in life.

At the conclusion of Friday evening's preaching service, we remained gathered together to hear our brother, Elder Joel Yates give a sermon on the dangers of modern music. The modern lyrics teach sex, Satanism, rebellion, drugs and suicide. Bro. Joel researched the music of today through the scriptures.

Our number had increased considerably by the time we gathered

for prayer and testimony service on Saturday morning. Following prayer by Elder Gary Housknecht, Elder Glen Gill recalled to us that a reunion is for a oneness in spirit, a time for gathering, and a time for baptisms.

Music was mentioned many times in testimonies this morning, and that music can strengthen and comfort you, as our hymns do. Many testimonies also related that the Lord is always there for us, when we have the faith that He will be, no matter what the circumstance.

Elder Allen Kauffman was our speaker for the Saturday morning preaching service. Bro. Kauffman warned us to beware, to be on one's guard, not to be caught unawares, to be *prepared*. He admonished us to watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation, into the pulls of the world, into the temptations of the flesh. And that we need to continually pray for one another.

Saturday afternoon we were privileged to listen to the message brought to us by Elder Rodger Bruner. He related some historical facts about the "blessed land" that we live in. We have a protected freedom to worship as we're doing today. In the Book of Mormon it states that charity is the true love of Christ. Do we really communicate it or just say it? In this church we communicate by hugging — we love each other. We *have* to communicate. That's an attitude, not a phrase.

We were told by Priest Mike McGhee in his sermon Saturday evening, that even as Nephi and Joseph Smith received instruction from the Lord, so will we if we keep His commandments. We must recognize the voice of the Shepherd, and know and follow His voice.

Our missionary in charge of Missouri, Apostle Roland Sarratt, greeted us this sabbath morning in the name of the Lord and introduced to us our speaker of the morning, Apostle Marvin Ely.

Bro. Ely reminded us why we were here and the purpose for this sacrament service. That the rod of iron is a representation of the Word of God, which can lead you to the tree of life. Also he reminded us that Christ said I want your joy to be full, that my joy may be in you. And to not forget that we are the branches, and Jesus Christ is the vine.

Truly the Spirit of God was with us as we partook of the emblems and knelt in prayers of humility and sincerity. Many names were offered up to be remembered in each prayer, no matter if the prayer was uttered aloud or given silently. Many, many testimonies were voiced, which give strength and encourage faith in each one of us.

The last sermon of the reunion was brought to us by Apostle Don McIndoo. He cautioned us that we are on the brink, on the edge, of momentuous changes in the world and closer to the time of fulfillment of all the prophecies of all the prophets. He stated that we have a need for good, honest, rightful communication, understanding, compassion and love. Bro. McIndoo related to us the requirements needed in our pastoral and missionary outreach programs. These are our responsibilities.

As you can see, truly, this has been a time of feasting. We have been well fed, physically, also, enjoying delicious meals shared with each other, a time of fellowship not to be matched.

We really appreciate the time and effort taken by many to present the cantata "The Story of Jesus". The blending of those voices were beautiful, as were the other specials during the services and song services. But the children in the combined Bible School choirs singing "Apple Red" touched my heart most of all. Such enthusiasm and such happy glowing faces! I'm sure our Heavenly Father was pleased with their efforts.

The young people had their time together at the Brantner lake again this year. A Saturday afternoon to the fire station in Warrensburg was a high point for the 7-12 year olds. I believe even some parents enjoyed themselves.

And so the reunion of 1988 is over. I truly look forward to greeting each of you next year. The time apart seems so long and the time together so short. Fellowship with each other gives us happiness, especially with that bond we share, the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We're blessed by the Spirit of God at all times, in sorrow, trials and in happiness.

May God bless each of you, is my prayer.
Jeanne Brantner, Reunion Secretary

BOOK OF MORMON NOTICE

Because of the passing of James Hedrick, who had undertaken the responsibility of preparing the Book of Mormon for publication, this project was virtually at a standstill for nearly a year. However, due to the continued interest of Alma and Daniel Hedrick, there is a renewed effort being made. The services of these men were and are without cost to the Church, and we are deeply indebted to them for their kindness and dedication. We understand that at least one other, a fellow-employee with Brother James Hedrick, is also offering valuable assistance.

With previous publication of the original notice in the course of a couple of years, many donations are on hand, held in reserve for the time of publication, which we anticipate may be in the fall or early winter months. That notice offered the Book of Mormon with a cheaper binding for a donation of \$10, and the book with a better binding for a donation of \$25. We may offer a limited number of these with better binding also with thumb-indexing; this would cost a few dollars more. These are only initiatory prices, which may be changed after actual publication costs have been determined; but these pre-publication prices are good for any who will donate until those prices have been fixed. If it is desirable to obtain more than one copy at these initial figures, it will be honored.

Please send your contribution with an expres-

sion of your desires to: Business Manager, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051. It will be credited to the Board of Publications fund. In the unlikely event that, for reasons beyond our control, the Church would be unable to complete the publication of the Book of Mormon, your money will be refunded upon request; otherwise, it would remain in the fund for other publications, most of which are given free of charge.

Considerable effort has been made to prepare this book even more nearly in accord with original manuscripts than the present 1908 authorized edition of the RLDS Church. The preface goes into historical detail not previously given, and answers some notable criticisms against the book. Reference text material has been revised and expanded, and study helps have been included at the back.

This project being a conference action, we would like to emphasize the importance of supporting this worthy cause to its completion. It is hoped that you will generously donate even above your anticipated order of new books, and if feasible, you will raise funds at the Local church level for the publishing of our own Book of Mormon. We pray that this precious record may always be available to us and our posterity.

The Council of Apostles
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1989 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 31 and April 1.

The 1989 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 16 through 18 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	7.00
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Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
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The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony	
(Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
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Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

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

- CHURCH HISTORY for JUNIORS**—34 page booklet includes a teachers guide.
- THE BOOK IN THE STONE BOX**—7 page booklet
- BIBLE STORIES TO GROW BY** — 52 lessons in 12 themes about God and Jesus (ages 5-7). (Free to local Sunday Schools)
- JESUS' LIFE and TEACHINGS**—Series of 4 quarterlies (ages 8-10)
- WE SING and WE TALK ABOUT JESUS**—14 primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette (On loan only)
- WHO AM I?**—A Bible game (cards) with multiple uses (Free to any local Sunday School, but \$1.30 for individuals)

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AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

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

Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sermons on Cassette and Video Tape

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