

Zion's Advocate

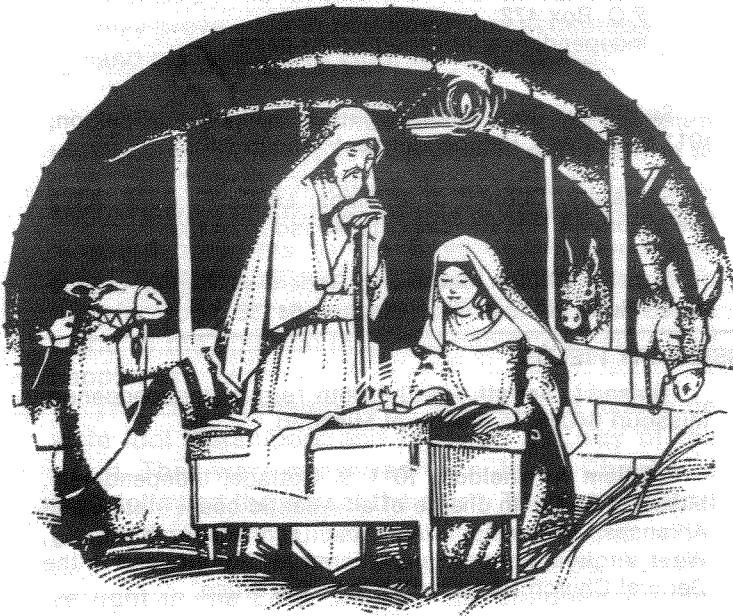
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187*

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No. 12

HOPE OF ALL AGES

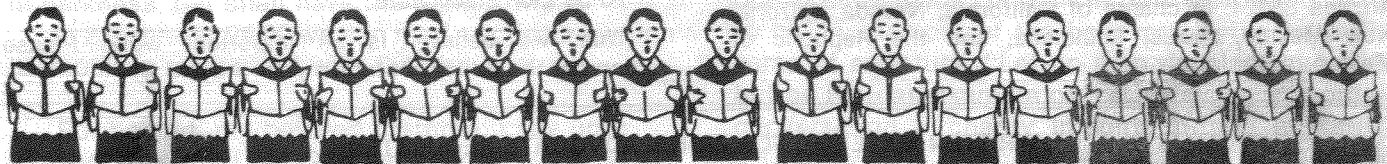


The greatest story ever told
Began with Jesus' birth,
When He left His home above
To come and live on earth.

We now await the promise
By prophets long foretold.
He shall return triumphant
And every eye behold . . .

The brightness of His coming,
Wonderous ending to the story;
His Kingdom come, His will be done,
In power, peace and glory.

—Vida Filley



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Zion's Advocate

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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.

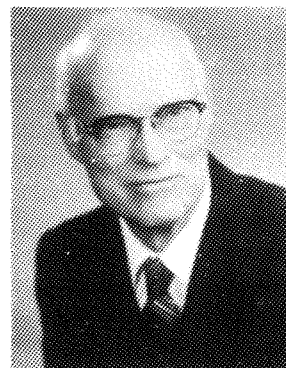
This, we believe, is an important work. Please
 remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, news items, notices, etc., which are appropriate to the editorial policy stated above, are requested by the editorial staff. If possible, they should be typewritten on one side of a sheet only, double-spaced and grammatically correct. Send all material to the Editor (see address listed above). The deadline for each month is the 5th of the previous month.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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

Guest Editorial . . .**YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2.

From the above scripture we can readily learn that we each have a reasonable service to perform to God. This service must be acceptable to him and should not be conformed to this world. All too often mankind conforms to the ways of the world that bring heartache and grief. Instead our lives must be transformed from the carnal man and the ways of the world to the spiritual man that can bring peace and happiness.

The church members at Ephesus at one time were idol worshipers and followed the way of the world. They were converted unto Jesus Christ and then followed the way of the spirit. The Apostle Paul gave them some guidelines to follow in this scripture: "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as the children of light: Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians 5:8, 10-11.

In John 8:12 we can read the following scripture: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

In 2 Nephi 11:95-99 we can read a scripture which harmonizes rather well with the above verse:

For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him. Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation. Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying, Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith, Come unto me all

ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price.

In Moroni 7:18, we read:

Wherefore I beseech of you, brethren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ.

It is important that we search the scriptures for in them are the ways of eternal life. In John 5:39 Jesus said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

We are admonished in 1 Thessolonians 5:21 to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16.

We have a duty as believers to let our light so shine that others may be influenced for good and be drawn unto Jesus Christ. Timothy was admonished to be an example of the believers in the following verse of scripture: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12.

Behold, the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited; and he hath created his children, that they should possess it. And he raiseth up a righteous nation; and destroyeth the nations of the wicked. And he leadeth away the righteous into precious lands, and the wicked he destroyeth, and

curseth the land unto them for their sakes. He ruleth high in the heavens, for it is his throne, and this earth is his footstool. And he loveth those who will have him to be their God. 1 Nephi 5:126-131.

This is indeed a beautiful promise to those who will follow a righteous life.

From Psalm 36:5-9 we can read the following:

Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy

righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

—Apostle Marvin Ely

THE FALL OF BABYLON

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part Two of Seven



Ancient Babylon: The Proto-type

It is generally conceded as is stated in Smith's *Bible Dictionary* that Babylon is another term for the even more ancient Babel. Babel, of course, was the city and people which attempted to build a tower to the heavens, to make a name for themselves, lest they "be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:4). This was an act of defiance toward God, and an attempt to exalt a people beyond the power of God to touch; it was the common prevailing attitude within the world at that time. Because of this, the Lord confounded their language so that they could not understand their fellows, and in spite of themselves, they were scattered upon the face of the earth. Babel is the genesis of the term, "babble", for their attempted conversations were an unintelligible babble to others. Babel signifies confusion, and modern, spiritual Babylon is therefore a state of confusion, rebellion and pride. This is so whether it be considered from either a spiritual or temporal aspect; and the Lord will not indefinitely permit its continuance. We will see, also, that greed is a natural accompaniment of the above qualities which identify Babylon.

The nation of Israel (twelve tribes) became divided after the reign of King Solomon, nine and a half tribes identified as Israel, and two and a half tribes identified as Judah. Israel was taken into captivity by Assyria and later, Judah was subjected by Babylon.

We only state the matter as a fact without feeling the necessity of verifying it by the scriptures, for our special purpose here.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, inflicted terrible loss and suffering upon the Jews, as they were called, before the major portion of the people were carried into Babylon; some of the poor were left as vine-dressers and husbandmen to care for the land and to render a tribute to the king. He destroyed the temple at Jerusalem and carried off the treasures thereof; it was the profane use of some of these vessels which figured into the death of King Belshazzar, his son, and the rending of the kingdom by the Medes.

Nebuchadnezzar became exalted in pride and the glory of his kingdom. He built a golden image and demanded all his subjects to fall down and worship it, as also his other idols. We have probably all heard or read of the wonderful story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, his Jewish subjects, who had been given authority in his kingdom. They refused to worship those gods or the image, and were committed to a fiery furnace, yet survived unscathed. Because of this, Nebuchadnezzar commanded that none should speak against their God, the great God of all.

Later, as he contemplated his own greatness, and no doubt harboring the thought that his majesty approached or equaled that of a "god", he heard a voice from heaven decreeing that his kingship would be taken from him. He immediately lost his reason-

ing power and was driven from among men to eat grass as the ox until seven years should pass. At its conclusion, he was restored through the return of his reasoning power. He recognized that God had debased him, and now he extolled with praise and honor the King of heaven, the only true God.

Our purpose in briefly rehearsing these things concerning Babylon and her king is to reveal a pattern of similarity, characteristics of ancient Babylon which are a type of modern Babylon. Of course, the human propensity toward greed, pride, self-exaltation, of persecution and conquest, etc. has never changed; but God has a time-table, a toleration for the exercise of the human will until the cup of iniquity is full, followed by His judgment. The wicked will destroy the wicked, as with Babylon and Judah; there are times of famine, of pestilence and of plague; and finally, there will be convulsions of the earth and the universe when He says: it is enough; my patience is exhausted. It appears this decree is near, even in this generation.

A third world war seems imminent; famine and pestilence are assuming world-wide dimension; plagues and disease are increasingly severe inasmuch that the medical field cannot keep abreast. New viral strains appear with which they are virtually hopeless to combat. Need we mention the dreaded AIDS disease which threatens to decimate the nations? All this because, in part at least—

“The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.” Isa. 24:4-6.

A spiritual pollution, which has festered long, is that which finally, by overflowing the nations, incurs the great wrath of an offended God.

Ancient Babylon pre-figured the appearance of a later, mystical Babylon which was to develop and continue even until the last days, or until that system should be destroyed by the brightness, the glory of the coming of the Lord; and Nebuchadnezzar, as a destroyer of God's people, in his arrogance and exaltation, pre-figured the evil ruling force of that Babylon of later times, whose seat was at Rome; this force is the papacy.

The Man of Sin

The apostle Paul prophesied concerning the ap-

pearance of a “man of sin” before the second advent of Christ, in this language:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. . . . And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thess. 2:3,4,6-12.

Jesus had said:

“And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: for false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.” Mk. 13:21, 22

The apostle John spoke of a spirit of antichrist being even then in the world (see 1 John 4:1-3), and his warning, together with those of Jesus and Paul alluded to a lying spirit loosed upon the earth, taking many forms but focusing upon a presumptuous system of church government known as the papacy.

Many latter day interpreters of prophecy as recorded in the Bible consider that the “man of sin”, the “antichrist”, is yet to make his appearance; a single person possessed of great deceptive power over the nations. This may be partially correct, but it is incorrect as to its total time frame, and identification. The “man of sin” is a spiritual system covering centuries, a succession of popes (presumed to have been headed by the apostle Peter).

We have no intention to delve into all that is available to confirm our assertion relative to the papacy in this connection. It has been admirably

done in "A Marvellous Work And A Wonder" by the late apostle Dan McGregor, which is available in the Church, and should be in our private libraries if possible.

Many people - catholic and non-catholic - become offended at what is assumed to be an attack against a church and its people. In general, people are innocent dupes of those who should know better, and often do know better, but will advance a particular cause for personal gain, favor, or ambition; such as these are worthy of severe scrutiny and condemnation if found guilty. But opposition to a church or political body is best served when limited to the principles involved. Such opposition may, however, be centered in people who personify the evil principle; and so it has been in several instances, noteworthy for their audacity; for instance: a totalitarian regime is an evil form of government, notably revealed in a Stalin, a Hitler or a Mussolini.

We will give a few statements made by popes of the past, and by others in reference to some of these popes, to show the almost unbelievable magnitude of their audacity and exaltation. Daniel, in prophesying concerning a "little horn" or power developing among the nations of the earth (see Dan. 7:8,20, 21,24,25) thus alluded to the papacy, saying that he (this spiritual system centering in the pope) "made war with the saints and prevailed against them" (ibid., v. 21), and that "he shall speak great words against the most High (ibid., v. 25). Now, how is the following for blasphemy, or speaking against the most High?!

Pope Innocent III:

"Christ hath set one man over the world, him whom he hath appointed his vicar on earth . . . In him (pope, w.a.s.) alone is the right of making laws . . . His sentence is not to be

repealed by anyone . . . He is to be judged by none." *A Marvellous Work and a Wonder*, p. 56.

Pope Boniface VIII (ibid., p. 56):

"The pope is of so great dignity and excellence, that he is not merely man, but as if God, and the vicar of God. The pope alone is called most holy, divine monarch, and supreme emperor, and king of kings. The pope is of so great dignity, and power, and he constitutes one and the same tribunal with Christ, so that whatsoever the pope does seems to proceed from the mouth of God. The pope is as God on earth."

Pope Nicholas:

"The pope who is called God by Constantine, can never be bound or released by man; for God can not be judged by man". *The Fall of Babylon*, p. 88, by Elder W. J. Haworth

The cry of Sicilian ambassadors, prostrated before pope Martin IV:

"Lamb of God! that takes away the sins of the world". *A Marvellous Work and a Wonder*, p. 56.

A Venetian prelate, in the Fourth Lateran, thus addressed the pope:

"Thou art our shepherd, our Physician, in short, a second God on earth". *The Fall of Babylon*, ibid., p. 88.

(Continued next month: "A Beast from the Sea")

IN MEMORY

As Memorial Day came this year we were again reminded of our neglect to one who was so dear to many of us. Our memory was caused to see the beautiful green slope in White Chapel Memorial Gardens near highway 1 in Gladstone, Missouri, just north of Kansas City. It was in June 1985 when Sister Martha Clara (Ferricks) Bell was laid to rest beside her beloved husband, Archie Fransis Bell, who had preceded her in death in 1980. Sister Martha was loved by all who knew her, which I am sure caused many to feel they could not adequately express their appreciation for this marvelous gift that God had granted unto us for over 82 years.

Martha was born on June 19, 1903 to Mathew and Adelaid Ferricks, of German heritage, in the farming community of Diller, Nebraska. Her mother died when Martha was 5 years old. Her father remarried before he passed away leaving Martha to be raised by her stepmother from the age of 8 years old. Martha began to work as a hired girl in homes when she was young and by the time she was 16 she left her home to live in homes where she took care of the sick, mothers with new babies, and general home tasks.

When Martha started school she had a special friend in Alvina (Schnuelle) Bell. This friendship

lasted throughout her life. When Alvina was 10 years old she moved with her parents to western Nebraska, in Cheyenne County. Their friendship continued through communication of letters until Martha went to visit Alvina's family in 1920. She made frequent visits there after. She was on hand to show her love, friendship and care when Alvina's second daughter, Irene, was born. It was here that she met Brother Archie Bell and they were married on November 2, 1927. This brought Martha and Alvina closer together as sisters, because Alvina had married Archie's brother, Harvey, in March of 1923.

Sister Martha was baptized into Christ, as a member of the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot in 1928, by Elder Martin M. Case. She remained faithful to her commitment to the Lord all her life, and was a help to Brother Archie in his missionary work, where she reached into the hearts of many with her caring, helpful nature.

While Archie and Martha were living in western Nebraska, three children were born: Donald Dean, Lela Rena, and Ella Darline. Donald and Lela died in infancy.

Brother Archie accompanied Elder Martin Case on a missionary trip in the west. Then in 1930 Archie and Martha went to Independence, Missouri where Archie worked on the Temple excavation and Martha worked in the kitchen to help feed and care for the workers. They returned to Nebraska after the work on the Temple stopped because of the need of funds. In 1933 the little family moved to western Iowa, around Portsmouth and McClelland. It was here that Archie, now an Elder in the Church of Christ, worked with Elder Martin Case to develop a group of Church of Christ believers. It was, also, here that two more children were born: Archie (Jack) Francis and Deloris Jane.

The family of now five moved to Ava, Missouri in 1936, where Martha was again close to Alvina, as they raised their young children. They were blessed as they joined the Arthur M. Smith, Alex Smith, Harvey Bell, and Grant Burgan families and soon a Local Church was organized. The Ava Local is still very active with the descendants and some of the

original members. In Ava, Archie developed the carpenter trade and when World War II began, he followed this trade into Fort Riley, Kansas, Whitehorse, Canada and other locations. Before Archie returned home to stay, they bought a farm southeast of Ava, near Arthur and Alex Smith and the Church. Here Martha kept the farm going and nurtured their children almost into adulthood.

In 1961 Archie and Martha moved to Independence, Missouri. By this time Archie was an Apostle and engaged in full time missionary work. The children were married except for Deloris. It was here that Archie's mother, Sister Rena Bell came to live with them most of her last seven years. Sister Martha accompanied Brother Archie on many of his missionary trips through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. It was during these times that Sister Martha reached into the folds of many hearts as a true sister; to others she had already found a special place in our lives as an aunt; as a mother and grandmother she has a place that is held most dear. A place that is appreciated with thanksgiving to a loving God by all of us.

Following Archie's death in 1980, Martha moved to Raymondville, Missouri near her daughters, until her sickness which took her home to rest in the arms of Jesus. She attended the Houston Local while in Raymondville.

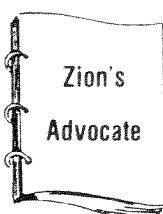
Martha's three sisters and two brothers preceded her in death. She leaves two daughters, Ella D. Engle and Deloris J. Smith of Raymondville, Missouri and one son, Archie F. (Jack) Bell Jr. of Conesville, Iowa; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Our hearts and memories will keep her in that place where God so lovingly placed her. We thank Him for the heritage He has given us in her. The Light of Jesus that she let shine, the patience of adversity, the joy of love, and endurance that comes from the strength of the Holy Ghost, the gift of God. We thank you Dear God for giving us Sister Martha Bell.

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

WANTED: PEACEMAKERS

by Becky Downs

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:17-18

While doing some outside reading, I came across the following:

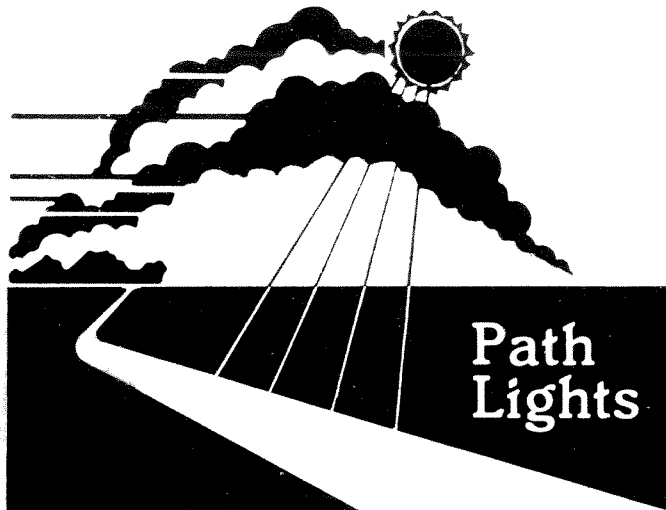
WANTED: PEACEMAKERS

In looking up scripture references, I wondered what a help-wanted ad would look like if one were advertising for peacemakers. What qualifications would be needed? Let's try to imagine.

HELP WANTED: PEACEMAKERS. Caring people of good conscience who will truly be there for others when they are hurting. People who recognize the God of Peace as their Father, the Prince of Peace as their leader, and the way of peacemaking as the only Christian way of life. People who will step into moments of conflict to do curative peace work, to

heal torn relationships. People who will look for rising hostilities and help defuse them. They will sense where there are gifts and talents lying dormant and ignored, and affirm them. They will see others as precious in God's sight, and therefore in their own. They will be willing to put away the past and choose to live in new ways that will not repeat old unsatisfactory situations. They will choose repentant responsibility and loving responses from their behavioral repertoire. They will hope that life can be new, that open honesty will be coupled with loving respect.

Those willing to apply must take upon them the name of Christ and enter in at the strait gate, and must continue on that narrow path which leads to everlasting life. A pension plan is available where workers must lay up treasures in heaven. No physical is required, but the applicant must present his body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is his reasonable service. Code of dress: the robes of righteousness. No experience necessary, will train. All replied confidential. An Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information, read Romans, the 12th chapter.



Path Lights needs your testimony. Send to:

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, MO 64052

I have had many blessings and assurances since I have been a member of the Church. One incident comes to mind that I would like to share with you.

Prior to my baptism into the Church I had become very discouraged with my religion. I started looking for another place to worship, hoping that I might find that special feeling that I was longing for.

After attending several services at various churches, I still felt lost and empty. Coming home one night after a service I felt as though there was just no hope of finding this relationship with the Lord I wanted and needed. I went to bed early that night so I could be alone and pray. I asked the Lord to give me that peace I knew He could bestow. I knew He was in Heaven but I couldn't find Him here.

As I finished my prayer, I looked up and saw Christ's face as suddenly a great feeling of peace came over me and I knew that the Lord was with me.

Shortly after that experience, I was led to the Church of Christ and I knew that I had found my spiritual home.

Chris Moser
Phoenix, Arizona

A REPORT FROM YUCATAN



by **Apostle D. E. McIndoo and Elder A. J. Moser**

As our plane left the Gulf of Mexico behind and crossed the coastline of Quintana Roo, even at 10,000 feet the effects of Hurricane Gilbert were obvious. The little coastal fishing village below had been ravaged by a powerful giant which had risen from the warm Caribbean waters and seemingly tried to erase it from the narrow strand of sand. Behind the village the great tropical forest of hardwoods lay flattened, a million outstretched arms uniformly pointing westward along the track the monster storm had followed.

Seeing the obvious power of the storm which struck the heartland of the Maya, we marveled that the toll of death and injury was not greater. Only one of our church people had been injured, and that in an accident while cleaning up after the storm. This young man was seriously injured by a high tension electrical shock but is now doing well and in good spirits although still not able to work. However, the loss and suffering has been, and will continue to be, great.

There could be no doubt the relatively low death rate was due in part to the evacuation of coastal towns by the Mexican authorities. Yet, as we viewed the passing villages from our bus window as we traveled between Cancun and Merida, we were impressed by the number of wind-toppled trees which

had fallen just inches from the little thatched homes of people who huddled, fear-stricken and praying, inside as "Gilbert" roared across their land. Surely God had to some degree spared these humble people from the full fury which could have befallen them.

Now in Merida, as we began in earnest to confront the suffering and loss which had been sustained, we were again filled with gratitude for all the good people of the Church of Christ who had, without solicitation, forwarded funds to help their brothers and sisters. \$837.00 was delivered into the hands of eighteen families to assist them in their medical needs. Some of these needs were a direct result of the hurricane which had felled all power lines, thus cutting off access to pure drinking water. In some places, power was out for several days while in others it was weeks before all the downed poles and lines could be replaced.

Fourteen families received a total of \$698.00 in direct economic assistance. This will be an on-going expense as many jobs have been curtailed because of the storm. The 125 mph winds which passed over the state of Yucatan severely damaged the hennequin crop which is their main source of employment and income. All crops have been damaged or destroyed throughout the three-state area where our people live; hence, there will be a shortage of food grown, a loss of income coupled with the necessity of purchasing higher-priced food for day-to-day use. The specter of hunger now looms over the land. The

On one occasion I had a conversation with the Lord. It was not an audible conversation, but there were words communicated.

I had been pondering the question of the hereafter which has been debated in the church in the past. As I sat pondering this matter, the Lord suddenly asked me the question, "What do you believe?" I quickly answered, "Lord, you know what I believe." He said, "Prove it."

I immediately thought that He meant for me to search out the scriptures to prove the truth concerning that question. He, being able to read my thoughts, countered them by saying, "No, leave the scriptures alone." Feeling helpless without the use of the scriptures, I asked, "Lord, how can I prove the truth that I believe without the scriptures? I am but a weak and erring human." He answered, "By the kind of life you live."

As I pondered His answer, I thought how simple yet how profound is His truth.

Apostle Roland Sarratt
Independence, MO

This is not my own testimony but I have not been able to forget it. It belongs to an elder sister who can no longer stand and share it with us. I hope to meet her again; she might hold out her arms and say, "See, I told you!"

Angela Wheaton more than once told us this story in an emotion-choked voice. It shook my composure every time; it still does. I will tell it as correctly as I can remember . . . in her memory.

She had been troubled by a good bit of friction with an associate. It seemed they just couldn't get along. One night she felt considerable sorrow and some resentment and couldn't get to sleep. As she prayed for help a vision opened before her eyes. She saw a breathtakingly, incredibly beautiful form, more appealing than anything she had ever seen or could ever imagine. She knew what it was. It was the soul of her antagonist! She cried out, "I'm so sorry, Lord, I didn't know!" The answer came back sadly and tenderly, "Every soul I have ever created is just as beautiful."

Donna Moser
Phoenix, Arizona

rural people who depend upon the rains cannot replant again until May or June nor expect a harvest until next September and October. We must realize that our support cannot merely be a one-time generosity.

As might be expected, a great number of families had received substantial damage to their homes. Some of the structural damage and repairs to roofs had already been done by those who could afford it. Now we were able to help the remaining fifty-five families with an assistance of \$3,400 to repair their homes. This accounts for all the work needed except a replacement of two homes which had completely disappeared. In each town a committee was formed to assess the damage, purchase the necessary materials and assist with the repairs for those who could not do so. As we visited and planned with these brethren in the eleven communities which were hardest hit by the storm, we had a growing awareness that something good could grow out of the destruction that had befallen our people. These committees of ministry and laymen were generally excited and eager to help one another and perhaps reach out to the needs of others in the community after the needs of our own people have been met. That is an opportunity that yet lies before us.

Two of our church buildings had sustained damage to their roofs and needed \$295 to complete the repairs. Other needs that were not storm-related were also dealt with, expending another \$507.

None of us can look into the future and predict how great the needs of our people might become. We have one plan to offset future need that was proposed by several of our Elders which we would like to implement in order to minimize the threat of hunger. This plan pertains to brethren who live in poor areas where irrigation water is not available. The September storm destroyed their harvest almost completely and they have no expectation of another before next fall. The plan will entail the purchase of a piece of arable land which has a good well. A cooperative will be formed in the name of the church and our people encouraged, and taught, to plant vegetable and fruit crops in such a way that there

would always be food to harvest (as they have a 12-month growing season where water is available). We would have to help with the furnishing of a pump and motor, hoses, seed, fertilizer and insecticides. We wish each group so helped to include in their by-laws a statement of purpose that a tithe of their production will be used for those unable to work and other needy people within the community.

One cooperative as described might demand an initial outlay of between \$2500 and \$4000 depending upon the value of the land. There are probably a half-dozen towns where such, or similar, projects are needed. If you would like to be a partner in the continuing effort to provide for the spiritual, economic and medical needs of an impoverished, but righteous, people and assist in the development of means by which they can attain a greater degree of self-sufficiency remember to send your tithes and offerings to the General Bishopric of the Church of Christ. Some of the projects we have described fall outside the scope of the General Church's ability to help, so we appreciate a continued support of our local Yucatan Fund here in Phoenix. Make your check payable to the Church of Christ but indicate that it is for the Yucatan Fund and send it to our treasurer, Doris Housknecht, 1909 E. Grovers Ave., Space 15, Phoenix, Arizona 85022.

The appreciation of our brethren in Mexico for this assistance received is expressed in the following letter from one of our Elders:

Yobain, Yucatan
October 23, 1988

To my esteemed brothers and sisters
of the Church of Christ in the
United States:

My appreciated brothers in the great Christian family, we greet you with all love and affection wishing you much happiness beneath the mighty hand of God. My dear ones, we were greatly amazed upon hearing from the lips of our dear brothers, Donald and Alvin, of your great concern for us in

FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY

Faith willingly obeys the divine command because it is good and promises hope -

Hope anticipates a glorious light at the end of the dark tunnel, which faith assures, and -

Charity gladly gives with no hope or expectation of return save the heavenly hope which faith secures.

—William A. Sheldon

sending aid to repair our homes, kitchens and washing places which were destroyed by the hurricane, Gilbert.

Truly we are in a time of suffering because of the shortage of both work and food. Our corn, tomatoes, fruit trees, henniquin and all other horticulture were destroyed. Now the powerful hand of our Lord, Jesus Christ, has arrived to aid us by means of your assistance. For this reason we infinitely appreciate

the gift of love and affection you give to us. May our dear Celestial Father fill to overflowing with His richest blessings and give spiritual and temporal prosperity to all our Christian family is our prayer to the Creator of the universe.

Yours in Christ,
Placido Koyoc and the
Church of Christ

-NEWS- NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

FRED ALVIN WINEGAR

Fred Alvin Winegar, son of Benjamin and Ethel Winegar, was born on January 23, 1917 at Havelock, Nebraska, and passed away at his home at Columbia Falls, Montana, on September 9, 1988.

In 1927 the Benjamin Winegar family moved to Bemidji, Minnesota. There Fred met Stella J. Gould and the couple were married on October 26, 1939. They moved to Columbia Falls in 1948, where Fred worked for the Plum Creek Lumber Company, as head sawyer, plant foreman, saw-mill superintendent, vice president, and was president of the company at the time of his retirement in 1982. To many people Fred was the heart and soul of Plum Creek.

Fred served on the North Valley Hospital board when the new hospital was built, was past president of the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce, was on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Columbia Falls, was a member of the Elks and of the (Hoo Hoo) a lumber fraternity.

He was a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) having been baptized as a boy on May 2, 1928. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers. Ralph Eugene, who died in infancy, and Hiram Henry, who died on June 18, 1981.

He is survived by his wife Stella of the family home, one son, Dan, three daughters, Evelyn York, Margaret Smith, and Mrs. William (Darleen) Frishkorn, all of Columbia Falls; one brother, James, of Clarkston, Washington; four sisters, Mrs. Robert (Doris) Jensen of Bellevue, Nebraska, Mrs. Arlo (Lillian) Gould of Bemidji, Minnesota, Mrs. Harry (Lola) Riley of Columbia Falls, Montana, and Mrs. Eddie (Vida) Hill of Hibbing, Minnesota; twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held September 13 at the Van Leuvan Funeral Home in Columbia Falls, with Apostle Marvin Ely officiating, giving a very memorable message about which many attending commented. A beautiful musical offering The Old Rugged Cross, The Saints Shall Wear Robes as the Lilies and The Old, Old Path was rendered by Ruth Clawson, a school day's friend of Darleen Frishkorn, and her husband Robert Clawson.

Burial was in the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery of Kalispel, Montana.

AVA LOCAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

Ecclesiastes 3:1—To everything there is a

season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:

As I write the fall season is coming to our hills after the heat of the summer. The leaves are starting to change color on our trees, and most look dusty and tired, their green faded only a little. But some of the sassafras and sumac have glowing leaves. The Virginia creeper that climbs a small tree by my son's window is more red than green, although still a mixture of the two colors.

Out in the garden it's time to clean out the spent plants and dig compost into the beds to prepare for next spring's planting. For I hope, as usual, for a better garden next year.

It seems to me that human souls have growing cycles also: times of gaining new or broader understandings of the gospel, of making changes in our personality and actions, and of dormancy—a time of rest when we can see no development. If my analogy of the growth of a soul to the growth of a garden has any truth in it, then the rest time can be as important as are the other times. For time spent in study and prayer that enriches a faith upon God and His Eternal Goodness prepares the soul for stronger and truer growth.

In his sermon on the last Sunday of September, our pastor, Brother Joe Smith, said that we must not just profess a belief in Jesus Christ, but we must practice that belief. To continue the analogy then, we cannot allow the growth of our souls to remain indefinitely in a rest time, rather our time must be such as to lead to growth, or we become stagnated rather than enriched.

But how do we know whether our rest time is one of preparation or stagnation? In August, Brother Tony Grizincic pointed out to us that we must not counsel ourselves, but be counseled by the Lord in all our doings. Thus in a rest time of preparation we must ask the Holy Ghost to guide our personal study, reading, and pondering that we will be led to knowledge necessary to the growth of our individual souls.

For, as Brother Bob Oldham reminded us in July, we are expected to continue growing until we are perfect. Christ has commanded us to do so, and we dare not allow ourselves to become satisfied, thinking that we understand all we should understand or that we have reached our human limits of perfection.

In terms of my analogy to a garden, when times come that we do not see growth in ourselves, we must consider these important times of study, thinking, and prayer, preparing for another time of visible growth.

Our local September business meeting was enlivened by our Treasurer's report that with the help of good friends, we have completely paid the debt owed on our little building on Airport Road. We all

knew this to be true, but it was good to hear the official announcement. We truly thank all who donated money to help us.

We also decided to meet together in our church building on the first Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck supper and entertainment. We look forward to some enjoyable meetings. We certainly encourage any brothers, sisters, and friends to join us on these evenings. Come and meet with us when you can on Sunday mornings and on the first Friday evenings. Our building is not finished in the remodeling nor is the growth of our souls, but we meet with the joy and love of Christ.

BRADLEY, MICHIGAN NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

After several days and several inches of rain the sky found its way clear to pour sunshine upon two souls who were baptized at Dumont Lake on Sunday, September 25, 1988. Those who were baptized were Cindi Janke and Cathy Lussenden, daughters of Elder LaVerne and Sister Joyce Lussenden.

Elder LaVerne said a few words from the Book of Mormon before the Confirmation. He was assisted by Elder Conley Addington. There were 62 in attendance who offered the hands of fellowship immediately following.

Elder LaVerne and Sister Joyce celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary September 22.

The Lord has blessed Sister Rose Lussenden (LaVerne's mother) with her 82nd birthday.

For years Elder LaVerne and Sister Joyce have been making the trip to Florida at Christmas time for a couple of weeks. This year Elder Conley Addington and Elder Gale Brantner have graciously accepted a request by Elder LaVerne to take turns pastoring the Bradley Local so they can spend six weeks in Florida this Christmas.

The Lord has seen fit to allow LaVerne and Joyce to both retire from their work places so that they can both, with the Lord's guidance, venture out for extended vacations, not only for relaxation but that some of these extended trips will be church related.

Sunday, October 16th the Bradley Local was blessed with a special by Lowell Scott who played a number on his portable organ.

Sincerely in Gospel Bonds
from the Bradley, Michigan
Local - Submitted by
Pam Lussenden

GREETINGS FROM GRAND JUNCTION

Wonderful things are happening in our lives and we would like to share them with you. The weather has been absolutely gorgeous this fall, golden days of crisp blue skies, mountains wearing their fall hues, leaves swirling to the ground as the hunters return from the hills. The wind gives us the feeling that soon winter will enter on icy wings, wrapping us in glistening garbs of white wonder. Colorado becomes a frosty playground for those with the time and money to indulge themselves. We find it much safer to shovel around the neighborhood sidewalks. Not much expense in that, and lots of exercise to boot.

Don and Betty McIndoo visited with us during the month of September. Don told us much about the Yucatan area and the terrible devastation it suffered during the hurricane season. He was waiting for word from officials there before making a trip to help the church people. Our local was one of many which collected funds to send with Don, as he certainly knows their needs better than we. Our prayers are with him and Jay Moser as they travel into this place, that they may be led in their efforts to lend help where it is so desperately needed.

Our local has had the desire for some years to add a dining hall and restrooms, and effort was made during October to benefit the building fund. With the organization and efforts of Kathy and David Larsen and my family, a yard sale was held one Saturday at the church. We were not satisfied with our sales, so we packed things down to my house for the next weekend, hoping that increased advertising and traffic would help us sell more. And it worked. Don't ask me what we sold, because we seem to have too many boxes of things left over. We will make a final tally this week and deposit our profit. As one sister said, "Every little bit helps." Our thanks to all who donated things to help this project.

Edith Arden and her family have returned to Grand Junction, seeking better employment. Her boys have grown while they were away, and we hope that they will be able to stay in this area longer and continue to worship with us.

At this writing (October 26), we have missed Enid Bell for several weeks, and now her husband Johnny, as they visited the newest addition to their family. Their son Jack and his wife Kellie, who live in Plano, Texas, have a new baby boy. After properly welcoming little Andrew Edward (and spoiling brother Zachary and sister Abby), Johnny and Enid have returned with news to tell and pictures to show, I'm sure. It is a wondrous thing to be with these little

children, so fresh from God. We share in your joy, Jack and Kellie.

I have thought about the December issue of the *Zion's Advocate*, so full of articles celebrating the birth of our Saviour, and have wondered if I could find the words to express the beauty that has come into so many lives because of that joyous occasion. The gift of God's love, His son. I will not include my tribute here, but will leave that to others of more talent. May God bless you during the Sacred Season of Christmas.

With love,

Becky Downs, Reporter

AKWESASNE LOCAL REPORT

Hogansburg, New York

As the leaves fall from the trees in Autumn, I cannot help but compare them to the falling pages of a calendar. The months and years seem to pass so quickly and "time" itself has vanished. My report takes us back a few years and leads us into our most recent news.

We are a group of Restoration believers who have been meeting in the home of Eli and Gretchen Tarbell on the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation since July of 1975. We are Indian and non-Indian. We all have RLDS and/or LDS backgrounds. We love the Book of Mormon and have tried sharing the beautiful gospel story with other Native Americans here at Akwesasne. Sometimes successful, sometimes not. We have had many people come and go, and at times it has been very discouraging. Somewhere within us, however, we have had enough faith to keep striving to fulfill God's purposes in us.

Our first contact with the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) was Apostle William A. Sheldon and Sister Doris upon the invitation of Sister Theresa Guthrie in 1980. We had been praying a long time for God to send someone to us to teach us His true gospel. Our prayers were beginning to be answered when the Sheldon's (who have fondly become Grandpa and Grandma to our children) came to visit us. A few years later in July 1982, Theresa was baptized by Brother Sheldon and two years after that in September 1984, Brother Sheldon baptized Theresa's daughter-in-law, Gretchen Tarbell. We continued to meet as a group seeking spiritual direction for ourselves and our part in "taking the gospel to the Lamanites"—our Iroquois brothers.

In June of 1985, Bill and Lillian Zabriskie came to

visit us, again upon the invitation of Sister Guthrie. Because of their love for the Gospel and the Book of Mormon and their desire to bring the gospel to the House of Israel, they felt spiritually directed to come here not knowing how long their "visit" would be. We didn't know at the time, but our prayers were again being answered when they decided to settle here. They have given us such stability by bringing us much needed instruction, love, and fellowship with our Savior.

All through this time, our "Grandpa and Grandma Sheldon" visited us regularly, bringing their love and instruction as His faithful servants. It was on one of these occasions, in October 1986, when three of the Tarbell children, Brandon, Justin and Christy, were baptized by Brother Sheldon.

We were growing . . . slowly. God has truly taught us patience. It has not been easy for some of us, struggling with beliefs that helped mold our lives a few decades ago and now to have them stripped apart by an organization to which we were committed. Slight contentions arose among us, however we never lost the desire to know the "truth". God watched over us all this time, directing everything. The missionary outreach of Apostle Sheldon, as well as the tapes sent to us by Ron Temple and others have given us encouragement and hope.

We must thank Sister Theresa Guthrie (who resides in Las Vegas during the winter months) again for the invitation she extended to Brothers Hubert and James Yates to visit us. For truly our prayers were being answered again for someone to come and minister to us when they came this past summer. They spent several wonderful weeks with us, sharing their slides and testimonies of their experiences with our brothers and sisters of Yucatan. They conducted preaching and prayer services for us with such power and authority. They shared and taught us several beautiful hymns. We could never tire of the singing and ministry of these brothers we love. They truly shared the "Gospel of Jesus Christ" with us and taught us truths. The Holy Spirit bore record of the truth to us through these two servants of our Lord more than any of us had ever experienced before.

On Sunday, July 24, 1988, we all shared in what seemed to be a culmination of everyone's efforts over the past several years. Brother and Sister Sheldon came also to share this special day with us. It was truly a spiritual celebration of the Lord's Day.

Bill and Lillian Zabriskie, Eli Tarbell and daughter Ryanne were all baptized by Apostle William Sheldon. Apostle William Sheldon, assisted by Elders Hubert and James Yates administered the Laying on of Hands for Confirmation to Bill and Lillian. Eli Tarbell was confirmed by Elder Hubert

Yates, assisted by Apostle William Sheldon and Elder James Yates. Ryanne Tarbell was confirmed by Elder James Yates, assisted by Apostle William Sheldon and Elder Hubert Yates. We were all bathed in the Holy Spirit at this time, and He continued to pour His blessings upon us.

Apostle Sheldon revealed a calling to the Priesthood to the office of Elder for Bill Zabriskie. Elder Hubert Yates confirmed this, and Bill was ordained to the office of Elder by Apostle William A. Sheldon and Elder Hubert Yates. Because we now had a membership of nine and an Elder, we also became organized as a Local congregation. Apostle Sheldon conducted our first business meeting during this wonderful service. Elder Bill Zabriskie was appointed Pastor; Gretchen Tarbell was elected Clerk/Reporter and Music Leader; and Brandon Tarbell was appointed Custodian of the newly organized Akwesasne Local of the Church of Christ.

We were all filled with an unexplainable joy and happiness upon the conclusion of this tremendous service. We all prayed mightily and spent time in fasting for several days prior to our Sunday service, and God surely blessed us beyond any of our expectations.

In August, Bill and Lillian attended the Missouri Reunion and afterwards the Minister's Conference. This gave them additional spiritual blessings of being in the presence of like-members in Christ's church. They returned to New York with their son and granddaughters to increase our fold.

We continue to meet regularly for Sunday School and Church and on Wednesday evenings for prayer meeting. We have others in our group who will someday make the covenants we have. We are committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to the establishing of His Kingdom. We have been laying the ground work and now the foundation is set. We hope to expand our Sunday School and establish a youth program for our own youth and our community. As we reach out to others, our Local will grow. We have learned to be patient and through our faith, God has not forsaken us. His work will continue. We must be ready and willing to respond to His call.

We extend an invitation to others to visit us here at Akwesasne. We hope, too, that our paths will cross often as we attend Reunions and Conferences. We love you and pray for you and would ask you to please remember our efforts for Christ and His Church in your prayers.

With Love,
Your Sister in Christ,
Gretchen Tarbell
P.O. Box 21
Hogansburg, NY 13655

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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)
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