

Zion's Advocate

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

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*If you want your children to
keep their feet on the ground,
put some responsibility on their
shoulders.*

Abigail Van Buren
Universal Press Syndicate

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GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

EDITOR OF ZION'S ADVOCATE

Elder Gary A. Housknecht
11308 E. 78th Street
Raytown, Missouri 64138
Telephone (816) 737-3240

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Priest Michael McGhee
18907 E. 6th Street
Independence, Missouri 64056 — (816) 796-6255
David Rudd
413 Springwood Dr.
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015 — (816) 229-2914

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P. O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle William A. Sheldon
1011 S. Cottage
Independence, Missouri 64050

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Elder Leslie P. Case
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GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham
5709 Logan Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64136



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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 REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," and news items are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of Submitted Material

Please type all submissions, on one side of the paper only. Do not use "eraseable" or any fancy textured paper. Do not make any handwritten marks (including corrections) anywhere on the paper — if necessary, make supplementary notes on a separate piece of paper. Do not use underlining, italics, all-caps, or any fancy typefaces; specify any text emphasis you desire on a separate note. Finally, it would be VERY helpful if you would be certain you are using a typewriter ribbon that gives a good, distinct image (not smudgy or too light).

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When using a word processor, use only "letter quality" or "near-letter quality" print with a fresh ribbon or cartridge. I can utilize text files on computer floppy disks (5 1/4" only) if IBM compatible. I can translate from most word processing software, but simple ASCII is best. I can also receive any text files over a phone modem.

STATUS OF PUBLISHED 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.

Popular Misconceptions

I listen to a lot of religious programming on the airwaves, and continually hear the admonition... "Read the bible! Read the Bible!" When I do, I seem to get a different meaning from the scriptures than what's presented by these religious leaders.

I hear them say you're completely saved when you come up to the mourners bench, or say the so-called sinners prayer. Let's rightly divide the word as the Bible says we should do, and ask...if you are completely saved at that time, why did Paul say in Romans 13:11 that your salvation is nearer now than when you first believed? How could it be if you were already completely saved? Also Paul says to work out *your own salvation* with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12) Can that be done in a fleeting second or two at the mourners bench? Also I find the last commission that Jesus gave to his ministry was to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, *they that believe and are baptized* would be saved. Mathew 16:15-20. I see two conditions here. I find that Peter was told by an angel from the Lord to tell Cornelius how he and his household could be saved (Acts 11:14). In Acts 10:14, Peter commanded them to be baptized. Is all this idle talk? Why did Paul say that Ananias had received revelation from God that Paul was coming, and when he came he asked him why he was to arise and be *baptized to wash away his sins*? Does God have two different ways for the soul's salvation? I don't think so.

I hear it said that the thief on the cross was going to be with Jesus in heaven that very day. Luke 23:43. The inference there is that Paradise and Heaven are the same place. That would make Jesus contradict himself, because in John 20:17 when he ascended from the grave he told Mary not to touch Him for he had not yet ascended unto the Father. Jesus taught us to pray....Our Father *who art in Heaven*.

I hear it said over and over again....we're not to preach doctrine any more. Has God changed? He said, "I am the Lord, I change not." Malachi 3:6. Jesus preached doctrine, Mathew 7:28. His doctrine was from God, John 7:1. Time would come when doctrine would not be preached, 2 Timothy 4:3. A Bishop must by sound doctrine exhort and convince...etc., Titus 1:9. In Matthew 15:9 and Mark 7:7 were told we can worship Jesus in vain if we teach the doctrine and commandments of men. Dangerous thing. Hebrew 13:9. We're not to be carried about with diverse and strange doctrines.

2 John 10: "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him god-speed. He that biddeth him god speed is a partaker of his evil deeds." I hear it preached that the Kingdom of Heaven is in your heart. In Mt 2:33 Jesus tells us the first thing to do is to seek the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Matthew 23:13 Jesus accuses the Pharisees of shutting up the Kingdom of Heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. How can this be if it's in your heart?

We're living in the day of deception. Mathew. 24:11. Jesus said many false prophets would arise in our day. Mathew 24:4. Take heed that ye be not deceived. Isaiah 8:11. If they preach not according to this word it is because there is no light in them. The Devil himself can be transformed into an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14. Rest assured...he will distort scripture.

Mathew 7:22. Many will say unto me in that day, *Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils?* 23rd verse. And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** Depart from me ye that work iniquity.

I feel it's a dangerous thing for the welfare of our souls to willfully and deliberately change the meaning of scripture. Revelation 22:19. We shall lose our place in the Book of Life. In closing I'd like to suggest that no where does it say that if you don't understand to ask your minister. It does say, however, if you lack wisdom, to ask God. James 1:5.

I say this because at a cottage meeting I asked a Protestant minister where in all scripture he could find justification for baptizing babies. He admitted there was nothing in the Scriptures. He said it was something he was taught in the Seminary, and he would lose his job as a minister in his faith if he didn't perform that ritual. I feel that God must be terribly displeased at such a departure from the written word.

Another thought that just came to me....There seems to be such a fear among the clergy about "works." What shall we do with the following scripture then (Revelation 20:12): "I saw the dead, small and great stand before God; and the books were opened ... and the dead were judged out of those things which are written in the books, according to their works."

I know Martin Luther wanted the book of James removed from the Bible. It was an epistle of straw, he said. Of course it mentions works, and I suppose he didn't like that. In James 2:17 ... faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Verse 20: Faith without works is dead.

As I read the Bible I find the Gospel is something to obey, not just the good news about Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 1:7&8 seems to me to indicate that obedience is required. For the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

They will be damned who believed not the truth and had pleasure in unrighteousness.

This should be read prayerfully. God will reveal his truth.

Life of Integrity

By Priest Brian McIndoo

The word "integrity" is not mentioned in the Book Of Mormon, or the New Testament of the Bible. However, the definition and the adhering to the meaning of this word is very important to our lives and salvation, as expressed in Proverbs 20:7 "The just (righteous) man walketh in his integrity."

So what is this integrity spoken of here in Proverbs? According to Webster's Dictionary, integrity is "the quality or state (how we are), of being complete, unbroken. the quality or state of being sound (firm moral principles, uprightness) and honest (free from deceit), and sincere (genuine and pure)."

To be genuine and pure we must be a full-time Christian, not just when we are in the company of our fellow church members, not just on Sunday. we can not allow ourselves to justify a little sin. To be free from deceit, we cannot try to make people believe we are something we are not; no preaching without practicing.

In the world today, Christians and Christianity in general are having their integrity destroyed and defiled by those who openly profess Christianity but are not living Christian lives. The news media is quick to pick up and point out any inconsistent behavior in those Christians in the public eye. Each one of us is also in the public eye. Maybe not on the same scale as some but we are closely watched by those who know that we profess to be Christians, and they, too, are looking for inconsistencies in our lives and faults, to justify their sins. A common phrase that you hear from people is that they do not go to church because everyone that goes is just a "bunch of hypocrites." True, there are hypocrites, or people claiming to be something they make no attempt to be, but there are true Christians also, those who make an honest effort to live a life that is pleasing to God.

The scriptures tell us why we must be righteous. Paul makes the statement in 1 Corinthians 6:9-12: "The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Paul goes on to tell us that we are washed and free from unrighteousness. Paul gave us the formula for this removal of unrighteousness from our lives: (Galatians 5:11) Stand fast (firm, unbroken), therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free (free to choose our own lives), and be not entangled again with the yoke (joined together) of bondage (unrighteousness).

You have been taught to put off the old man, the natural man, so what is this natural man, or man's nature? King Benjamin puts it in Mosiah 1:119. The natural man is an enemy of God, and has been since the fall of Adam and will be for ever and ever.

We find in Adam's case, as well as man today, that man's nature is to do his own will instead of the will of God. Man wishes to please and look out for himself, think of number one, be happy in worldly pleasures be part of the crowd and be popular not different. Paul tells us in Romans 7:21, that man's nature is to commit sin, and man cannot change from his nature. In Romans 8:1-5, Paul states that through the grace of God, and the power of prayer we can remove this natural man; thru the Spirit of Jesus Christ we can be free from the law of sin, we can be transformed, and undergo a complete change, washing away all filthiness and unrighteousness.

Colossians 3:6 says that as ye have received the Lord so walk in Him. Pay special attention to the directions to walk "in" Him, not "with" Him, the same pathway, same righteousness, same responsibilities to do the will of God.

James tells us how righteous we must be in these days of our probation. James 1:21-22: Wherefore put away all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

It should be noted that the terms superfluity of naughtiness, means, engaging in whatever is evil in character. Avoiding anything evil in character would eliminate the need to make excuses for things we should not participate in. No longer could we say, "I only do it once in a while, it doesn't hurt anyone else, or it's not that bad." For if the activity is evil in any way, we should avoid it.

James 1:22...But be ye doers of the word and not just hearers only, deceiving your own selves. If we are doers of the word of God, and walk in Christ, God will take care of our needs and hear our prayers. Therefore we must strive to be righteous following Christ's example. 1 Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." For this reason we must have integrity, doing the will of God daily and desiring to live a righteous life, for we cannot deceive God. He knows our hearts and desires, he knows our nature, which is to sin unless we submit to walk in Christ.

Christ speaks how He can work in our lives, if we follow His instructions: (3 Nephi 7:10) Behold I am the law and the light: Look unto me and endure to the end. For unto him that will endure to the end will I give eternal life.

Remember the attitude you had the day you were baptized? Most of us felt we could resist any temptation that came before us, and we probably could have. As time went on, and we were not as new in Christ as we were the day of our baptism, our resistance may have weakened. Therefore,

we must renew our covenant with Him and regain our strength and continue to endure, walking in Christ and He will give us the strength to resist unrighteousness.

Helaman 5:85-86 tells us that God made us free to act for ourselves to know good from evil, to choose life or death, to choose righteousness or unrighteousness, or in other words, to have integrity or be a hypocrite. Let us live our lives so that we can pray as David did in the 26th Psalm

(verses 1-2, 9-11):

Judge me oh Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity. I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; test my heart and my mind. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men, whose hand is mischief, and their right hand full of bribes. But as for me, I walk in mine integrity, redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

"It Matters to me. Does it Matter to Thee?"

I had a very busy schedule in November of 87, planned to nearly every hour on the clock. I thought no one else was concerned, until I received a visit from a very special person.

I tried to get everything as organized as I could. Up at 7 A.M., shower, shave, and breakfast. In college at eight, class room, laboratory, and as much homework as I could get done. Out at twelve, back home, lunch and a nap. Leave for work at 2 P.M., off at 11:30, the half hour drive back home, and in bed at midnight. Up at 7 A.M., and around the clock again I'd go, day, after day, after day.

On the day of my visit my time was shorter than usual. I had returned from college with only one and a half hours before leaving for work and not the two hours to which I was accustomed. During this time I would have to eat my noon meal, prepare a sack lunch, dry my work clothes, take a nap, and say prayers, all as usual, but some planning had to be done to get all this accomplished in the shorter time. So I planned to only take a half an hour nap.

"Now let me see," I reasoned. "Only thirty-four minutes until I leave. I'll set the alarm timer for half an hour and that will give me four minutes to pray before I leave. But, if I sleep that extra four minutes, I could say prayers all the way to work, and as tired as I am I can use that extra sleep."

Just as I had fallen to sleep, Jesus appeared to me, took my right hand in His, much as if an Indian wrestling hold and with His left hand around my right forearm, He looked squarely into my face and said, "It matters to me. Does it matter to thee?" He kissed me on top of the head and then

vanished.

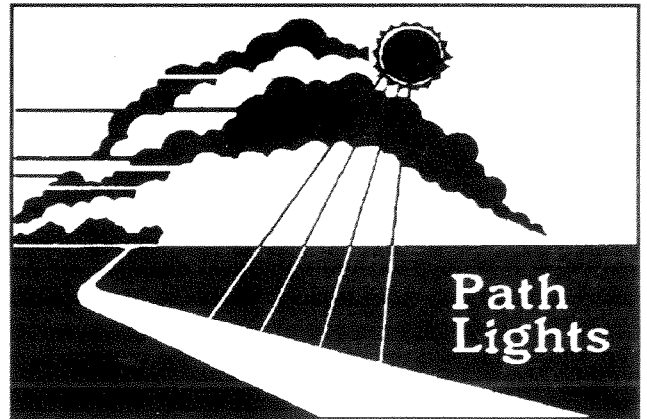
"What did He look like? How was He dressed?" Can't tell you. How do I know it was Him? I guess by what He said more than anything, and believe me, I knew what he meant.

This has caused a change in the way I say my prayers. I take special time now. As early as I can comb my hair and get awake enough to make a decent presentation of myself, I say prayers and it makes a difference in the way that I react to things that come my way that day. While I'm at work and I see a beautiful sunset I remove

my hat, pause and say something like "Lord it is true, you do all things well. Thank you for letting me see this beautiful thing." And I know He hears. When I get ready for bed, I pause and do the best I can to thank Him for the day being safe, and to ask for his forgiveness, and as repetitious as it may seem, I give it my best. But the time I pray before I go to work is a special time. Now I am more aware that He cares.

That it matters to Him will always be a mystery to me. Every time I dwell on it, it amazes me. When he said "Does it matter to thee?" has made me think that there may be other things in my life that matter more to Jesus than they do to me. I'm still searching for them, and trying to get my priorities in order with His.

I know that the Lord Jesus Christ is real, and that he is personally concerned about my life. He is not a respecter of persons. Therefore, he **is** also concerned about **your** life. It matters to Him.



Do you have a testimony you would like to share with our readers?

Send your testimonies to :

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence,
Missouri
64052

Don Hitt

Testimony of the American Indian and the Stick of Joseph

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Seven

QUESTION NO. 5 (Continued from last month) — **What distinguishing earmarks prove him** (the white bearded stranger that appeared to America's pre-Columbus inhabitants) **to be the Son of God or Jesus Christ our Saviour?**

THE TESTIMONY OF DANIEL G. BRINTON

"A curious addition to the story was told the early Swedish settlers on the river Delaware by the Algonkin tribe which inhabited its shores. These related that their various arts of domestic life and the chase were taught them ions ago by a venerable and eloquent man who came to them from a distance, and having instructed them in what was desirable for them to know, he departed, not to another region or by the natural course of death, but by ascending into the sky. They added that this ancient and beneficent teacher wore a long beard" (American Hero-Myths, p. 535).

THE TESTIMONY OF MR. SCOTT BENNETT (A champion of the Rationalist movement in a debate with a minister of a Christian church.)

"You Christians are not the only ones who claim that you have a Saviour who was the Son of God and born of a virgin. In Mexico the Saviour Quetzalcoatl was born of a pure virgin, who was called the Queen of Heaven. An ambassador announced from heaven to the virgin Sochiquetzal that it was the will of heaven that she should conceive a son...This, remember, in a country not discovered until nearly fifteen hundred years after the supposed birth of Jesus" (Harkness Bennett Debate, cited in Harold I. Velt, America's Lost Civilizations, p.151).

THE TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

In Georgia He was called E-See-Co-Wah (Lord of wind and water). His father was the Great Spirit. He had twelve disciples plus himself making 13, the dawn star number (See L. Taylor Hansen, He Walked the Americas, pp,41-42). In Oklahoma among the Puants the Healer told them He was born across the ocean, in a land where all men were bearded. In this land He was born of a virgin on a night when a bright star came out of the heavens and stood over His city, here, too, heavens opened and down came winged beings singing chants of exquisite beauty. He was known to these Indians as Chee-Zoos, the Dawn God (See L. Taylor Hansen, He Walked the Americas, pp, 48-49). The Prophet taught the Pawnee of His Father: The Mighty Holy of the Heavens, He also foretold the coming of the white man. His name was Paruxti and his father's name was Tirawa. The Algonkin of the Eastern Seaboard knew him as Chee-Zoos, God of the Dawn Light. It was the name he had

when he was a child across the sea. He gave the Dakotah their rite of Baptism - to them He was the Great Wakonah (the pale Great Master) (See L. Taylor Hansen, He Walked the Americas, pp, 53-54). To the Navajo He gave His name which He had across the ocean. It was Great Yeh-hovah (See L. Taylor Hansen, He Walked the Americas, pp, 102-103).

By way of summary, what must be our conclusion regarding this benevolent God of the Indian? First, we are told, he was white and bearded wearing long robes. Second, he came suddenly, following a time of darkness, in which the sun did not shine. He left just as suddenly, some saying by sea, others that he ascended into heaven. He taught them a better form of life, a new religion, a higher culture. During his sojourn here and as a result of his coming the people experienced a golden era of unparalleled material and spiritual blessings. He was just and holy. He was both human and divine having first of all created the world and all things, afterward appearing upon the earth in human form, being born of a virgin, suffering death on a cross and then leaving to return to his own country, promising, on his departure, that someday he would return to take possession of the kingdom. While here upon the earth he performed many miracles such as raising the dead and healing the sick. He brought with him the knowledge of the cross. And during the time of his death he is said to have gone to the underworld into the realm of the dead. He called others into his service, calling them priests after the order of Himself. And finally, among other things, he arrived in this land during the time that the second colonizers were in the height of their power, thus confirming the *Book of Mormon* account.

Our conclusion then must be that his white and bearded teacher was none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12: 1-2)

ADDITIONAL SIDELIGHTS REGARDING THE INDIANS' BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

The wind, too, is often considered as a god, or at least as the breath of a god, and in many American languages the Great Spirit and the Great Wind are one and same both in word and signification. The name of the God Hurakan, mentioned in Quiche myths, still signifies the Storm in many a language strange to his worshippers, while in Quiche

myths it may be translated Spirit, or swiftly moving Spirit; and the name of the Mexican god Mexcoatl is said to be to this day the correct Mexican term for the whirl wind" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 3, pp, 117-118). In light of the above consider the following: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

The "wind" as here translated is from the Greek word "Pneuma" which means "Spirit." In Acts 2: 14 we have the following account:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting, And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In the old testament the Hebrew word for spirit or wind is the same. It is 'ruach' and is used in describing both the spirit of man and the Holy Spirit, "Hurakan, of the Quiche legends, is otherwise the Strong Serpent..." (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol, 3, pp. 134-135).

Quetzalcoatl, Gucumatz, and Cukulcan all signify the feathered Serpent. Moses lifted up the brazen serpent as a symbol of the Christ being lifted up upon the cross. Thus the serpent became the symbol of the Son of God, a symbol of healing, a symbol which today is to be found on all medical buildings. Yet, strangely, the serpent is also the symbol of the evil one, the archenemy of all righteousness. Perhaps there are two serpent symbols, one of good and one bad. This thought if reinforced in a writing of one of the early church fathers found in volume I of The Ante-Nicene Fathers, p. 251 under the authorship of Justin Martyr. The term 'Satan' is derived from two words, 'Sata' meaning apostate, and 'Nas' meaning serpent. Thus Satan as Satan is by interpretation 'APOSTATE SERPENT.'

The servants of God are admonished to be "wise as serpents" but "harmless as doves." Perhaps there is a greater significance to this statement than we may have before thought. That the trinity was known among the Indians of America is shown by the following quotations: "The first is called Caculha-Huracan. The second is Chipi-Caculha. The third is Raxa-Caculha. And these three are the Heart of Heaven" (PopolVuh, The Sacred Book of the Quiche Maya, p.82). "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1 John 5: 7). Note the name of the third person above: viz. Raxa-Caculha. The Hebrew is 'Ruach.' "In Guatemala the high-priests who presided over the temples of the Quiche trinity, Tohil, Awilix, and Gucumatz, were all princes of the three royal families" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Natives Races, vol. 2, pp, 647-648).

"The inquiries instituted by Las Casas revealed the ex-

istence of a trinity, the first person of which was Izona, the Great Father; the second was the Son of the Great Father, Bacab, born of the Virgin Chibirias, scourged and crucified, he descended into the realms of the dead, rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; the third person of the trinity was Echuah, or Ekchuah, the Holy Ghost" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Natives Races, vol, 3, p, 462). In Polynesia it was Kane, Lono, and Ku, "The mystery of the Blessed Trinity seems not to have been altogether unknown to the Mexicans. On the 20th of March they celebrated the first feast of their year, in honor of an idol which, 'although one, they worshipped under three different names, and, although having three names, they worshipped as one and the same god; almost in a manner in which we believe in the most holy Trinity. The names of the god were 'Totec,' the frightful and terrible Lord; 'Xipe,' the disconsolate and maltreated Man; 'Ttlauhquitezcatl,' the Mirror flaming with splendor. And this idol was not a local one, but its feast was celebrated all over the land as being that of the universal diety" (P. DeRoo, History of America Before Columbus, p.372).

Some further comments regarding their worship of God are given as follows:

It is a remarkable fact, that many, if not most, of the rude tribes inhabiting the vast American continent, however disfigured their creeds may have been in other respects by a childish superstition, had attained to the sublime conception of one Great Spirit, the Creator of the Universe, who, immaterial in his own nature, was not to be dishonored by an attempt at visible representation, and who, pervading all space, was not to be circumscribed within the walls of a temple. (William Hickling Prescott, The Conquest of Mexico, p. 776)

"They (the Mexicans) had some idea, although imperfect, of a Supreme Being, absolute, independent, believing that they owed him tribute, adoration, and fear. They had no figure whereby to represent him, believing him to be invisible, neither did they give him any other name, save the generic one God, which is in the Mexican tongue TEOTL, resembling even more in sense than in pronunciation the THEOS of the Greeks..." (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol, 3, p. 189). "The Aztecs recognized the existence of a supreme Creator and Lord of the universe. They addressed him, in their prayers, as 'the God by whom we live,' 'omnipresent, that knoweth all thoughts, and giveth all gifts,' 'without whom man is as nothing,' 'invisible, incorporeal, one God, of perfect perfection and purity,' 'under whose wings we find repose and a sure defence.' These sublime attributes infer no inadequate conception of the true God" (William H. Prescott, The Conquest of Mexico, p. 37).

This series continues next month.

Collins Local News

It's hot and humid, leaves are falling, and school has begun again. Summer is fading out and fall is on it's way. I'm looking forward to the cooler weather and the beauty of the changing leaves, soon to be displayed in a wide array of colors.

Several years ago during a Collins Rally, Brother Gary Housknecht gave a sermon which included a comparison of the way trees lose their leaves to the way we, as Christians, humble ourselves before God and let go of things until we are stripped bare, as the fall trees, being rid of things that stand between us and God. When the leaves change colors and fall I always think of Gary's comparison. It makes fall an even better time of year.

We've had several welcome guests recently. From Arizona, Brothers Don McIndoo and Jay Moser. Also, Brother Andy Brown, Debbie, and their son, Andrew. From Independence, Brother Marvin Case and Edith, Brother Benny Case, Patty and son, Brother Tony Grzincic and Louise. From the Springfield and Buffalo area, Jane Ann Stancil and boys, Justin and Trevor, Marlene Cobb and Francis Yates. And from our own area of Collins, Teresa Braden and son, Chad.

A wedding shower was given by Jo Eddy for her son Timothy and soon to be bride, Athena, on Friday night August 25th. Allen and I were privileged to sing two love songs for the happy couple and then Timothy sang a beautiful song he had written for Athena. I understand he will sing this to her during their wedding ceremony as well.

In closing, here are a few thoughts from some recent sermons:

- **Christ gives us hope and opportunity. What we do with that hope and opportunity is up to us.**
- **God knows where we are, what we're doing, and worse yet, what we're thinking (In or out of church!).**
- **Breaking the laws of God can only bring sorrow.**
May God strengthen us against sin.

**Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman**

Houston Local News

Greetings from southern Missouri. We have had a beautiful summer and we are looking forward to the beautiful fall weather and colorful leaves for which Missouri is famous. There have been three weddings in our church family this summer. David Keeney and Carol Moore were married June 17th with Elder Gerry Case officiating. David and Carol are living in Houston where he has the agency for Shelter Insurance. We're so happy to have them here where they can attend church services regularly.

On Saturday, August 26th, Tamma Ely and Steve Floyd

were united in marriage in our little chapel, with Tamma's grandfather, Elder John Jones, performing the ceremony. Tamma's other grandfather, Apostle Marvin Ely, and grandmother, Sister Berniece Ely, came from Grand Junction Colorado for the wedding. Steve and Tamma are making their home at Bucyrus, Missouri, which is near Houston.

Then on September 15th, Johna Mae Ely exchanged wedding vows with Michael Kozemczak, with her father, Elder John Jones, officiating. We are happy for all three couples and wish them many blessings throughout their lives together. May God's richest blessings rest on each of them and constantly guide their lives.

On September 10th, Elder Gerry Case and family were our guests. That Morning Janna Medders was baptized at 10:00 a.m. by Elder John Jones. Confirmation followed the baptism service and brother Gerry's sermon was very fitting for follow-up to the baptism. I pray that each one of us that has made our covenant with our Savior will be a living example of a follower of Jesus. I pray that Janna will always be a good example to those around her each day.

Grandmother Keeney spent over a week in the hospital at West Plains, Missouri. She received a pacemaker and at this time feels like her old self again. We are also happy to report that Sister Dorothy Wilson is feeling much better. We will give our Lord all the credit for grandmother's and Dorothy's improvement.

A baby shower was held at our church Saturday evening, September 30th, for Diane Pierce. She received many nice things for the baby-to-be.

Brother and Sister Merlin Eddy from Wisconsin were here visiting his sister, Dorothy Wilson, in August. Also in August, Earl Apperson from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, was here visiting his mother, Sister Lois Helseth, and his sister, Margaret Keeney and family. Most of our congregation here in Houston enjoyed the Missouri reunion in Warrensburg. A few weeks before our Janna was baptized, she wrote the following poem:

GOD

He is great, strong, brave, gentle and kind.
He is there for you and for me
in times of trouble and heartache.
His Son is our example of how we should be.
He gave us His only Son to cleanse our sinful souls.
Oh, He must love us to still let us live
in this evil world today.
He watches over us every day.
We talk to Him in prayer and
I thank Him for our blessings this day.
By Janna Medders, Age 10

**Reported by:
Mary Jane Medders**

Greetings from the Phoenix Local

First, I apologize for not getting regular reports to the Advocate. It is not that we haven't had enough news to report. Quite the contrary, we have had a very busy spring and summer. It would be impossible to relate all that has happened in this one report, but we did want to share some highlights with you.

On March 19, Elder Jim Yates, Sr. baptized his son-in-law, Dave Berquist. Dave was confirmed by Jim and Hube Yates. A few weeks later, on April 16, four of our young people were baptized also. Michelle Ely, daughter of Duane and Kathy, was baptized by her uncle, Priest Brian McIndoo and was confirmed by her grandfather Apostle Don McIndoo and Elder Joel Yates. Billie Kogler, daughter of Tom and Carla, was baptized by Elder Ken Oar, and was confirmed by Elders Ken Oar and Joel Yates. Aaron Moser, son of Jay and Chris, was baptized by his father and confirmed by Elders Ken Oar and Jay Moser. Rebecca Oar, daughter of Ken and Marlene, was baptized by her father and confirmed by Elders Ken Oar and Jay Moser. Dave and these young people are dear to us and our hearts rejoiced as we extended the hand of fellowship to each one.

Forty-eight of our local traveled to Colorado for the reunion in Grand Junction in June. A week later, on June 19, many of us met at the church to begin our week of vacation church school. Thirty-eight children attended. We were pleased to have three out-of-state young people enjoy the week with us: Kenneth Carrol of Grand Junction, Colorado;

Tom Wiley of Chilhowee, Missouri: and Jacob Kidd of Independence, Missouri.

A week later, we held our annual Camp for All Ages in the Arizona mountains. Seventy-five campers gathered under the tall pines to worship and fellowship together during the fourth of July weekend.

Also on July 4, Chase Walker was born to Jim and Kim Yates, and sister Hailey. Chase weighed 8 pounds and six ounces and was twenty-one inches long.

In August, a large portion of our local traveled to Missouri for the reunion and the ministers' conference. Now, during the first week of September, most of our flock is gathered back. Apostle Don McIndoo and Elder Jay Moser returned a few days ago from a missionary trip through Texas and Elders Hube Yates and Jim Yates are still in the field in New York and Canada. It is a good, thankful feeling we have when we look out over the local services and see the usual number of faces; but even when our numbers are small, we continue to receive a regular, rich ministry from those that stay behind.

We are so thankful for all the visitors that have traveled our way and stopped to visit. We are blessed with a large local, but it is always a thrill to welcome our brothers and sisters. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Phoenix Reunion during the Thanksgiving weekend. May God bless you is our prayer.

**Debbie Vogel
5432 B Jemez
Glendale, Az. 85307**

REUNIONS

A reunion is enjoyable with friends
We all agree,
But there is anguish in our hearts
For those we do not see.

Did you seek the long lost sheep?
Those straying from the fold?
Or did you turn your back on them,
And leave them in the cold?

We grieve for those
Who do not care
For what they miss
When the Lord is there.

A reunion must be filled with love,
We must unite our souls
If we are to assist the Lord
In gaining all His goals.

For His love is all encompassing:
It envelopes everyone.
We are required to spread His love
By doing like His Son.

*by
Sam
Kidd*

What can I do to help the Lord
With his message from above?
Sometimes it is a little thing,
Like a hug of love.

The hugs express our kindness
That we're willing to impart,
Because the Lord does truly know
That it's coming from the heart.

We must always tell the story
To those who sometimes stray,
That we may meet with them again
On that happy day.

Our countenance should always show
A portion of that inward glow,
So people watching us will know
We have the love of Christ.

Reunions cannot be complete
Until we all unite
And spread the glorious Gospel
To those who seek the light.

Weight of Glory

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (II Cor.4:17)

As we live out our lives here on this earth, do we sometimes feel that our afflictions, our trials, our denials are greater than our blessings? That they require too much sacrifice and that they seem unending, timeless? The Apostle Paul who endured many kinds of hardship thought otherwise, as expressed in the above verse. He minimized affliction as "light" in weight as compared to the "weight of glory," or the reward of righteousness. He said that affliction was "but for a moment," compared to that weight of glory, — the weight or value of eternity.

Maybe we feel that giving up sensational movies at the neighborhood theater, or the Saturday night dances downtown deprive us of too much entertainment and fun. Or maybe we neglect to pay tithing regularly because we know it means we can't afford that new car, boat or backyard swimming pool. Or maybe our married relationship of several or many years begins to seem "old hat," and we are tempted to "play around." If so, foxy old Satan will be right there to give us a push!

These and other worldly choices Satan often lays before us, and we think: "Oh, life is so long, and I need, I deserve these available pleasures — these diversities, to add excitement to otherwise dull years.

What shallow thinking! The Gospel of Christ teaches us that there is something more profitable and enobling than

sensational movies, the ballroom dance, miscellaneous luxuries or a clandestine romance! We can identify that something by studying the scriptures, attending worship services regularly and habitual social contacts with other baptized believers.

Perfection may be beyond the reach of mortal beings, but genuine love, endurance and forgiveness can glorify a life of dedication to "right." And though a lifetime may seem too long to forego forbidden fruit, it is but a short moment in comparison to eternity, where the rewards are unending.

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal; For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (II Corinthians 4:18, 17)

Let us not put too much emphasis on earthly things that are seen, but rather on the eternal things that are not seen in this earthly life, and so live that in that eternal day we shall not "be weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Evalena Sills

Light at Evening

At the going down of the sun
In the earth's season of time
Came the Book of Mormon
To reveal God's perfect law, sublime.

And set apart by God
At least 2600 years earlier in time
To be a light at evening
Let us reach for this law, sublime.

Joy to the reader, the searcher of God
To lighten our souls and our minds
Come a marvelous work and a wonder
Praise God in our day
in the evening of time.

Come then ye multitudes
Sit at Jesus feet
Read the Book of Mormon
Reach for the tree of life, fruit for eternity.

Gifts from God
Beyond the understanding of man
Wisdom, healing, peace of mind
Are for you brother, sister of mine
Sins are no block, repentance is needed
For the healing of the spirit and mind.

Come with me to the house of the Lord
Ye who are oppressed
Buy butter and honey
Without money and without price.

Come in the evening of time
Look, look to the Light
Like the beauty of the
Setting of the sun.

Hellen Carroll

YOUR NAME

Next Month . . .

You got it from your father,
Twas the best he had to give,
And right gladly he bestowed it,
It's yours, the while you live.

You may loose the watch he gave you
And another you may claim,
But remember, when you're tempted,
To be careful of his name.

It was fair the day you got it,
And a worthy name to bear,
When he took it from his father,
There was no dishonor there.

Through the years he proudly wore it,
To his father he was true,
And that name was clean and spotless
When he passed it on to you.

Oh, there's much that he has given
That he values not at all,
He has watched you break your playthings
In the days when you were small.

You have lost the knife he gave you
And you've scattered many a game,
But you'll never hurt your father
If you're careful with his name.

It is yours to wear forever,
Yours to wear the while you live,
Yours, perhaps, some distant morning,
Another boy to give.

And you'll smile as did your father
With a smile that all can share,
If a clean name and a good name
You are giving him to wear.

Author unknown
Submitted by
Pam Lussenden

- Poetic revelation given to us many years ago through Joseph Luff
- Testimony of the American Indian and the Stick of Joseph - Part Eight
- Others? Unknown . . . I'm almost totally out of usable material!

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1990 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 1. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 2. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 30 and 31.

The 1990 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 15 through 17 at Independence, Missouri.

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Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the Zion's Advocate, page 47. To order a slide program, write to Gary Housknecht, 11308 E. 78th St, Raytown, Mo 64138.

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