

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*

Volume 66

Independence, Missouri – November 1989

Number 11

First Steps

**Let us build the Kingdom,
Let us use our hands.
Let us help our Saviour
As He lays down that precious plan.**

**May we always be receptive
To the instructions He shall share,
And don't hesitate to ask for help
In the burdens we shall bear.**

**For alone we can not do it,
But through Christ – He is the Way.
Learn to walk the path He walked,
And heed the words that He shall say.**

Kimberly R. Hall

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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.

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 (if possible), 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).

Word Processors/Computers

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 text files over a phone modem.

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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.

A GREAT NEED WITHIN THE CHURCH

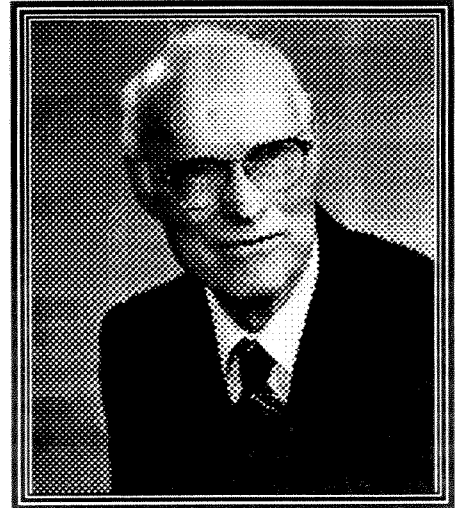
Condensed from a sermon 4/23/89

By: Apostle Marvin E. Ely

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:" Acts 2:17-18. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7. Throughout time God has always foretold of events before they came to pass. In many instances this has been by prophets but there are times when God has used visions or dreams to foretell events. Not alone are events foretold but mankind has also received direction by prophecy, vision, or dream.

One of the most referenced dreams or visions is the one that Lehi had (1 Nephi 2:48-83). He saw a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy. When he partook of the fruit of this tree his soul was filled with exceeding great joy. This tree represents the love of God which is shed in the hearts of the children of men (1 Nephi 3:63-69). To reach this tree one must walk the straight and narrow path and hold fast to the rod of iron which extends along this path. The rod of iron also extended along the bank of a river which river is a representation of the depths of hell (1 Nephi 3:124). So it is very important to hold fast to the rod of iron for it can lead a person to the tree of life. The rod of iron is a representation of the word of God (1 Nephi 3:68-69). Even though temptations of the devil arise to cloud our way if we hold to the rod of iron we will still be able to walk the straight and narrow path which leads to the tree of life.

I remember a sacrament service of a Phoenix, Arizona Church reunion which service took place on November 30, 1986. Brother Don McIndoo and myself were in charge of the service. During the service Sister Ruth Willard bore a testimony from the back of the room where she sat in her wheel chair. She admonished us to keep the commandments and hold fast to the rod of iron. In her closing statement she said: "Don't turn lose of the rod of iron." This is profound advice and since giving it she later passed from this life, but her statement still lives. (To page 140)



A VISION

On December 28, 1988, Evangelist Placido Koyoc awoke early in the morning. While praying over the day's activities, a vision appeared before him. He first saw his family, then all his brothers and sisters in his congregation which represented to him, the church at large. He was overcome with the impression that there was a great need within the church. With this awareness, the vision faded and, as he pondered the significance of what he had seen, there came into his mind, one by one, a list of needs for which he thought we should be praying. He listed them together with a few scriptures which came to his mind:

1. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into the vineyard.
Matthew 9:38
2. Pray for the responsibilities and the well-being of the pastors and ministry. Hebrews 13:18; Colossions 4:2-4
3. Pray for the responsibility of parents to God and to their children.
Ephesians 6:4; Mosiah 2:25-27
4. Pray for the duties of our youth toward God and their parents.
Ecclesiastes 12:1; Ephesians 6:1-2
5. Pray for our little ones, their duties to God and to their parents.
Colossions 3:20
6. Pray concerning the physical and spiritual sicknesses within the church and for those outside the church. James 5:15
7. Pray for the work of God in all the world that others will be converted to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Timothy 2:4; Alma 4:6
8. Pray for the endurance of faith and Christian unity in service to our God. Matthew 24:13; Colossions 3:12-15; 1 Cor. 15:58

He made known his experience to his congregation and asked them to join with him in a Committee of Christian Energy (Ephesians 6:18). A considerable number of young people and adults have done so and meet each Wednesday afternoon to unite their prayers for these specific needs. The leaders of the committee meet, as well, each Sunday morning at 5 A.M. to pray earnestly for these needs of the church.

At this time I would like to refer to the vision quoted on the previous page.

There were eight needs which came to the mind of Brother Placido. I will take them up one at a time and make scriptural references to them. Most of the scriptures are what Brother Placido listed.

(1). **"Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into the vineyard."** Read that "... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38. In Jacob 3:137-140 we can learn that the servants did go and labored with their might and the Lord of the vineyard labored with them.

(2). **"Pray for the responsibilities and the well-being of the pastors and the ministry."** In Colossians 4:2-4, we can read of the importance of praying for the ministry that God would open a door of utterance to them that they could speak the mystery of Christ. Also Paul was concerned that he might make it manifest as he ought to speak.

(3). **"Pray for the responsibility of parents to God and to their children."** Now read: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6-4. In Mosiah 2:25-27, King Benjamin gives advice concerning parental responsibility. He states that parents should not let their children go hungry or naked and they should not suffer that their children should transgress the laws of God and to fight and quarrel one with another. "And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know of what source they may look for a remission of their sins." 2 Nephi 11:48.

(4). **"Pray for the duties of our youth toward God and their parents."** In Ephesians 6:1-2, children are admonished to obey

their parents in the Lord for this is right. Also the children are to honor their father and mother. In Ecclesiastes 12:1, the advice is given to "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not"

(5). **"Pray for our little ones, their duties to God and to their parents."** In Colossians 3:20-21 we can read the following advice: Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

(6). **"Pray concerning the physical and spiritual sicknesses within the church and for those outside the church."** There is wisdom given in the following scripture from James 5:14-16: "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

It is important that we do pray one for another for there are physical and spiritual sicknesses within the church. Likewise, we have a special duty to pray for those outside of the church.

(7). **"Pray for the work of God in all the world that others will be converted to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

"I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all who are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Timothy 2:1-2. Also in I Timothy 2:4, we have a statement that God would have "all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

"Now I would that ye should understand that the word of God was liberal unto all; that none were

deprived of the privilege of assembling themselves together to hear the word of God; Nevertheless the children of God were commanded that they should gather themselves together oft, and join in fasting and mighty prayer, in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who knew not God." Alma 4:5-6.

(8). **"Pray for the endurance of faith and Christian unity in service to our God."** In 2 Nephi 13:29-30 we are promised eternal life if we press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ and endure to the end.

Jesus said: "But they that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:12-15.

After Brother Placido had his vision and the eight needs that came to his mind "He made known his experience to his congregation and asked them to join with him in a Committee of Christian Energy (Ephesians 6:18). A considerable number of young people and adults have done so and meet each Wednesday afternoon to unite their prayers for these specific needs. The leaders of the committee meet, as well, each Sunday morning at 5 A.M. to pray earnestly for these needs of the Church."

If our brethren in Mexico are this dedicated to the great need within the church, should not we be equally dedicated and, likewise, make earnest prayer in behalf of these needs? I would have hopes that we would support our brethren in their efforts.

SIGNIFICANT NEW DISCOVERY IN GUATEMALA

From the Los Angeles Times as it appears in the Kansas City Times, November 14, 1989, page A2.

A University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) archeologist has identified what is apparently the earliest center of Mayan civilization yet found, a discovery that extends the era of Mayan cities back four centuries into a period that was thought to be dominated by simple village life.

The extensive stone monuments and temples in the newly discovered city of Nakbe, in the dense tropical forest of northern Guatemala, show "that the advances which created the most sophisticated pre-Columbian society in the new world may have occurred much earlier than was previously assumed," said UCLA's Richard Hansen.

The discovery will shed new light on why the Maya "accomplished things no other tropical forest society accomplished in the new world," Hansen said.

The excavations at Nakbe, announced Monday (Nov. 13) by UCLA, are "of extraordinary importance to our understanding of the origin of Mayan civilization," said anthropologist David Friedel of Southern Methodist University.

The new findings follow on the heels of surprising reports this sum-

mer by anthropologist Arthur Demarest of Vanderbilt University that the Mayan society, previously thought to be one of history's most peaceful civilizations, collapsed in the 9th century as the result of internecine (marked by slaughter; mutually destructive) warfare.

Although they are not yet sure, the researchers think that urbanization arose as a mechanism ... to consolidate religious and political ideologies.

Nakbe lies ... about 350 miles from Guatemala City. The site was first identified as a potential location of advanced Mayan civilization in 1930 ... But no significant work occurred at the site until the UCLA team carried out its excavations from February through April of this year. That delay arose primarily as a result of the site's isolation. Nakbe "is three days on foot from the nearest road," Hansen said. But he noted that the isolation probably protected the site.

The excavations revealed thousands of artifacts, tombs and temple structures, some ranging from 40 to 65 feet in height. Other buildings on the site, which have not yet been excavated, are estimated to be as tall as 150 feet.

The excavated buildings date from 600 to 400 B.C.....



The new findings follow on the heels of surprising reports ... that the Mayan society ... collapsed in the 9th century as the result of (mutually destructive) warfare.

The excavated buildings date from 600 to 400 B.C.

Another Call to Zion

A song given to me in June of 1989, sung to the tune of "Israel, Israel."
Praise the Lord who calls His children to come where He will safely keep women, children, sister, brother, shielded 'neath His Holy feet.
Come to Zion! Come to Zion!
Make your Savior's joy complete.

He hath called His children often.
Who will heed His hastening voice?
War is coming, plague, destruction!
Come ye people of His choice.
Come to Zion! Come to Zion!
Hear your Savior's anguished voice.

They who have their first love leave'en,
learn their brother's keeper be.
Then with love our hearts knit safely shall our eyes in oneness see.
Come to Zion! Come to Zion!
Should not the eagles with the Body be.

Stephen Sadoc Gould

LOVE'S WARNING AND ENTREATY

To all who hope within Christ's fold
To find a sheltering place
And safety, when long-threatened ills
Shall flood the earth apace.
To all who on His altars lay
The homage of their lip,
But elsewhere pay the tributes that
Reveal discipleship.

Who cry aloud: "Lord, Lord," to him,
In forms of song and prayer;
But in his life and counsel see
Few garments fit to wear.
Who words extol the "narrow way"
And praises the "bread from heaven"
While they yet tread the world's wide path
And feast upon its leaven.

To all who count it righteousness
Earth's pleasures to asign
A place in courts designed of God
For heaven alone to shine.
Who cry: "Thy Kingdom come - Thy will
On earth be done, O Lord,"
While Adam holds dominion by
Their carnal will's accord.

Heedless that God's true sovereignty
Is where His ways obtain
And heaven is the consequence
Of His exclusive reign.
They wist not in answering
Their prayer He must demand
The space they fill or in their lives
Have absolute command.

To all who see not Omega
In Alpha and whose fear
Gives Hagar place and thus with Flesh
Invades the Spirit's sphere.
Who find not in God's covenant
Sufficient, and who swear
Allegiance the shrines to gods
Or idols found elsewhere.

To all who mammon's gauge employ
Heaven's attitude to rate,
And look for "Houses made with hands"
God's smile to indicate.
Who in huge structures and in lands
In increase of earth's ware
And alien fellowship behold
His church's wealth - beware.

To all that think heaven chords
Their choruses of mirth
And lauds their schemes to dramatize
The scenes of Holy Birth.
Who in God's altars see a stage
For spectacles display
And think their images thereon
Reveal a better way.

"A better way?" O fools! hath God
Of wisdom been bereft?
And unto your superior sense
Has fashioning been left:
How oft must He repeat: "My ways
Are not your ways, but mine
Alone can serve the purposes
Of Infinite design."

Wedded in Gospel covenant
To Christ, professedly;
But with the world consorting
Still, in soul adultery:
Thinking His grace will sanctify
The union and its brood,
If lodged within the house He built
Their presence to exclude.

by Joseph Luff

Once more the Spirit cries, Beware-
The closing century-
Freighted with warnings waits the proof
Of their divinity.
God's vindicating hand must reach
The length of your distrust
And smite the feet that trample His
Long suffering in the dust.

The elements his signal wait
To move avengingly,
And time is ripe for harvesting
The field of destiny.
The sickle whetted by God's hand
For this, in ancient years,
Has ended its long rest and on
Its blade no rust appears.

The field sown with terrestrial seed
By self-indulgent hand,
In hope that a Celestial yield
Therefrom would bless the land,
Is travailing and from its womb
An offspring will emerge
Whose advent means disaster,
Whose song will be a dirge.

Oh ye who trumpet Zion, list
The arm on which you lean
Will fail of your expectancy
And leave you bare and lean.
The idols of your hope, before
The coming blast will quail
And leave your misplaced confidence
It's folly to bewail.

But from the fields of sacrifice,
By self-denial sown
With ancient seed, prepared of God,
Supplied from heaven alone,
Shall come a call for garner vast,
From reapers who were not
Ashamed of Christ and by his plan
Contentedly have wrought.

These are they whose eyes beheld
In "living sacrifice,"
Love's offering - not in self alone
But gems of higher price;
Their wills, affections, and their ways
Were on the alter piled,
And, choosing God's, their lives to him
Became thus reconciled.

These are Christ's - they choose to walk
Where He had shed the light
These are Christ's - in pleasing Him
They found their chief delight.
These are Christ's - by sacrifice
They gave His methods place
To execute in them the plan
And purposes of grace.

These in the days portrayed shall find
Deliverance and rest:
Their wisdom then by tongues that scorned
Shall freely be confessed.
As Joseph's shining anciently
Shall their uprising be,
To honored place, as saviors, clothed
With Holy dignity.

Let all who herein shall discern
Their Shepherd's fond appeal,
Give heed and at the single shrine
Of His appointment kneel.
And fill the lingering interval
Of moments that remain
With evidence that clearly proves
They have not heard in vain.

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Eight

I have, to this point, presented considerable material showing the Indians' belief in God and the visit of the bearded white one to them. Next I would like to present some proofs which vindicate other aspects of the sacred record as found in the Book of Mormon, or the stick of Joseph.

First, however, I would like to present:

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON ACCOUNT

There were three migrations made to this land, one which came out from the tower of Babel about 2200 B.C., and two others which came out from Jerusalem in 600 and 588 B.C., respectively. The first migration came westward across the Atlantic and was a nation of giants. The second migration was of the tribe of Manasseh of the house of Joseph. They traveled eastward across the Pacific. They embarked from a place along the Arabian coast, which because of the abundance of plant life found, they termed "Bountiful." When they arrived in America they gave the same name (Bountiful) to another lush area of country as they had done before in the old country. Zarahemla, which later became the capital of their empire was located near this "land

Bountiful." Further north there lay a barren tract of land which they called "Desolation."

The third migration were Jews, the leader of which was of the house of David. This third group lived for upwards of two hundred years in this land before they were discovered by members of the second group of colonists. Thereafter they united into one nation. Sometime before this, however, the people of Zarahemla (the third group) discovered a man who was the sole survivor of the first group of colonizers, he being the last king of one faction which had fought a battle of extinction resulting in the entire destruction of that people. This man lived with them for approximately nine months before passing on.

Shortly after the arrival of the second group of immigrants, a division occurred resulting in a separation of them into two nations or races, God having caused a curse to come upon the rebellious faction which consisted of a dark skin. These two factions thereafter were known as Nephites (the light skinned group) and Lamanites (the dark skinned group). These two nations were further broken down into smaller divisions as follows: the "Nephites" being composed of Nephites, Jacobites, Josephites and Zoramites; the Lamanites being composed of Lamanites, Lemuelites and Ishmaelites making a total of seven tribes.

The first group came over to this country in eight submarine-like ships which were specially constructed and water tight. These colonists were composed of several families whose languages were not confounded at the time of the confusion of tongues. The second group was led over by a prophet and his four sons. The four sons, however, became dominant in the story and it is the youngest son who becomes the leader and bears

rule over the rest. This was a cause for much jealousy on the part of the two older brothers. One morning, however, shortly after their journey into the wilderness, a peculiar instrument of strange workmanship was discovered lying on the ground in front of one of their tents. It was given to them of God to lead them on their way. It is referred to variously as the ball, compass or Liahona and was carried with them throughout their journeys.

The history of these two peoples continued on down to the coming of Christ at which time the more wicked are destroyed by a terrible storm and destruction, the remainder being fully converted to Christ. Among the servants Christ chose while here among these people were twelve special disciples, three of whom were given the promise of being allowed to remain until the Lord comes. This was followed by a golden era of peace and prosperity lasting from 200 to 300 years. The Nephite faction then became exceedingly wicked which finally resulted in their total destruction at the hands of their Lamanite brethren in about 385 A. D.

The American Indians of today are the descendants of the Lamanite faction of the ancient inhabitants of this land that remained after the destruction of the Nephites.

Because of the records which these people brought over with them from Jerusalem they knew of the creation of the world, the fall of man, the flood, the great tower and confusion of tongues and many of the prophecies on down to Jeremiah.

We present this summary of the Book of Mormon because the whole account is fully proven by the traditions of the Indians themselves.

Watch next month for a continuation of this series and a more detailed exploration into physical and historical validations made to various Book of Mormon accounts.

**Cowgill, Missouri
Georgeville Local**

by Lois Harris

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, from the congregation of the Georgeville local of the Church of Christ at Cowgill, Missouri.

Our pastor, Elder Gerald R. Bryant, often expresses his thanks to our Heavenly Father for our place of worship — the little white, frame church built by the congregation atop a country hill — and the congregation echoes those sentiments.

We are few in number, but oh, so many times the congregation swells to the capacity of our church building, which gives further reason for rejoicing. Over the past year, we averaged an attendance of 12 at each meeting. Our congregation in that time fluctuated from 4 to 51. We believe the word of God wherein He said, "... where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20, so if only a couple are able to be in the house of the Lord, services are enjoyed.

Our two elders, Brethren Gerald and Loren Bryant, alternate in delivering the sermon on the second, third and fifth Sundays of a month when a fifth Sunday appears in the month. If there is a guest minister on one of those Sundays, our pastor is sure to call upon him.

The fourth Sunday of each month, we welcome a guest speaker from the Visiting Minister program in Missouri. That is also the occasion for our monthly basket dinner. This year we have enjoyed sermons from Elders Marvin Case, Nicholas Denham, Leslie Case, Frank Fann, Gerry Case, Roland Sarratt, Glenn Gill and Bennie Case. Being aware of the sins that have encroached upon and entered our church, each minister expressed in his own way the need for repentance, the exercising of faith and the need for us to know that "hopelessness" is destruction while "hope" brings joy — life.



This month brought the births of two new little ones thus adding to our numbers. Kasey Rose Claypole was born October 3 to Kenneth and Karen (Bryant) Claypole. She weighed eight pounds eleven ounces. Her older sister, Kandace Lea, was born July 19, 1988.

On October 16, nine pound eight ounce Joseph Glen was born to John and Sharon (Mackey) Bryant. He has an older brother, Joshua Daniel, who was two on October 21.

Like in many midwest communities, the prevailing drouth dried up many of the farm ponds in our area. Down the hill east below the Georgeville Church, one favorite pond site was dry all summer. The date had been set for a baptism though there was not sufficient water in the pond, but our Heavenly Father knows our needs. During the latter part of August and the first few days of September enough rain fell to bring the depth of the water in the pond up hip deep.

At 10 o'clock on the beautiful sunny morning of September 10, a congregation of 51 persons was gathered on the bank of the pond and witnessed the baptism of John Loren Bryant by Elder Alvin L. Harris. Back at the church, Sister Margret Gill conducted a song service while the congregation waited for the next service, which was a season of prayer. As two brothers, Elders Loren and Gerald Bryant laid their hands upon John's head, Elder Loren Bryant, John's earthly parent, asked our Heavenly Father to give the gift of the Holy Ghost to his son and now brother in God's earthly kingdom.

As "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" was sung and repeated, each person

in the congregation went forward acknowledging John's new commitment and giving him words of encouragement and endearment. A sermon by Elder Rodger Bruner followed the Laying-on-of-Hands ceremony. He testified of witnessing the power of God made manifest this day. He spoke of the immersion as a burial of sins and coming forth from the water, the resurrection of a new man. He admonished that Satan's wiles do not cease at baptism.

Following the spiritual feast to the soul, everyone went to the church basement dining area to pick up food for maintenance of the physical body.

During a year, our congregation observes one or two holidays with a program. This usually occupies the Sunday School hour. Each member of the congregation, whether child or adult, comes prepared to contribute something be it a reading, a recitation, a song, an instrumental piece or something from the Scripture, all appropriate to the occasion. Often we will hear an original writing or song. Our first program this year was at Easter time. Since this was our Sunday for a guest speaker, Brother Leslie and Sister Irene Case were with us. Brother Leslie's sermon left us with these words, "Hope in the resurrection makes our joy full."

May we strive to live in that hope.

**Independence, Missouri
Temple Lot Local**

by Irene Y. Maley

Several families from our local attended Tri State Reunion at White-water (Minnesota) and reported that

they did not find the Forest Maleys there. Forest is now retired. With the help of son Mark Maley and Don Case, wife Bonnie and son Nathan, our move was on August 25.

A business meeting was held here in September. Elder Alvin Harris continues as our Pastor and Rodger Bruner as Assistant Pastor. Others remain at supportive posts. At Sunday School business meeting the following week, Dan Lawrence, Superintendent, was retained, Forest Maley elected as his Assistant.

Our speakers have been Elders Nicholas Denham, Ben Case, LeRoy Wheaton, Scott Harris, Apostle Roland Sarrat, Forest Maley, Gerry Case, Arthur Smith, and Alvin Harris.

Wednesday evening prayer meetings have been a welcome time. The East Local joined us on October 4, for a united prayer meeting, well attended. There are sixty of our brothers and sisters on the typed prayer list of our bulletin and: "our young people, our marriages; our members in other lands, in military service, or those who have employment separating them from Church attendance; our loved ones who have not yet chosen baptism; our ministry; the nations leaders; and the Church." You who are struggling with illnesses and problems are not forgotten. Strong prayer life privately as well as at meeting accomplishes much to alleviate pain of body, mind, and spirit which our list represents. Joyful is the news of blessings received.

The Puryear, Tennessee Rally held October 7 and 8 was prayerfully remembered, and many attended that event. My first time met cousins, Andrew F. and Pauline Yates, visited from their home in San Jacinto, California, and met with us for the evening meeting on October 8. In viewing the limbs of the family tree as we are wont to do to our own folk, Mildred Wheaton had also shared cousinship with Andy. We enjoyed making the acquaintance of sweet spirited Andy and Pauline of some-time correspondence; and were glad that improved health had allowed

them to venture farther away from home.

My report, on the verge of "too late" got a little ahead of itself: Nathan Daniel Case was born into the kingdom through baptism on October 1, by Elder Leslie P. Case and confirmed by Elder Forest E. Maley, his grandfathers. Nathan is the son of Dr. Don and Bonnie G. Case.

A baby shower for Gerri Ann Sarratt and son Andrew Wayne was given by Connie Payne at her home in Blue Springs, Missouri, on October 9. Andrew was born on August 31. Lawrence Sarratt is the proud father, and Warren and Fern Sarratt are the happy grandparents with the excellent photos of their first grandchild. Congratulations to all!

A descendant of the late George Cole of the Church of Christ was in attendance at the October 8 sermon of Elder Nicholas Denham. We were pleased to make the acquaintance of this young man, Lonnie Burland. Also present were Elder Loren and Sister Mary Lois Bryant, their daughter-in-law, Sharon, (newly baptized John Bryant's wife) and little son, Joshua.

Maturity and thoughtfulness have replaced the youthfulness of some faces of yesteryear. Some who were younger remember us. Some who are dear to us in memory are gone. Amidst the joy of being home our hearts feel the loss. It is good to be home.

**Payson, Arizona
Mogollon Local**

by Kathy Cloyd

Brother and sisters, greetings to each and every one. Well, summer has come and gone. Time really does have very large wings these days.

Our church services are always put on a new schedule in the summer, as members travel to the different re-unions, people taking vacations and this year Elmer and Betty were remodeling their kitchen and tearing up everything and the

Cloyd's were moving their mobile home onto their newly acquired land. Gordon McCann and family are going to Hawaii this week and I'm sure will see some of God's beautiful creation. But even in the midst of all this we were able to meet together and partake of the waters of life freely. For one of our services we met in Heber at Stan Biringers' cabin. The foundation has settled which caused leaks and I know they have been working hard on it so that others may enjoy the use of it.

When we get together, I'm sure like the rest of you, we speak of the moral decay of our nation, satanism, perversion, mindless drug addicts. We see that we live in a time that must soon come to an end for the wicked. We must possess our love in a world that has waxed cold. This indeed is the time to draw close to the good shepherd. It's time to do as Andy Brown said in his sermon: "set your treasures on the gospel, and share it with others. Love changes peoples' lives. Don't be weary of well doing." Brother Gordon talked about taking up our cross and denying our life; that the doctrine of Christ would cause division of family and friends.

How we must savor the things of God for what shall a man give in exchange for his soul. The Lord will bless all those who seek his will. So remember this verse:

But to us he gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore
Let the lower lights be burning
Send a gleam across the wave
Some poor, fainting, struggling
seaman

You may rescue, you may save.

Ava, Missouri

by Estella Davis

As I write, summer is over in our part of the Ozarks, the sassafras leaves are beginning to turn color, the oak leaves rustle in the wind with a dry, fall sound, and the children have returned to school. It was a good summer for us, not as hot nor dry as we usually have, but quite

pleasant.

We began our summer with some good activities. First, there was a garage sale to raise a bit of money, and then our Vacation Church School.

We had twelve children in the School, studying the good things God has done and is doing for us. Our theme for the School was 'Praising God'. We praised Him that He created us and the world, that He loves us, that He sent His Son to redeem us, that He helps us to be good and that He sends us His special joy. Besides the lesson activities for each day, we had songs, stories, crafts, picnics and games under the big trees in the churchyard, and swimming in our favorite hole in Bryant creek. The parts of the school I enjoyed the most were the prayers the children offered. They were touching and thoughtful prayers, expressing a love for God and a consideration of others.

Another precious baby has joined our group. On September 18, another granddaughter was born to our pastor and wife, Joe and Sue Smith. Kim and Greg Davis are her parents and her name is Leahna Sue.

We have had many good sermons over the past months. Here are some excerpts from my notes: "How would Christ teach us to exercise our love toward each other if all our opinions were the same?"

We learn to keep Christ's commandments by exercising the "need to keep them."

Sometimes people feel not worthy to pray because of sinning. But God can work with you on anything you can do or think no matter how embarrassing. God will help - guide - you to work out anything!

We owe God our life and our livelihood.

Christ's real suffering was for the anguish over the sins of His people. He suffered more than physical pains.

Man and God are going opposite ways. Man wants to do right, but to do it his own way. But God's way is the way, everyday.

We will be judged according to

our willingness to obey God's commandments.

Do you test the ideas that come to you to see if they are of God?

If we aren't trying to be the children of God everyday - we aren't the children of God any day.

We must make decisions ahead. When temptation comes we won't have time to decide."

Flint, Michigan

by Dawn Hyde

Greetings from Flint, Michigan local.

At this point in time, our beautiful Indian Summer has given way to grey skies, lots of wind and some snow.

On June 22, 1989, Sue Porter joined our church family. She was baptized at Gaylord, Michigan, by Elder Hubert Yates and confirmed by Elder Jim Yates. We are so very happy at her decision, and she and husband Brother Adam Porter, and daughters Heidi and Emily are a wel-

come sight at our Flint local.

On August 23rd, we had an addition to our own little family. Sarah Ann Hyde was born, beautiful and wonderfully healthy. Prayers for her health were truly answered. Daddy Randy, older brother Christopher and myself are very proud of her.

We are looking forward to a 'Harvest Dinner' at our church here November 5, and very much hope to see all our brothers and sisters from the Michigan locals. There are many here desirous of your prayers. God bless each of you.



Next Month:

■ **Parenting and Children**

■ **Instruction Toward Righteousness**

■ **The Great Plan of Redemption**

■ **Testimony of the American Indian and the Stick of Joseph — Part Nine**

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