

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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**Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.**

PEACE ON EARTH? Nations all in revolution, longing for the wars to cease, will find the only sure solution in Christ, the coming Prince of Peace. – Vida Filley

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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.

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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.

PARENTING AND CHILDREN

Apostle Robert H. Jensen

(Thoughts expressed during the 1989 Tri-State Reunion at White Water State Park in Minnesota)

From the Beginning

The generation in which we are now living is fulfilling many olden prophecies of the Scriptures. The Lord, Himself, prophesied:

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand). (Matthew 24:4-15; See also Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9)

The Lord was talking to His disciples at that time, but it must be understood that some of the prophecies of the scriptures have more than one time of fulfillment. The Apostle Paul said:

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (1 Thesalonians 5:1-5)

Today we have all sorts of peace talks and treaties between nations, yet wars continue to rage with the kill-

ing of untold numbers of innocent people – all the children of God.

Parents have a most solemn continuing responsibility to their children; to love, care for, nourish, clothe, house and teach. Children are a gift from God after His divine plan of creation. He wanted pleasure in seeing the world "replenished" from the time of Adam and Eve, to be filled



Apostle Jensen

with His earthly children after His own image. In His eternal love He gave unto mankind the freedom to make their choice of good or evil, in order to give them an opportunity to prove their love in return, and thereby obtain to eternal salvation. Because of that love and opportunity it is stated: "Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other." (2 Nephi 1:100)

For that reason, God decreed:

And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition; even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter; wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. For it

must needs be that there is an opposition in all things. (2 Nephi 1:81; 1:97-100)

Present Concerns

One written question was submitted to the forum of the Reunion of utmost significance – evidently from a young person: "What do you do to get to 'heaven'?" That same question is first recorded in the Scriptures as a soul-agonizing plea from a desperate man:

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm, for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas. And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. (Acts 16:25-33)

There has been a great interest in "getting back to basics" in the last two or three decades. It has had reference to the temporal ways of life, the relearning of old nearly lost former skills and crafts in raising and preserving food, production of fibers for clothing and other fabrics, producing the clothing, building of homes and other structures without all of the modern equipment available at present, the raising of all domesticated animals for both food and service, making of soap and candles, etc., wood and metal working, tool making, and all the rest that was practiced during the 17th, 18th

and 19th centuries. The calamitous conditions of the nations today appear very ominous insofar as continued peace is concerned and the continuance of our modern public utilities.

In like manner, there must be a renewed interest in "getting back to basics" insofar as the Gospel of Christ is concerned and a knowledge of the history of His Church. These things must be taught both in the home and in Church, without deviating into many theoretical tangents that are not crucial to our soul's salvation. The entire Gospel of Christ is "capsulized" in the Book of Matthew 5th, 6th and 7th chapters. The people of the Lord's Church also need continuing missionary work. The necessity of teaching the children from their first ages of understanding cannot be overemphasized. Their understanding begins at a much younger age than many think. A good way to start is to begin with a simple narrating of the Gospel story, then follow on as the child progresses with direct readings from the Scriptures to them. For the middle to older children, let them give readings from the Scriptures, then explain them to the child.

The first requisite in teaching the children is to have that total love for them as part of God's family. Precede all endeavors in this effort, as well as all others, with earnest prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As I was told one time at a university, "If you really want to learn a subject, teach it." To teach anything you must first learn it. The learning process does not by any means have to be complete before you start. It can be learned and then taught step by step. The beauty of the Gospel, as stated in the Scriptures themselves, is that it is written in language so simple that even a small child can understand it. As the teaching progresses from this start, it can continue to cover all the rest of the Scriptures, which amplify the words of Christ. Teaching must be a continuing effort without lapses.

The Nature of Children

Behavioral aspects in the lives of children have been a concern since the beginning of time - even Adam and Eve had a son who became a murderer. King Benjamin declared in his preaching:

For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; but (except -RJ) if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father. (Mosiah 1:119-120)

He apparently was referring to the seed of choice planted in the heart of the conceived child, knowing that it was possible for it by "human nature" to choose the wrong path following the advent of accountability.

The seed of decision is placed in the child from its conception and continues to grow within the child. Children are born in innocence because of their lack of knowledge and ability/capability to sin. It is from the very beginning that parents must begin to demonstrate their total love and caring for the child. Parents invest approximately 18 to 20 years of their lives in a child to bring them to adulthood wherein they shall be required to totally assume their own personal role(s) in life, and become worthy citizens of both their country and the Kingdom of the Lord. The development of that ability can only come about through the long years of growth, most of which is pleasurable.

Scripturally

There is an old adage: "Spare the rod and spoil the child." The scriptures confirm this: "A wise son (or daughter -RJ) heareth his father's instruction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke." (Proverbs 13:1) "He that spareth his rod hateth his son (or daughter -RJ); but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Proverbs 13:24) The rod is often spoken of as

a physical stick or switch of correction, but it can also be likened to the Word of God. It is indicated that both are very important. The rod of the Word of God is of primary importance; but, the physical "rod" is also necessary at times. One beautiful young mother in the glory of youth said that God even provided a place for spankings (the congregation was sure that she referred to the child's well-padded posterior extremity).

The spiritual rod is defined:

And they said unto me, What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree? And I said unto them, that it was the Word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the Word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; Neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary, overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction;" (1 Nephi 4:38-40; Isaiah 11:4)

But with righteousness shall he (the Lord -RJ) judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. (2 Nephi 12:89)

Jeremiah said:

Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 9)

The Holy Spirit is upon the embryonic and fetal child from the moment of its conception to cause its spirit to begin to grow.

There seem to be many people nowadays who promise things without fully realizing the responsibility thereof. When people say "I do" in being married, that is only the promise. To fulfill the promise it is necessary to immediately start doing - a demonstration of love, charity, benevolence, and support.

The same thing applies to the statement so often frivolously spoken: "Praise the Lord", then with no further action or demonstration. King David voiced that statement many times, but then he went ahead

and praised the Lord. (Reference the Psalms.) The phrase by itself is empty. We are required to "offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Hebrews 13:15) When we make a promise we must then act to accomplish it. When we bring a child into this world, it is a promise to God.

When we are baptized, then all of His commandments must be kept; we begin at that time to live for Christ. We are admonished to:

Let all thy doings (including the raising of children -RJ) be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day. (Alma 17:69)

Just as it is foolish to build or live on low ground which is subject to flooding, strive ever to reach higher spiritual ground, to where the floods of evil can never reach.

A Child's Development

A child psychologist stated that "all children are racketeers." The focus of his thought was that children by nature continually test to seek the bounds of parental and societal limits within which they will be permitted to act. Children need and desire to know what are their limits of tolerable behavior. Without such definition to them in the form of proper instruction and discipline, they become frustrated, moody, and rebellious.

Within our present-day culture there has come to exist in many of the public schools a taught rebellion against parents and other disciplinary authority. Such is diabolically opposed to the Scriptural teachings, and must be dealt with in both family and Church relationships. Some teachers even tell their students that their parents do not have the right to

discipline them, and that the parents can be reported to the police and/or sued. Such malevolent misguidance should be unforgivable. It is one of the roots of the erosion of the moral fiber of many nations in the world today.

And then, when a child becomes incorrigible as he grows, the most popular reaction is to entirely lay the problem upon improper parenting. Suffice it to say, all waywardness is not necessarily the fault of the parent(s).

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An ancient prophecy that has its fulfillment largely in progress today is:

And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths. (Isaiah 3:4-5, 12)

And all this because of the lack of proper teaching and discipline!

The admonition: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) The things a child is taught will remain in his mind throughout his life. It is possible that upon reaching the age of an older child or an adult he may stray from the teachings of his youth, but if he lives to be old he is most likely to return unto the right way.

The Teaching of Children

As a child grows it must be taught and required to assume responsibilities in family daily life. Too many children of today are left to their own devices with which to occupy their time. It is absolutely necessary to train a child during the advancing years to help with family tasks and

responsibilities of life. Most children in the beginning desire to imitate their elders, from the way they handle themselves in walking, talking, and performing tasks. If a parent delays too long in making use of this important period for training and development, the child will eventually lose interest and seek it's own activities, with a probable rebellion against discipline and tasks. It is very easy to put off teaching a child how to do things because of limited time, but too many turn-offs will result in a diversion of the child's interest into other things.

Children must also be taught to be responsible for their own decisions, acquired moral standards, and actions, and to know that the consequences will all be their very own.

From the Bible:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;"

thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. and, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4; See also Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Matthew 15:4, 19:19; Mark 7:10, 10-19; Luke 18:20)

Then, just as we should first give thanks to God at least as much as we ask Him for His blessing, compliment a child for good and acceptable behavior at least as much as you correct him or her.

Elements of Enticement

There are paradoxes within almost every norm. Some children grow to adulthood and highly distinguish themselves in their acquired

skills, abilities and wisdom, learning of science, mathematics, the arts, and all other academics; and this in spite of all odds and adversities against them in their childhood years. They rise from out of the ashes all about them of grinding poverty, ghettos, physical and mental abuse, fighting parents, immorality, lack of proper teaching, alcoholism and drug abuse in the home, broken homes, or the growing up in an orphanage of some kind. Others who seem to have everything in the way of good parents, very favorable environment, provision and comfort in everything, simply turn away and rebel against all that has been given them in the way of love and opportunity, turning away into by and forbidden paths. Their spirituality becomes embalmed in rebellion and abuses and the theorems, philosophies, creeds and deceptions of the maligning minds of mortal man. Each ultimately has to make his own choices, and receive the rewards of his efforts. It still defies a reasonable analysis by the doctors of psychology and genetic sciences as to why some make the choices they do.

The evil enticements of the world today - many of seemingly innocent dimensions - place a pull upon the children and young adults to often choose in spite of all teaching to the contrary. Just during my lifetime I have seen many things come into play that enable the young to more easily pursue the enticements of the world - radio, television, theatres, easily available cars, disabling drugs and alcohol available to any, lewd or immoral games, etc.

Some of the foregoing things are useful and needed in our everyday lives, but they can also be abused to the detriment of partakers, providing danger and harm. A large portion of the world today falls within the rebuke of the Scriptures: "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." (I Corinthians 10:7; Exodus 32:6)

The so-called "rock music" of this age with its mesmerizing thunder, beating, screaming, hollering and tribal jungle rhythm that promotes a serious level of hysteria is a disturbing influence upon the human mind, and then the illicit and lewd lyrics bring both direct and subliminal immoral messages to the ears of the listener.

It is said that "The trees which have withstood the most severe storms, are the ones with the strongest roots." People must strive in all love to put down their and their children's into the rock of the Gospel of Christ. Genuine love is defined: "Charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them." (Moroni 7:51)

Warning of Crimes Against Children

In times of old it was said: "And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink." (Joel 3:3)

One of the most heinous crimes of our times was prophesied thousands of years ago concerning "elective abortion" of the embryonic or fetal child: "Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a place (America - RJ), but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer." - The abortionist. (Hosea 9:13)

Today even many unborn babies become addicted to drugs and alcohol. The following are widely publicized statements that have been seen in miscellaneous publications:

About 375,000 babies are born each year (1989) addicted to drugs. Many are the offspring of the drug-abusing single mothers with low incomes. Members of this new generation of "drug babies" are found at every stratum of society. The typical drug-abusing mother neglects her physical health and nutritional needs during pregnancy. Her baby is therefore born both addicted and malnourished.

Alan Bedrick, neonatologist and pediatrician at the University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona, has seen firsthand babies born addicted to heroin or methadone and enduring a painful

withdrawal shortly after birth. Dr. Bedrick has defined the scenario: The baby's drug supply, previously received automatically through the mother's placenta, has been cut off. Within hours after birth the baby experiences heavy sweating, severe irritability, stiff muscles, tremors, vomiting and high-pitched crying. Addicted babies can't focus on a human face or respond to a human voice. The full effects of cocaine abuse on the fetus are not yet well known. But still-births and fetal deaths occur twice as often among cocaine-exposed babies as among those exposed to other drugs. The effect of the cocaine causes the placenta to tear from the mother's uterus prematurely, leaving the fetus without a life-support system.

While some of the childhood problems that come from prebirth drug addiction can be mollified in the right environment, children who were exposed to drugs as babies tend to be unable even years later to follow normal sequences in events. Vocalization and language are limited and atypical. Some experience difficulties in learning to read and write, and are poorly motivated to achieve in school. They can't tolerate an interruption of classroom routine. Others experience shortcomings in fine motor coordination and in the ability to organize tasks, concentrate and solve problems.

The sum total of all the other crimes against those precious little souls is nearly incomprehensible.

The retribution of the Almighty is being heaped upon the peoples of the world in these last days. Nesting plagues long lying dormant are beginning to develop, the most recent of which is the much publicized "acquired immune deficiency syndrome" - AIDS. Others, both old, which have been lying nearly dormant, and new ones not yet known shall appear in epidemic proportions. (Revelations 11:6; 16:1-21; 18:1-24)

In Conclusion

The Beauty and Magnitude of God's Great Miracle - The Birth of a Child.

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child; even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)

Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob my servant; and thou, Jerusalem, whom I have chosen. (Isaiah 44:2)

Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; (Isaiah 44:24)

Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb; and even to your old age, I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you; I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver. To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like:" (Isaiah 46:3-5) "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens; when I call unto them, they stand up together. (Isaiah 48:3-5)

And the angel came in unto her (Mary -RJ), and said, Hail, thou that are highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:28-33)

The Observable Results of the Divine Creation of a Child of God

As gleaned from various medical studies

The First Twelve Weeks. Some 90 percent of U.S. abortions occur within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Here are the reported stages of development through which the un-

born pass during that period. Though this is the reported probe of the mysteries of the beginning and progress of observed rate of growth of medical science, science, however, has never been able to explain how the bones or the spirit grow in the womb. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)

- **18 days (2 1/2 weeks). The beating heart already pumps blood through its own bloodstream.**
- **5 weeks. The nose and cheeks appear, fingers are faintly visible.**
- **6 weeks. The nervous system begins to function. Beginning of the skeleton; the kidneys, stomach and liver begin working.**
- **7 weeks. The unborn child has its own brain waves. The tiny baby has all the outer and inner organs. It has a face, together with eyes, nose, lips and tongue.**
- **9 & 10 weeks. The thyroid and adrenal glands function. The baby can squint, swallow and respond to noise.**
- **10 weeks. The unborn basically has everything found in newborns.**
- **12 weeks (nearly 3 months). The completely formed fingerprints will not change except for size. The little boy or girl now is more than 2 inches long and weighs about an ounce. For this tiny baby, all that remains is growth.**

The process of the life of a human being has begun when the first microscopic cells unite, at the very moment of conception. The formation of both the physical and spiritual being has begun according to God's divine miracle of creation. No scientific or medical authority can factually say, as they try, that an embryo or fetus is not "viable" until a certain number of weeks. They are only looking with the faulty vision of determination as to when a child might be able to survive if born prematurely. There cannot rightfully be such a determination, as they try to ascribe when considering the performance of an abortion. Refer again to Hosea 9:13.

Praise ye the Lord, Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed by the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and the earth! (Psalms 113:1-6)

Our ever present hope: "THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HATH MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT." (Psalms 118:24)

Editor's Note: At the author's request, the preceding article contains numerous quotations that have been reduced to a smaller type size. This was done to reduce the amount of space needed and thus allow the entire article to appear in one issue. I apologize to those readers that may have difficulty reading the small print. — gh

Flossie Harriet Matthews

Miss Flossie Harriet Matthews was born April 8, 1907, at Ellenboro, Wi., to William and Tony (Spease) Matthews. She passed from this life on the 3rd of November, 1989, at Lancaster Memorial Hospital, at Lancaster, Wisconsin. She had lived her entire life in the Lancaster area, her last residence being 332 E. Elm St. with her brother Clyde. She was preceded in death by her parents; 2 sisters, Helen Matthews and Ruby Tindell; and 1 brother, Virgil. She leaves to mourn her passing, 4 sisters, Mrs. Donovan (Sylvia) Axtel,

Beth Stivarius, Florence Tracy of Lancaster, Wi., and Kitty Crone of McMinnville, Oregon; 2 brothers, Clyde and Oscar, both of Lancaster; and a host of relatives and friends.

She was a member of the Church of Christ with Headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

Funeral services were held at the Metcalfe-Kuenster-Ganley Funeral Home, in Lancaster, with Elder Isaac Brockman officiating. Final resting place was at the Oak Ridge Cemetery near Lancaster.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Nine

The Book of Mormon tells us That it was Jesus Christ who brought the people of Jared over to this land.

"Votan, another mysterious personage, closely resembling Quetzalcoatl in many points, was the supposed founder of the Maya civilization ... AFTER THE CONFUSION OF TONGUES HE LED A PORTION OF THE DISPERSED PEOPLE TO AMERICA. There he established the kingdom of Xibalba and built the city of Palenque" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, *Native Races*, vol. 5, pp. 27-28).

The Book of Mormon says they came out from the tower.

"And how afterwards men, multiplying, made a very tall and strong Zacualli, which means the very high tower, in order to shelter themselves in it when the second world should be destroyed.

"When things were at their best, their languages were changed and, not understanding each other, they went to different parts of the world; and the Toltecs, who were as many as seven companions and their wives, who understood their language among themselves, came to these parts, having first crossed large lands and seas, living in caves

Pass it On

If you feel so inclined, and have the opportunity, pass this issue of Zion's Advocate on to another . . .

One never knows what will happen when even the smallest of seeds is planted!

and undergoing great hardships, until they came to this land which they found good and fertile for their habitation

"... according as it appears in their histories, that the first king they had was called Chichimecatl, who was the one who brought them to this New World where they settled, who, as can be inferred, came from the great Tartary, and they were of those of the division of Babylon, as it is declared more at length in the history that is written." ("Works of Ixtlilxochitl," cited in Milton R. Hunter's, *Christ in Ancient America*, p. 61).

The Book of Mormon says that they came across the sea in eight boats of peculiar construction being made tight like unto a dish.

"Concerning the origin of these peoples, the report the old men give is that they came by sea from the north, and it is true that they came in some wooden boats, but it is not known how the boats were hewn, but it is conjectured by report found among all these natives that they came from seven caves, and that these seven caves are the seven ships or galleys in which the first settlers of this land came The people first came from the direction of Florida, and came coasting along the coast disembarking in the Port of Panuco which means 'place where those arrived who crossed the water.' This people came in search of the terrestrial paradise" (Bernardino de Sahagun, Introduction to Book 1, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson's, *One Fold and One Shepherd*, p. 254).

The Book of Mormon says that these people were led by a prophet who himself was guided by God.

"Countless years ago the first settlers arrived in these parts of New

Spain which is almost another world, and they came in ships by sea ... being guided by a priest who himself was guided by their God, with whom he continually took counsel respecting what he ought to do" (Bernardino de Sahagun, Book 9, Section 12, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson, *One Fold and One Shepherd*, pp 254-255).

That there should be some confusion in the traditions regarding the first and second migrations is to be expected. The following tradition obviously refers to the first migration although the second settlers are referred to by name.

"The Nahoas sailed in seven barks or ships, which Sahagun calls Chicomoztoc, or the seven grottos ... It is not stated whence they came, but merely that they came out of the regions where the sun rises. The supreme command was in the hands of a chieftain whom history calls Quetzalcohuatl, that is to say, 'Lord par excellence'" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, *Native Races*, vol 3, p. 271).

There is a slight discrepancy here between the eight boats of the Jaredites and the seven ships referred to here. The confusion probably arises due to the fact that the second settlers were composed of seven divisions or families.

"And they say that they traveled for 104 years through different parts of the world until they arrived at Huehue Tlapallan their country, which hapened in ce Tecpatl, for it had been 520 years since the Deluge had taken place, which are five ages" ("Works of Ixtlilxochitl," cited in Milton R. Hunter and Thomas Stuart Ferguson's, *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon*, p. 25).

Continued next month . . .

INSTRUCTION TOWARD RIGHTEOUSNESS

by Priest Aaron Heath

In the scriptures we are given instructions on how we are able to attain righteousness. There are eight steps that must be taken or followed.

The **first step** or lesson is Humility. Matthew 5:3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.* Also in Matthew 18:4 *Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* To be humble, means we should be meek or modest, not proud or arrogant.

Step no. 2 is Penitence, which means to be repentant or one who repents of sin. Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.* In III Nephi 3:11-14,17 it states:

And some were lifted up unto pride and boastings, because of their exceeding great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions: for there were many merchants in the land, and also many lawyers, and many officers. And the people began to be distinguished by ranks, according to their riches, and their chances for learning; Yea, some were ignorant because of their poverty, and others did receive great learning because of their riches; Some were lifted up in pride, and others were exceeding humble; some did return railing for railing, while others would receive railing, and persecution, and all manner of afflictions, and would not turn and revile again, but were humble and penitent before God; Now the cause of this iniquity of the people, was this: Satan had great power, unto the stirring up of the people to do all manner of iniquity, and to the puffing them up with pride, tempting them to seek for power, and authority, and riches, and the vain things of the world.

The **3rd** instruction is Meekness, which means humble, mild, submissive. Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.* Moroni 7:49 *And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart.*

Step 4 is Spiritual Hunger Matthew 5:6 *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.* We must hunger for righteousness and spiritual things II Nephi 6:74-80 Remember, to be carnally minded, is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal.

O, my beloved brethren, give ear to my words. Remember the greatness of the Holy One of Israel. Do not say that I have spoken hard things against you; for if ye do, ye will revile against the truth: for I have spoken the words of your Maker. I know that the words of truth are hard against all uncleanness; but the righteous fear them not, for they love the truth, and are not shaken. O then, my beloved brethren, come unto the Lord, the Holy One. Remember that his paths are righteousness.

Our next **lesson no.5** is Mercifulness, which means full of mercy or compassion Matthew 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.* In II Nephi 7:33 it explains more: *And now, my beloved brethren, seeing that our merciful God has given us so great knowledge concerning these things, let us remember him, and lay aside our sins, and not hang down our heads, for we are not cast off.*



Aaron Heath

Remember, to be carnally minded, is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal.

Step 6 is Inward Purity Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.* We must cleanse ourselves. II Nephi 6:34,35:

Wherefore, we shall have a perfect knowledge of all our guilt, and our uncleanness, and our nakedness; And the righteous shall have a perfect knowledge of their enjoyment, and their righteousness, being clothed with purity, yea, even with the robe of righteousness.

Instruction no.7 is Peacemaking Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.* We must live peacefully with everyone. Mosiah 2:20-24:

Even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long suffering towards you unworthy creatures, And humble yourself

even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel; And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true. And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due.

The last step, **no.8, is Sacrificial Suffering** or being persecuted for righteousness sake. Matthew 5:10-16 *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and per-*

secute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 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.

In conclusion, let us all follow the instructions that the Lord has given, for the time is short.

RAVENNA LOCAL NEWS

We in the Ravenna Local wish to send our love to all of you in this joyous season as we celebrate the gift of Our Lord Jesus' birth. May His Spirit be with you and your family as you enjoy the seasons delights and also guide you from the worldly commotion and frenzy. Remember; time and love are not sold....only given!

We feel very blessed once again as we look forward to this our first Holiday season and our first winter in our new (warm) building. It is truly a time to "Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your many blessings, See what God hath done."

We are very happy that our group is growing in number, slow but sure, every person is a treasure!

Our fall garage sale and our craft bazaar were a success. Much hard work was put in to the labors of love for the purpose of raising the funds for our furnace and air conditioning so that our Reunion time will be more comfortable for all.

Brother Johnny and sister Irene Reed invited us all to their trailer at the Lake for a picnic on Sept. 9. All who were able to attend enjoyed themselves with a day of fun, fellowship and good food.

Our wednesday evening prayer meetings are going along just fine with many being able to attend. Meetings are at 7:30

each Wednesday evening at the church and all are welcome!

We have been very blessed with visitors coming from some distances; some of them being Sister Sara Brantner, Sister Jeanette Cunningham, Sister Mable Bergy, Sister June and Ken Hanes, Brother Adam and Sister Sue Porter with daughters Heidi and Emily, and Elder Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner. We love having you and just can't see you enough.

On October 21, we organized a work day to burn brush piles. After the chores were done the reward was a hot dog roast and a hayride, which everyone enjoyed greatly.

Sister Jeanne Shevock is back with us after another trip to Indiana to be with family.

We are looking forward to a special Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 19th, with a program also being planned by our children's Sunday School class. We have also organized a committee to plan an activity or some type of a get together for us each month. There is much to look forward to!

**God Bless You All!
Your reporter,
Debbie Brantner Vogel**

THE GREAT PLAN OF REDEMPTION

by Apostle Donald McIndoo

For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

So wrote the wise "preacher," Solomon, 1000 years before the ministry of our Lord Jesus as he considered the weak and mortal state of man. This sad commentary is all the more melancholy and disturbing when we realize just how little the condition of mankind has changed in 3000 years. Still vexed by the vanity of human endeavor, troubled by the loneliness and emptiness of life, still fearful of the specter of approaching death, William Shakespeare repeats, through *MACBETH*, the dirge of Solomon and Every Man:

*Life's but a walking shadow,
a poor player
That struts and frets his hour
upon the stage
And then is heard no more:
it is a tale
Told by an idiot,
full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.*

Because of this universal and perpetual need of mankind a prophet in ages past, one well-acquainted with the redeeming power of Christ, expressed his burning desire to "... declare unto every soul ... the plan of redemption..." Indeed, with the coming of Christ there is no longer need for empty or senseless lives, no need for despair and futility, certainly no need now to fear that temporal death which seeks out all men.

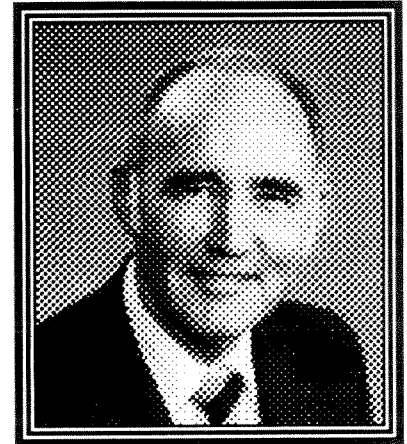
The immediate requirement for us each is to hear, understand and comply with God's great plan for our salvation. Revealed to man through the loving ministry of Jesus Christ, the plan of redemption has a host of wit-

nesses. Through their witness runs a common thread: the pastoral writing or preaching of the Apostle Paul, Alma, Amulek and Mormon, all bear testimony to each salient feature of God's plan for the redemption of mankind as revealed by His Only Begotten Son. Invariably each of them elaborates upon nine distinct components of God's message to mankind. We shall identify each of these basic elements of God's plan in light of the words of Jesus. We shall then list references to the testimony of the Apostle Paul and Alma to support each point.

First, let us clearly identify why there exists the need of a special plan for the redemption of mankind. The Apostle Paul, speaking of Adam, said "... as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned (Romans 5:12)." When Paul here speaks of sin he speaks not only of Adam's violation of God's command in the Garden, but he speaks also of two other aspects of sin - an absence of righteousness and an enmity toward God. These aspects of sin entered into man as he fell from his first estate and took upon himself a carnal nature. Benjamin said this "...natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever... (Mosiah. 1:119)." We can see that the "fall" brought to mankind not only mortality, toil, sickness, etc. but placed within us the very real potential for spiritual death as well. Hence, we see the need for a remarkable plan - one that would redeem us from the temporal death we suffer and, more importantly, the spiritual death we face - that we might well, at peace with ourselves, in the presence of God.

● **Let us consider this singular plan:**

1. Mankind, of himself, being weak, carnal and mortal, had no way of coming back into the presence of God, no way of rising from the in-



Apostle McIndoo

...there is no longer need for empty or senseless lives, no need for despair and futility, certainly no need now to fear that temporal death.

evitable grave and dissolution of these mortal elements. It was essential that an atonement be made through an infinite sacrifice. Only through the sacrifice made by the very Son of God was the plan of redemption set into effect.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. John 3:16-17 — Behold, I have come into the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin 3 Nephi 4:51 (see also Romans 3:23-24 and Alma 19:97)

2. Christ alone is this infinite sacrifice for sin prepared from the foundation of the world; “. . . there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. John 6:51 (see also Romans 3:24-25 and Alma 18:11)

3. Acceptance of Him as our Saviour, evidenced by contrition and repentance, brings into play the mercy of God, with its accompanying remission of sins, toward an unworthy mankind.

. . . I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings; and ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost . . . I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin: therefore whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive” 3

Nephi 4:49-51 (see also 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 and Alma 9:55)

It must be noted that this condition of repentance is for those who have opportunity to hear and understand the law of God. For little children and those who died without knowledge of the law, the mercy of Christ's atonement comes into play. “For behold that all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the law.” Moroni 8:25

4. True belief in Christ as the Son of God and the redeemer of mankind brings to man the promise of salvation. Jesus said (in John 6:47), “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” (See also Romans 10:9 and Alma 16:196,199.)

It must be recognized that a true belief in Christ will be evidenced by a continued obedience to His teachings and commandments until the end of our lives. The Master told us “. . . except ye shall keep my commandments, which I have commanded you at this time, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” 3 Nephi 5:68. This is true of all the doctrine and commandments He has given to the children of men. Again, He tells us, “Behold, I am the law and the light; look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live, for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.” 3 Nephi 7:10.

5. This life is the time allotted for man to make his preparations to meet God. Jesus, Himself, said “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work.” John 9:4 (see also Hebrews 3:13-15 and Alma 9:40-41).

6. The eternal sacrifice made by the Son of God has loosed the bands of temporal death and all men shall be resurrected, or redeemed, from temporal death. This resurrection “. . . meaneth the reuniting of the soul with body” Alma 19:52. Jesus said,

And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross;

and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, I might draw all men unto me: that as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me 3 Nephi 12:26-27 (see also 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 and Alma 16:196).

7. Resurrected mankind shall be brought back into the presence of God, who gave them life. “And he (Jesus) did expound all things, even from the beginning until . . . the great and last day, when all people, and all kindreds, and all nations and tongues shall stand before God” 3 Nephi 11:30,32 (see also Romans 14:10 and Alma 19:105).

8. Here man shall be judged with a righteous judgement by the words which Christ has given them according to their actions while in this life.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” John 12:48 (see also 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Alma 19:106).

9. Then the righteous who have truly believed in the Holy One of Israel shall inherit the kingdom of God, while those who have willfully rebelled against God shall reap damnation and suffer the second death.

. . . the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:28-29 (see also Romans 2:5-9 and Alma 7:42-44).

When Adam disobeyed the Lord he fell from high estate, but that fall has given to mankind a precious, yet dangerous, liberty: As nations and as individuals we are free to choose good and evil, blessing or cursing, life or death. **The choices you make today effect all eternity, so build your life upon the certain promise of Jesus Christ, “. . . the way, the truth, and the life”**

Collins Local News

Hello to everyone. It's a lovely time of year here in our area of Missouri. The nights are cool and crisp and the days, thus far, are lightly warm. I'm sure this won't hold much longer and soon we'll have snow, but then that's the way it's supposed to be and I just love it.

October 15th was the day set aside for our Rally. We began with a short prayer service, followed by four thirty-minute sermons. Our speakers were Brothers Nicholas Denham, Loren Bryant, Rodger Bruner, and Bob Eddy. Brother Roland Sarratt was our final speaker of the day. It's amazing to me how these men could follow similar topics and how they all fit together, but then I guess when the Spirit of God leads, these things would be evident. I'm very grateful.

The annual Harvest Celebration was held October 31st at Harold and Dora Adams' farm and hosted by Cletus and Nancy Wiley. There were weiners to be roasted, a big pot of exceptionally good chili (made by Clete himself), a hayride, and a campfire with good old fashioned singing of gospel hymns. It was a beautiful night. There was no wind, the stars were shining, and when everyone sang their voices blended and sounded so pretty in the night air. Certainly it was an evening well spent.

I have three births to report to you. On May 31st Jim and Annette Adams became the proud parents of little Benjamin James. July 28th Gail and Clark Hylton welcomed Jacob Clark into their family. And last but not least, Gary and Cary Adams have a new son, Jedediah Gary. Three brand new boys! May God bless each one and help them grow up to serve Him.

Our Sister, Wanda Jo Eddy left for Honduras the last part of October with John and Nana Gill to try to give aide to people in need in that country. I don't know how long they will be gone, but truly they stand in need of your earnest prayers.

Our sister, Donna Cook, had to have back surgery because of a ruptured disc. She is home now and recovering slowly. Her mother, Norma Cook is looking after and, I guess you could say, chasing after, Donna's full of energy, one year old son, Justen. I'm sure Donna would

appreciate prayers on her behalf and I expect Aunt Norma would be happy to have a prayer or two on her behalf as well.

Bill and Karin Malone of Phoenix surprised us with a visit during our Rally. There were several they intended to see so we couldn't detain them more than a day. Also from Phoenix, Joel and Jenny Yates were in the Collins area for a brief visit, but unable to stay through Sunday as plans were already made to be in Independence. It is always a pleasure to have our friends and loved ones stop in to visit us. Our thanks to each one.

In closing, here are some thoughts from recent sermons. Please consider them for a moment.

- * *So often we think we are serving God, but sometimes we are only serving ourselves.*
- * *If Christ should ask us, "Will ye also go away?" What would you say?*
- * *How many times have we promised to serve God so He would help us out of trouble, but then go back to our evil ways later?*
- * *Do we grumble and growl over the things God has given us, wanting more?*
- * *Are we embarrassed to know our Lord? If we deny Him, He will deny us before God.*

**Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman**

**Report From
The Mogollon Rim**

Glad tidings and good cheer to our brothers and sisters. I'm very thankful for this November holiday that our forefathers set aside. Truly this has been a blessed people and nation. He has seen fit to give us another harvest this year. I like to picture that day in my mind, the white man and the red man, two peoples, sitting down as one. Having all things common on that day, being filled with charity towards one another, seeing eye to eye, giving credit to the Great Spirit. I see this also as another shadow of things to come, when we shall sit down together in Zion, and begin to learn from, and share with

his ancient covenant people.

Not soon after this happy occasion comes another one. The birth of our Savior. What a perfect chance to share Him with our neighbors. A time to do good unto others, that your joy may be full. How very sad so many people in our nation have changed their hope in the Lord, to a hope in a man called Saint Nick, and then wonder why they feel so empty this time of year. I think I'll pray this year that the true spirit of Christmas be revived in America. As Peter said to the lame man, "silver and gold have I none, But such as I have, give I thee."

Our brother Gordon McCann and his family were in Tucson this month visiting Lola Hagood. Brother Andy Brown has been helping to exhort us in his stead. Andy's sermon told how we should be living our everyday life, by continuing to improve and discipline ourselves in reading and prayer and every good work. Christ came to heal the sick. Our concerns should be for the people of the world. To think upon things that have a good report, that have any virtue. To administer grace to the hearers by our conversation. To be pure, and honest. Purity is not a virtue in our society and we will stick out and indeed we must endeavor to be different.

Our little group also had a much needed word of encouragement through brother Tom Karas. He said that the Lord was pleased with the desires of our hearts and that we should continue in patience.

We're so very happy for our sister Debbie Vogel and brother Dave as they are expecting their much wanted third child. We need another baby to cuddle. May the Lord lead us beside still waters this season, and give us a greater vision of things to come.

Oh my friends in faraway lands,
I wait for the day
to grasp your hands,
To sing praises
to the King of Kings,
In the land shadowed
with Eagles' Wings.

**Your sister in Christ,
Kathy Cloyd**

Independence News

Seldom does any of the congregation have occasion to look down on our Pastor, he being a tall man. However, this looking down was achieved by one of our members who rode Virgil Rudd's cherry picker high in the air to caulk the window frames of our tall, second story windows. Meanwhile the Pastor was working at ground level with a crew of men doing necessary maintenance on our facilities the Saturday of October 21. The baptismal font was fitted with rebuilt covers, new hinges, and new lock. Further work is planned for the church interior as well.

On October 14, one hundred and forty two persons attended the apple cider pressing at Don and Bonnie Case's. The two apple presses in operation were manned by "armstrong of Missouri and Phoenix". Guests coming the farthest were Brother and Sister Bill Malone. (Bill had assisted at the Wednesday evening prayer meeting.) The children had supervised play on a large trampoline, or down on the swings. Industrious adults hurried about the tasks of pressing, straining and jugging cider and hauling off the apple "hulls" to a remote area by wheel barrow, again by "armstrong". The forty bushels of apples were turned into cider was unequaled in all of Missouri. John and Dianne Lehman played folk music on guitar and hammered dulcimer to accompany John's singing of ballads during the pressing and visiting. Two lovely, little girl nieces of the musicians accompanied with wooden dancing dolls on wooden paddles. Some of the boys manned the dolls with enthusiasm for awhile. Sister Shirley Bailey and new member, Brother Don Adams were present. We have also had the pleasure of their presence at our meetings.

In the morning of this beautiful day an auction was held in Higginsville for benefit of the family of Jeff Bird who had lost his battle with leukemia. Some of our church folk had items to donate and were there for part of the auction. The auction continued on into the afternoon and evening. It was touching to see the participants wearing T-shirts bearing Jeff's image and the words "Friends of Jeff". The Marcia and Robb Bird

family had only four months from diagnosis time to the loss of their son, a fine boy, 13 years of age of a close knit RLDS family of Higginsville, Missouri.

Like to Sunday School the crowd came gradually, bringing their covered dish offerings of food; a wiener roast around the fire, followed by singing, skits, story telling, and vocal exercises occupied the evening until the dark of night had enveloped us, and the warmth from the embers and the fellowship wrought their magic.

John and Sharon Bryant of Cowgill, Missouri brought their baby, Joseph Glen, born October 16, weight 9 pounds 5 ounces, and 21 inches long, (Joshua Bryant's baby brother) to church here. We are very sorry to learn that the new baby has been hospitalized and is undergoing tests. We are praying with the family.

Elder Arthur Smith spoke on October 1, relating modern day Christianity to old Messianic beliefs. Later speakers referred to his sermon. The August ministers conference had impressed that younger people should know the story of the Church. Elder Alvin Harris spoke both October 8 and 15, bringing much information and history. Elder Glenn Gill spoke of personal, undeserved words or behavior. He testified later at the November 5 Sacrament Service of the blessing and benefits he received from this open discussion within his sermon. He had cleared the circuits twixt himself and his God. Elder Benny Case spoke of Decency Awareness Month, strongly backed by the Governor who is trying to eliminate moral decadence of society which stands in the way of progress. Let your thoughts and deeds praise God. Make your long term goal perfection. The Lord chasteneth those whom He loves.

Elder Nicholas Denham tells us we need to be sharing our testimonies for we all need bright faith to see us through difficulties which must be born patiently to keep the soul blameless until the coming of Jesus Christ.

Elder Gerry Case was strongly anti-drugs and strongly parental guidance. Elder Marvin Case reminds that this is a choice land, free from captivity if the people will serve the God of this land. The spirit possessing your soul at death has

power to possess in the next world. We must present the two sticks to the world, to remove stumbling blocks.

Our most dependable Assistant Pastor surprised and alarmed us by an unscheduled trip to the hospital. Emergency treatment was followed by tests. We were thankful to get a medical report from Rodger Bruner's family. In a few days he was back with us. We expressed our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, as well as to Rodger that it was not his heart.

Pastor Al Harris was at home with a sore throat on November 5. Glenn Gill taught his class at the Sunday School hour. Rodger Bruner was in charge of Sacrament Service assisted by Benny Case, LeRoy Wheaton and Nicholas Denham. We missed Brother Harris: Wednesday evening perhaps.

Our ministry have been encouraged to tell of their calling to the members and personal evidence given them of their calling. Some have responded. It is good to be reminded that our ministry is called of God.

Irene Y. Maley

Holy-days

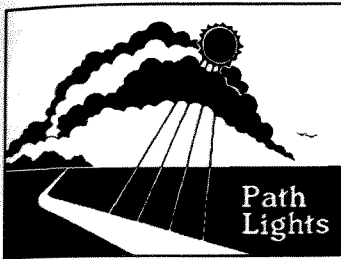
Luke 11: 21 & 22: "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."

Regarding Christmas and other Holy-days: In ancient times Satan took these days for himself through paganistic practices, setting himself up as the power of all.

I believe that he is the "strong man" of Luke 11:21, but when the "stronger than he" came (v. 22 - Christ), He, by His crucifixion and resurrection, wrested all days, all times and all seasons from the strong man. Thus, all days, all seasons, all times become Holy in Him.

And we strive to worship Him in all days in Holiness, asking Him to bless our faith and strengthen us that we may keep all days in Holiness and righteousness unto Him!

— Darlene Smith



This is just one of many testimonies in my life, but I want to share it with others that they too might know of his wonderful watchcare and love.

Jennifer was a tiny tot in a highchair. Bill was at work and Carol was in school. That morning it had started to rain, later turning to sleet. A very dark and gloomy day. I had just fixed lunch to feed Jennifer and I put it on the tray in front of her. After just briefly finishing up at the counter, I turned around to see her choking on a piece of meat. I was just frantic! I patted her in the back, turned her upside down and

patted her again, but nothing would dislodge. By now, she was turning ashen blue. My first thought was that I must run to a neighbor to get help, but when I opened the front door and saw the porch as well as the steps and street covered with a glaze of ice, I knew in that minute I couldn't get to anyone for help in time. I stepped back into the house and shut the door as I lifted up my eyes to God and called out: "please tell me what to do!" My hand went out as though another had hold of it and I smacked her back once again. As I did so, one swat and the piece of meat flew out of her mouth and she started to breathe.

With a very thankful heart, I did give praise and thanks to Him for His mercy and loving kindness. – **Gladys Nast**

Please send your testimonies to Melissa McGhee, 2533 Glen Lane, Independence, Missouri 64052

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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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