

# Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

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**A**nd he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ, Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine .... The Apostle Paul

Is it possible the Lord is trying to tell us something? Both feature articles this month emphasize the above scripture. I am certain the brethren were inspired by the Almighty to tell us these things. Be sure to read "Higher Ground" and "The Church is People," and face the not-so-comfortable truth of our own natural tendencies, the "natural" man being in opposition to things divine. — *Editor*

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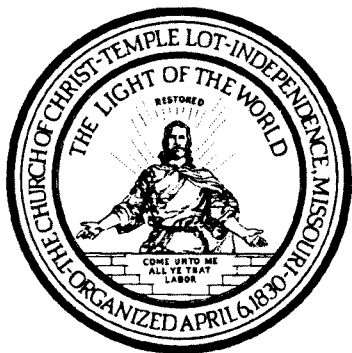
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#### Zion's Advocate Is ...

To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour;

To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; To be Zion's advocate.

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Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," submissions to "Apocalypse Now," and news items of Church-wide interest 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 textured bond paper. Please avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS, and *italics*. Finally, it would be

helpful if you would be certain you are using a typewriter ribbon that gives a good, distinct image (not smudgy or too light). The most important thing, though, is to send the material — the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise prepare anything you send.

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# The Condition of the Church and the Need to Reach for ... Higher Ground

**by Teacher Ron Temple**

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## **A Parable:**

*There is a great river that looks calm on top but underneath it is very turbulent and raging. It is carrying everything along in it at a very high speed and it is steadily rising. Downstream is a tremendous rapids with many rocks. Everything in the water that reaches those rapids is dashed into the rocks and smashed to pieces, and nothing can survive those rapids. In this turbulent raging water are many people being carried along by the fast moving waters toward their destruction. Most of these people are completely unaware of the danger and make no attempt to get out. Some, realizing the danger, have climbed up onto rafts thinking they had reached a place of safety.*

The great river of water is the world. The people in the water are the partakers of the world. The rising waters indicate the increasing dangers from sin and iniquity. Those on the rafts are those who saw the need to be out of the world, so they have turned to religion. They have not been given the full truth so they believe that these rafts will provide safety.

*There are a few on the shore, not worrying about or even being*

*aware of the dangers from the rising water. Some wade or jump willingly into the edge of the water. Some of these are caught in the currents and are swept away. Others manage to pull themselves out or are helped out by others. There are a few men that have ropes with them, and some of these men with ropes are casting them into the water in an attempt to save people, but only very occasionally do any of those people in the water or on the rafts grab onto a rope. Most don't even see the rope and they let it pass by them having no interest in it. Some that do grab hold of a rope soon let go because they don't see what they are looking for on the shore and others in the water scoff at them. Only once in a great while is someone actually pulled out of the water. Some of the men with ropes are trying to get those who are on the shore to move away from the rapidly moving and rising waters, directing them toward the safety of higher ground. Some of the people heed to a degree, but most do not. The trail leading to higher ground is a very steep difficult climb, but there is an iron railing along this trail. The few that are attempting to climb up are having a difficult time because they are receiving ridicule from those in the water and even some on the shore are hindering them from their climb.*

The people on the shore are those of the Church of Christ and others trying to live the truth. But for the most part, they try to keep as close to the world as they can, and even partake of it (those that wade or jump

into the water). These are in danger of being swept away. Many, but not all of these are young people. They leave the church and head toward their destruction. Also, because the waters are rising, even all who are on the shore are in great danger. Those with ropes are the ministry. Their efforts to save those in the water are feeble. Many of the ministry don't even try to use their ropes. (The ropes here represent truth and authority). And even most of the ministry are on the shore close to the edge of the water, or even themselves in the water. Some of the ministry are directing the people to higher ground and safety but few are listening to them. Some people are attempting to climb the steep path to higher ground using the rod of iron to help them. The rod of iron is the gospel of Christ.

This is the condition of the Church of Christ. What are we going to do about it? It is too late not to start climbing now! Soon the water will cover the shore and maybe even wash away the path upward, thus giving us no more chance to make that climb. This is the day of our probation (see Alma 16:227-231) and we do not know how much longer we have. We must start immediately for that higher ground. The second verse of the song, "Higher Ground," expresses the thoughts we should have. It reads: "My heart has no desire to stay Where doubts arise and fears dismay; Tho' some may dwell where these abound, My prayer, my aim is higher ground. Lord lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on heavens table land, A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Now let's turn to the scriptures: Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. These things command and teach. (I Timothy 4:1-7,11).

As verse 6 tells us, I am trying to put you in remembrance of these things. Each one in the ministry tries to do that.

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. (I Corinthians 1:21, 26-29).

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For

the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Ephesians 4:1-8,11-12).

Verse 12 tells us why we need the ministry. But how long will this perfecting take? It tells us in the next two verses:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (Ephesians 4:13-14)

Then it goes on to explain how we should conduct ourselves as Christians. Read Ephesians 4:15 through 5:11. Our ministry are given to help us achieve these requirements in our lives. In I Peter 5:3 it tells us that the ministry should not be lords over God's heritage, but be examples to the flock. That chapter is full of requirements for the ministry. Also see Matthew 7:1-5. Every one of us can benefit from that counsel from our Master. It tells us that we must first get the beam out of our own eye before we can pull the mote out of our brothers eye. In Matthew 20:25-28 it tells us that the ministry need to be servants and not masters.

How can the ministry serve you? The duties of the ministry are given to us in the Book of Commandments:

The duty of the elders, priests, teachers, deacons and members of the church of Christ. An apostle is an elder, and it is his calling to baptize and to ordain other elders, priests, teachers and deacons, and to administer the flesh and blood of Christ according to the scriptures; And to teach, expound, exhort, baptize, and watch over the church; And to confirm the church by the laying on of the hands, and the giving of the Holy Ghost, and to take the lead in all meetings. The elders are to conduct the meetings as they are led by the Holy Ghost. The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort and baptize, and administer the sacrament, and visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret, and also to attend to all family duties; And to ordain other priests, teachers and

deacons, and to take the lead of meetings; but none of these offices is he to do when there is an elder present, but in all cases is to assist the elder. The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and to be with them, and strengthen them, and see that there is no iniquity in the church, neither hardness with each other, neither lying nor back-biting, nor evil speaking; And see that the church meet together often, and also see that all members do their duty; And he is to take the lead of meetings in the absences of the elder or priest, and is to be assisted always, and in all his duties in the church by the deacons; But neither the teacher nor deacon have authority to baptize nor administer the sacrament, but are to warn, expound, exhort and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ. The duty of the members after they are received by baptism. The elders or priests are to have sufficient time to expound all things concerning this church of Christ to their understanding, previous to their partaking of the sacrament, and being confirmed by laying on of the hands of the elders; So that all things may be done in order. And the members shall manifest before the church, and also before the elders, by a godly walk and conversation, that they are worthy of it, that there may be works and faith agreeable to the holy scriptures, walking in holiness before the Lord." (Book of Commandments 24:31-41, 45-48).

What are priests to do? It says they are to visit the house of each member and exhort them to attend to all family duties. The teacher's duties would also require visiting homes, telling them what they are doing wrong, pointing out their faults, and pointing out errors in doctrine. We were told in the fourth chapter of Ephesians that the ministry were to perform their duties until we all came in the unity of the faith. That hasn't happened yet. Would you allow the ministry to come into your home and exhort you to pray? Maybe! But what if they came to counsel you in family matters, or to tell you where you are committing iniquities, or where you are being hard with each other? No! I don't think that most of us would accept that from anyone. We have too much pride, and we would say it is none of your business. That is what the

world teaches. They say we can do what we want, when we want, and nobody can tell us what to do. Oh, we will allow a preacher from a pulpit or allow a written article to say some things to us, but the preacher or the author cannot say everything that needs to be said because it will offend some. But the scriptures tell us that is the ministry's business, to help correct us when we err, for our own good. The ministry should be pointing us toward the right way. They should be helping us up that steep path by doing what the scripture directs them to do. And we should be submitting to the plan God has outlined.

But you say, and with some justification, the ministry are themselves on that dangerous shore, or even within the water, and from this position they cannot instruct me. So, the ministry are hampered in doing their job, and the people have too much pride to accept them anyway. Whose fault is it then that we don't climb that steep path? It is true that the ministry would be much more effective in leading the way instead of just pointing the way. They don't need to be on the shore to save people from that water.

Back to my parable:

*Part of this higher ground extends as a high bluff over the water. The iron rod railing will protect and keep anyone from falling over into the water even if they are on the edge leaning over. Anyone on this bluff could dangle their rope over the edge making that rope much more visible to those in the water than they would be if thrown from the shore. Looking up, those in the water could see the blessings enjoyed by those above them. The fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, will abound there. Then those in the water will have a desire to grab the rope and to be pulled to safety.*

It would not be hard to lead people to this church if we all had these gifts.

The path to higher ground is steep and hard to climb, but by work-

**Get out of the  
water and off this  
dangerous shore  
and head for higher  
ground before it is  
too late. Now is  
none too soon ...**

ing together and helping each other we can make it. How can we do this?

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you cannot do the things that ye would. (Gal 5:14-17).

So we must love our neighbor and walk in the spirit. If we don't, then the flesh will prevent us from doing those things we would — that is, climbing that steep path.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Mat 6:14-15)

So forgiveness is important also. There are many things in each of our lives that we need to be forgiven of and that we must work to eliminate. All of us have learned or inherited traits or developed some that do not demonstrate the fruits of the spirit and are offensive to others. Oft times we hurt people without even realizing it. We must realize that others have these traits and exercise forbearance (this is part of long-suf-

fering). At the same time, we must recognize our own faults (and sometimes we must be told by others), and work towards overcoming those things that prevent us from reaching that higher ground.

### To the ministry:

Let's hasten to obtain that higher ground so we can become more effective in our work for the Lord.

### To the people:

Start pushing us up that path, and let us help you up at the same time. It will take work. It will require that we swallow our pride and allow ourselves to be taught, admonished, corrected, etc. It takes humility. It takes overcoming what the world has taught us. It takes prayer and fasting, and it takes a study of the scriptures. We cannot be like those who were told:

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (Jeremiah 6:16-17)

I hope and pray that you not listen to man's words, because man falls short of that higher plane and cannot lead you there. But I hope you have the discernment to listen to the words of Christ that may come through the ministry, and let Christ lead us all there. Don't look so much at the man delivering the words, but heed the words of Christ that do come through him. The duty of the ministry is to help us obtain that higher ground. Just because your ministry are not yet on that higher plane should not be an excuse to refuse their help to reach that goal.

Get out of the water and off this dangerous shore and head for higher ground before it is too late. Now is none too soon. And it will be worthwhile!



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# The Church is People

As found in the *Newsletter from Foundry Hill Church of Christ*, Vol. 1, No. 2, May 1991  
(Used with permission)

by Elder Glenn Gill

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**T**he Church is people, but not just any people. The Church is people who have taken upon them the name of Christ. They are sons and daughters of God and a dwelling place for the Spirit of God (see II Corinthians 6:16-18). Church members rely on the merits of Christ and trust his promise that through the conditions of repentance there is forgiveness, and through baptism of the water and of the Holy Ghost there is a newness of life. Moroni said "... The church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls; and they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;" (Moroni 6:6)

The fourth chapter of Ephesians says a lot about the church. Paul wrote of longsuffering and forbearing one another in love (Ephesians 4:2). He wrote, "There is one body, and one Spirit, . . . One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Paul wrote of the purpose of the ministry: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" (Ephesians 4:12-13). He explained that with that unity and knowledge; with that perfection and that stature; the church members would not be open to deception, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth,

according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16)

The church cannot edify itself in love unless it is fitly joined together. That joining together requires what every joint can supply. There must be effectual working in every part. In other words, every member must contribute what he or she is capable of contributing. If this doesn't happen, if the members just go their own way refusing to be fitly joined together, and if they do not forbear one another in love, there can be no edifying; no unity; no knowledge; no perfection. All of these things require that the church be together — that they meet together oft, as Moroni put it.

It is time to stop being children tossed to and fro. It is time to enjoy the gifts of the ministry (see verses 8 and 11 of Ephesians 4) and speak truth in love, to grow up into him in all things — to be a church. Let's do it in Puryear and everywhere.

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## Puryear Reunion

Puryear, Tennessee

The members of the Puryear, Tennessee, local Church of Christ invite all to join with them in Love for a time of fellowship and Spiritual edification at the 1991 Puryear Reunion.

The reunion will be held October 12 - 14, at the church in Foundry Hill near Puryear.

For directions or other information, contact either:

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## SIGNS OF OUR TIME

**O**ur Lord rebuked the Pharisees for failing to see the signs of their times in their day (Matthew 16:33). Likewise Christ has also admonished us to watch and pray lest that day come upon us unawares. This warning would not be given to us of our generation if we were not truly living in that day when these things would come to pass. Paul also gave warning of these things when he said, "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...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that day should overtake you as a thief...Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (2 Thessalonians 5:2-5).

What are some of these signs which identify our day? Says Paul, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, without natural affection (consider abortion, homosexuality, unconcern for the welfare of others, etc. HES), truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

This is certainly descriptive of conditions today and on a scale greater than at anytime since the great flood. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of...whereby the world that then

was, being overflowed with water perished" (2 Peter 3:3-6).

The science, falsely so-called, of Evolution has indeed brought about this very thing in just the last 150 years. This all pervading unbelief confirms the Lord's words when He said, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith in the earth?" (Luke 18:18).



by Harvey E. Seibel

Our Lord gave many signs describing the day in which we live. One such sign was that because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Another given through Paul was that evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

Nephi also prophesied concerning the last days or the day when the Lord should bring forth the latter day work. (See 2 Nephi 11:80). Mormon said this work would come forth in a

time of great wickedness. (See Mormon 4:33-39). Daniel identified our day as a time when many should run to and fro (Is this not so today?) and when knowledge should be increased (Is not this also true?). Nahum too speaks of a time when chariots cars shall rage in the streets, and jostle one against another in the broadways (today's auto traffic) and, seeming like torches, they shall run like lightnings. (See Nahum 2:4).

All these signs pinpoint the day in which we live and leave no doubt as to our place in history and also our responsibility. Peter warns by saying that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness...?" (2 Peter 3:10-11). Yet today we see all manner of wickedness and iniquity such as abortion (60 million yearly), rampant homosexuality, pornography, violence of every kind, marital infidelity and divorce, drug addiction, alcoholism, etc.

"But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both they which shall come upon this land, and they which shall be upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations; And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm and tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire" (2 Nephi 1:116-117).





# 1991 Michigan State Reunion

With much heartfelt gratitude to our dear Lord and Saviour the Saints again gathered at the Ravenna Local, as we opened our 1991 Michigan State Reunion with the Friday, June 14, morning prayer Service. Priest Aaron Heath welcomed us and read scriptures from Mosiah and III Nephi and Elder James Yates, Jr. gave the opening and closing prayers.

After the lunch break and opening prayer by Elder Sam Gould the Saints were led in song by Sister Wanda Yates, many beautiful and meaningful songs were enjoyed by all.

The afternoon Preaching Service was opened by Elder Harold Polack, who gave the opening prayer. Elder Hubert Yates gave us the opening Sermon of the Reunion. He admonished us that we must be willing to listen and obey the gospel of Schist, that we must choose who we will serve. After all, that is the whole purpose of our entire lifetime here isn't it? All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for proof and instruction to us, to correct us. We must strive for righteousness and set our eyes upon the glory of God and not muddy ourselves with the world but to be apart from it, for the bitter foundation cannot give good water. The spirit of God isn't a spirit of fear but of power and love, it's truth gives you strength and the power of discernment and sound mind. He also read to us a beautiful poem written by his oldest son entitled "The Lord".

Following the service those who could stayed for a campfire and wienner roast and much relished fellowship. Even some rain couldn't dampen the campers spirits!

Saturday morning, June 15, was bright and beautiful as the Saints came marching in "Unto the House of the Lord" for our second day of Reunion services. Priest Adam Por-

ter opened the service, admonishing us to always pray faith believing and to never cease praying in our hearts. Many voices were lifted in thanksgiving and testimony unto our Lord. Opening and closing prayers were given by Elder Max Lee.

After a short break, we reopened again with the opening prayer given by Elder Hubert Yates. Then Elder Charles Brantner gave us the morning Sermon. Brother Charles asked the question: do we expect more than we give? He admonished us that the traditions of men are not necessarily the teachings of God. And that Satan deceives us to think that there are many paths to Heaven but the scriptures teach us differently—that narrow is the way! We are very blessed to have the 66 PLUS 15 more books of scripture to verify Gods words to us! Turn yourselves over to HIM and LIVE! The closing prayer was given by Elder Hubert Yates.

After a wonderful dinner (and a Priesthood meeting) we reassembled into two groups: the children's activities took place outdoors while Priest Emery Pinder gave the Sermon inside. Priest Adam Porter gave the opening prayer and introduction. Brother Emery told us that if we know the Scriptures we'll know who Christ is and to remember this promise.....that those with temperance, tolerance, patience, and the love Christ will neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Scripture does not come to us by the will of man but by the inspiration of God to that man which is willing to do Gods will. With the purpose of confounding false doctrines and contentions among men. In James we learn that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, that it cometh down from the Father of lights wit whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of

change. Pray as we are told in the Book of James, to ask for wisdom for God will "give to all liberally." (emphasis by dbv) Closing prayer was given by Brother Adam.

After a break we reopened with the opening prayer given by Elder Sam Gould. Elder Gale Brantner then gave us the next Sermon of the day. He admonished us that when we seek to bring forth Zion we shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Spirit, and that all those who fight against Zion shall be destroyed as the scriptures tell us. Remember that in the Lords prayer is says, "After this manner ye pray, thy Kingdom come thy will be done" (Kingdom meaning Zion). So, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God! For He asked, "How oft have I called you?" Brother Sam Gould gave the closing prayer.

After another wonderful meal, Elder Charles Brantner opened the evening service with prayer and the announcement that next years Michigan State Reunion will again be held at the Ravenna Local (as decided at the Priesthood meeting). Priest Aaron Heath then gave the evening Sermon. Brother Aaron admonished us that as the children of God we are the caretakers of Christs gospel, also that as the children of God we have a responsibility, but have we been sufficiently humbled? If we have not then we are not prepared to meet God. We had better prepare quickly. Don't envy, don't mock, or persecute, REPENT! He then read the prefix from the Book of Mormon to bring it all together for us (please do so yourselves). Before giving the closing prayer, Brother Charles reminded us that we should prepare ourselves for the following mornings Sacrament Service with Fasting and Prayer, and to remember our commitment to our Lord. It was a full day in which we were abundantly well fed,



both spiritually and physically!

Sunday morning, June 16, we once again gathered in to the house of the Lord for the Special Sacrament Service. Elder Charles Brantner opened the services giving the opening prayer. Elder Gale Brantner then gave the opening message reminding us of our commitment to the Lord by partaking of the emblems symbolizing the flesh and blood of Christ. After the blessing and serving of the emblems we went into a time of prayer and testimony. Many, many voices were lifted in praise and in song of our Lords great blessings unto us. Closing prayer was given by Elder Charles Brantner.

After another wonderful meal provided by our kitchen committee, we again rejoined for a Song Service. Specials were given by Sister June and Ken Haines, Priest Aaron Heath, and the Children's Sunday School Group.....very nice!

After a short break we reassembled into two again, the children had another hour or so of outdoor activities while inside the service took place. During the time the children gathered the two days they heard the story of "Lehi Obeys God's Command", colored accompanying story pages, made a fan, filled in questions and got signatures in a very special keepsake book and they made a Dove in a cage while hearing about how God sometimes uses a Dove, for example, to symbolize things and to help Him and His people. Next year we would like to again increase our children's activities making it another fun learning experience for them. Inside: the last Service for this years Reunion was opened with a song Special by Sister Linda Gould, sister Jeanne Brantner, Sister Terry Bowmaster, and Elder Sam Gould singing "O Who That Has Searched" (Please read the words in this song, #82 in our Zions Hymnal). Opening prayer was given by Priest Aaron Heath and he introduced Elder Sam Gould. Brother Sam told us that without God we are like a

Rose that never properly develops and never blooms He admonished us that Zion shall be, because the Lord said it will be, he reminded us to pray without ceasing. Let us prepare for the Reunion with our Lord, that when He returns we will be of one heart and one mind, in agreement. Wisdom comes thru God, not man, it is a mystery of His will, not mans. Our children need to know what the goal is so that they can strive to attain it, with the complete gospel of Christ giving them direction, through the scriptures. Our children are our future, no greater work can be done, but to raise them to walk in Gods ways. We must accept the gifts and promises given us and do the will of the Lord. The work will not be given to another people, we must do it. We have a Reunion to prepare for, a Reunion with our Lord when He returns, in Zion, the best place for our children, so let's bring The Church of Christ out of obscurity, out into the brilliant light, that we may all be a shimmering example. Let our faith be such that we accept the Lords Books and receive more. For it is the pure in heart that shall come forth and accept their inheritance, those pure in heart, not contaminated by the world. Priest Aaron Heath gave the closing remarks, giving thanks to all those who helped make the Reunion a success and to all those who attended. Closing prayer was given by Elder Gale Brantner.

Once again the Michigan State Reunion draws to a close as we all feel filled with the Spirit, not wanting to part, but knowing that we must. All longing for another gathering yet knowing that the love that we have for one another is strong enough to stand through time and trials. There is always a letter or another church service down the road somewhere "when we shall meet again" and to that day when we "shall gather home to Zion." Until then we ask for a "parting blessing" that you will stay "safe and secure from all alarms," "Trust and Obey"

and "Peace be with you until we meet again!"

"WE THANK THEE, O GOD!"

With a prayer of "Thanksgiving",  
Your Sister in Christ and your  
Reunion Reporter,

*Sister Debbie Brantner Vogel*

## NOTICE

John J. Schut, of Enschede, The Netherlands, has disfellowshipped himself from this church, the Church of Christ, and is no longer a member or a representative of this church.

**Council of Apostles  
Church of Christ**

## Ava Local News

It has been some time since I've made a report from Ava. We are still here; still meeting on Sunday mornings and still growing in Spirit, we hope.

The most important news I have is almost a year old. One of the young people of our group, Joey Darlington, the son of Brother Earl Darlington, was baptized last year during camp. We were very happy to welcome him as a brother in our school this year in the 9th grade. Just the same as all our young people, he needs our prayers to help him as he faces the stresses and problems of the teenage years.

Summer is usually a time of visiting, and the Ava local is not unusual in that. Brother and Sister Lester Burgin have had grandchildren visiting them: Jared Burgin from New Jersey, and Jeremy and Mat Jones from California. Sister Dorothy Burgin's son, Wayne, came in from Washington. And Sister Lorraine Welton went to visit her granddaughter, Cherie Krigsman in Massachusetts.

I cannot say that we were glad when Sister Dorothy Brech, the youngest daughter of Brother Earl Darlington, moved from our area to Oklahoma. We will miss her and her family. I'm certain they will be welcome additions to the saints in Oklahoma.

We have heard many good sermons the last year. I simply do not have room for all the notes I have taken. But here is a sampling:

We can't just vote to start Zion tomorrow. The foundation of the required Zion condition is in our homes and in our hearts. That is where we must begin.

Religion is our relationship with God — the choices we make as we live our daily lives.

We must relinquish our sense of our rights, our sovereignty, to God to do His will.

We have nothing to fear if we obey Christ.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Estella Davis

## Grand Junction Local News

Where has this summer gone? It was busy for everyone, good or bad. I guess I must start back the last part of May.

Leslie and Irene Case were here. They helped Alvina, and Lois, Bell move back into their own home, after a long convalescence in Alice Larsen's

home. It seems they always work too hard when they come to visit, helping us out. We do appreciate, and love, them for it.

Chris Morris, and his son Paul, were here for a brief visit. I certainly enjoyed it since Chris is my brother. We showed them as much "Rocky Mountain high" as we could squeeze in a short time.

For anyone who gets lost finding our Church, we have a new sign in the yard identifying ourselves, and our times of worship. The building committee did a super job putting this project together.

Reunion was a success. We were able to worship with old friends, relatives, and make new friends as well. The crowd was a little smaller, though no less strong in Spirit. After Reunion, a large group of young, and young at heart, took a rafting trip down the Colorado River. Everyone got wet, both had a great time. For those of you who accused me of withholding such information, there is talk of doing it again next year.

Sam Gould paid us a visit shortly after Reunion. Sorry I missed you, Sam.

Marvin Ely had surgery, which went well. But, he suffered respiratory complications which made his convalescence slower. Marvin was back to Church the first Sunday in August. It sure was good to see him again. His son, Arden, recently moved to Grand Junction only to suffer a heart attack. Arden is home, and gaining strength. Berniece could probably use a recharge on hers.

Hang in there, Berniece!

Kenneth Carroll spent the summer in Independence. He got a job with this family there. By the time this news is printed, Kenneth should be home again. Welcome home, Kenneth!

Gordon, Patsy, and Jennifer McCann came to see Patsy's parents, Bob and Shirley Ely. Patsy and Jennifer were able to stay on awhile, so Bob and Shirley got in some quality time with their daughter, and granddaughter.

Bob Oldham lucked out. He managed to visit on a Sunday our Local had a picnic. I was unable to attend, but I heard from many what a good time I missed.

Marvin and Hellen Carroll celebrated an anniversary in June.

Happy June Birthday to Toby Pennell. Happy July Birthday to Amy Downs, Jane Pennell, Joan Larsen, and your's truly. Happy September Birthday to Miles Downs, Johnny Bell, Lloyd

Arden, and Charlotte Hinkle. Happy October Birthday to Hellen Carroll.

I hope everyone's summer was warm with good memories, and your Fall colorful with life.

Love,  
Kathy Larsen

## Temple Lot Local News

This could be titled Temple Lot and East Local News, because so much of our worship, prayer services, and activities have been enjoyed together.

In June, we joined forces with the East Local for our annual weak-long Church School. Five classes divided 78 students, whose theme for the week was "I can do all things through christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. Class teachers were Darl and Heidi Temple, Debbie Vogel, Manon Lawrence, Linda Affholder, and Janice Welch. Craft instructors were Denise Rudd, Jean Chapman, Grace Rudd, and Bonnie E. Case, plus a host of helpers I can't begin to list. A Chief Helper was Virgil Rudd, who did all the preliminary work on wood crafts that turned out as professional as those in any craft shop. Becky Rudd led the music each day and coordinated the musical part of the Sunday evening program at the end of the week. Grace Rudd and Linda Affholder played the piano for her. Manon Lawrence is the Church School leader, assisted by Becky Sheldon and Michelle Fisher. Michelle was in charge of refreshments - which meant getting ready for 78 "cookie monsters" every day!

On the second day of the Church School, many of the people went to Cowgil for the funeral service for Mary Lois Bryant. People, who might otherwise not have been involved in the school, came forward to help, so these folks could go to the funeral. We can't say thank you enough. We thank the Lord there were no accidents and there was no rain. The Sunday evening program was ended with certificates being given to each student by Rick Olson and Dan Lawrence, Sunday School Superintendents from both locals.

In July, the Temple Lot United Workers sponsored a Family Night Picnic at Jacomo Lake, with East Local friends sharing the evening with us. In

spite of vacation, we had a large turnout, homemade ice cream, volley ball, and visiting, for a very pleasant evening.

We continue to share Wednesday Prayer Services and Sunday Evening Preaching Services as guests of the East Local. As we begin to see our "refugee period" coming to an end, and the time approaching (however slowly) when we can once again meet on the Temple Lot, we hope we can plan ways to continue to meet together. We are very grateful for the support and love we have received during this time. We have certainly learned how thankful we should all be if we have a church to meet in.

Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary to Marvin and Edith Case, who celebrated by spending the month of July in Hawaii with their children, Scott and Marie Hale, and grandchildren.

Temple Lot Local Reporter  
Joyce Harris

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### Houston News

May is the Houston congregation's big month for visitors. Ireatess and Margaret Keeney's little granddaughter, Megan, was with them one Sunday. Tony and Louise Grzincic were here on the third Sunday, and Tony was the preacher that day. At the end of the month, we held our usual Rally. About half of our crowd were visitors that day.

The speakers at the Rally were Jack Martin, Smith Brickhouse, and Warren Johnson. Jack asked, "Are we believers?" Buzz followed it up by advising that we should be actively looking for and pursuing opportunities to do good. Warren rounded it off with the promise from Corinthians, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, . . . the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

June and July have been eventful months. The first of June a family in trouble stopped by our little church by the wayside, and we were able to help them on their way to their home in Bran-son. Dorothy Wilson was visited by her brother and his wife, and a great niece and her family. Then Dorothy went to visit her sister, who is ill, in Wisconsin. Arden Ely moved to Colorado. Amber Engle visited relatives in the area. Glenn Gill and his son were here, and Glenn preached about "what is the Church?" Mike and Johna Kozemczak plan to move back. Johna is already in residence, while Mike is still looking for

work in this area and continuing his job in St. Louis. Fact is, we began to think John Jones was going to have to rent an extra pew, because the old one was nearly full of family already.

On June 6th, J. E. and Dee Smith welcomed a pretty little granddaughter into the world. Kaleena Nichole's parents, Jamie and Karla Smith, live in Springfield, but we claim them here. Sturdy little Jacob Douglas Keeney arrived July 22nd. He is the son of Doug and Vicki Keeney and the grandson of Ireatess and Margaret. His parents live in Springfield too, but we claim them here as well.

Some members of the congregation helped provide a picnic for the local Crisis Center children on the first Saturday in July. Leslie and Irene Case and Caroline Hedrick were down from Independence in July. Leslie's sermon had to do with the "Hope That Is within Us.

One Sunday, it seemed like it happened all of a sudden, there were very few at church. A verse from "An Evening Prayer" came to mind, "If I have longed for shelter in the fold, when thou has given me some fort to hold. . . ." and we wondered if the rest of the group was out somewhere holding a fort or two. We think we know a lot about each other. Then, sometime later, we learn of a trouble, and that somebody's family fort was under siege. Let's ask the Lord for strength for all those who hold the little forts.

Ella Engle, Reporter

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### Mogollon Local Report

I am writing from Lebanon, Ohio, but I was able to attend services in Payson two times before I left. It has been a while since I reported so please forgive things I've forgotten.

Don McIndoo, Bill & Karin Malone, Margaret & her children came & worshipped with us. Betty Brown was elected secretary and said she would try to do as good a job as Kathy Molloy. The children and I miss being at church and look forward to going home.

By coming to Missouri, we have had some wonderful blessings. We got to see our ex-local companions the Vogel's who are getting settled in and doing fine. We got to stay with Randy and Becky and got to know them better, we feel very close now. They had a picnic for us

which was so nice to meet Clete and Nancy, Daryl & Ron, Neva and to see Rennie and all the kids.

We also heard many wonderful testimonies at prayer service Wednesday night. We got to meet and visit with people afterwards over cookies and other goodies. We got to see sights in Zion. Thank You all for making our visit so enjoyable and memorable.

After we got to Lebanon, who should be in Ohio but Hube and Jim Yates. We got to go to Circleville, Ohio, for the Baptism of our new sister Donna Cook. She lives an hour and a half from here so her and I will meet together as often as we can. She has two boys Matt and Chad. Pray for our sister Donna as she is isolated. Then Hube and Jim came here for three days and we got to talk much concerning the scriptures. My husband Jerry said he wanted to be baptized so we found a lake for him. The children and others have prayed for this day a long time. Pray for his continual enlightenment.

My son has learned there is poison Ivy around here! It is pretty here and as always there's people who need to hear the true gospel. The gospel is the good news we need to share. May God give us renewed courage and confidence.

Brothers, Sisters and children, we must hold on through manifold temptations. I pray for Jesus' Church because I love Him and you. May our merciful God lift up our feeble hands.

Reporter, Sister Kathy Cloyd

### Evolutionists Disillusioned

If the theory of evolution is true, why are there no transitional forms, either in the fossil record or among the living? — H.E.S.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES**

The 1992 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 3 and 4. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1992 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19 through 21, at Independence, Missouri.

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NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs.  
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