

Zion's Advocate

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

I Nephi 3:187

Volume 69

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Number 1

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*Awake! ye saints of God, awake!
Call on the Lord in mighty prayer,
That he will Zion's bondage break,
And bring to naught the fowler's snare.*

*He will regard his people's cry -
The widow's tear - the orphan's moan;
The blood of those that slaughtered lie,
Pleads not in vain before his throne.*

*Then let your souls be stayed on God;
A glorious scene is drawing nigh;
Though tempests gather like a flood,
The storm, though fierce, will soon pass by.*

*Awake to union and be one,
Or, saith the Lord, "Ye are not mine;"
Yea, like the Father and the Son,
Let all the saints in union join.*

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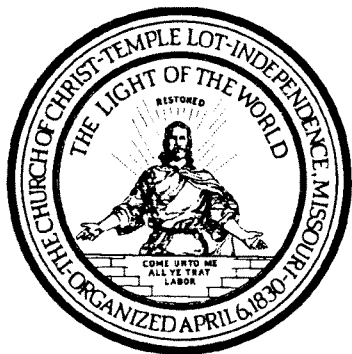
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EAST: William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Mo 64050. General Church Representative in the office, and in charge of all Atlantic coast states and Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Vermont and the European field.

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GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle William A. Sheldon

1011 S. Cottage

Independence, Missouri 64050

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Elder Leslie P. Case

8312 Lee's Summit Rd.

Kansas City, Missouri 64139

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris

P. O. Box 472

Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham

5709 Logan Rd.

Kansas City, Missouri 64136

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gary A. Housknecht

11308 E. 78th Street

Raytown, Missouri 64138

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Priest Michael McGhee

18907 E. 6th Street

Independence, Missouri 64056

David Rudd

413 Springwood Dr.

Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

FEATURE EDITOR - "PATH LIGHTS"

Melissa McGhee

2533 Glen Lane

Independence, Missouri 64052

FEATURE/CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - "APOCALYPSE NOW"

Harvey E. Seibel

9800 E. 32nd Street

Independence, Mo 64052

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.

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

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.

Word Processors/Computers: If you use a word processor, please use "letter quality" or "near letter quality" print. We can utilize text files on a computer floppy disk of any size or format, if it is IBM® compatible.

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Editorial ...

Quality People

A speech I recently wrote for a fellow national officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, concluded with a paragraph about "Quality People." The emphasis was on the fact that over the 92 years of VFW existence, it was the quality of various people at all levels that has given the VFW its standing of high respect in our nations capital and has allowed the accomplishment of the countless worthy goals over the years.

As I penned those words, my thoughts turned to the Church of Christ and the people to whom He has entrusted its care. I realized, not surprisingly, that a similar case can be made for the Church of Christ.

Such diverse personalities and backgrounds! What is that intangible factor common among those God draws to His fold or calls to His Priesthood? From the devout Mother and housewife; to the dedicated Sunday School teacher; to the local church handyman showing much pride in caring for the Lord's house; to the steadfast and concerned local Pastor; to our sacrificing missionaries and Apostles; to the frugal caretaker of our temporal affairs; and to each valuable member who attends Church regularly, votes on local and

general Church business matters, and attends Church-sponsored activities whenever possible; each has that special "quality" that sets them apart from the world ... that holds the Church together.

What is "quality?" I hate to answer a question with another question, but rhetorically speaking, "who Knows?" Quality is largely a relative term. That is, each person has a different idea what "quality" in another might be. It can be something different in each person. One thing I

Christ;" perhaps, still, that love transcends humanity into a *love for truth without compromise*.. In any case, there is "something."

Yes, there is a true divine "quality" in that person sitting next to you at Church or across the aisle on the "other side" - something you may not recognize or that may be hidden from an initial examination; something special that you and they have in common. It is this quality that sets the Church apart: that has kept us afloat in spite of ourselves; that has

Elder Gary A. Housknecht

do know is that I have discerned, in addition to admirable traits of mind and physical abilities as the world knows them, a *divine* quality in our people — even if I can't tell you why. Some may be a little short tempered, some take offense too easily, others may differ widely in their opinions from mine, another may seem to me to be too impatient with kids ... I could go on ... but the truth is that there is something about our members that is special to God. I love them each. Perhaps that special quality is a form of the "pure love of

allowed us to reject the doctrines of man to which some of our Restoration cousins have fallen victim - all while looking a little backward, old fashioned, and "smallish."

A new year has once again arrived. Let us resolve to **fully** concede to the notion that God is no respecter of persons; that, in spite of our differences, each brother and sister is special to God and necessary to the latter-day work that is ours to accomplish.

"Quality People" — let's keep them!

Missouri Reunion Notice

The dates of the 1992 Missouri Reunion are August 14 through 16.
It is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Temple Lot Church in Independence.
Final plans will be announced later.

Evolutionists Dissilusioned

L. Harrison Matthews, FRS, *admits*, in his introductions to Darwin's *The Origin of the Species* (1971) that Biology is in the peculiar position of being a science founded on an unproved theory. He then asks the question: Is it, then, a science or a faith? He quickly answers by saying that the theory of evolution is thus exactly parallel to belief in special creation. — h.e.s.

In Remembrance of Jesus Christ

And the labor which they had to perform was to look! and because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many which perished." (1 Nephi 5:135)

Humankind is somewhat the same in all periods of time. While Moses was leading the Israelites through the wilderness, the people began to complain against Moses and the Lord. The Lord sent fiery serpents among them which bit many people and they died. The survivors began to repent and they asked Moses to pray to the Lord that he might take away the serpents. Moses

were two extremes of wrong: Those who would stiffen their necks and not look, and those who would do more than simply look; they would fall down and worship the material thing rather than what it represented.

What did the brazen serpent represent? Jesus himself gives us this message: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:14,15)

Nephi, the son of Helaman, also spoke of Moses and the brazen serpent: "Yea, did he not bear record, that the Son of God should come?"

ened that they would not look; therefore they perished. Now the reason that they would not look, is because they did not believe that it would heal them." Alma 16:190-194

Alma has stated plainly that the brazen serpent which was raised up in the wilderness was indeed a type of Christ. Did this act make the brazen serpent forever holy, to be looked upon and worshipped for many generations? Apparently some thought so because it became necessary for King Hezekiah to destroy it to prevent the desecration of its original purpose. Consequently, we do not have such a type of Christ today to look upon and be healed. Or do we?

Jesus has given to us a holy ordinance to be performed in his church on a regular basis. The purpose of this ordinance is to cause us to look upon him in faith even as the Israelites were to look upon him in faith. And here again we are to use a type, or rather emblems, to remind us of the death and triumphal resurrection of Jesus Christ which was accomplished for us. These emblems are bread and wine which represent the flesh and blood of Christ.

When Jesus visited the Nephites after his resurrection, he instructed his disciples to break bread, bless it and give to the people to eat. And he said, "... this shall ye do in remembrance of my body, which I have shown unto you." 3 Nephi 8:34 Likewise he instructed his disciples to bless the wine and give unto the multitude to drink. He said, "And this shall ye always do unto those who repent and are baptized in my name; and ye shall do it in remembrance of my blood, which I have shed for you, that ye may witness unto the Father that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you." 3 Nephi 8:40,41

Apostle Roland L. Sarratt

did so and the Lord commanded Moses to make a fiery serpent of brass and set it upon a pole that when the people were bitten they might look upon the brazen serpent and be healed. (Read Numbers 21:5-9) Yet some would harden their hearts against God and would perish. (Read 1 Nephi 5:134-136)

We might think that the only lesson involved in this incident is the exercising of faith to look, but as we check Bible history we find that several generations later the brazen serpent came to an unexpected end. The people of the nation of Judah had fallen into the practice of worshipping images, among which was the brazen serpent that Moses had made in the wilderness. They were burning incense to it. The good king Hezekiah broke the images and cut down the groves to stop the heathen practice of worshipping idols. And, yes, he broke to pieces the brazen serpent. (See 2 Kings 18:4)

Typical of the ways of man, there

And as he lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, even so shall he be lifted up which should come. And as many as should look upon that serpent should live, even so as many as should look upon the Son of God, with faith, having a contrite spirit, might live, even unto that life which is eternal." Helaman 3:47-48

Yes, we can say that the brazen serpent represented Jesus Christ as he was crucified on the cross for our sins. If you feel the least bit uncertain about this, then read the words that Alma the prophet spoke to the Zoramites: "But behold, this is not all; these are not the only ones which have spoken concerning the Son of God. Behold, he was spoken of by Moses; yea, and behold, a type was raised up in the wilderness, that whosoever would look upon it might live. And many did look and live.

"But few understood the meaning of those things, and this because of the hardness of their hearts. But there were many which were so hard-

The Jews seldom understood the types of Christ. They particularly stumbled over his statements concerning the eating of his flesh and the drinking of his blood: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

"The Jews, therefore, strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed and my blood is drink indeed." John 6:51-55

It appears that Jesus spoke those words that the unbelieving Jews might stumble, but to his disciples he demonstrated what he meant by eating his flesh and drinking his blood:

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26: 26-28

Though this may seem but a simple act in partaking of bread and wine in remembrance of the body and blood of our Savior, it was established by Jesus Christ himself by way of commandment as a holy ordinance of his church. The purpose of this act is to bring us closer to the Lord by remembering the great sacrifice that he made for us. By partaking of the emblems we are reminded of how much we are dependent upon him which causes us to be more humble and submissive as well as obedient to his will. Although partaking of the bread and wine is a physical act, much like our baptisms, it demon-

strates our will to obey the commandments of God. The bread and wine are nothing by themselves, but what they represent is all important to the well-being of our souls.

Going back to the brazen serpent for a moment, let us consider the fact that it was, as stated by Alma, a type of Christ (Alma 16:191). It may seem strange that a serpent was used as a type of Christ inasmuch as the devil had used the serpent to deceive Adam and Eve, it being more subtle than any other creature (Genesis 3:1). But here again, the Lord, according to His own wisdom and ways, used that which might cause those who would reason in their minds and trust in their own judgment to stumble, while those who would exercise simple faith would be saved.

Is there a lesson here for us? I believe there is.

There have been some questions raised in the Church of Christ over the years as to the bread and wine to be used for the sacrament, whether the bread should be leavened or unleavened, and whether the wine should be fermented or unfermented. However, the real question is: "Of what importance is all this to the Lord?"

He gave us, verbatim, the words that we are to use in blessing the bread and the wine, which indicates that he did not want us to use our own words which might lead to long or inappropriate prayers. So we can be assured that what is said in the prayers are important to him. If there was some special merit in the kind of bread and wine to be used it would seem that the Lord would have been

more specific in His instructions in that matter as well. Rather, it appears that He wants us to look to Him and to think of the emblems as being His flesh and blood only, and not be concerned so much about the material things.

The brazen serpent had no power of itself, being a mere image, but he whom it represented had power to heal. The same is true of the bread and wine, as they have no power except they be blessed in faith and partaken of in faith, the object of the faith being centered in the merits of Him whose body was broken and whose blood was spilled.

All scriptures on the subject of the sacrament are consistent in that the emphases are not upon the bread and wine as such, but upon what



they represent. This is especially true in chapters four and five in the Book of Moroni where the instructions for the elders and priests are given in administering the flesh and blood of Christ to the church. I recommend that you turn to those chapters and read and ponder them. Place importance upon those things that are emphasized in the prayers such as eat in remembrance, drink in remembrance, witness unto God, always remember him and keep his commandments. And then, if you will, tell the Lord that the things that are most important to Him are most important to you.

ZA

Christ Is the Cure

I feel, that in these last days, we are plagued by many sicknesses, spiritual and physical. I would like to expose two types of viruses, that I have nicknamed, but first to explain, I will give the dictionary definition of "virus": An Organism causing disease; or A corrupting influence.

I believe, that there are two major viruses that are causing quite a bit of spiritual sickness in the world today. The first of the two is called: NO-RELIGION-ITUS. No-religion-itus

will be very easy for the adversary to win these souls.

3. Any-religion-itus victims — These are they who say things like; "what difference does it make which church you go to?" or "this one is closer I'll go here" or the one that is about the worst "attend the church of your choice."

Number three, ANY-RELIGION-ITUS virus, is the second virus I wish to expose. It is founded not only by Satan as was the other virus but also there are others also behind this theory, And the answer is MAN

Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and this is the gospel which I have given unto you, that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me; 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, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil; And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father, I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works.

Priest Aaron L. Heath

is: the theory and or idea, that you don't have to attend, belong, associate or be involved, with any religious organization. These people, do not want anything to do with Church or religion. This theory or idea, is a little different than Atheists, who don't believe God exists. No-religion-itus victims more than likely do believe there is a God, but don't want, for various reasons, to be a part of the religious world. They don't want to be bothered, they are happy to exist in this material world, with no thought of what happens after this life. Who is behind this virus? Of course, we all know the answer, it's Satan, the adversary.

Another question arises, and that is, "who does Satan love most?" Probably the top three on his list are:

1. Atheists — Those who have no belief in God or His existence. Of course these have to be number one, because Satan doesn't have to do one single thing, he has sealed them his.

2. No-religion-itus victims — Those that don't want any organized part of the Masters' Plan. By not affiliating with some sort of religion, it

or MANKIND. Because the Lord gave us the freedom to choose good or evil, mankind has decided to take full advantage of this choice.

"Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." Eccl.7:29.

SOMEBODY FIGURED IT OUT, THAT WE HAVE 35MILLION LAWS TO ENFORCE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

I'll bet, that each of us right now, could name about 15 different Churches. The people of the world must stop fooling themselves about religion and God. God is not changeable. He does not change from one person to another, He does not have different methods or paths for each of us to walk in.

"For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever; and in him there is no variability neither shadow of changing." Mn.4:68.

"And behold I say unto you, He changeth not; if so, he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles." Mn.4:82.

And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold quietness before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world. And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence they can no more return, because of the justice of the Father: and this is the word which he hath given unto the children of men.

And for this cause he fulfilleth the words which he hath given, and he lieth not, but fulfilleth all his words; and no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom; Therefore nothing entereth into his rest, save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end. Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the

reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day. Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do; For that which ye have seen me do, even that shall ye do; therefore if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

— III Ne.12:25-35.

We cannot continue on divergent paths and expect to reap the same rewards.

“And it came to pass that when Jesus had ended these sayings, he saith unto his disciples, Enter ye in at the strait gate; for strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it, but wide is the gate, and broad the way which leads to death, and many there be that travel therein, until the night cometh, wherein no man can work.” III Ne.13:11 (underlined by A.L.H.).

Obstacles are put in our way, when we take our minds off the goal. We must have our eyes set on the goal and not waver. These vires that

I've been talking about, are obstacles that need to be overcome. We must continue in that narrow way, so as to attain our goal, which is eternal life.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” Matt.7:15.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. — Matt.7:21-23.

And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the

faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. — Col.2:4-8.

Do not despair my brethren, there is an answer, and there is a cure. The cure for not only these vires, but all such sicknesses or obstacles, is CHRIST.

“And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they which shall inherit the kingdom of God.” III Ne.5:34.

Let us turn from these winds of doctrine and seek our heavenly father.

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Rev.22:14.

If we follow the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be rewarded, not only in his life, but in the life to come. Do not let these vires get you down, consult the great physician who is Jesus Christ.

Discern ... Discernment

by Apostle Don W. Housknecht

Comment: Discerning of spirits is one of the gifts of God! Mentioned by Apostle Paul in I Cor. 12:10.

It consists of discerning among those who say they are inspired of God, whether they are animated or inspired by a good or evil spirit, whether they are true or false prophets. This gift was, and is, of very great importance, both in the old testament, wherein it is found that false prophets and seducers deceived the people. And also in the “new”, in the primitive ages of the church when supernatural gifts were common; when the messenger of satan was sometimes transformed into an angel of light, and false apostles, under outward appearance of sheep, concealed the sentiments of ravening wolves. Wherefore the evangelist cautioned believers, saying: Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God. I John 4:1. (See also Deut. 18:20-22) The marks which are given by God to distinguish true from false prophets.

Kings of old knew the worth of discernment, to discern

between good and bad. (I Kings 3:9-11) They were taught to discern between righteous and unrighteous, and clean and unclean. In Matthew 16:1-4 and Luke 12:56 Christ rebuked the Pharisees. (Could discern signs in the sky but not the signs of the times.) I Cor. 2:11-14: “Because they are spiritually discerned.”

Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is the discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Book of Mormon: Alma 16:156-164, Page 424.

A rooted seed is cited as an example — faith to plant it, faith to nourish it that it might produce food.

So it is with all God's gifts—faith to expect the gift to grow and mature.

Use the gift—depend on it, nourish it, or else it will die and you will languish into a spirit of lethargy and complacency, and you will be heard to say, “I can remember when”

Children of God Have Charity

(The Parable of the Bike Ride)

Condensed from a September 15, 1991, sermon.

The MS 150, is a 150-mile, benefit ride for Multiple Sclerosis. 4,000 cyclists participated.

Last weekend, Tommy Wiley and I rode our bicycles 156 miles. Quite a challenge! I bring this as a tool to help talk about things in our own lives.

Psalm 57:

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities

nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: Let thy glory be above all the earth.

I know of many hard times each of us have come through. I wonder if there are any that have not. We've had hard times, when we felt we would fail. Am I telling the truth?

I have started reading a book that talks about modern times: how busy we are, how overwhelming everything is, how we just don't feel equal

cated. The doctor said, "Well, I see you are making progress with your feelings of inferiority, but I must say, it's the slowest progress I've ever seen." We have to watch what we say. As children of God, we need to understand the real depth of our responsibility for the words we offer, being careful not to hurt one another, when we most need encouragement. Where is our heart "fixed?"

Moroni 7: 46 - 53:

How is it ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope? And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you, that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal: and this because of your faith in him according to the promise; wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope; for without faith there can not be any hope.

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; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.

And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved

Elder Gerry Case

be over past. I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. He shall send from heaven, and save from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. ("Selah" is like a refrain in the Psalm music. g.c.)

My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the

to the task - no matter how we try. It says you're beginning to make progress, if you realize you are not equal to the task. We need to rely on the Lord. In times of trial your heart must be "fixed." You need to know what your focus is. What is the center of your desire? What goal fills your heart? The day-to-day things we rely on fail. They give out, one by one.

On the bike ride, we hit a terrible hill. In riding up, the legs finally give out. The lungs give out. The only thing left is desire. It's "heart," that gets you up the last of the hill. Consider your brothers: consider how important "desire," that heart, is. Be careful never to assist in breaking your brother's heart.

Last week, I left my 1st shift, industrial-nursing job at ARMCO, and clocked in at my 2nd shift, nursing job at the hospital, where we work with alcohol and drug rehab and deep depressions. I saw a cartoon over the time clock. A young man on the psychiatrist's couch - the doctor sitting there, looking very edu-

brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth.

Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but 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. Wherefore my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.

We all go different directions. My dad will go to the Telephone Company, solving problems, meeting people. Lots of us will find ourselves with friends. Some face great danger, physically. Many face great danger, spiritually, because we're going out into the world. The thing that doesn't fail is charity. I feel frustration that we don't understand how all encompassing "charity never fails" is. It pertains to everything: how we talk to one another at work, how we drive, how we treat one another, showing this love of God.

When we were pumping our bikes, we chose the trail that made our Saturday ride 100 miles. It was a hard day. We had a head wind. If we stopped peddling, we stopped moving. We had to work the whole way. All along the way people, by the side of the road and other bikers, were saying, "You're lookin' good! Keep goin'!" People at hill tops clapped their hands. "You're really doing good - way to go!"

I'm telling you about a bike ride, but I'm really talking about living a christian life - about all our needs. All of us face these times, when we are looking up at God, and saying, "I

can't go on. I'm about to be destroyed." We need pats on the back. Where does it come from? God has His ways of offering it. But, we are the children of God. It's part of our job, not because we punch a clock - but because of charity.

Charity: a desire for good, that possesses and fills us. Desire that makes you say, "Keep going Donnie. Good job. I really like those Cider Pressing days you do." That's one example, but charity helps everybody. I'm refreshing memories to little things we can do to help each other along. Remember how to treat one another's feelings, to give encouragement.

Corinthians 13: 1-13:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a

child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

It's easy to say we've "put away childish things." We grow up and become adults. As I see the behavior of adults I associate with I think, "Have we put away childish ways?" You know . . . "You hit me." "You hit me first." "You hit me harder." . . . you hear the kids and think, "I'm so glad I grew out of that." But, back at the office, it may not be the same words, but it's the same animal.

In our society, being an "adult" gives us the right to bicker and find fault, because we are adults - and we're "right." Although I talk about being an adult in our society, please don't see "an adult in our society" as some kind of staff to follow. It never is. I emphasize and question: What is the desire that possesses you? What fills you? What is your motivation? Charity, it's the only thing that does not fail.

Bike riders I passed or that passed me, who said, "How're you doin? You look real good," were moderate-range riders, Riders everything looks easy for just zip by. "ON THE LEFT!" Zooom! They're doing good - they don't look tired - they don't sweat!

All of us have times when things are going well, and we feel we're in good standing before the Lord. It's easy to ridicule those that have it harder. Remember this fits us, when things are easy and we seem to be "good."

Paul talked about sins that have overtaken their forefathers and how they fell to many sins. We look and say "they" - look what "they" are doing, see what "they" have fallen into. But Paul, being led of God, being wise, knowing the hearts of men,

said in Cor. 10:12, "He that thinketh that he stand, take heed lest he fall."

Consider Peter, in his time of trial. What fear would fall upon a man, who must answer a question that might immediately cost him his life? "You're a friend of Christ?" Think, "How could I answer that?" The way Peter answered hurt him. He felt ashamed. I fear we even read that and say, "Look what he did. I never would have done that." We need to know we will all "have our day." We will all have our time of trial, our time to declare Christ. Maybe, to deny him. Yes, maybe, just by behavior. Can we face up? Can we remain, in those times, a child of Christ? As in the Psalm, is our heart "fixed?"

Colossians 3: 1 - 14:

... seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God commeth on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies,

kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Fear does something to judgement. Fear has a way of rearranging priorities. Fear can be very misleading. It can help us do the wrong things. Here is a similar list of things. Anger can be misleading, can cause you to do the wrong things, can cloud your judgement.

Galatians 6: 1: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

This is a trial before us. What are the temptations? I gave one example of the biker it's easy for. He thinks, "What's wrong with you guys?" He rides along - has no problems. "You're just Whimps. Your out-of-shape. Straighten up."

Nothing in the Bible and Book of Mormon was written by accident. This was written, because this very thing will face us. Our responsibility, as children of God, is to face it.

I heard a woman say, "If a brother has drifted away, somebody should go talk to him, but nobody should go talk to him, unless they really, truly, wholly love him."

Unless you are possessed of charity, the pure love of God, then, as in I John, "you can't say you love God, but hate your brother." It says "you are a liar." Someone, with these things to consider, should be on their knees, knowing the temptation, praying for help, begging for charity. God bestowed charity on "all who were true followers." All. You might say, "That's a rash statement." No. It's the truth.

Moroni 7: 53: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that

ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen."

Galatians 6: 1 - 7:

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

I've heard, since childhood, a reference of war - like doing battle - in relation to being a Christian. Historically, it's not far fetched. In the name of Christianity, many have been slaughtered. But, I want to talk about the "Armour of God," as in Ephesians 6. When we think of putting on armour, it's natural to think in relation to the arm of flesh: being stronger and bigger. "You yell the loudest! That makes you right." What is the armour of God: how is it displayed?

Ephesians 6: 10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against

powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness, in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, . . ."

Truth. We talk about these things. Let them all stand by themselves, just as what they are.

...having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

That means you must be obedient. Not self-righteous. It says "breastplate of righteousness." Don't misunderstand. You are beginning to make progress, when you realize you're not up to it. When you realize, with the trials set before you, that you need God. You need his strength. It is Him that helps you stand. It's not you. It's not your strength. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord."

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Once, I went to talk to a brother, who was having trouble. I had listened to many, very-good, dear-old teachers, who have gone before me, and I remembered a story my grandfather told me, about my great grandfather. As a young minister, he was asked to "do labor" with a man, "a brother overtaken in a fault." As he went to this man, he met great oppo-

sition. He was offended, hurt, angry. They didn't get anywhere. My great grandfather dismissed himself to the rest room, got down on his knees, and prayed. He needed God's strength. He needed God's wisdom. He was told he was called into the Lord's ministry "to save His sheep, not to slay his lambs."

Galatians 6: "Restore such an one, in the spirit of meekness." Don't go to someone, tell them what to do and, if they disagree, say, "I've met my obligation. That's all I have to do." "**Restore** such a one in the spirit of meekness."

I took this scripture with me in my heart. I thought about how would I prepare? It says, "And your feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace." I wasn't going to war.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

You must be able to believe absolutely, to say, "I do feel weak. I don't feel up to this. But, I know God is. I'll go with him.

I offer you something that will not fail. We are all going back into the field. Terry, Rodger, and Jim are policemen. I'm a nurse. Aunt Caroline is in insurance. We have many things to face. Charity never fails. That's the way to be God's child - with that bond of perfectness - charity. Do put on the whole armour of God. Always remember it's

God's power, God's direction, God's wisdom.

Sometimes, we look at the "Golden Rule" backwards. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We say, "If I did this, would I like it if he did it to me? Maybe I won't do that." Let's look at it in a positive way. What would I need, if I were undergoing the trial my brother is going under? Is there a way I can help? What would I need? Be there, as God's children, with pats on the back or with encouraging words.

We began as children. We had a lot of growing to do. We've gone through hard times. We've hurt. We've done wrong. Be absolutely obedient. Be hard on yourself. Demand perfection. But. . . I'm not giving you the right to demand perfection of everybody else. Your perfection is to help them through it. It's not to slay them. It's to help them do better. Help them!

Pray for me. My family is getting bigger all the time. I feel my responsibility greatly, as an example, as a father, as a husband. I'm working on it. I will pray for all of you that, as the children of God, you might continue in the straight and narrow path, you would not fail, and you would be filled with charity. Pray for charity always.

ZA

The Saints' Hymnal (1895) #9

Great God! attend, while Zion sings
The joy that from thy presence springs;
To spend one day with thee on earth,
Exceeds a thousand days of mirth.

God is our sun; he makes our day -
God is our shield; he guards our way,
From all the' assaults of hell and sin,
From foes without and fears with-in.

All needful grace will God bestow,
And crown that grace with glory too;
He gives us all things, and with-holds,
No real good from up-right souls.

O God, our King, - whose sovereign sway
The glorious host of heaven o-bey,
And devils at thy presence flee; -
Blest is the man that trusts in thee.

With the Flame of Devouring Fire

by Harvey E. Seibel

Another year has passed and with it all the attendant evils which are steadily increasing around us. We have entered the final decade of the century and still the gospel of the kingdom has not been carried to every nation, kindred, tongue and people nor has Zion been redeemed. The power of the heathen (mentioned in Joel 2 and Ezekiel 30) is upon us as is clearly evident by the New Age Movement and its attendant humanism, and the overwhelming wickedness in every area that is sweeping our world.

More importantly for us is the work of the gospel which has become more imperative than ever before for the reason that time is now very short. According to the writings of the early Church fathers, the immediate successors to the Apostles, they understood and clearly stated that Christ would not return until the 6000 years were finished. That time will expire within the next 12 to 15 years. Yet we know that except those days be shortened no flesh will be saved, but for the elect sake those days will be shortened.

The signs of the end are now speaking to us in thunders:

(1) Jerusalem is no longer trodden down of the Gentiles. And says the scripture, and man standing in that day when this became true will also live to see all things fulfilled. (See Luke 21:24-32).

(2) As it was in the days of Lot so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. This sign has been fulfilled in the last 10 to 15 years on a scale unprecedented in the history of man. (See Luke 17:28-30).

(3) The love of many shall wax cold. Today the instinct to love and nourish up little children has suf-

fered a tremendous lapse. Paralleling this is a vastly increased immorality for the sake of selfish gratification. The desire not to accept responsibility nor the consequences of such a lifestyle is reflected in the tremendous worldwide abortion rate which is given at 60 million yearly or 166,000 daily according to the Kansas City Star. In the U.S. alone more babies have been killed since 1973 than the total population of Canada. (For scriptural references see Matthew 24:12, 2 Timothy 3:1-4, & 13).

(4) The scriptures warn of false Christs, instructing us not to believe such reports that he is in the desert or in the secret chamber. But today Christ is openly declared to be here now, that fact having been announced to the whole world in banner headlines in the USA Today newspaper. (See Matthew 24:23-27).

(5) The time of the end was also to be marked by other signs for many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings. (See Daniel 12:4 and Nahum 2:3-4).

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust. 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, that by the work of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

In the time of the end all nations, both Jew and Gentile were to be

drunken in iniquity. This is certainly true today more than ever before, even to exceed that which we have ever known. “But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who 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 with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire ...” (2 Nephi 11:116-117).

We are fast approaching that time and even now it is upon us. The whole world is fast ripening in iniquity and yes it will increase even further for a time.

And so what is now at our doorstep? The fulfillment of every remaining prophecy. Former generations have looked forward to the redemption of Zion and the Lord's return but did not live to see their fulfillment. But now the warnings which wait vindication are soon to burst upon us. We have now been brought to the line. The words of God will be fulfilled in our day whether we are ready or not. The next decade or so will see fulfilled all the great evils prophesied of concerning our day including the mark of the beast, the Russian invasion, Armageddon, etc. At the same time God's work will commence in earnest. Zion will be redeemed, the servants of God will be sent forth in power, the gospel will be preached to every people, Babylon the great will fall, Israel will be gathered, the saints delivered and Christ return to usher in the wrath of God upon the wicked and to usher in the thousand year reign of peace with His saints.

ZA

Cowgill (Missouri) News

Here at the end of 1991, I would like to go back over the year and think about some of the things that have happened at the Cowgill Local.

One thing uppermost in our minds, of course, was the loss of our beloved sister, Mary Lois Bryant, on June 16th. We miss her presence, just because she was Mary Lois and we all loved her. We also miss her as our Junior Class teacher and our pianist. It helps though to remember how she dedicated her life to Christ and to the God she loved and trusted, and that now she is at peace with God.

We would like to send our thanks and appreciation to those who came and brought food and helped serve lunch the day of her funeral.

We continue to go on, as best we can, though few in number. We look forward to meeting on Sunday mornings and to studying God's Word. We have heard many wonderful sermons from our brothers, who come from other places. We really look forward to these.

A brighter day was August 25th, when Steven Gill was baptized, in the pond at the Cowgill Church of Christ, by Elder Glenn Gill and confirmed by Elder Scott Harris. We pray that God will bless him and his family.

During our Sacrament Service on the 1st of December, we heard a touching testimony from John Bryant, about his little four year old son. Joshua kept telling him that his other grandpa, who had white hair and wore overalls, was sitting up in front with his Grandpa Loren and Uncle Gerald and smiling at him because he was in Church.

A seed has been planted in that little one's mind, that he will never forget. I think they understand more and remember more than we give them credit for sometimes.

Pray for us, we need your prayers, and we pray for you always.

Sister Elizabeth Crist, Reporter

Ravenna (Michigan) News

Since our Annual Business Meeting November 3rd, Sister Lois Heath is *Zion's Advocate* reporter for the Ravenna, Michigan, Local Church of Christ.

Max and Vivian Spencer are traveling to Arizona for reunion and our prayers go with them. Also Brother and Sister Loren Devries are leaving soon for Texas, and our prayers go with them, too. Brother and Sister John Reed, Sister Vida Filley, and Sister Bernice Scott are in need of our continued prayers. Sister Marie Piatt, is back with us after some health problems and being in the Hospital.

Some thoughts from a Sermon from Priest Aaron Heath about Thanksgiving. He remembered his Mom and Dad, saying to return thanks rather than ask the blessing. He liked both. Our regular Thanksgiving dinner was held December 1st, Sacrament Sunday. Brother and Sister Charles Brantner were with us, and he was our speaker. He spoke about God's Promises to us and chose the song "Standing on the Promises." After Sacrament was served and the meeting closed, we went to our lovely dining room for our Thanksgiving dinner. To take care of our physical needs. As Brother Gale said, "our second feast." The Children's class made table decorations for us.

Sister Lois Heath

P.O. Box 92

Ravenna, MI 49451

Temple Lot Local News

The first day in the new Church of Christ Headquarters building was December 1st, 1991. The Temple Lot Local, which will meet there regularly, invited the East Independence Local to join with them. Members from other locals and friends came too.

A baptism service was held at the time we usually have Sunday School. Four people were baptized: Casey Adams, son of Ray and Carole (Moyer) Adams; Terry Affholder, husband of Linda (Case) Affholder; Curt Klotz, husband of Nancy (Case) Klotz; and Paul Case, son of Jim and Bonnie (Gill) Case. The Elders officiating were: Alvin Harris, Glenn Gill, Leslie Case, and Jim Case. Everyone agreed the best possible "first service" was a baptism service.

The Sacrament was served by Elders Alvin Harris, Temple Lot Pastor; Frank Fann, East Local Pastor; Warren Johnson, St. Louis; and Mike McGhee, East Local. During the two years we met at the YMCA, we had to abide by time constraints of other activities scheduled there. We had to close all services promptly at 12:00 Noon. Often, we closed soon after sacrament was served - rarely was there time for personal testimonies. On our first day in our new church, we "let the clock run," enjoying prayers, testimonies, and songs of praise and thanksgiving.

The Children's Choir, conducted by Manon Lawrence, sang "Jesus, King of My Heart." Choir members: Jennie Affholder, Paul Case, Leslie and Stacy Hill, Oliver and Milo Housknecht, Jesse Lawrence, Megan Morgan, Courtney Rudd, David-Andrew and Kate Vogel, David, Meghann, and Seth Welch. We hope they sing in our church for many years! Our children are the ones we built the building for.

That evening Elder Frank Fann gave a sermon of Thanksgiving: a "two-parter." The first part related blessings we had, from the evening before the fire, to this first evening. The second part encouraged us to "Go on!" Go on spreading the gospel, increasing our numbers, having and using charity. Go on working together in the purpose of the church, as we worked together building the church, recognizing that occasion-

ally the challenge is more than we bargained for and nerves and tempers get a little ragged. With God's help and direction, we can overcome weaknesses and go on - together.

There is still lots of work to be done. Alvin told the congregation, "The cake is baked, now we have to put the icing on." The kitchen is just an empty room and it's best to keep the doors closed. Everything imaginable is stored in there! Others my age, or older, will relate to the concept of "Fibber McGhee's Closet." We hope it will be completed by conference. The offices need to be furnished and set up. The landscaping is nearly completed - the little scrubs and trees hold promise for a pretty spring, when we can share this wonderful blessing with everyone who comes to Conference.

We can never say "Thank You!" too many times to everyone who helped us reach this wonderful day. First, our thanks to God, whose will was over all - then to each person, for every idea, for every dollar bill, every swipe of a paint brush, every hug and word of comfort when we lost our dear old building, every encouraging word, and every prayer. Thank you to friends across the country. Thank you to the people of Independence, who gave support through the media, the YMCA, and personal donation. Thank you, especially, to East Independence Local brothers and sisters.

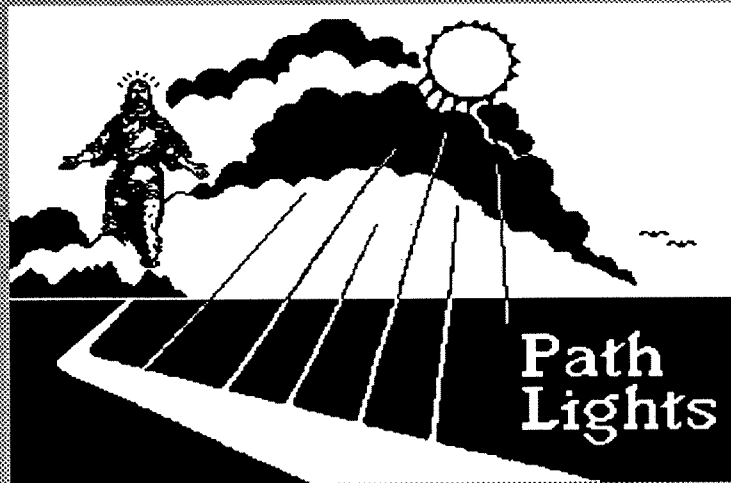
Come see us! We can't wait to make you welcome!

Joyce Harris, Reporter

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!



IT ALL BEGAN late on Saturday night, April 27, 1991, when I realized how ill I was beginning to feel. The next morning we were going to Puryear, TN, so I knew I needed to be in good shape in order to assist Samuel in the long drive. It is a six hour drive from our home. I went to the Lord in prayer that I might have my health restored, and that if it be His will, I would accompany Sam to Puryear.

During the night I received a dream I believe was of the Lord. In the dream, I was at home with my two youngest children while Sam took the others to Puryear with him. Upon awakening Sunday morning, I told my companion that I felt I should stay home and have Betsy help him drive. He didn't care for the idea too much until after I explained the dream I had.

They left at just before 5:00 A.M. and all seemed fine. At about 9:00, just as Beth, Paul and I began our little morning service, the phone rang. When I answered it, it was Samuel and I knew something was terribly wrong. He informed me that he had had an accident and had totaled the van. I immediately went to the Lord in prayer as I asked about

the children. At that time he said they all seemed to be okay and were in the process of being examined in the emergency room.

After assuring me that he was alright, he hung up with the promise to call again as soon as he could. Needless to say, I was in quite a state. The only thing I could do was pray to the Lord to protect them and keep them in His hands. I called several people in Independence so that the strengthening prayers of the saints could be added to my own.

The next problem I had to deal with was how to get to Clarksville, which is about four hours from our home. All I had at my disposal was the 1978 pick-up truck which couldn't carry us all. I decided my only recourse was to rent a van so my family could be as comfortable as possible. At this time, I still wasn't sure how badly the children might be hurt.

Another call from Samuel let me know that although Betsy and Josh were relatively unhurt, Sammy and Tiffany were another story. At the time of the accident, both children were in seat belts, but had loosened them in order to sleep. When Sam lost control as the van began to hydroplane on the wet road, the van

flipped once and wrapped around the guard rail. Sammy and Tiffany were flung from their places in the van. Sammy ended up in the back seat of the van, while Tiffany ended up 150 feet outside the car against the guard rail.

When the van stopped, Samuel went to Tiffany's side instructing Betsy to stay with Sammy and Josh. Tiffany was conscious and crying out to him for help. She was unable to move at all and was terrified that she was paralyzed. Samuel, at our child's request, administered to her and she received a great blessing immediately. She could move her fingers and toes! How wonderful our dear Lord is!

While Samuel was with Tiffany, Betsy came running up to him to suggest he see Sammy right then, for he was in need of administration. Sam went to him and found him bleeding profusely from a huge cut on his head. When Samuel came up to Sammy, our son was in prayer to our Lord. Samuel quickly added his prayer in administration and Sammy's bleeding stopped. It did not begin again until after they got to the hospital emergency triage.

The paramedics finally arrived at the scene and after cutting the van apart to get everyone out, transported everyone to the hospital. Tiffany received many stitches and was covered in cuts and bruises. She was kept at the hospital overnight for observation. Sammy was something else. When the emergency room doctor took a look at him, he requested a surgeon to stitch up his head. He didn't know how they would find one since it was Sunday and most would be on their way to church. Again, the Lord intervened, for when the doctor opened the door to leave the emergency room, there in the doorway was one of the best surgeons the area had to offer. He was requested to look at Sammy and perform the necessary surgery. After talking to Sammy, he said it had to be under a local anesthetic because Sammy had

eaten that morning. As he had never performed that kind of surgery with the patient under only a local, he was somewhat concerned. Seven arteries in all were sutured, requiring fifty stitches and Sammy lost close to two pints of blood. All went well though, and Sammy too was kept for observation.

At home, I was finally able to make arrangements to get a rental van and leave for Clarksville. A dear lady took Beth and Paul to be with her. A good friend assisted me in renting a van and this woman actually went all the way to Clarksville with me so I wouldn't have to be alone. Friends are great, one of the greatest gifts given us by God. My greatest friend with me that Sunday was our Lord, because without His love and support I would never have made it through that day.

Anyway, I made it to my family and how glad I was to be there. You could never imagine the sight they were. But, they were alive and safe, and for that I truly thanked my God. I spent the night there with my children in the hospital room while Samuel stayed with the others in a motel. Let me tell you brothers and sisters, the presence of the Lord was with us all that long uncomfortable night, and I was so thankful!

The next day they were all released from the hospital and sent home. All the hospital personnel were astounded. They said they would not understand how Sammy and Tiffany could be up and around. They couldn't understand how they could be alive! I told them I knew and how grateful I was that we had a God we could depend on and trust to protect us.

Well, we made it home and the children are all pretty much back to normal now. All their stitches are out and bruises have faded. The children are spiritually closer and acutely aware of God's love for them individually. We don't have a family vehicle yet, but we will in the Lord's time. What we do have is an

assurance of God's love for us and full knowledge of his protecting arms. How wonderful is our God!

In closing, I would like to add two things that I believe are very important. First, to the ministry of our church. Please my brothers, don't go ANYWHERE without your consecrated oil. YOU never know when or where you might need it. The one time you don't bring it along may be the one time you will need it the most. The second thing is please wear your seatbelts. Three people in our family were not injured because they wore their seatbelts PROPERLY. The two children who were hurt did not have them on correctly. They could have died, one almost did. If they had been wearing those belts right, chances are they wouldn't have suffered as they did.

Thank you my dear brothers and sisters for prayers, calls and letters. You will never know how grateful we are for such as you.

*Prayerfully submitted,
Your sister in Christ,
Linda A. Gould
Loudon, Tennessee*

We Need Your Testimonies!

Don't think ANY blessing from the Lord is insignificant. Short or long, typed or hand-written, please send them in. There is someone out there who needs to hear your story of the greatness of our God.

Send them to Sister Melissa McGhee at the address listed on the inside front cover.

Thank you!

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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
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*NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

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Send orders for SS Materials to Becky Sheldon, 31607 E. Major Rd, Grain Valley, Mo 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

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Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to Gary Housknecht, 11308 E. 78th St, Raytown, Mo 64138.

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For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., K.C., MO 64136.

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence, Missouri. The phone number and address are listed on the inside front cover.