

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

Volume 70

Independence, Missouri — January 1993

Number 1



My New Year's Aim

Not yet attained, but still my feet are pressing
Toward those heights which lie outstretched before;
That which the past has held of heavenly blessing
Will not suffice; I hunger still for more.
And now as dawns for me one more New Year,
So grant, O Lord, 'twill bring me yet more near.

More near to Thee! Yea, Lord, and ever nearer,
Forgetting all the things now left behind;
My aim is higher ground, with vision clearer
To see Thee close, though steep the path may wind.
Forgive, O Lord, the blindness of the past;
Be still my Guide, I pray, and hold me fast.

One thing I do," my time cannot be squandered
In grieving o'er mistakes of years now gone;
Though in side paths my feet have often wandered,
Yet reach I forward still - Lord, help me on!
And grant this year, in mercy given me,
May lead to untrod heights, close, close to Thee.

Selected

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Zion's Advocate (USPS 6993-0000) is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or 833-3914.

Published monthly by the Church of Christ. Second Class Postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Zion's Advocate, P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes: \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 (one year); All foreign add 50¢.

Send Subscription requests with appropriate fees; Donations to Church funds (Temple & Storehouse); Consecrations; Tithes; and all other Offerings to the **Business Manager** at Church headquarters as listed below.

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To promote Jesus Christ as our only 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 other regular monthly Z.A. features, 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. Please

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Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on an IBM® or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a *big* help to our process.

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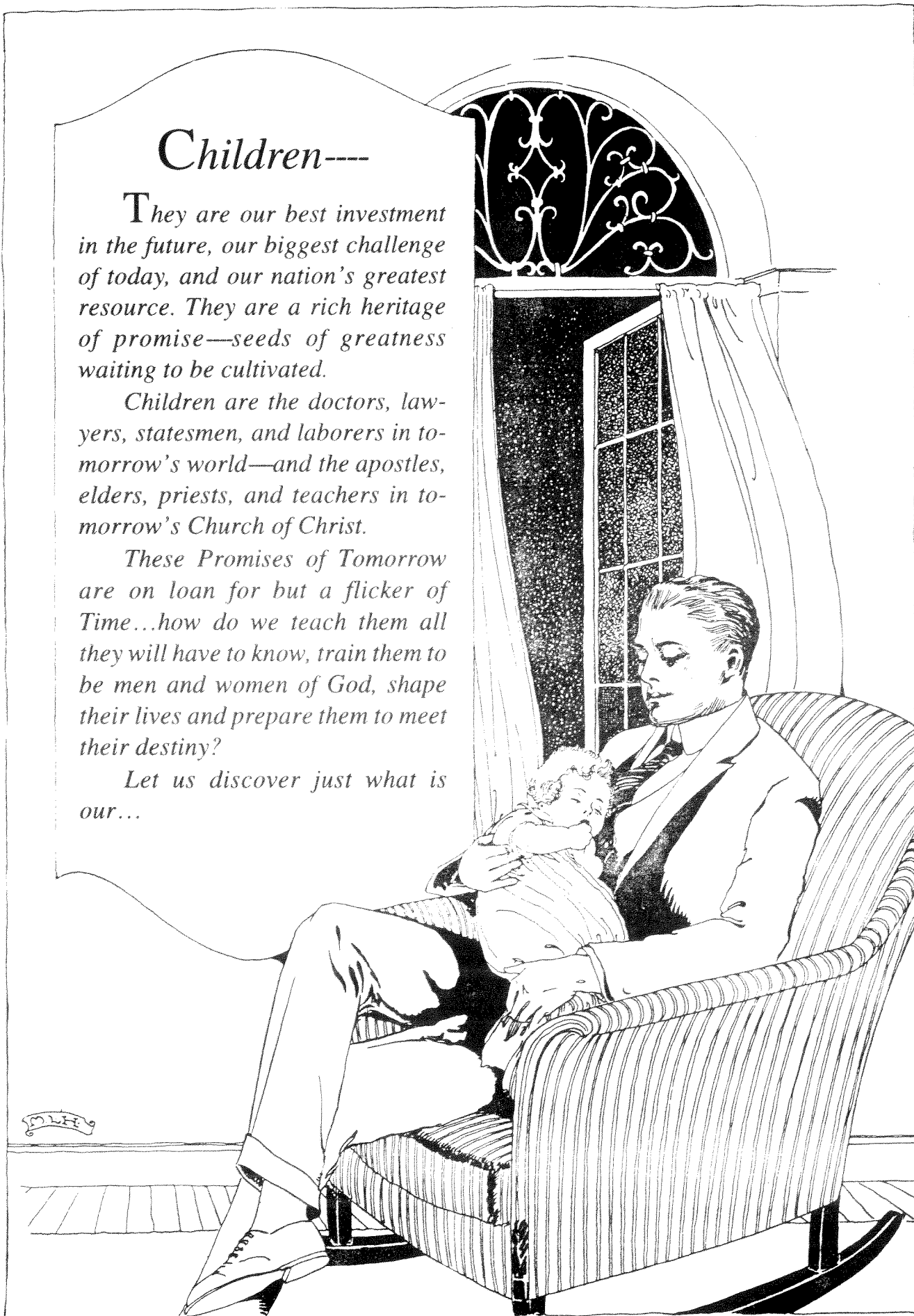
Children---

They are our best investment in the future, our biggest challenge of today, and our nation's greatest resource. They are a rich heritage of promise—seeds of greatness waiting to be cultivated.

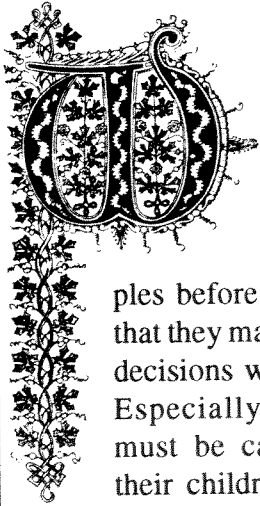
Children are the doctors, lawyers, statesmen, and laborers in tomorrow's world—and the apostles, elders, priests, and teachers in tomorrow's Church of Christ.

These Promises of Tomorrow are on loan for but a flicker of Time...how do we teach them all they will have to know, train them to be men and women of God, shape their lives and prepare them to meet their destiny?

Let us discover just what is our...



Responsibility to Children



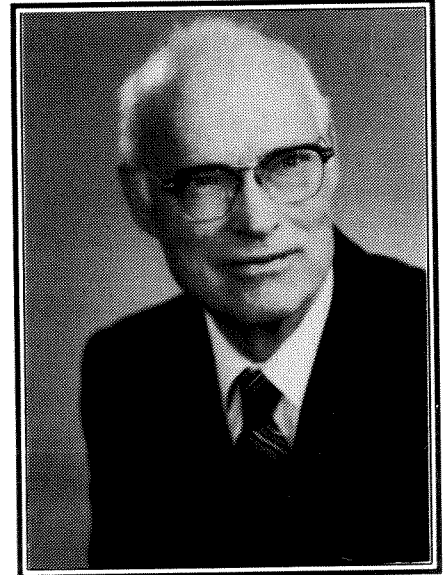
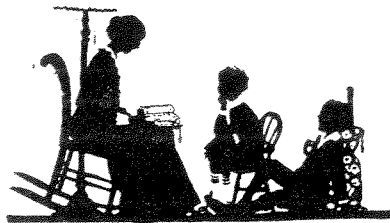
Who are older each have a great responsibility to our children to set goodly examples before them in order that they may make proper decisions with their lives. Especially, the parents must be careful to train their children in the way they should go. In Proverbs 22:6 we can read the following: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." In Ephesians 6:4 we can read: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Much of the book of Proverbs centers upon advice to the sons, which advice applies to the daughters as well. The following advice was given in Proverbs 4:14-18: "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But

the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Further advice was given in Proverbs 4:25-27: "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."

In Lehi's vision, which was also seen by Nephi, we are reminded that this path is a straight and narrow path. There is a rod of iron along this path which leads to the tree of life. This rod of iron represents the word of God, which, if followed, will lead young and old to this tree, which is a representation of the love of God. The fruit of this tree is desirable to make one happy. When Lehi partook of this fruit his soul was filled with exceeding great joy (See 1 Nephi 2:49-52, 62-63, 3:62-69).

Alma gave some sound advice to his son, Helaman, which follows: "O remember my son,



By Apostle Marvin E. Ely

and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day" Alma 17:68-70.

In the second book of Nephi there was a great concern of the people, and especially the ministry, to persuade their children to believe in Christ. "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do" 2 Nephi 11:43-44. "And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins" 2 Nephi 11:48.

The Apostle Paul gave some wise advice to Timothy. "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that

from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

In summation we can readily understand that early training of children in the way they should go is of utmost importance, as well as continued training as they grow older.



Who Said It And Where Is It?

1. 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.
2. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
3. Let all your things be done with charity.
4. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.
5. 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.
6. Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God; Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope; and if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity.

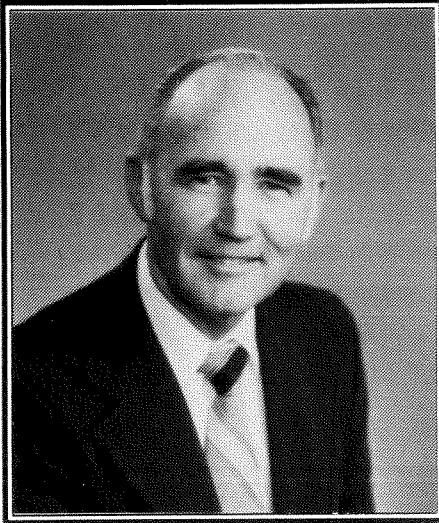
Answers on page 6.

Happy New Year

As the old year ends and the new year starts,
Our prayer is, Lord, that You will fill our hearts.
With You as our Guide, we won't lose our way,
Upon You, our cares and our burdens we lay.
When faced with temptation, help us to stay true,
We're asking for courage to always serve You.
Whatever events the new year may hold,
Let's face them together, just like times of old.
From year unto year, let our lights for You burn,
Till that Happy New Year when we know You'll return.

Selected

Testify to the Truth of the Book



By Apostle Donald McIndoo

The Book of Mormon makes clear the ordinance of baptism was introduced to the people of the New World long before the Christian era. The Lord had revealed to both Lehi and his son, Nephi, the coming of the Messiah and His baptism in the River Jordan. Nephi writes, "...I would that ye would remember that I have spoken unto you, concerning that prophet which the Lord shewed unto me, that should baptize the Lamb of God, which should take away the sin of the world" (2 Nephi 13:6).

During the era when the Book of Mormon story unfolds we read that both the Nephite people and their Indian brethren received baptism. We would expect to find some cultural remembrance of this sacred ordinance among the Indian

people. Several respected scholars clearly state that baptism was not only remembered, but practiced by some of the tribes.

One of the earliest chroniclers of Indian tradition and practices was Bishop Diego de Landa¹ who wrote, "There is no baptism in any part of the Indies except Yucatan, where it is even known by a phrase that means 'to be born anew' or 'once again,' but it is not used except in compound words, thus *caputizihil* means 'to be born anew.' We have been unable to discover the origin (of their baptismal rite), but it is a thing which has always existed among them and which they hold in such veneration that no one failed to receive it."

Warren and Ferguson² tell us of another early historian, Tomas Lopez Model, who wrote a document in 1612 in which he discussed baptism: "There was always practiced among the Yucatecan Indians a certain kind of baptism which although it was not obligatory nor general among all, was held in repute... And when they had already attained to six or seven years, the time when they were to be baptized was discussed with the priest, and the day...appointed."

After contemplating the many Christian practices he had discovered among Indian tribes of South America, Honore³ wrote in this manner: "To sum up: crowns,

thrones, litters, heraldic devices, standards...the Bread of Heaven, baptism, confession...it seems incredible that all these things were discovered or 'invented' by the Indians. So they must have been brought in from the Old World by people who came to American shores very much earlier."

Honore's conclusion is confirmed by the Book of Mormon which identifies those early people whom God led to the shores of America, the 'land of promise.' Their history is available for all to read.

1. Pagden, A.R., *Diego de Landa's Account of the Affairs of Yucatan*, pp. 75 & 76.

2. Warren, Bruce and Ferguson, Thomas, *The Messiah in Ancient America*, p. 18.

3. Honore, Pierre, *In Quest of the White God*, p. 35.

Answers to "Who Said It And Where Is It?" (from page 5):

1. Moroni. Mormon. Moroni 7:52
2. Paul. Colossians 3:14
3. Paul. 1 Corinthians 16:14
4. Paul. 1 Timothy 1:5
5. Paul. 1 Corinthians 13:2
6. Moroni. Moroni 10:15,16

Choice or Option

By Elder Arthur G. Smith

No one lives to himself free of choice that will affect his own life, and possibly the lives of others, from the day he becomes aware of those things which, by trial or error, or by careful training, he learns what is right and acceptable and what is wrong and unacceptable. It is sometimes a painful experience to learn the difference. Even our Lord had to learn things by experience. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;" Hebrews 5:8.

We do have options that we learn is our privilege to exercise within the framework of the choices we are given. These options are choices in themselves that may be good or evil. We are making choices and considering the options every moment. We are responsible for what we do, and what we do depends on what we think, for our thoughts are expressed in actions or words.

Jesus was quick to point this out to the disciples, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man" Matthew 15:18.

It becomes very obvious that to control what we think about has a direct bearing on how we act or express ourselves to others. If we would be a righteous people, ac-

ceptable to our Lord, then we must watch what we think about. As David wrote in the Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

We are all aware of how easy it is to say what is on our mind; too often it is something that would have been better left unsaid. How unruly is the tongue, as James wrote, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" James 3:5-6. How many times have I wished that I had not said the unkind word that hurt someone I loved! It is always so easy to say unkind words that we can never recall, even to accuse one unjustly without cause when we are the one who is in error.

Sin, and the temptation to sin, begins in our minds, or our heart; the desires are prompted by the choices offered by what we see or hear around us each day. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:

for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he

◆ **... What we do depends on what we think, for our thoughts are expressed in actions or words.**

is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren" James 1: 12-16. Sin is the result of conscious choice, it is not a mistake as a rule, unless through ignorance.

We always have the option to change what we are thinking about, and put out of our minds the thoughts that we instinctively know are of an evil nature. We can be the masters of our sinful natures. We do not have the primary control over ourselves, for our thoughts are the source of our communications and actions for which we are held accountable.

A prayer to our heavenly Father would be the most help to escape the temptations around us; a prayer asking for forgiveness for even entertaining wrong thoughts. Again we read, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" James 4:7-8.

The passions of love or hate are subject to our control by choice. We may have options as how we

◆ **Sin, and the temptation to sin, begins in our minds, or our heart...**

might express either passion, but it is never possible to entertain them at the same time. They are in opposition in all purposes to each other and serve for good or evil accordingly.

The love of truth is always right; this rules out the option to lie or deceive for any reason at any time. If we have an evil motive to give untrue testimony we might lie as an option or withhold the truth to deceive others; the options may be many.

The love of God requires us to love our fellow man; thus, we keep the two great commandments that are inseparable. There are innumerable ways to express our love for one another; all are options we can use to good service in every day life, but in each case will do no harm to others. The true meaning of love is "to serve."

Adam and Eve were given the option to eat of the fruit of all the trees in the Garden of Eden except one. The tree of life was forbidden; it was not an option. They made the choice to disobey and sin was the result. They were driven from the garden and the fall of man was the result of their sin.

Abraham was an upright man in the eyes of the Lord. He was given the commandment to be perfect; chosen to be the father of many nations; the one who was promised that through him would come a blessing to all mankind. He was commanded of the Lord to take his only son, Isaac, into the mountains and offer him as a sacrifice. It was not an option whether he should or shouldn't; he had a choice to obey or refuse. He made the choice to obey and was blessed by the Lord. He then knew what the sacrifice of the Son of God was to accomplish in a time yet distant. He believed God.

Moses was called out of the burning bush to go down into Egypt to bring out the people of Israel from bondage. He was reluctant to go but there were no options open to him, only the choice to obey. He fulfilled the mission and was a faithful prophet to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Our Bible would be incomplete and our understanding of God would be diminished without his faithful work.

The gospel of salvation offers no options. It is presented as a "straight gate" and a "narrow way," and only one name is given by whom we may be saved: that name is Christ. There is no other way except through faith in God; repentance from sin; baptism by water; receiving the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands; and keeping the commandments to the end of this life. We are then promised a resurrection and eternal life after the judgement day.

Baptism is required of the believer without options. There is no

option to the manner of baptism: we are to be immersed, buried in water. Paul writes, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of

◆ **We always have the option to change what we are thinking about, and put out of our minds the thoughts that we instinctively know are of an evil nature.**

the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" Colossians 2:12.

Sprinkling is not an option; there are no instructions in the scriptures to sprinkle with water; one must be completely covered as in burial. Sprinkling is a false doctrine of man.

Infant baptism is not an option. It, too, is a false doctrine of man. The book of Moroni, chapter 8, verses 10-17, reads as follows: "And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children. Behold I say unto you, that this thing shall ye teach, repentance and baptism unto they which are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children: and their little children need no repentance, nei-

ther baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins. But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation

◆ **There is no option as to the manner of baptism; we are to be immersed, buried in water.**

of the world; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter of persons; for how many little children have died without baptism. Wherefore, if little children could not be saved without baptism, these must have gone to an endless hell. Behold I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism, is in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity; for he hath neither faith, hope, nor charity; wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to hell. For awful is the wickedness to suppose that God save the one child because of baptism, and the other must perish because he hath no baptism. Wo be unto him that

shall pervert the ways of the Lord after this manner, for they shall perish, except they repent." Mormon continues the presentation in verses 20 to 21, "Little children can not repent; wherefore it is awful wickedness to deny the pure mercies of God unto them, for they are all alive in him because of his mercy. And he that saith that little children need baptism, denieth the mercies of Christ, and setteth at naught the atonement of him and the power of his redemption." To baptize little children is not an option; it is a false doctrine.

There is no option as to who can baptize another. A professing believer cannot baptize another person without priesthood authority. Priesthood has always been an important part of our relationship with God. It is not the option of any individual to be the representative of God before the people, but always the choice of God as to who shall minister to the people. The minister must be called of God by revelation through the Spirit and properly ordained. Paul writes in Hebrews 5:4, "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was

Aaron." It is not difficult to discover how Aaron was called. God told Moses, and Moses then called Aaron, who then was ordained under the hand of Moses to be the

◆ **It is not the option of any individual to be the representative of God before the people, but always the choice of God as to who shall minister to the people.**

High Priest. It was not an option for Aaron or Moses; it was the choice of God.

We have to make the choices whether we shall serve God in truth and in the Spirit, keep all of his commandments, and thus be assured of the salvation of our soul, or reject the love of God and his promises of eternal life. We have no option but a choice. May the Holy Spirit help us make the right choices in our lives here, that we may enjoy eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

"For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors."

Alma 16:228

Hail! 1897, Hail!

Do You Count Yourself a Saint?

1896 is dead! passed to swell that never ending eternity. To many it has brought happiness, to others sorrow and despair. Some have learned more perfectly the way of life and salvation, and others have drifted away from the straight and narrow path. Many have been called to join the silent majority, some prepared, arrayed in their robes of righteousness, others with the stain still on their garments. New souls have been ushered into life and being, who by their actions may change the history of nations—what has the past year done for you? Has its close found you richer in the grace of God? Has it found you with fewer faults, and with more of the milk of human kindness? Has it brought to you the knowledge of fierce battles fought with self, and with pean of triumph to mark the victory?

Does the memory of kind and loving words spoken to the tried and tempted rise before you like perfume wafted from gardens

of roses by the Summer breeze.
Does the thought that you



**The questions and answers
have not changed from
1897 to 1993.**

have succored the poor and needy and lifted up the fallen give an added warmth to the blazing fire and add zest to your bounteous

board as you sit today in your cheerful home?

Do added treasures of hidden knowledge light up your reason and swell your heart with joy from knowing that you have sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness? Does the memory of visits to the sick, with lonely vigils through the dark and silent night, rise before you like the recollection of a distant dream? Have you helped bring heaven nearer by your righteous life? Does the thought of death come o'er you like the echo of an angel's song? If you can answer yes then count yourself a saint. If you shall tell us no, resolve this New Year's day that "yes" shall be your answer when '97 has lived out its span of life, and when New Year's day shall come to you again you will be glad; glad that you are nearer home, nearer the home "Where many Mansions be."

—from *The Searchlight*,
January 1, 1897

The Church of Christ

The Church of Christ was established in the last days by the will and commandment of God on the Sixth day of April, Eighteen hundred and Thirty, through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, for the purpose of establishing and preparing a place called Zion, the New Jerusalem, where all those who would keep the commandments of God would find a place of refuge from the many calamities that were coming upon the earth in consequence of the wickedness of the children of men.

In the winter of 1833-34 the saints were driven from the land of Missouri because of their disobedience to the commandments of God, for he said,

“Verily I say unto you, concerning your brethren who have been afflicted, and persecuted, and cast out from the land of their inheritance, I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted in consequence of their transgressions; yet I will own them, and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.

“Therefore, they must needs be chastened, and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son; for all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, cannot be sanctified.

“Behold I say unto you, there

were jarrings, and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them;

◆ **“...I, the Lord, have suffered the affliction to come upon them, wherewith they have been afflicted in consequence of their transgressions; yet I will own them, and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels.”**

therefore by these things they polluted their inheritances...” D. & C. 98:1-3.

Because of the existence of this state of affairs the saints were driven from the Land of Zion, but the promise was made that those who remained and were pure in heart should return, and build up the waste places (98:4) of Zion. So it was with this promise before them that a small band of saints gathered from various places to the vicinity of Bloomington, Ill., after the death of Joseph Smith, and formed themselves into what was known as the Crow Creek branch of the Church of Christ, and steadfastly refused to go west under the

leadership of Brigham Young. The first meeting at this place was held in the winter of 1852 at the home of Granville Hedrick, with three elders present. Many conferences were held from that time till 1864, when the saints were commanded to come to the state of Missouri and begin to redeem the Land of Zion.

On April 24, 1864, the Lord revealed to Granville Hedrick that the way would be opened up in 1867 for the saints to return to the Land of Zion, which instruction was in part as follows:

“...And inasmuch as my church and people have been driven and scattered, therefore take council of me, your Lord and director, who says unto you: Prepare yourselves and be ready against the appointed time which I have set and prepared for you, that you may return in the year A.D. 1867, which time the Lord, by your prayers and faithfulness in all things, will open and prepare a way before you that you may begin to gather at this time” (Truth-teller, page 4). In harmony with this revelation we find this interesting history under the heading, “A Proclamation,” written and printed in the Truth-teller for June, 1868, at Independence, Mo.:

“There is now a community of members of the primitive organization of the Church of Christ (of

Latter Day Saints) who have maintained a faithful adherence to the fullness of the everlasting Gospel of Christ, in living and walking in all righteousness according to the

◆ **“... therefore take council of me, your Lord and director, who says unto you: Prepare yourselves and be ready against the appointed time which I have set and prepared for you...”**

faith and doctrine of the Church of Christ from the beginning down to the present time, who have now commenced to gather back to Jackson and its surrounding counties, in the State of Missouri, in fulfillment of the revelation concerning the gathering of the saints. A considerable number of families emigrated to this section of the country last year (1867) and many more are preparing to emigrate this year. The attention of all the pure in heart are now called to this important subject.”

These saints under the direction of Granville Hedrick were se-

rious in their efforts to serve God, and build up the waste places of Zion. They did not let time go to waste, but by much sacrifice gathered up their monies and started to purchase the land again, as they were instructed by the Lord. On November 8, 1869, a warranty deed was issued to the Church of Christ, and filed and recorded November 12, 1869, for lots 16, 20, 21 to Woodson-Maxwell addition Independence, Mo., and on November 5, 1877, another warranty deed was issued to the Church of Christ for lots 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, in Woodson-Maxwell addition to Independence, Mo., which was filed and recorded November 6, 1877. On July 17, 1906, the triangular piece of ground on Electric (now Lexington) just north of the church building, was dedicated by the city to the Church of Christ, which comprises the tract of land that was dedicated by Joseph Smith and others on August 3, 1831, as the site of the Temple. It is of interest to note that the deeds for this property show that we paid \$1,175.00 for this property, which had ought to set at rest the minds of many Latter Day Saints as to how we came into possession of the same.

There have been from various sources letters of inquiry as to whether any other factions of Latter Day Saints have any claim upon this property, and we want to say

◆ **“... for we are looking forward to the day when the gathering of the saints shall begin at this place, and a temple shall be reared to God...”**

that they positively have not. God has seen fit to make the Church of Christ, whose headquarters is on the Temple Lot in Independence, Mo., the custodians of the same, and we hope to be faithful to our trust, for we are looking forward to the day when the gathering of the saints shall begin at this place, and a temple shall be reared to God, as He has commanded it should be; therefore, we call upon all saints to do their part and help us in the carrying out of the obligation resting upon us.

—from the *Zion's Advocate*,
June 1922

“...I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

I Nephi 1:65

P A T H L I G H T S

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On the evening of September 10, 1992, while spending time praying to the Lord in a manner which was more simply talking to Him, He began speaking to me, giving me the message which follows. I have removed a couple statements which were very personal ones; however, I felt the message was not one just for me and mine, but also for all of His people. I felt prompted to submit this message to the Church as a whole. After praying about this, I received the assurance that it was the Lord's desire that I should do so. Anyone who knows me will also know what a faulty, frail individual I am, and wonder that the Lord should speak to me. I make no claim to being any better than anyone else. In fact, I am probably more faulty than most; nonetheless, the Lord has spoken to me. I have been going through a time of great anguish and grief and have called out to Jesus constantly through this time. He has many times given me messages of comfort and instruction. If we believe He can and will speak to us, He does. I know He can do whatever He chooses to do for He is the God of all power, all knowledge, all understanding, all justice, all mercy and all love.

Margaret Smith

Received on the evening of September 10, 1992:

Dear one, it is I, your God, who speaks to you. Fear not over anything that is or is to come to pass for I am God; the God of power and might, and all must come to pass as I decree. I hold all Mine in My hands, and I will provide and protect and draw each soul closer, ever closer to Me. Fear not, I say, for those things which are coming to pass on the earth, for I am God, the God of all might, all power, and naught will come to pass without My knowledge or the moving of My hand to allow it. It is all prophesied of old, and it will all come to pass as it has been

written. Mine are My own and I will gather them to Me that they might rest in Me, safe from that which must fall upon the wicked. I would not lose a single soul if it be possible to save them. I will use you if you are yielded to Me. I will use all who will yield to My direction for their lives so that I might direct them to souls who cry out—ever cry out in pain and anguish and misery for help; for salvation from the oppressions of their lives.

Prepare yourself that I might indeed use you. Each soul you bring to Me will be a jewel in your crown and an everlasting joy to your soul. You cannot ever regret yielding to me and being My servant and a servant unto hurting mankind. Praise Me for what I do in these last days. Praise me for that incomprehensible life which I bear for My creation. You know not what a calling I call you to. Prepare that you might rejoice with the angels in heaven over each soul which is brought out of the darkness unto the light and life which is in Me and is Me. Prepare. Prepare. Yield all—all to Me. Give Me your heart that you might be whole and wholly Mine. You do not understand. Come with Me and I will teach you all things you need to know, and open your understanding that you are not confused, but that your thoughts are those of a sound mind—sound, for I heal you. I heal all that need healing in Me. Submit and prepare yourself for I do that which needs to be done. Submit and prepare and I do the rest. If I direct you in anything, I also give knowledge and power to do that which I direct you to do. I do all. You are but the yielded tool in My hand. I move in a mighty way to fulfill that which I would fulfill in mankind before that terrible day when I come to claim my own and destroy the wicked. I am pouring out My Spirit across the face of this land that those whose hearts are open to me and will yet believe in all that I am, will be filled with My Spirit to prophesy

unto this generation, to do mighty miracles in My Name and prepare the way for My coming. Not one soul would I lose if it were possible that that soul could be saved in Me.

(After a space of two or three minutes, the message continued)

I move upon the hearts of men calling—ever calling—them unto Me—unto a new birth in Me. The time is speedily coming. Prepare. Let all the earth and her inhabitants hear My voice and bow the knee before Me, for that great and terrible day is at hand. There is that yet which must come to pass. There is time, but so little time left to call the souls out of darkness unto Me. I want mine submitted to Me that I might use them in this time that is yet left to mankind to repent and turn to Me, their God and Creator. You have a message too and I will use you. Look to Me—ever to Me—and yield all to Me that I might heal you and make you whole in Me.

Tell your children I come and I come quickly. Tell them to set aside the earthly woes, for soon this will all have been for naught. "Seek Me. Seek Me and My purpose for your lives, little children, for breath does so by My grace and mercy. Call upon Me in mighty prayer, my little children, and come ye out of the world for I have a love for you and a design for your lives if ye will but turn fully to Me and yield unto Me in all things. This life is but a shadow—a dark veil over your eyes. Look to Me that you might see that which is real—that which holds eternal life for each of you. Ye are mine. Come to Me with all your heart, mind and might, for I would place My hand of protection over you that ye be spared in the tribulation to come. Seek ye not the full understanding of My word unto you for only as ye yield all of yourselves to Me will that understanding be given unto you. Would ye be Mine? Would ye serve Me? Come ye then fully unto Me."

N E W S

Farmington Local News

In the trust of the blessings of Jesus Christ in each of our lives, the Church of Christ Farmington local also adds its testimony in this monthly report. The "Lord of the harvest," (Matthew 9:38) blessed His people with plentiful crops this growing season which enabled "Zion's Children" to harvest their garden, while others assembled together on Sunday evenings to read scriptures and discuss how to sow and reap fields that are "white already to harvest," (John 4:35), or to spread the truth of the fullness of the gospel to increase the followers of Jesus Christ, particularly concentrating effort on follow-up contact to those who displayed an interest in Christ's gospel at the Church of Christ fair booth. Edward Linton shared this quotation, regarding harvest, by Robert Louis Stevenson, during a sacrament service: "Judge each day not by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

Other notable quotations were cited during preaching services in October. Brother Merlin Eddy stated, "It is up to us whether we choose life or death." Brother John Gill exclaimed, "You have to do all that you can to overcome sin and temptation." John also read Ezekiel 37:15-22 and explained the verse by saying, "There are truths in this book (The Book of Mormon) that are necessary to the salvation of the souls

of men." John told how he and his family passed several churches on the way from Wisconsin just to

◆ **"Judge each day not by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."**
—Robert Louis Stevenson

meet in Christ's church. He asked other visitors from Wisconsin, Merlin Eddy Sr. (Hook) and Grace Eddy, how many churches they had passed on the way. We were very pleased that both John Gill and his family and Merlin Eddy Sr. and Grace again chose to by-pass all the churches they saw just to meet with our local.

In the month of October we were also blessed to have Bruce Harpster and his family, Nelson Reyes, and William Pena visit us.

God, the giver of all we enjoy, kept us for yet another 30 days in November, and provided a multitude of things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving, among which were: spiritual blessings, health, and jobs, and not the least of which was shelter and food for ourselves and others.

We were thankful to see Elizabeth Fox residing in her new house on November 8th. God provided the money, materials, and dedicated workers to erect a home for Betty. In a business

meeting on November 22, the Farmington local decided to help sponsor a feeding center for destitute children in Central America. Jahaira Pena's mother is presently located near the feeding center. We are thankful for her services. On November 22, Jahaira provided Spanish translation assistance during Brother Merlin Eddy's sermon on "Baptism" for the Spanish-speaking guests.

The previous Sunday, Brother Merlin Eddy held church in Shamrock, Wisconsin, at the home of Kevin and Debbie Gilbertson. In the sacrament service, Mabel Woiak's daughter, April Peckham, had her children, Jacinda Peckham and Cole Peckham, blessed. Merlin also visited, and offered sacrament to Margie Cain at the nursing home where she resides.

First-time visitors to the Farmington local in November included: Michael Brando, and Victoria and Sheila Ernst. After services on a Sunday, Elisa Ernst held a dinner in honor of Victoria's graduation from high school. We are thankful to God for providing the means for Victoria to further her education.

*Your sister in Christ,
Patricia Gould*

A "Horseshoe Nail" can
be
"An Answered Prayer"

How easy, in a world of chaos, for a little thing like the loss of a horseshoe nail to go unnoticed; yet this loss is of great concern for all who have been touched by that nail.

This was a very special horseshoe nail, Vida Emma Filley; lost December 2, 1992, in Lapeer Michigan, after a trying year and a failing heart. The temple of clay was crumbling away but the light of the spirit never dimmed. The temple of clay came into being February 19, 1912, and the light of the spirit was struck in September of 1921, when she was baptized. She was the daughter of James H. and Emma H. (Whitford) Mead, born in Marlette Michigan. She married James H. Filley June 30, 1930, and mourned his loss in 1961. The further loss of her daughter, Lois Thompson, and brother, Newell Mead, brought grief but not defeat. She kept the light of the spirit burning bright and held it high, to cast a light for her daughters, Nedra Hill and Marion Filley; ten grandchildren; nineteen great grandchildren, and friends. Her light reached into every corner in which she found a shadow of doubt or misunderstanding about God and His promise.

We rejoice that God has found our lost horseshoe nail, and her prayer, expressed in poetry, written after she had read Alma 17: 35-36, is answered. Vida Filley you are truly "a good sound horseshoe nail."

Editor's Thank You

In the past our dear Sister Filley has provided many poems and 'thoughts of the day' to the *Zion's Advocate*. Several months ago our Sister provided yet another packet of her selected gems, and though she has passed to the other side we who remain will continue to be strengthened and helped by her efforts in the months to come. Praise God!

Little Things

There is a story they used to tell
Of a battle lost and a Kingdom as well
Of a rider and a horse that were caused to fail
All for the want of a horseshoe nail.

When the shoe was lost the horse couldn't run
The rider was thrown as the battle begun
So the battle was lost as the captain died
And many others fell by his side.

Now it's fine to be a captain great
Or as the horse that ran, to decide his fate
Or even an aide to the noble King
But a horseshoe nail is such a little thing.

For such small things we give little thought
But how great the havoc it's absence brought
For wrong was permitted to prevail
For want of that one small horseshoe nail.

Not many are the captains to lead
And few there are like the captain's steed,
But so that God's Kingdom shall not fail
Many are like that horseshoe nail.

Dear Lord, if all I can do for Thee
Are the little things one cannot see
Let me not forget, though unseen and unknown,
On a horseshoe nail hung the fate of a throne.

Oh, Lord of all, my small efforts bless
Knowing great things depend on the less
Grant me the strength that I may not fail
Make me a good sound "horseshoe nail."

Vida Emma Filley



CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1993 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 4. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 5. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 2 and 3. 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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Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$ 4.00
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Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Leather)	20.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Missionary)	7.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Cloth)	18.00
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- The Latter Day Restoration
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- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
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- The Great Plan of Redemption
- The Cost of Salvation

*NOTE: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
(Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

Sunday School Materials

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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- The Book in the Stone Box - About the Book of Mormon
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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. The phone numbers and address are listed on the inside front cover.