

# 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 70

Independence, Missouri — February 1992

Number 2

The God that stopped the sun on high  
And sent the manna from the sky.  
Laid flat the walls of Jericho,  
And put to flight old Israel's foe,  
Why can't He answer prayer today.  
And drive each stormy cloud away?

Who turned the water into wine,  
And healed a helpless cripple's spine,  
Commanded tempests, "Peace be still,"  
And hungry multitudes did fill,  
His power is just the same today,  
So why not labor, watch and pray?

He conquered in the lion's den,  
Brought Lazarus back to life again,  
He heard Elijah's cry for rain.  
And freed the sufferers from pain,  
If He could do those wonders then,  
Let's prove our mighty God again.

Why can't the God Who raised the dead,  
Gave little David, Goliath's head,  
Cast out the demons with a word,  
Yet sees the fall of one wee bird,  
Do signs and miracles today,  
In that same, good, old-fashioned way?  
HE CAN. He's just the same today.

—Martin Luther

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**NORTHWEST:** Marvin E. Ely, 236 32 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503. In charge of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, and Western Canada west of a line between Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

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**CENTRAL:** Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, MO 64136. In joint charge of Missouri and Oklahoma.

**EAST:** William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, MO 64050. General Church Representative in the office. Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, MO 64136. In joint charge of all Atlantic coast states and Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Vermont and the European field.

**WORLDWIDE:** Contact the Secretary, Council of Apostles.

### GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse  
5317 Logan Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Elder Leslie P. Case  
8312 Lee's Summit Rd.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

#### GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham  
5709 Logan Rd.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris  
Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 472  
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

### ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

#### EDITOR

Priest Michael McGhee  
18907 E. 6th Street N.  
Independence, Missouri 64056

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Ron Temple  
5621 Logan Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

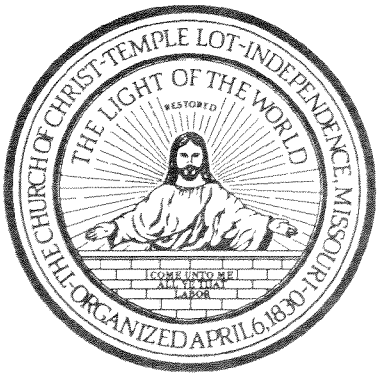
David Rudd  
4917 Casey Court  
Independence, Missouri 64055

#### FEATURE EDITOR - "Path Lights"

Melissa McGhee  
2533 Glen Lane  
Independence, Missouri 64052

#### PRODUCTION STAFF

Rick ey J. Olson  
Harvey L. Seibel



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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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Editorial...

# WE ARE TO BE A BEACON

## Apostle Smith Brickhouse

Last fall the United States was engaged in the mist of a presidential election. Many promises were made and there was much talk of the conditions of our country and the world. We have now experienced the inauguration of the 42nd President of the United States. In his inaugural speech President Clinton talked of "...change. Not for change's sake, but change to preserve America's ideals- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

In the last several decades we have come to the realization that "There is something wrong with America." Politicians from the various political parties have argued over the solution to the problem. This last presidential race even brought an independent candidate to national prominence thinking that possibly he had the answer to this country's problems and sickness.

Our country has fallen from its prominence and blessings and now rages with moral decay, violence and poverty. We only need to look at the morning paper to read of the troubled times that we are experiencing.

The Book of Mormon states in Ether 1 vs. 31- 5:

"And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and that

whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them.

And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold this is the land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God.

And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land hath hitherto done.

Behold this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written."

Yes, this is a land of promise. This is a land that has been richly blessed by God. Yes, we must change as suggested by President Clinton in his inaugural address. We

must follow the commandments given in the fourteenth chapter of the Third Book of Nephi.

"Hearken, O, ye Gentiles and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which he hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold he commanded me that I should write, saying, Turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, and your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, which are of the house of Israel."

This must be the message of the Church of Christ. We must stand for Christ. We have the responsibility to

We are to be a beacon of light among the darkness that surrounds us. We must act to bring forth the cause of Zion.

acknowledge the time in which we live and the prophecies that have been given concerning these the last days.

We also must call for change. We must once again return to our knees and pray for the welfare of our country and our leaders that we all might repent and return to the Christian principles and moral values on which this country was founded.

As stated in the 29th vs. of the 13th chapter of 11 Nephi "... ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men."

We as the body of Christ must lead the way. We must stop looking to others for the solutions to our societies failings and return and look within our lives and let them shine brightly. We are to be a beacon of light among the darkness that surrounds us, we must act to bring forth the cause of Zion. We must look for opportunities to let the light shine with love and humility doing so with confidence that this is the will of our Heavenly Father.

Our ministry begins in our homes, schools, work places and our neighborhoods. Our responsibility as the Church of Christ must be to bring the light of the Restored Gospel to the darkness that prevails around us. This is the time, the last days, the time is short, we must act with full purpose of heart with meekness allowing the workings of the Holy Spirit to strengthen, guide and direct our outreaches. Lets move forward!

The final verse of "THE TIME IS FAR SPENT", song 356, reads "Press on to the mark of eternal perfection, determined to reap the celestial reward, that you may come forth in the first resurrection, and feast at the supper of Jesus, the Lord.

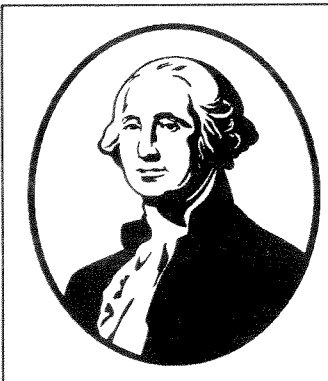
# TRUE GREATNESS

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The month of February contains the birth dates of two of America's greatest Statesmen. So great that their birthdays are made legal holidays in most of our states. This fact should call for a brief analysis of what their greatness consists of. George Washington who was the first President of these great United States has been termed the "Father of His Country," One of the writers of that day made this significant tribute to his memory; "Providence left him childless that his country might call him father."

Since the day of George Washington many great men have risen but none of them have been able to eclipse the name of Washington. Is it true merely from the fact that George Washington was a great general in battle, and as a result of that he was able to carve out a new nation? By no means! Other generals in the history of mankind have been his equal, in military strategy and attainment. Washington's greatness lies not along military lines at all. In that he merely saw his responsibility to his countrymen to break off the shackles of oppression and give

them a new start in a land of freedom. It was his prophetic insight as to the needs of his fellowman, that enabled him to take the lead with others of his own caliber to build constructively, and with the result there emerged the greatest nation in the history of mankind wherein justice, liberty, and a righteous freedom might be enjoyed. It is the result of his work that gives the measure of his great-



ness. As a result of this, Washington's body may have long since smoldered to dust, but George Washington, is not dead. He cannot die, because he was truly GREAT.

Of the famed winter at Valley Forge, Washington was stationed at the house of Isaac Potts, and one day, while Potts was on his way to a creek near his home in a grove, he heard a voice in prayer. Softly following its direction he saw General Washington on his knees, his cheeks wet with tears. Narrating the incident to his wife, he added with much emotion, "If there is anyone to whom the Lord will listen, it is George Washington, and under such a commander our independence is certain."

The other GREAT President, whose birthday comes in February, is the lowly backwoods

rail splitter, Abraham Lincoln. He too has won an endearing sobriquet: "The Savior of his country."

Some years ago while in the British Isles on our mission there, brother Flint and I paid a visit to Westminster Abbey, and in a little park adjacent to the abbey we beheld a heroic bronze statue, and coming closer we were astonished to see that it was indeed the great emancipator. Then later, in a weekly magazine called "The People," we found a whole page story of this, one of the greatest of men, it was



entitled ; "The Religion Of The Great," and in the introduction it made this reference to Abraham Lincoln, "The Lonely Prophet who Lifted A Great Nation to Liberty," and in the text, when referring to one of Lincoln's great political battles, it gave this beautiful tribute, from which we quote ; "He takes from his pocket a New Testament, His voice vibrates :— "These men know well that I am for freedom in the territories, freedom everywhere, as free as the constitution and as the laws will permit, and that my opponents are for slavery. They know this, and yet with this book in their hands, in the light of which human bondage cannot live for a moment, they are going to vote against me. I do not understand." He pauses deeply movcd. Several minutes passed before he can speak again. His tragic eyes are moist. He protests with solemn prophetic emphasis: — I KNOW there is a God and that he hates injustice and slavery. I see a storm coming and I KNOW that His hand is in it. If He has a place and work for

me—and I think He-- has I believe I am right, because I know that liberty is right, for Christ teaches it, and Christ is God. I have told them that a house divided against itself cannot stand, and Christ and reason say the same, and they will find it so. Douglas doesn't care whether slavery is voted up or down; but God cares, and I care, and with God's help I shall not fail!"

By the example and practice of these two GREAT Americans, we begin to understand the real meaning of true greatness. It is not predicated upon position, fame, wealth, nor the applause of men, but upon achievement in the interest of humanity. It is true, that too often are these things regarded as indications of greatness, and we fear that TO OFTEN do men worship at the shrine of worldly, pseudo, greatness. Thus we have great military leaders, great men in the world, the world of letters, and in everything that makes for fame, Great men should be famous, but it is not always that they are. An example; A few months ago a baseball idol, one Babe Ruth passed away and he was lauded and his funeral attended by the masses, yet from his life's story we glean this: His early life was so dissolute that one of his friends called his attention to the fact that young America was actually worshipping at his feet and that his dissolute example was having a degrading influence upon the morals of our young people. He acknowledged his error and from then on sought to mend his ways. Another of our religious teachers has called our attention to the

painful fact that there have been more monuments erected in the world to the great military leaders of the nations than to all other great men combined, yet it MUST be an acknowledged fact that military leaders MUST of necessity be skilled professional killers.

So much for that angle of the matter. There remains one outstanding fact that the greatest of all great, is the lowly Nazarene. He achieved no wealth, fame, nor the praise of men, while he lived, and finally died a felon's death on the cross, and why? It was because, as he said himself, the world was not worthy of him. Yet after the centuries, his name and his life long example arises and eclipses ALL OTHERS.

True GREATNESS! Yes, and the wonderful thing about it all is that Christians are invited to emulate his wonderful example, and they in turn through obedience to his teachings, and effort to live the Christ life, may also, become truly great. They may not succeed to the acclaim of men. In fact, ALL great Christian leaders have been the objects of derision and scorn, but if their lives have been patterned after their great leader, what they have achieved and left as a legacy for those who come after them, they may be said to have been the, truly GREAT. So it is because of the characteristics of their divine Master in their life work that we look up to Washington and Lincoln in the things that they achieved, that we celebrate their birthdays, and not because of any earthly fame they may have attained.

B. C. Flint.

# WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HANDS?

By Clarence L. Wheaton  
From The Archives

“And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.

And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? and he said, A rod.

And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared; unto thee.” (Exodus 4:1-5)

When the Lord spoke to Moses from the flame in the burning bush and told him that he was to be chosen as an instrument in His hands to deliver the children of Israel from bondage, Moses said unto God, “Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

“And Moses said unto God, Be-

hold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say unto me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them?

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” Exodus 3:11-14

After thus revealing to Moses his name and commissioning him to go on his mission of deliverance and prepare the elders of Israel for their part in this great undertaking, Moses realized the greatness of his task, and that it would take more than just his word to move these elders and the people to obedience, and as we all do when measuring such great tasks from human eyes experience alone, he exclaimed, “But, behold, they will not believe me not hearken unto my voice: for they will say the Lord hath not appeared unto thee.”

Exodus 4:1

Surely the spirit of God giveth inspiration, and unless Moses and others similarly situated to perform special work for the Lord shall have the inspiration of God to know what the gifts and talent are that God has placed in their hands, they cannot accomplish that work successfully.

Let us examine the text:

“What is that in thine hand?”

If you were asked this same question by the Lord today, what would your answer be? Examine your hands, each of you.

Meditate a moment. Then in your hearts evaluate that which you see in your hands.

The Lord said unto Moses, “What is that in thine hand?”

Moses examined the object in his hand and said, “A rod.”

The Lord commanded Moses, “Cast it on the ground.”

And when Moses had done so, it became a serpent and he fled from it.

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail, And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

“That they may believe that the Lord God of their Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.” Exodus 4:1-5

This was a simple experience, and yet it was to have a far reaching effect, not only upon Moses, and the children of Israel, but upon future generations of men. It was a simple test of faith, a test of the spiritual strength of Moses and a lesson to us of how faith can move upon the mind of man and cause him to trust God, and thus perform his task.

Did Moses use this miraculous gift, which he found in his hand, as a



source of amusement for his friends?

No! With faith in God and Confidence in his mission, Moses plagued a tyrannical king with his rod; he smote a river and caused it to turn to blood. Again he caused a plague of lice and another of frogs to come upon the Egyptians. He caused Pharaoh's throne to topple, and freed a enslaved people and through them gave laws and a Savior that brought justice and salvation into the world.

That is what Moses did with the simple gift of a rod that he held in his hand. Look! Yes, look into your hands, examine thy gifts Oh man of woman, see what power is hidden there that God needs to have in use today.

Compare that which is in thine hand with that of others:

Turning to the 17th chapter of 1st Samuel, we learn that the Philistines gathered together their armies for the purpose of invading the land of Israel, and we find the two opposing armies drawn up for battle, "Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on one side and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side; and there was a valley between them." 1 Samuel 17:2-3

Thus were the very existence and liberties of Israel at stake and jeopardized by a foreign aggressor. And the Philistines sent out their champion, Goliath, who was a giant and mighty man of war, and challenged them to send a man of the Israelites to fight him, and as the battle should go so would the results be for Israel. This champion, Goliath, was six cubits and

a span in height, or nine foot and six inches tall. "When Saul and all Israel heard the challenge of the Philistines They were dismayed, and greatly afraid."

A survey of the armies of Israel showed them all to be afraid, and they ran from him, that is all but one, a stripling shepherd boy, of an obscure tribe, by the name of David, And when he talked with Saul, and Saul could not turn him from his determination to answer the challenge to his people, he placed his armor upon him and a helmet of brass upon his head and sword in his hand. But this was not to be the armor of this shepherd, as we learn by asking the question:

"David, what hast thou in thine hand, with which to over power the Goliath?" And we find that in his heart was Faith, "and he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, and his sling was in his hand," and out of that Faith he was able to meet the Goliath with these words, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, God of the armies Israel, whom thou hast defied."

And therein was the secret of power in the hands of David, met his adversary and slew him with a sling a smooth pebble from the brook. Just small things, but when consecrated to the service of God, They become mighty in demonstration against the powers of God. Look into your hands, what gift, what talent, what power have you there that can arm you to meet the Goliaths of today; Goliaths of greed; selfishness; social inequalities and injustices; spiritual immorality;

and such that challenge the very deepest faith in our souls.

Look in your hands! In your Hearts! In your Minds! What do you find there? A pen, that is mightier than the sword? A talent of music that would cause the sinner to turn to God? A gift to preach that would inspire men to seek salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ? An acquired skill: a profession; a trade; the knowledge of which taught to others would make life happier and enable them to raise their standard of living? Then remember that God is calling you to active service, to build a kingdom and a city of righteousness, and with your gift seasoned with a faith like David's, prepare to meet the challenge of these modern Goliaths.

If you have such gifts in your hands, and I am sure that each of you have, then ponder these words.

#### THE DREAMER

By Goethe

Lose this day loitering-  
Twill be the same story tomorrow-  
Then the next more dilatory.

Then indecision brings its own delays,  
And days are lamenting over days.

Are You in earnest?  
Seize this very minute-  
What you can do, or dream  
You can begin it.

Courage has genius,  
power and magic in it.  
Only engage, and then  
grows heated.

Begin it,

And the work will be completed.

Turning now to 1st Kings 17, we learn that Elijah, the prophet, prophesied against Ahab, who had raised altars to Baal, and thus incurred his wrath, and to protect Elijah, the Lord told him to go down into Zarephath, where he would find a widow who would provide him food and lodging during the great famine that was in the land. And so, we ask her:

"My good woman, what is it in thine hands, which can supply sustenance for a prophet of God?"

And she said. "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have no cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse..."

Yet, with faith in God, she shared that meager fare with the servant of the Lord, and they had sufficient to last through a great famine. This is indeed an inspiring account of what can be done with the little we may sometimes have in our hands to help in this principle we can find the secret of power to the church and the preaching of the Gospel among the children of men, i.e., if we love Him as we should and if we love one another as we should, then we will consider the substance that God has placed in our hands also, with a view of using it to the glory of His kingdom, for as Elder Joseph Yates recently said in a sermon, "WE DERIVE OUR GREATEST BLESSINGS FROM THE THINGS WE SHARE WITH OTHERS", and there is no better way to prove this than to "honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase."

"So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses burst out with new wine." Prov. 3:6-7

And now the Bishopric is prepar-

ing to establish the Storehouse of the Lord upon the Temple Lot, according to the ancient custom of the church, (Gen. 41:56; 1 Chron. 27:25; Mal.3:10-11). And especially would we have you consider this promise to Israel.

"The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouse, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways. (Deut. 28:8-9)

Compare this promise with those God has made to Latter day Israel, as taught in the revelations to this church, and we find that the blessings to follow are identical. Thus the Storehouse is a Gospel institution, and it is a mark of progress and inspiration when the Bishopric moves forward to establish it, that there may be meat in our Father's house to preach the Gospel and take care of the poor and needy and to establish Zion and prepare for the gathering of God's people in these last days. Therefore, Look again into your hands, and see what you may have, little or great, to cast into the Storehouse.

As an example, let us again turn back the pages of Scripture, and take our place beside Jesus, as he stood over by the treasury, or storehouse of the Temple in Jerusalem, as recorded in Mark 12:41-44, and study those who were casting their offerings therein, some were rich and haughty, proud, and desired to be seen of men as they cast of their abundance into the treasury, while others out of the goodness of their hearts made offerings,

which were in reality sacrifices. Among the latter group we see a poor widow approaching timidly to the treasury, and we will ask her:

"My good widow, what is that in thine hand, which thou desirest to cast in?"

She replied, "I am a widow, my income is small, but I desire to share it with others. Here are two mites, a small amount, I know, but it is all that I have."

This offering, Jesus observed, for he said:

"Verily, I say unto you. That this poor widow hath cast more than all they which have cast into the treasury;

"For all they cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had even all of her living."

And brothers and sisters, did you ever figure how small that widow's offering really was? One mite was the equivalent of 3/4 cent in our money, thus two mites equalled 1 1/2 cents. She was very poor, was she not? Are any of us that poor today? Yet she shared what she had, and Jesus, witnessing it, took note and I am sure that He remembered her and caused her to rejoice exceedingly. What a different world this would be indeed, if we could take the scales of disbelief, doubt and distrust from our eyes, and unreservedly say to God, though my means is small, yet in faith I will take of that which you have placed in my hands, and thinking less of self, share with others the blessings you, Lord, have given me both spiritually and temporally, that the Gospel may be more effectually preached and the poor among men be caused to rejoice. (Isa. 29:19)

Again, we point you in another



lesson: a multitude had listened all day to the Savior as he preached to them in a desert place. They were tired and hungry. They hungered and thirsted for righteousness, and at evening His disciples would have sent them away to the city to find food and lodging, but Jesus, perceiving their intent, called them, and evidently asked.

"ye apostles, disciples in deed, what have ye in your hands with which to feed this multitude of five thousand souls, who through the day have listened to me here in this desert place?"

And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fishes."

Surely, a mite, compared with the need, but when leavened with faith and love, and the desire to share, we find that they not only fed the multitude, but had left more than they had to begin with, even twelve baskets full. (Matt. 14:17-20)

Again, Look into your hands? Do you dare meet this challenge to your faith and profession of love of God and your fellowmen? "Bring ye all the tithes into my storehouse, and I will open the windows of heaven and pour ye out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

(Mal. 3:10-12)

And then there was the woman of Bethany, who had some precious ointment, when asked what she had, she said, "I have an alabaster box of very precious ointment, with which to anoint the feet of a friend." So she anointed the feet of Jesus, and in so doing anointed a lowly Nazarene King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who even dying, would live forever more.

Now we see God coming down from Teman, and we approach Him and ask, "Lord what have you in your hands?"

And we have the answer, "I have horns in my hands, and there is the secret of my power, and with this power will I bless mankind and give them power through the Holy priesthood of my son that they shall heal the sick, bestow my Spirit upon them, bless their children and ordain my ministry, and there by bless their fellowmen."

And coming down from Mount Paran, (Heb 3:3) to meet him, was the Holy One, His Son, and we ask Him, "Lord Jesus, What have you in your hands?" And we can hear His reply ringing down through the ages, "I

have wounds in my hands, from the nails from which I hung on a cross, that were received in the house of my friends, which caused me to suffer the agony of death that I might share the most precious gift of all...LIFE...not of this mortal life, but of ETERNAL LIFE, and immortality, which could only be shared by my death and resurrection, that I might rise and live forever more. Take, therefore, as I offer it to you, and share with me this cross, that in doing so ye too, may arise and live."

So let me repeat, again and again, Look into your hands, What hast thou there?" And when you understand the purpose of that gift, re-dedicate your life to God, and use that gift for the blessing of all mankind. Bless it with these words,

"Hold Thou my hand, dear Lord, Hold thou my hand;...

And when temptations come, help me to stand...

Constantly near to Thee, All shall be well with me,

Holding thy hand, dear Lord, Holding thy hand."

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# Path Lights

## TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

Most of you know me, some of you don't. At one time or another, you've all probably said a prayer for me. Most of you know that I am a Hemophiliac, or a bleeder. My name is Jamie Addie. Once more, I would like to ask you all for your prayers for myself and my family.

Three years ago, I was diagnosed as having AIDS. Sometime before 1984, I was infected with the virus through one of the many infusions I take to help keep my hemophilia under control.

The past three years have been very rough for me. Physically, I have been fine. I haven't been sick a day, for which I praise the Lord. I've not had any of the major symptoms that indicate the last stages of AIDS. My emotional and spiritual health were a different story. Emotionally, I was a wreck. I was in denial the first couple of years, hoping that it would go away. It hasn't. Spiritually, I've prayed to God that he would cure me. I couldn't understand why God would do this to me.

I was very depressed, living one day at a time, thinking that each may be my last. Several months ago, God, my wife and daughter, and a group of very close friends, changed my way of thought.

When I was young, I thought that I was immortal. I've found out, rather abruptly, that I'm not. We as mortal men have two things in common. We were all born, and we will all die. We are all dying from the day of our birth. Some of us will die before others. I am going to die! But, that is Okay. It is all part of God's plan.

A cure for AIDS will one day be found. It may be found in my lifetime, maybe not. A cure will not be found until God is ready to reveal it to us. I believe that this disease is one of God's ways to try to get mankind to turn back to Him. To get us to turn our backs on the pleasures of this world.

The Bible says "that God will not give you a burden that you cannot carry." The only way we are going to beat this epidemic is through God.

My big change came a couple of months ago, on my way home from work one night. It was late, and I was saying a prayer that God might deliver me home safely. Suddenly, I felt a presence in the car. I knew that Christ was riding with me. Tears started flowing from my eyes as I heard a voice within me saying "Have no fear, you are not going to die until I am ready for you. You have a lot of work to do for me on earth before your time here is through."

The past few months, I've been praying that God will reveal the plans that he has for me. I believe that he REVEALED part of his plan about three weeks ago. I had a dream one night, and unlike most dreams that fade after you have been awake for a few hours, this dream stayed vivid in my mind for several days. In this dream I was to go back to college and finish my degree. I've started the paperwork on it already.

I may not have gotten the cure that I've prayed for, but emotionally and spiritually, I am once more at peace. I now know that I will not die before my time and that God has work for me to do.

Please continue to keep me in your prayers, that I might stay healthy and that I might be able to do the work God has for me to do. Any letters and questions are welcome.

Your Brother in Christ  
Jamie Addie  
3851 W. Sunshine, #20  
Springfield, MO 65807  
417 831-6368

P.S. I was blessed by being able to attend this years youth camp at Farwesta. I was given the strength through God to give this testimony. I was surprised at all the love and support that was shown me, instead of the rejection that I expected. I want to thank you all personally for being a great bunch of young adults and for the wonderful group of counselors. I had a great time.



# Path Lights

## HE IS VICTORIOUS, I AM POSITIVE

Five years ago, I tested positive for the HIV virus, the virus that causes AIDS. I became infected through blood factors I use to control my Hemophilia.

As society has shown much discrimination to people with the HIV virus, we didn't tell anyone outside of our family for a long time because we feared we might be rejected. Recently, I shared this burden with the ministers at the August Minister's conference and the members of our Springfield local, where I am a Priest and Pastor. The love and support shown by our brothers and sisters was overwhelming.

We know the power of Jesus Christ has worked in our lives as he has continued to protect mine and my brother's health, and also protected our three children.

My brother James and I have learned to use HIV as a positive experience. Everyone is born to live and die, and the interim time to use to earn your salvation. We know that we may not live as long as others, but we have learned the value of each day. No one knows the time of Jesus return, so we must be ready. You can't put off working out your own souls salvation. I know that the more prayer offered is all the better, so I ask that you keep us in your prayers.

When I was called to the priesthood 3 years ago, it helped me regain my hope as I felt the Lord had plans for us and wouldn't call me home before He was ready.

HIV is a difficult virus to catch. You can't get it through casual contacts, such as shaving utensils, or a glass, or giving someone a hug or a kiss. Everyone who has been infected with HIV, regardless of how they were infected, needs our prayers and support. Everyone should learn what they can, so as to dispel their fears about AIDS.

If you have any questions, you can write or call me, or call the local or national AIDS hotline. The national number is 1 800 342-AIDS.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Priest Martin Addie  
Springfield, MO





# Path Lights

## THE MIRACLE OF OUR SON

The following is a testimony I've wished to share for sometime, but due to fear of rejection, have kept to myself.

Really, I don't know where to begin. I guess I'll tell you a bit of the history leading up to this; what my husband and I consider a miracle.

My husband, Martin Addie, is a Priest in our church. Martin is also a hemophiliac, which is a person having a bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly. He takes blood products to control his bleeding problems.

Sometime in the fall of 1987, Martin tested and was found to be HIV positive, meaning his body was carrying the antibodies which produce the AIDS virus. The virus was transmitted from one of the many infusions he must take to control his bleeding.

We were heartbroken and hurt, asking "why us Lord? What are we going to do?" Martin was ready to give up. Being diagnosed with HIV meant a death sentence, as there is no known cure. We had no hope.

Our daughter Amanda was 2 at this time. We began to fear she might be infected, as it is sexually transmitted and can be passed onto our unborn child before, or during birth. I was tested and found to be negative and we praised God for this blessing.

We ached and yearned for another child, yet knowing this was out of the question. We did not want to chance passing this onto another child.

Martin's health remained great and we began to accept and live with our fate. We felt God had plans for us and that we must accept His will.

As time went on, I yearned more and more for that child I knew I'd never have. I would tell myself, "stop this, you're only making yourself hurt." But, each time I would hear a voice say, "When the time is right, you will have another child." For awhile, I thought I was going crazy. I wanted another baby so bad that I was hearing voices. I even considered having my tubes tied, so as not to chance infecting another child, but again, I heard the voice; "When the time is right, you will have another child."

This went on for almost four years, my yearning for a child I knew could never be, and my hearing the voice. Finally, it came to me, that I wasn't going crazy. The voice I had been hearing was the voice of the Lord. I felt at peace knowing that when the time was right, I would have another child.

On May 30, 1991, I again heard the voice, this time say, "Tonight is the night. Tonight you and Martin are to make love unprotected. You shall conceive a child." It was also impressed on my heart that the child would be a boy and that someday, he would follow in the footsteps of his father.

I told Martin my experience and he felt at peace just as I had. That night, our son was conceived. I was tested





# Path Lights

throughout the pregnancy to make sure I hadn't contracted the virus, but each time, was found to be negative, as I knew I would be.

On January 18, 1992, our son Benjamin Ethan Addie was born, weighing 8 pounds 3 ounces. He was healthy in every way.

We praise the Lord each day for our son, because we know that without the Lord's gentle guidance and our faith and trust, that he would never have been conceived.

We thank you Lord for the miracle of our son.

Janeen Addie

P.S. Martin to this day is still in excellent health and shows no signs of the virus. I still remain negative. For this we praise our Lord daily.

## Mabel R. (Welch) Bergey

Mabel Beatrice Welch was born on September 1, 1902, at Farwell, Michigan, to Lewis Edwin and Violet Agnes (DeGeer) Welch. As a child, she was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by her father, Elder Welch, later transferring her membership to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), of which she remained a faithful member all her life. So strong was her faith even as a child, that when she made the decision to be baptized she insisted that it be done right away even though it was in the dead of winter and necessary to chop a hole in the ice of the Flint River for the baptism to take place. When asked by her father if she didn't want to wait until spring, she replied, "No, I might not live until spring."

She was united in marriage on September 18, 1920, to Earl V. Bergey. To this union were born two children, June Evelyn and Glenn Duane. Husband Earl and son Glenn preceded her in death.

While living in Flint, she was an active member of the Flint Local, working especially with the young people, many of whom still remember and cherish the many hours "Sister Mabel" spent with them in both spiritual and recreational activities.

Sister Bergey passed away on December 3, 1992, at the Mid-Michigan Regional Medical Center in Clare. Services were held from the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home, Clare, Michigan, Monday, December 7, 1992, with Elders Conley Addington and Ed Toulouse officiating. The beautiful voices of Sisters Nita Opper, Jo Eddy, Noni Onstott, and Pam Adams Bowman blended in a beautiful rendition of "The Lights of Home" and "Some Day He'll Make it Plain." Interment was at Cherry Grove Cemetery at Clare, Michigan.

She is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, June and Kenneth Haines of Higgins Lake, Michigan; one grandson, Bruce Haines; 3 great granddaughters - Lisa, Jill, and Hillary; and one great-great grandson, Nicholas, all of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

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# APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION OR APOSTOLIC AGE?

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Author Elder Harvey Seibel taken from Zion's Advocate October, 1959

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In every town, village and hamlet; over mountains, hills and plains; from coast to coast of our great land, churches dot the countryside stretching their spires to the heavens, causing us to rejoice in our hearts that we are a Christian nation. On Sundays we listen with a feeling of contentment to the voice of the radio exhorting us to go to the church of our choice. It seemeth a good thing for a man to worship God in his own manner, in a way which satisfies his particular brand of likes and dislikes: in a sense, to create God in mans own image. In our day of increased knowledge of material things, a time when the language of science and of mathematics is exemplified by preciseness of definition and of great rigor of proof, we find a reversed laxness in religious thought, a luke-warmness, a feeling that eternity is unknown and uncertain; that the sacrifice of the Son of God is a thing of remoteness, taking on the character of mythology; that the eternal verities are fading before the onslaughts of a more vigorous science. Among the ministry of the Chicago area, a questionnaire revealed that 16 per cent did not believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus. Of 200 student ministers, 58 per cent likewise rejected this story as unable to stand up under the scientific scrutiny of our day. The trend is away from belief in the divinity of the word of God.

As we ponder these things and see man reaching for the stars as it was in the days of the Tower of Babel, we may wonder if man, in exploring the far reaches of space, may find that there is no God ; that perhaps man is sufficient unto himself; that the old prophets were good for their day but that we are too wise and learned to believe in Fables. We may feel that we have plumbed the secrets of nature, probed the innermost parts of the atom with the fingers of mathematics and explored the utmost bounds of space; that our minds, our great, wonderful minds are on the threshold of complete mastery of the laws of nature and of the universe; that even eternal life itself will yield its secret to us, the masters of all things animate and inanimate. This type of reasoning is reflected in sermons and writings of many of our religious teachers of today and is found widespread throughout the laity: in the school of the "higher criticism" and in evolution.

In the, words of the Psalmist, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 1 6:25). And we are caused to stop and ponder the philosophy which would permit the creature to worship the Creator in his own manner, or to determine, with no higher authority than himself and his fellows, the commandments of God and the rules of salvation. Further food

for thought is given us in the words of the Son of God as recorded in Matt. 15:9," But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Perhaps after all we should reevaluate our position and seek to know the will of God: the plan he has laid down for our salvation rather than the vagaries of our so-called spiritual leaders. Perhaps the word of God is correct when it tells us that there is no other name than Christ's under heaven whereby we can be saved. Perhaps the trend that teaches that Christ is not the true Son of God is false. Perhaps it is important that we learn the rules laid down for so great a salvation; that the churches are wrong today as they were in the time of Christ and are under condemnation; and perhaps there is one church today, as there was in the time of Christ who keep the commandments Of God and are led through the spirit of revelation.

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16: 18). So spoke the Master who alone holds the keys to our salvation. Jesus will build the Church; it will be His church; it will not be a man-made structure; neither will it have man-made creeds; for it will be built by the Son of God; after His will, with his organization, having servants or ministers whom He has chosen, and it will



teach the doctrine and commandments of God rather than those of men. Any other church which is built by man, teaches the thoughts of man, and has not the organization established by Christ, cannot be the church of Christ, but rather the church of the founder. God cannot compromise with falsehood. A church today that teaches traditions of men, or errors of men falls as much under condemnation today as did those churches which were on earth when Christ came the first time. Neither the hallowed portals of our great churches nor the robes of a magnificent choir, nor the vesture of our ministers will ever make error pleasing in the sight of God any more than was the teaching of idolatry in the \$24 billion temple of Solomon a short twenty-nine years after its dedication.

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.” (1 Cor. 12:28). These are some of the things which will be found in the Church of Christ: offices and gifts which will distinguish this church from others which God has not established. How could a man put prophets in his church although they could well have false apostles; those who are not called of God but of man? Verses 29 through 30 tell us that these things are gifts of the Spirit and cannot be given by man as we read: “Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

From this point on we will seek to establish that these gifts were not

just for the early infant church but that they are designed by Christ to remain in His church till His coming in the clouds when every eye shall see Him. We will draw first upon Ephesians 4: 11-13. “And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” It is true that at no time since this was written have we come in the unity of the faith or unto a measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; nor will we until Christ returns the second time and brings judgment to the earth. Therefore these gifts should still be with us.

It has been suggested above that we cannot determine in our heads that we wish to do a work for the Lord; be ordained by some man who obtained his authority from some other man and on back to some first man; then go out and bless the bread and wine, baptize for the remission of sins, lay on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost and preach the gospel; no, we cannot do this any more than any who are not of the Levitical priesthood could administer before the Lord in olden times; as is attested by the fate of the chief princes of Israel when they contended with Moses for this honor: the earth opened and they were buried alive in the bowels of the earth. “And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.” (Heb. 5 :4,) Aaron was called of God through Moses. Today we cannot take this honor except through, revelation

or calling from God. Otherwise we are not true ministers of the Gospel and of Christ. Even Christ, our high priest, did not take this honor unto Himself as we read in the next verse: “So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.” There are those who have taken this honor unto themselves, a thing which is not pleasing to the Lord. A good example was found in the early days of the Church at Ephesus. We read about it in Rev. 2:2 which was written about sixty years after the crucifixion. “I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou has tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.” These were ministers who had not received the authority from God but sought this honor themselves and God calls them evil and liars. Those who are not called of God do not have authority from God and cannot officiate in spiritual matters. Witness an example of some who tried to do the work of a minister of God who were without authority as recorded in Acts 19: 13-15. “Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?” And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped upon the seven sons of Sceva and they were barely able to escape from him.

If, a man is to preach the kingdom of God and perform in the office

of a minister of God it behooves him to have the Holy Spirit or he will be unable to contend with the forces of evil. Satan and his hosts will assuredly overcome him for he is not called of God and has not the power which the Apostles received at Pentecost.

The apostles had not this power and authority because of their righteousness or spiritual strength within themselves. It is a gift of God and no man however great he may be can do the work of a minister in his own strength. Even the apostles who stood out firm against the paganism of their day and even suffered crucifixion and death at the hands of their enemies were unable to do these things until they had been given these gifts. Note Matt. 10: 1, "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." After the death of Christ they received further power at the day of Pentecost and spoke boldly and with power from on high. In one sermon Peter converted 3,000 in one day. Such is the power of the Spirit of God.

Christ in organizing His church chose apostles, gave them authority and power and established them as the spiritual leaders of His church. "Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Batholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbeus, whose surname was Thaddeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him."

(Matt. 10:2-4). The quorum of twelve was considered significant, in the early days of the church as we learn from Acts 1 :23-26, "And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." Some people have questioned this verse feeling that this method limited the Lord in calling only from two which the apostles had placed before Him. Note in respect to this thought that they prayed saying, "shew whether of these two thou hast chosen," or in other words shew whether or not of these two thou hast chosen. Perhaps a certain inspiration also guided the apostles in their choice of these two. At least God chose between them in choosing Matthias. Others sometimes argue that the apostles were not considered as an office in the church. Here it is called apostleship indicating that it was understood as an office when the church was formed at the hands of the Master. The important point of emphasis here is that the apostles believed that when one of their number was lost that he had to be replaced by another so that the quorum or ruling body would be complete.

During the three decades following the replacement of Judas by Matthias, seven of the original number of

apostles died each a martyr's death by crucifixion, or stabbing or stoning and seven others were called to replace them. Oft times the dates are lost so that we know not just when these deaths occurred but there nothing in either the secular or the ecclesiastical records to show that each replacement did not follow a death. The preceding table shows that this is probably the case as a careful examination makes plain.

As this chart shows there are six of whom the date of death is unknown. This number is just sufficient to balance those called and unaccounted for, no more and no less. If there had been either five or seven or any number, this chart could not have balanced for some years we would have had more or less than the required quorum of twelve. The fact that the callings can be balanced over the years with the deaths is good circumstantial evidence that the quorum of twelve was a fixed number and is exactly the same kind of reasoning that scientists and statisticians use in their work. This data could be fitted to a curve and the level of probability calculated. Nearly as good an estimate can be made from inspection. It seems quite apparent that there is nothing here to disprove the statement that the quorum of twelve was held to be significant in the early days of the church, that when one of their number died he was replaced by another, and that the number twelve was continued. When we consider that there are no discrepancies in this table, no deviations from what could have been and the known facts here all check; when we consider this correlation with the express statement that

APOSTOLIC AGE

YEARS A.D.	3	0	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70		
Peter	[Bar]																					k	Killed 67 A.D.	
Andrew Acts 1:13 <sup>1</sup>	[Bar]					k <sup>3</sup>																	Date unknown Crucified <sup>4</sup>	
James	[Bar]							k																Acts 12:2 Killed 44 A.D.
John	[Bar]																					Alive 98+ A.D. <sup>4</sup>		
Philip	[Bar]																[Hatched]	Acts 21:8 Alive 57 A.D.						
Bartholomew Acts 1:13 <sup>1</sup>	[Bar]										k <sup>3</sup>												Date unknown Killed <sup>4</sup>	
Thomas Acts 1:13 <sup>1</sup>	[Bar]										k <sup>3</sup>												Date unknown Killed <sup>4</sup>	
Matthew Acts 1:13 <sup>1</sup>	[Bar]																					Alive 60-70 A.D.		
James, son of Alphaeus Acts 1:13 <sup>1</sup>	[Bar]										k <sup>3</sup>												Fate unknown	
Lebbaeus Thaddaeus Matt. 10:13 <sup>1</sup>	[Bar]																k <sup>3</sup>	Date unknown Killed <sup>4</sup>						
Simon the Canaanite Acts 1:13	[Bar]																k <sup>3</sup>	Date unknown Crucified <sup>4</sup>						
Judas	D																					Died 30 A.D.		
Matthias	C Acts 1:23-26	[Bar]																				Called 30 A.D.		
Barnabus											C Acts 13:2	[Bar]											Called 47 A.D.	
Paul											C Acts 13:2	[Bar]											k Killed 67 A.D.	
James, The Lord' brother						C <sup>2</sup> Gal. 1:18-19	[Bar]										k	Called 37 A.D. Stoned 60 A.D.						
Sylvanus											C <sup>2</sup> 1 Thess. 1:1	[Bar]											2:5-6	
Timotheus											[Hatched]	[Bar]											C <sup>2</sup> 1 Thess. 1:1 2:5-6	
Andronicus																	C <sup>2</sup> Rom. 16:7	[Bar]						
Junia																	C <sup>2</sup> Rom. 16:7	[Bar]						
Apollos																	C <sup>2</sup> 1Cor. 4:6-9	[Bar]						
TOTAL	1	2	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	1	2	12	12	12			

NOTE:

- 1 References refer to last time these Apostles are mentioned in the Bible. 3 Suggested dates of death.
- 2 First record of Apostles calling mentioned in the Bible. 4 Information taken from tradition.

Matthias was called to replace Judas in the apostleship from which he had fallen, then it follows that at least here the case is pretty well established. Compare these conclusions with the facts as before stated that these offices are to be found in the church as established by Christ and that they are to remain in the church until Christ returns and the case is as well established as the other doctrines to which we hold. It becomes difficult to reject this doctrine of a quorum of twelve unless our desires are to seek after the commandments of men rather than to the laws of God.

Another fact becomes self evident here. Some hold that Peter, James and John were presidents in the church. They claim this to give Biblical authority to the act of mutilating the revelations through Joseph Smith. This mutilation came about by the addition of the presidential office to the church through changing revelations which were never intended by God to teach such an office. Error besets error so men must justify themselves and

wrest the scriptures to bolster their false offices in the eyes of the world in that they affirm that these three apostles are presidents in the church of early days, hoping thereby to gain scriptural sanction for their modern-day error. In so doing they but wrest the scriptures to their own destruction as our chart shows that at no time during the thirty-one years investigated were there more or less than twelve men leading the church, all of whom were called apostles and never presidents. This would not have been true if three of them were presidents for then there would have been nine apostles and only nine, for there were never more than a total of twelve in office at any one time. Simple arithmetic allows of no other interpretation to the embarrassment of this false doctrine.

In like manner, using the same reasoning and logic, this argument completely demolishes the claim that Peter was the first Pope. If Peter was Pope, then there were only eleven apostles although Christ refers to them

as twelve who are called to be special witnesses to Christ. Never does He call them anything but apostles and disciples. Some claim that Peter was given the keys, but a little further reading in the Bible will show that Christ was speaking to all twelve of the Apostles and not just to Peter. So it is evident that there are twelve men, equal in authority, who are the spiritual leaders of the church: twelve alone, continuing till the second coming of Christ. Never is any other organization described in the New Testament. Never is it said that Christ has authorized any other group to head His church. Any other organization is of man and has no authority greater than man. If such a doctrine, that professes another organization than that which God has ordered, is not a doctrine of man in fulfillment of that which prophecy concerning those who "teach for doctrine the commandments of men", then there is no way that this prophecy is fulfilled. Let God be true and every man a liar.

## Ravenna News

Greetings from Church of Christ Local in Ravenna Michigan. I am happy to report we have had four Baptisms this year and Elder Max Spencer and Wife are back from the Arizona Reunion.

During our Sacrament meeting, Pastor Elder Gale Brantner preached about the time when all animals will be calm and won't hurt the little children as they play.

On Monday December seventh several from our local went to the funeral of Sister Mabel Bergey in Clare Michigan. We will miss our Sister very much. She was ninety years old. We will also miss Sister Dorothy Howe and Sister Vida Filley, both members of The Church of Christ many years.

December third Priest Aaron Heath read in Mosiah of the happy state of those that keep God's Commandments. for New Year's eve we are having a Prayer Service with questions and answers about Christmas. That will bring to close the year 1992 and bring in year 1993 rejoicing that we know the Lord. He has brought us safe through another year.

At this time Elder Charles Brantner and Wife are visiting. It's always nice to have a visit from them.  
Sister Lois, Advocate Reporter

## Farmington News

Dec. 31, 1992

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 thirty-first day of December is a timely date to reflect on all the events of this past year which God, our Father, carried us through. The ground is covered with snow with temperatures below zero which brings us a reminder of this past year's unpredictable weather. Nevertheless, while Elizabeth Fox's house was under construction, in October and November, God provided perfect weather conditions which was a miracle. Unfortunately, as a result of weather and/or road conditions, members of Christ's church suffered car damages from accidents while on the road. However, God protected the people in the vehicles. We pray that God continues to protect those traveling during the holiday season.

This past year, the Farmington local was very pleased that so many traveled to meet with us. We hope and pray our visitors left feeling edified. There were so many words of advice given during: talent offerings, Sunday school, and sermons that were profitable for the welfare of the soul. We also received exhortation during: the Tri-State reunion, sacrament services, and visits with the Bemidji local. In an earlier report, I neglected to mention our thankfulness for Brother Adam Porter's help at the Tri-State reunion. It was also a blessing to receive a card from the Porters and hear of Adam's ordination as an Elder.

In 1992, God helped His people overcome treacherous difficulties. God's blessings were with his ministry as they performed the numerous ordinances outlined in the gospel of Christ. My family is especially thankful for the ordinance of laying on of

hands by the Elders. Furthermore, God answered prayers concerning everything from helping our children with their schooling to finding new dwelling places for many of us.

The Farmington local invites and encourages all members and ministry alike to come and fellowship with us, at Merlin and Eva Lin Eddy's residence, as we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Your sister in Christ,  
Patricia Gould

## Collins News

Here we are, greeting a brand new year. The earth simply revolved from night to day and a new year has been born. I feel a kind of urgency that perhaps you also share. Time is rushing by and prophesy is being fulfilled. The world is in turmoil and wickedness is accepted as "normal". We, however, have a bright hope and a promise; a promise that Jesus will return again; there will be a new heaven and a new earth; and our lives will be worth something to Our Heavenly Father. Our service to God will not have been for nothing. May God bless us in this new year of 1993

In October, an early prayer service opened the Collins Rally, followed by four short sermons given by Brothers Joe Smith, Dan Lawrence, Leslie Case and Allen Kauffman, with Brother Frank Fann bringing the closing sermon of the day after lunch.

In November the three churches in Collins met together for the annual Community Thanksgiving Program. This is always held at the Baptist Church, who, this year had a new Pastor to bring a short sermon to everyone. The evening closed with enjoyable visiting over pie and coffee.

The Community Christmas Program was held in much the same way only everyone was invited to our church and Brother Jack Martin was the speaker for the evening after a nice

program of songs and a lovely reading, Jack and Betty (Martin) traveled to Oklahoma to be with their family over the Christmas holidays; which left two very empty seats at church on Sunday. Aunt Norma (Cook) gathered her family in for the holidays too. Her son, Marvin, and Wife, Gwen, along with daughter, Samantha, came from Nebraska. Also Terry, Debbie, and their two girls, Keri and Jodi, and Donna and her son, Justen, were all together with Aunt Norma. Even her grandson, Jeff and his family, also from Nebraska, were able to spend a day here. Special days shared with friends and family make wonderful memories, don't they!

We have had several guests visit here at Collins that I have not named, but who have been much appreciated and enjoyed. I do, however, have a few sermon quotes I'd like to share with you and hope you will have a few seconds to think on each one and how, perhaps, it may apply to our lives. :

What "image" does the Church of Christ present to the world?

It's awful hard to sing in harmony when everyone is singing a different song.

Do we dare NOT come back to our Savior?

Man and machine can do marvelous things, but can not give you eternal life—only Jesus Christ can do that.

Everyone has a right to be wrong in his opinion, but no one has a right to be wrong in the facts.

It's what we go out and DO that is going to tell our story.

A sign seen over the doorway as leaving a church; "You are now entering the Missionary Field".

We don't have any problem in knowing right from wrong; it's in doing that which is right.

Enjoy the beauty of the Gospel. Ponder it in your heart.

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

### 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

Price Each

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\*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.

- Church History for Juniors - includes a Teachers Guide
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#### Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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 the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

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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.**