

Zion's Advocate

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

I Nephi 3:187

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Independence, Missouri — April 1994

Number 4

The Weaver

My life is but a weaving between my God and me;
I do not choose the colors; He worketh steadily.
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent, and shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful in the skillful Weaver's hand,
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.

Anonymous

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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

avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS, and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material — the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise prepare anything you send.

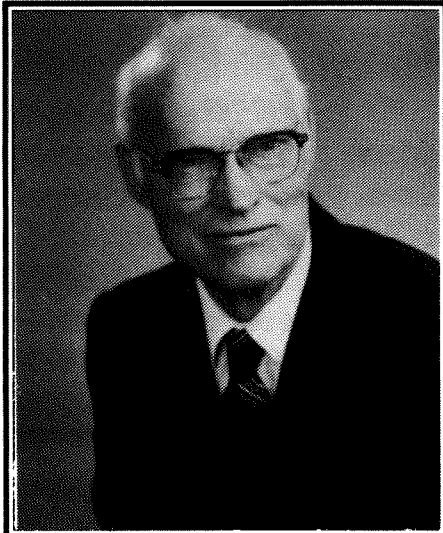
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A Great Need of Humility



By Apostle Marvin Ely

In August of 1993 I felt spiritual direction that there is a great need of increasing our humility among the members of the Church of Christ. I believed this so strongly that in four different areas I preached on this subject. The last time I felt directed to preach on this was during the Phoenix Church Reunion. When our April Conference unfolds, what better way to conduct ourselves than in a humble manner?

“Yea, all of you be subject to one another, and be clothed with humility: for

God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” 1 Peter 5:5-7. This beautiful scripture really stresses the importance of humility in each of our lives.

Alma spoke the words of God unto the people in the church in Zarahemla. He asked them a number of questions and we might ask ourselves the same questions. A few of the questions follow from Alma 3:47-50: “Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins? Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God.”

A brief definition of the

◆ ... There is a great need of increasing our humility among the members of the Church of Christ.

word humble follows: Not proud or haughty, not arrogant. A synonym of humble is meek, modest, lowly. Jesus was a meek and lowly person and He expects us to be like Him. In Matthew 11:28-29 Jesus said: “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” If we are yoked to Jesus it shows our willingness to walk as He walked. Jesus was meek and lowly so He expects us to be meek and lowly.

The two days before the 1993 August Ministers' conference started the Apostles met to consider various items including the type of wine that should be used in sacrament. This

was an item of great concern to us and even though time has been spent in fasting and prayer there is still not unity in the church on the type of wine. We adjourned Monday afternoon until the following day. **That night in my prayers I was very concerned that we had not arrived at a unified manner concerning the sacrament. It was in my thoughts that night. Then early the next day the answer came to me: If we would humble ourselves first the answer would come not only to this, but to other questions and specific needs. It was impressed on me that we needed to start at the head as well as the members. Also it was impressed on me that our forefathers humbled themselves and were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.**

“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them; And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gath-

ered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them; And I beheld that the power of God was with them; and

◆ **The reason we exist as a nation today is because our forefathers humbled themselves before the Lord.**

also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle. And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations” 1 Nephi 3:152-155. The reason we exist as a nation today is because our forefathers humbled themselves before the Lord. We must not forget this!

In the book of Helaman we can learn how a group of humble people handled a difficult situation. Pride entered into the hearts of some of the people of the church and they began to persecute their own brethren which did cause the more humble part of the people to suffer great persecution and to have much


affliction. **“Nevertheless, they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling of their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God”** Helaman 2:31.

The Apostle Paul gave a charge to those that are risen with Christ, that they set their affection on the things above and not on things on the earth. “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness” Colossians 3:12-14.

“And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to

come, which was spoken by the mouth of an angel; And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true" Mosiah 2:21-23. These words of King Benjamin really show that he knew about the importance of humility. Alma in speaking to his son, Helaman, told him to teach the people to humble themselves and to be meek and lowly in heart. Also he told him to teach the people to withstand every temptation of the devil with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. He further admonished Helaman to learn in his youth to keep the commandments of God. (See Alma 17:66-68.)

"Beloved, if our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" 1 John 3:21-22. **It is important that we keep the commandments of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. One of our great needs is the need of greater humility among us.**



Take Time

Take Time To Think...

It is the source of power

Take Time to Play...

It is the secret of perpetual youth

Take Time to Read...

It is the fountain of wisdom

Take Time to Pray...

It is the greatest power on earth

Take Time to Love and Be Loved...

It is a God-given privilege

Take Time to be Friendly...

It is the Road to Happiness

Take Time to Laugh...

It is the music of the soul

Take Time to Give...

It is too short a Day to be Selfish

Take Time to Work...

It is the Price of Success

Take Time to Do Charity...

It is the Key to Heaven.



“Walk Therein”

If we could find the “old, old path” to-day, and walk THEREIN, none would have to live in a tumble-down shack, wear shoddy clothing, or go without sufficient food. We can find the good way all right; but the catch is to WALK THEREIN; and to-day, as in Isaiah’s day, we say, “We will not walk therein.” We walk in the politician’s way, where the few luxuriate in millions and the many live on the ragged edge of want.

The risks of walking in the “old, old path” are somewhat akin to “The Calculated Risks of Prayer,” as enumerated by Frank Halliday Ferris in *Reader’s Digest* for November, 1953:

1 *There is the risk of seeing ourselves as we are.*

Not easy to know ourselves. Not always pleasant. We think of ourselves as what we want to be; not what we really are; and see virtues in ourselves that are not there. To be stripped of our illusions, and be forced to face the truth about ourselves makes us desperately unhappy. So prayer is a

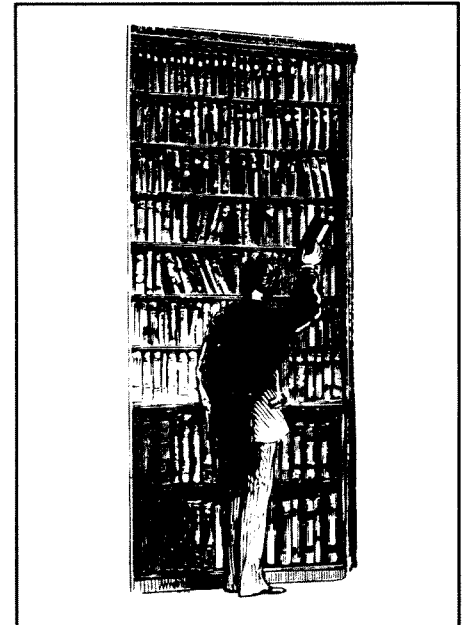
helpful, though humbling practice; in prayer we voluntarily face the truth about ourselves. [And therein is the call to repentance.] This is the prerequisite to moral progress—but it is hard on our pride.

2 *There is the risk of becoming more like Christ in a world that crucified him.*

And he might have added, and which would crucify Him again, if He came teaching the same things He taught then; and which would run counter to much of the religious teachings of today.

3 *There is the risk of having our prayer answered.*

Beware for what we pray; for our prayer may be answered. We pray for the brotherhood of man. Suppose God should answer. It would mean that I should have to treat all men—including people I find it hard to like—not with mere politeness, but as I treat my own brother whom I love and for whom I would do anything under heaven. DO



FROM the FILES

I REALLY WANT GOD TO ANSWER MY PRAYER FOR THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN?

When men are able to write things like the foregoing, it indicates that the way we know. But as the people of Isaiah’s day said, so the Christian world says today, “we will not walk therein.” And so they don’t.

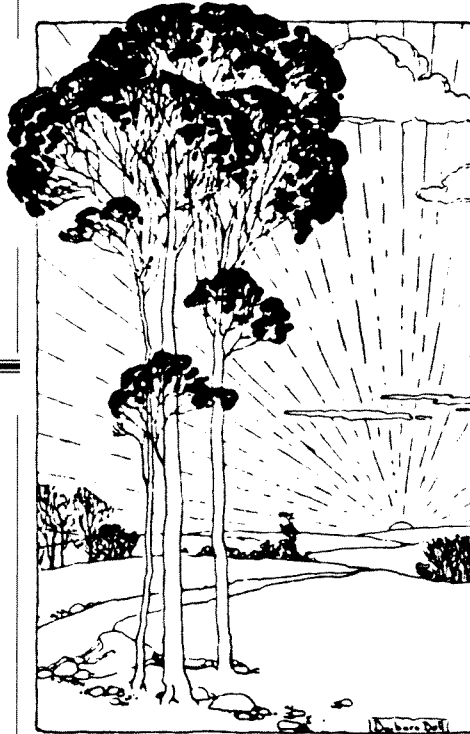


My Testimony Of Joy

Years ago at a service, a preaching service, as I was playing the closing song, and through the closing prayer, the vivid impression to me was that there were three standing at the pulpit, the two ministers, Brother Arthur Smith and Brother Alex Smith, and my Savior (Our Savior).

This impression was so real, so certain, and joy so

filled my being that I could scarcely wait for the closing prayer to end, so that I could turn to Him in my gladness. Yet when I did turn, there



PATHLIGHTS

begged for God's mercy.

I parked my car in the church's parking area and sat in the silence of my tears praying for strength. Finally I got out of my car and walked up the walkway to the church doors. After that, it's a little cloudy. I just remember Sue Heath

were just the two ministers that I saw with my eyes. My disappointment and grief was severe and for days I grieved, but yet that joy was so great and such a blessing to have experienced his presence, though my eyes were holden.

*Sister Darlene Smith
Ava, Missouri*

I've Found the True Church of Christ

I'm so glad to have found the true Church of Christ. I asked God for guidance and help, and he led me to a sign—a sign that said the Church of Christ, restored 1830.

I was at the time desperately in need of spiritual and physical help. I was hurting so badly that I actually

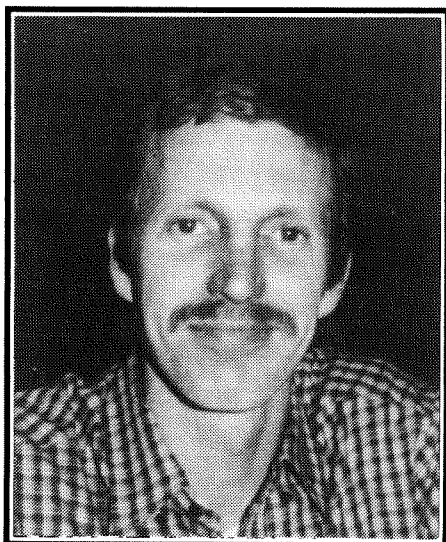
and being loved instantly.

Sue and Gale Brantner spoke to me with love and compassion. They helped me with my current problem and invited me back if I wanted. I did come back again and again. I feel the Lord in this church. It is the only church that's really called to me. I'm so thankful for everyone there. They really showed me God's love (for me and for everyone who seeks His word).

Thanks be to the Lord,

*Erica Lynne Trybe
Ravenna, Michigan*

The Deceitfulness of Riches



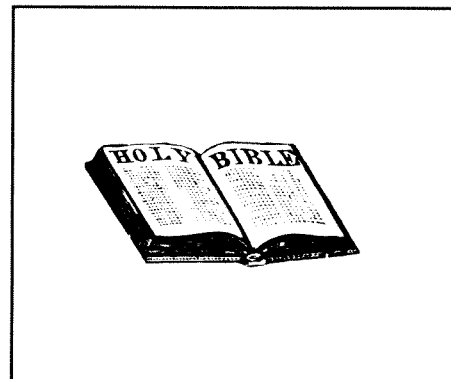
Condensed from a sermon by Priest Randy Sheldon, December 11, 1983

I have some things on my mind which began, possibly, at a Phoenix reunion. There in a priesthood meeting Brother Housknecht was questioned about the vision he had of the Church at the crossroads. At this crossroads people were wandering back and forth, as though wondering what they should do, what way to go (seemingly). Once, emblazoned across his mind, possibly in his own mental picture of this vision, were four words, two of which I

would like to speak on today: *indecision and fear.*

I began examining this, and trying to understand just exactly what is encompassed by the word *indecision*. I looked it up, and *indecision* in Webster's definition is a wavering between two possible courses of action. I thought of a scripture in Joel 3:14: "multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision," and I thought that if this vision is true, that we, the Church of Christ, are at this crossroad, in this valley of decision; and that valley of decision has vast repercussions as far as our spiritual concerns are concerned, as to where we are going, what we are doing, and what we are developing into. And so we find ourselves in a position of decision making.

I would like to talk about the possibility that *indecision* has involved itself with us. What causes it? What promotes it? What causes an individual to be indecisive as far as God is concerned? I Kings 18:21 refers to Elijah. He comes before priests of Baal (the



S E R M O N

god of this world—of lust, of carnality, of mammon—every aspect apart from God) and Elijah says, I challenge you men to prove your God, to put your God up against my God and we will see who prevails. "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

I find in this halting between two opinions an answer to my quest of indecisiveness. It may not be the whole picture, but I see something that may relate to every one of us, and that is, the difference of opinions relating to the Godly way of

doing the things that God has commanded his army here on earth to do, as opposed to the desires and lusts of the world.

So, sometimes people find themselves at the crossroads, and they're unable to decide because of the deceitfulness of riches. If I would have you raise your hand right now if you are materially rich, probably very few are going to raise their hand. I'd like to declare something to you: I feel that I'm materially rich, that I abound with the wealth of good living. There are some richer than I am. They have bigger pay checks. Are they rich? Certainly. Then I think, this man that has a bigger pay check may have debts, and may claim he is broke. And sometimes I claim I'm broke. But at the same time we've surrounded ourselves with the entrapments of wealth of the material life. How do we feel with this? What does God say (mean) when He talks about wealth? Exactly what does He have in mind?

In Matthew 13 we find an interesting account. It's the parable of the sower and the seed. It was good seed. He sowed a number of different areas. One was among thorns (verse 22). It says,

"He also that received the seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he be-

◆ ...We, the Church of Christ, are at this crossroad, in this valley of decision; and that valley of decision has vast repercussions as far as our spiritual concerns are concerned...

cometh unfruitful." There's the key word: *deceitfulness*. It says here that there is an inherent weakness with riches—it has a way of deceiving you. We can all say, "It doesn't deceive me—I know how to handle my money." But, I want you to bear in mind that Satan is a fallen angel, and he has powers, intelligence, and perception as to the workings of mankind, and he knows how to deceive, to use something that is as common to us as money to deceive us in attempting to overthrow the Kingdom of God, and to dilute your testimony, and to create an individual who is unable to decide—"if it be

God, follow Him, or, if it be mammon, follow after him."

There's another scripture about Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16: 19-21. The rich man was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day; in contrast to that, at the very same time, there was a beggar laid at his gate, full of sores, desiring the crumbs from the rich man's table, with dogs licking his sores. I've always had dogs, and dogs epitomize to me virtues of which mankind seems to be lacking. In this twenty-first verse we see these dogs exercising compassion, concern and mercy to this man. "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the Angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died, and was buried. And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is com-

forted, and thou art tormented." Down further the rich man said that, "If I can't be relieved, send Lazarus to my brothers, etc." and Abraham tells him, "They have

◆ ...Sometimes people find themselves at the crossroads, and they're unable to decide because of the deceitfulness of riches.

Moses and the prophets..." but the rich man said, "but if one went from the dead..." and Abraham said, "they still wouldn't believe, even then."

You have that word. We have that understanding now. We have that awakening, to arouse ourselves and to examine and understand if the deceptiveness of riches has entered into our lives, and has created a monster of indecision within us. That's our question today.

Luke 12:16: "And he spoke a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully—" he really cashed in, he's got it, and he thought—"this will I do: I will pull down my barns and build greater...And I will say to my soul...take thine ease,

eat, drink, and be merry. But God said to him, Thou fool...." I see here—it's unwritten, but I see this over and over as exemplified by mankind—I see a reoccurring cycle in this man's life. He's increasing in wealth, and there is nothing inherently wrong in that of itself, but there's something that happens when the deceitfulness of riches begins to consume and erode away the riches of God. This man has said, "Now I can sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labors." How often have we said that? How many times in a common household do we finally arrive at wall to wall carpeting, two cars in the garage, and we say, "look what I've got." But three or four years later the carpet gets ripped up. We can't stand it, so we lay down some more. We can't stand that old car or T.V.—whatever it is we're constantly pursuing an elusive goal of, enough. What is enough? When have you arrived? When have you gotten to the point that you are allowed to live and be comfortable, that the benefits and the fruits of your labor are sunk into something that is Eternal, and worthwhile, and building for the advent of Christ, when He comes

again, that He will claim you and your works, and what have those works been?

I John 2:15: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any

◆ He's increasing in wealth, and there is nothing inherently wrong in that of itself, but there's something that happens when the deceitfulness of riches begins to consume and erode away the riches of God.

man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." We're finding keys—scriptures that should alert us. Our antennas ought to just bounce. We should be alerted to the fact that God is saying something about the deceitfulness of riches. It's an interesting fact that of the thirty-eight parables that Christ has written in the New Testament, sixteen of them are involved with money. In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, every tenth verse is involved with money, materialism, and riches. So we can understand that Christ speaking

through the pages of the New Testament is warning that there is something illusive and deceptive and insidious about a little half dollar or a five dollar bill. There's something that's destructive if it's allowed to accomplish that which Satan would accomplish. But like so many things in the world that we perceive and understand—money, T.V., magazines, newspapers, etc.—they are a neutral force. That's a fact. The influence is in how they're manipulated. Money can be manipulated to do great good and be a benefit to the Kingdom of God here on earth. But it can be manipulated evilly, too, and so as we find ourselves in this crossroads of indecision we need to decide what is our source of riches and where are they taking us. It says, "Love not the world...or all that is in the world, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

What have I done here? I may have made you a little bit defensive. I hope so, and I hope that you're weighing

these things, and understanding that whatever your life scale here is, there are some people living in abject poverty, and you're saying to yourself, "I'm not rich, I

◆ **"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."**

can't give an extra dime anywhere else." Well, think again. We need to examine the deceptiveness of riches, because I've found multitudes of things in my home that I could have done without, and I could have taken the energy and resources that it took to purchase them and could have accomplished something eternal for God.

Lazarus is just an example of a need, and there are great and magnificent needs in this world that can be served and satisfied by the richest people on earth, right here.

There was a man, Cornelius, and he was a rather wealthy man, and it says in Acts 10:1-2: "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion

of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always." And he had a vision of an angel of God coming to him, and he was afraid and said, "What is it Lord?" And he said, "...Thy prayers and thine alms are coming up for a memorial before God." As a result of this the gospel was opened up to a whole new outreach—as a result of the prayers and the alms of Cornelius—and they stand as a testimony that this man had used his abilities and resources for the promotion of the work of God.

James 1:27: This particular verse is talking about what it is (takes) to be righteous, and it says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This is pure religion. I mean, you're going to take out anything that might confuse the issue. You know, this is the instruction manual if you want happiness, if you want to promote the work of the gospel. I see and am able to understand from various testimonies of a few that

they are promoting the work of the gospel. They are in the arena, scared and pursuing a course of possible or certain death. And there are in the grandstand those that

◆ **Money can be manipulated to do great good and be a benefit to the Kingdom of God here on earth.**

are observers—spectators in the arena of conflict of your life.

Over in Daniel we find that Daniel was a very young man taken by Nebuchadnezzar; and the king asked some of his hierarchy to examine among the children of the Hebrews to see if they could find among them any young men who were unblemished and who were filled with wisdom and understanding and bright prospects. They found Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king had admonished his officers to feed them of the best of the land, of the king's wine and of his table. But Daniel didn't like this idea—he was wise from the very beginning. Daniel purposed that they be given pulse to eat and water to drink. They did that, and

after ten days their faces were fuller and they were filled with the force of life, and within them was great wisdom and understanding. The point that I understand from this is that they had not partaken of the dainties of the rich.

And so as we live here in the twentieth century, we are feasting on the dainties, and it's having its effect. It's causing something, so that we are not able to arise and to decisively move forward in the power of God and do the things He desires us to do. We have desires within us that are great; they roll and they roar like the sea. They say, "What about me? I want a good home, etc." We are consumed by a desire to surround ourselves with the entrapments of the world, at the cost of the Spirit and power of God that could create within us, as within Daniel, the spirit of great wisdom and understanding.

Isaiah 51 talks about what I call peer pressure. We are bombarded, surrounded and immersed in what the world desires and what the world is saying to you: "This is what it takes to become a man, to be a success." Here in the seventh verse it says, "Hearken unto

me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings." How many times

◆ **We are consumed by a desire to surround ourselves by the entrapments of the world, at the cost of the Spirit and power of God that could create within us, as within Daniel, the spirit of great wisdom and understanding.**

have you heard that? Somebody says, "Oh you're a goody two shoes." I had it said to me one time, "What do you do—wear Pat Boone shoes to church?" Whatever it is, if you're affected by such things, then you fear the opinions of the world. It says, "For the moth shall eat them up like a garment...." All these rich people are going to die one of these days; everybody has a common heritage of a grave—there's no way to get out of the world alive. But you're going to find that that heritage is a great equalizer, and in this great equalization all

men shall stand before the bar of God. "For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation from generation to generation." The benefits and the rewards gained for making the right decisions and for decisively pursuing the right course, shall be forever.

But the deceptiveness of riches sometimes erodes away that treasure of desire within us. Sometimes we make excuses: "I'd love to be involved but I just can't right now." I don't know about you, but I want to commit myself. I want to grow and build and strengthen others, and do the things that build and strengthen the Kingdom of God here on earth. I have these desires.

So again we find ourselves at the crossroads of indecisiveness. Are we going to remain there? Or, are we going to begin to partake of and pursue the course of righteousness? There are those who have been blessed with the power to make money. I believe that is a talent given of God to them. What are they going to do with it? Are they going to use those resources for

something that will never perish? They are at the crossroads and they have that decision to make.

And those of us who don't have money—al-

◆ **The benefits and the rewards gained for making the right decisions and for decisively pursuing the right course, shall be forever.**

though I want to declare unto you that we are all rich—we could give much, much more than we think we can. But even those who don't have money, we have lives that we can give. We can become the kind of people that God would have us be. We can become pursuers of that religion which is undefiled in ministering to the widow and the orphan and those who need great compassion and understanding. We have that opportunity to step away from the ease of life and grab hold of the old rugged cross, and to lean on it and gain strength in our lives.

I'd like to close with a scripture in 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17. In this account Jehoshaphat was king of Judah at the time and they

were being invaded by a very great and ominous army. They didn't stand a chance. Jehoshaphat implored God, and the word of the Lord came,

"...Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's but God's...Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you..."

Get your red hymn book and turn to page 134. "Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb, and shall I fear to own His cause"—am I going to be intimidated?—"or blush to speak his name? Must I be borne to paradise on flowery beds of ease, while others fight to win the prize and sail through bloody seas?"



N E W S

SHOW LOW, ARIZONA

Mogollon Local Report

Greetings to our beloved brethren abroad. We trust God is helping you to bear the onslaught of sin in the world and the daily vexation of your souls. We hope these things will not put you in despair. Always remember the promises, the power of God and his deliverance. The sufferings of these times are nothing compared to the glory to be revealed.

As for our little local, 1993 saw a lot of health problems. Elmer Brown had a growth in his head which caused him sore times, but by blessings and surgery is doing well now. Tom Karas also had a hernia operation which laid him up for a while, and Kathy Cloyd had two operations on her

leg, but all is finished and well now, for which we are thankful.

Now we watch 1994 with anticipation. What prophecies will be fulfilled? What new thing will the Lord do upon the earth? I would like to report something I heard yesterday I think we should all rejoice in. Congress was going to pass a law that all homeschool and private school teachers had to be federally certified, but so many people called in that it didn't pass. This is a great victory for our country and freedoms when we thought we were losing them all. I'm sorry to say I did not call in. This win has really encouraged me to do so in the future. I am imagining right now when the people of the west will stand up and unite for these freedoms, a prophecy I look forward to.

I haven't written in quite a while so forgive me if I miss any visitors. Joel and Jenny ministered to us in Payson while Tom was working overtime and out of town. Joel and Ken Oar ministered to us in Show Low, and went on the next day to the Navajo Reservation. Elmer and Bettye have

a new granddaughter, born in December to Kathy and Bill Hawley. Kim Scher and her two girls, Nikki and Abbi, had church with us here in Show Low in February.

We've had so many good sermons, as the scriptures are so full of the way of God and man. I would like to leave you with this from the book of Matthew, Be of good cheer, be not afraid, I am with you!

Reporter
Kathy Cloyd

RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

**Greetings from
Ravenna Michigan
Local Church of Christ**

February 6, 1994, was sacrament and potluck dinner. We had sixteen present, which is not bad considering the weather. Our weather has been zero and lots of snow. Some are traveling. Elder Max and wife Vivian Spencer. We miss them and will be glad to have them back.

Sister Lois Heath made a short trip a week ago to near Jackson, Michigan, to see her sister in the nursing home near Grass Lake, Michigan.

Elder Aaron Heath preached on redemption. It's not possible to buy it. We have to come unto Christ. All those that do God's will, He will redeem. Redemption comes through Jesus Christ.

Sister Lois visited Monday, February 14, another sister in Utica, Michigan. She was in the hospital four days.

At this time Brother and Sister Max and Vivian Spencer are home. It's good

to have them back.

On February 20th, Elder Max Spencer was the preacher of the hour. He said God directed him to preach today on five ways to share faith:

- 1 *Set an example*
- 2 *Forgive*
- 3 *Love and care*
- 4 *Prayer*
- 5 *Witness*

Follow Christ's example—we must be tolerant of others.

Just when we thought spring wasn't too far away, here comes more snow and cold weather.

The last Sunday of February our pastor Gale Brantner was the preacher of the hour. The subject was Zion and the creation of mankind. That is where we want to live with God, where everything is so good. God wants us to live in Zion.

At our March 2nd prayer service Elder Max Spencer read Psalms 46 and 50. His remarks: seek after

His love, do His will and try to follow Christ. We all have different talents. While forbidden fruit is looked on as being sweeter, it spoils faster.

We had sacrament and potluck dinner March 6. Our visitor, Elder Charles Brantner, was the preacher. He read in John, chapter 6, about feeding the multitude. Other visitors today were my daughter Betty and her Husband Duane Hoffman from Wilson, North Carolina. We are happy to have visitors.

At this time our pastor Elder Gale Brantner is getting ready to go on a missionary trip. First stop Warrensburg, Missouri. He, his mother, and sister Jeanette are going together, on to Florida.

Sister Lois Heath



Farmington, Minnesota

February 27, 1994

In the trust of the blessings of Jesus Christ in each of our lives, the Church of Christ Farmington local adds its testimony in this monthly report.

Last week, our sister EvaLin Eddy requested that a sermon her husband gave on responsibility be submitted. The following is the sermon Elder Merlin Eddy delivered, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, on January 16, 1994:

R—Repent. It is your responsibility to repent of your sins. No one else can do it for you.

E—Edify. It is your responsibility to edify the Church of Christ in your words, your deeds and your daily lives. It is how others view us. They see the church through us. Others in the world get a feel for what we believe from how we act in our everyday lives.

S—Spirit. We have to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and then lis-

ten to and heed it's guidance. Pray that we can discern the spirits whether they are good or evil.

P—Pray, not for lusts, but for your needs and the needs of others—for things that are real needs, yours and others.

O—Obey. Obey the commandments of God and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

N—Nurture. It is your responsibility to nurture your children in righteousness. Talk about and exemplify the ways of the Lord. Bring them up in the ways of the Lord, including the examples we set for others. Study as well.

S—Service, compassionate help for the needy, both physical and spiritual.

I—Ideals. Are our ideals on the vain things of the world or on God?

B—Baptism. It is our responsibility to witness our commitment to serve God to the end of our lives and to keep his commandments.

I—Influence. We can influence others to do good things and bad things. We have the ability to influence others whether we like it or not. It is our responsibility to influence others for good.

L—Learning. It is our responsibility to study the scriptures and learn the ways of God.

I—Integrity. We are responsible for our integrity so people can trust us to do what we say we will. We are responsible for our moral integrity also.

T—Testimony. We have the responsibility to share our testimony that we carry of Christ to others, to those around us.

Y—You. You are responsible for yourself, physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally.

Outside influences come to bear on many of these things, but the ultimate responsibility is yours.

February brought about the same or added responsibilities to members of Christ's body in the Farm-

N E W S

ington local. Ronnie and Joani Gill became parents for the first time on February 16, their son Cameron Michael who weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Our other children were instructed, via a sermon by Merlin on February 20th, of their responsibility—the commandment to follow the example of the Lamb of God and be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Thus, they make a covenant with God and come into the fold of God and be called his people and walk with a newness of life and be cleansed from all unrighteousness in order that they may obtain eternal life. One of our children, James Brown, requested a season of prayer on December 12th. On December 19th, Bill and James Brown, and Jacob,

Jenny, and Joseph Eddy offered their talents. Bill Brown continues to ask for administration as do other of our children. On January 2nd, James Brown, Jacob and Joseph Eddy, Amy, Isaac, and Liza Ferrier and Alyssa Gould assisted in teaching Sunday School at a combined service of the East and West Independence, Missouri, locals. Another young man, Jesse Splittstoesser, has been attending church services lately.

The annual business meeting for the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Farmington local was held today, and with it many new responsibilities were added to elected officers. Although it has been a terrific blessing to serve my brothers and sisters in Christ by filling the

position as a reporter, I now leave you with our sister in Christ, Mrs. Bethany Harpster, as I attend to different responsibilities.

Please pray for Bethany and for all who hold offices. Please pray for the scattered members of Christ's church residing in Wisconsin. Special interest has been asked for Sally Ferkus, who is a newly baptized member and is rather new to the gospel. Please remember her husband, Jim, and children, Ashley, Cathy, and Jimmy Ferkus.

May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the True and Living God—Bless you and Keep you,

*Your sister in Christ,
Patricia Gould*

Missouri Camp For All Ages

The Missouri Camp For All Ages will be Friday evening, June 10th to Sunday.

We will be meeting at Camp Aurora, the same place as last year.

There will be canoeing, campfires, and fellowship. Come join us and have fun.

The cost will be \$15.00 each for the whole weekend and \$8.00 for children 12 to 5, under 5 free.

Canoe rental is \$21.50. You can have three to a canoe.

Contact:

✓ *Rick Olson*
5629 Logan
Kansas City, MO. 64136
Phone: (816) 358-8530

✓ *Jeff Oldam*
4957 South Union
Independence, MO. 64055
Phone: (816) 358-4940

N E W S

HOUSTON, MISSOURI

Houston Local

We are nearing spring again, and I think the birds and plants are just as anxious as we are. We have had a nice winter here at Houston. Several storms have been worse north and south of us.

We are looking forward to a little bundle from heaven in April. Jennifer and Mark Pounds will make Grandmother Keeney a great-great grandmother. Of course your reporter will

feel great!

We have been blessed with a lot of visitors over the winter. November was Brother and Sister Brockman. December our visitors were Brother and Sister Glenn Gill, Brother and Sister Eddie, and the Gerry Case family. Brother Brockman was here again in January. Our pastor has admonished us to live in harmony with God's laws and have faith, hope and charity.

In February, Brother and Sister Smith Brickhouse and Brother and Sister Charles Brantner. Both gave us good thoughts to live

by, and the hope we have in the pure gospel as Jesus taught on both lands.

Brother Donald Gill brought a friend with him from West Plains. It was so nice to have them study and worship with us.

Sister Dee Anna Hutcheson, Grant, Nancy, Andrew and Emily spent Presidents Day weekend with us.

Please remember the following in your prayers: Brother Arthur Smith, Brother John Jones, Brother Gus Schwegler, James and Martin Addie.

B A P T I S M



My name is Erica Trybe. I was born in California, but I've lived my whole life in Michigan. I've been blessed with three healthy children, and their names are Joshua, Cindy and Benjamin. My husband's name is Gerald. We now live in Ravenna, where we attend the Church of Christ.

Erica was baptized December 12, 1993, by Elder Aaron Heath. Her address is 11221 Hall Rd. Ravenna, MI 49451.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Ravenna Local's idea is positive. Any locals that are interested please forward a photo and brief details concerning the newly baptized member. Each will be printed as space permits.

Editor

Future in doubt after fire destroys 1850's church

The Grand Rapids Press

—February 14, 1994

A fire that gutted a 100-year-old Allegan County church Sunday could have been burning for hours before it was discovered by a neighbor, Wayland Fire Chief Hugh DeWeerd said.

The fire at the Church of Christ, 1016 129th Ave, in Bradley, started in the basement and was reported about 5 p.m., at least four hours after services ended.

Wayland Township Fire Department arrived to find the interior in flames.

"We're not really sure what caused it," said Hop-

kins Township Clerk Verne Lussenden, who acts as unpaid pastor of the 60-member congregation.

"I went through and checked everything just before we left after morning services, about one o'clock. The lights, the furnace, everything was off," said Lussenden. "A neighbor called about five and said, 'I hate to tell you this, but your church is on fire.'"

The building, which Lussenden said was built in the 1850's, was bought from a Methodist congregation about 20 years ago.

Lussenden warned people to stay away from the

building because the steeple could collapse under the weight of the large bell.

As a township official, Lussenden said he also is aware of changes in zoning laws over the years that require more room for parking and might make it impossible to rebuild on the same site.

Lussenden said the building was insured for \$25,000, far less than it's replacement cost. Still, he said the congregation will survive.

"We'll regroup and recover somehow," said Lussenden. "The Lord has ways of working."

COLORADO REUNION 1994

On JUNE 10,11 AND 12, 1994, the annual Colorado Reunion of the Church of Christ will be held at 3233 B 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Please notify one of the following members of our Reunion Committee for assistance in housing in a home or motel.

✓ *Jim Shaw*
3186 B Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303)434-8067

✓ *Marvin Ely*
236--32 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303)434-8149

✓ *Bob Ely*
3201 B 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(303)434-8090

We are looking forward to seeing many of our friends, both old and new, and greeting you each in the name of our Lord and Savior.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1995 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 31 & April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1994 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 17 through 19, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:

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Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Cloth)	18.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Leather)	24.00
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Outline History of the Church of Christ	4.00
Temple Lot Deed	.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50

The balance of these General Church Publications are free of charge.*

- Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Book of Mormon, The (tract)
- Brief History of the Church of Christ, A
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Purpose in America
- Great Plan of Redemption, The
- Latter Day Restoration, The
- Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy
- Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)
- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- Principles of the Gospel, The - Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel, The - Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel, The - Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- What about the Book of Mormon
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*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.

- Bible Stories to Grow By - 52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7
- Book in the Stone Box, The - About the Book of Mormon
- Church History for Juniors - Includes a Teachers Guide
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The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

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.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes) — Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

LIGHT AT EVENING (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

OUT OF THE DUST (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

RETURN, THE (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

Holy Scriptures on Audio Cassette Tapes

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set for the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

Sermons on Audio Cassette Tapes

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

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

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