

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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Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,

nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37-39

Featured In This Issue

Speaking the Truth in Love—Elder Glenn Gill.....	143	1994 Michigan State Reunion Report—Debbie Vogel.....	152
The Bondage of Apathy—Leon Gould	145	News	153
Pathlights: Which is More Dangerous, Large Sins or Small?—Maybelle Woiak.....	148	Announcements.....	155

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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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Speaking The Truth In Love

By Elder Glenn Gill

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...”
Eph 4: 14-15.

With these words to the Ephesians Paul instructs all followers of Christ in a way that has application both in the church family and in our individual lives. His words draw a simple contrast between the immaturity and deception that often enter into our lives, and the peace and joy that could be there (both as a church and as individuals). We do fall victim to the cunningly contrived temptations of the world around us, both as individuals, and sometimes even as a church family. Men have come forward from time to time with philosophies and

theologies (winds of doctrine) which, if accepted, serve only to bend or nullify the pure teaching of Christ. And individuals, deceived by their own childish misconceptions, and the lies they have believed, fall victim to the misery and pain those lies and misconceptions create.

Paul knew the cure for this common sickness of our time. It is “speaking the truth in love”. It will cause an uplifting and healing process as each loving, truth seeking person begins to “grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ”. Further along in the fourth chapter of Ephesians Paul gives insight into what is meant by those phrases “speaking the truth in love” and “growing up into him (Christ) in all things”. A series of contrasts is used to provide examples of the process:

- “...Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor...”
verse 25.

◆ Men have come forward...with philosophies and theologies (winds of doctrine) which, if accepted, serve only to bend or nullify the pure teaching of Christ.

- “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil” verses 26 & 27.
- “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” verse 28.
- “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying...”
verse 29. (Verse 30 also belongs with this thought.)
Verses 31 & 32 charge us to “put away” bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking, including

malice, and in place of these insert into our thinking kindness, tenderheartedness and forgiveness, "forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

In chapter 5 the description of how to "grow up into him" continues: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us..." verses 1 & 2. This walk in love and this self sacrifice are part of growing up into Him in all things.

In chapter 5 Paul points out that fornication, all uncleanness and covetousness should not even be part of our conversation: "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient..." (proper). What kind of conversation should we have then, if not these things? Paul simply answered this unstated question with: "But rather giving of thanks." Wouldn't it be wonderful if instead of fornication, adultery, filth, foolishness and jesting we heard people expressing what they appreciated about others and speaking of their thankfulness toward God? "Speaking to

yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all

◆ It is difficult for people to shift from speaking criticism, cynicism and hopelessness to speaking words of forgiveness, thanksgiving and edification. But we must do it...

things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." verses 19 & 20.

It is difficult for people to shift from speaking criticism, cynicism and hopelessness to speaking words of forgiveness, thanksgiving and edification. But we must do it: as parents, as grandparents, as friends and neighbors, and as brothers and sisters in Christ. King Benjamin had a formula for the accomplishment of these things. "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 the angel; (He referred here to the coming of Christ. See Mosiah 1:93-102.) 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.

It is a growing process, requiring our constant attention, our prayers and our humility, a spiritual maturing process. The end result is joy and salvation. "But speaking the truth in love...grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."



The Bondage of Apathy

By Leon Gould

When Moses gave the law to Israel he said, "The time will come when your children will ask, 'Why do we observe these commandments?' Tell them," said Moses, "we honor God because He brought us out of Egypt so He might bring us into the Promised Land."

God still so deals with His church. He calls His people out of their bondage of complacency so He may bring them to new experiences of His power. But fearing the consequences of our obedience, and fearing still more those we cannot anticipate, we hold back. We are so pained at the immediate prospect that we lose all sense of being a people whose course is charted by divine wisdom. We love the church in our own way. We sing,

*For her my tears shall fall
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be
given
Till toils and cares shall end.*

But they are not tears of repentance for work undone, they are tears of sentiment in the remembrance of

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the "Good old days". They are not prayers of dedication to the task at hand, they are petitions for the luxury of things as they are. They are not the cares and toils of a people building bridges, they are the desperate labors of a people building walls.

Behind the church's fear of change is our reluctance to accept it in our own spiritual experience. The complaints of the Israelites as they journeyed from slavery to freedom are apt illustrations of our unwillingness to yield to the Holy Spirit. They started out from Egypt with trust in God and enthusiasm for the enterprise. So it is with us when we first surrendered to Christ. But

between Egypt and Canaan there was a long, wearisome trek. The first thrill of the exodus wore off, and faced with risk and hardship, the Israelites regretted ever having started out. So it is with us. We lose the first joy of conversion in the long disciplinary pilgrimage to sanctification.

Knowing there could be no turning back, the Israelites changed their request of Moses. They asked to be allowed to stop short of Canaan. "Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan" Num. 32:5. They had reached Jazer, a place rich in fertile soil. "We beg you—no further," they pleaded with Moses. "We will settle for this."

So it is with us. We, too, come to realize there is no turning back. You cannot submit your life to Christ and ever again be as though you had not done so.

But Christ is not done with us at conversion. After the new birth there must be

growth. The Master requires us to come out of one situation to bring us to another, larger in opportunity; out of one experience to an-

◆ ...Like Israel, we look for a Jazer, a place where we can worship and serve without undue discomfort and cost. There we dig in our heels.

other, richer in content. But fearing what the end may be, like Israel, we determine to have some say as to how far we will go. "After all," we argue, "we must be reasonable about this, If Christ brings us to a greater awareness of His love we will become more loving; then people will take advantage of us." The prospect frightens us. If Christ brings us to a more virile witness in His name we will stand head and shoulder above our fellows; then people will throw things. The thought petrifies us. If we walk more closely with God some of our friends will abandon us; this might mean the loss of good prospects. The suggestion horrifies us. So, like Israel, we look for a Jazer, a place

where we can worship and serve without undue discomfort and cost. There we dig in our heels.

Because we fear the change Christ may effect in us, we are content to be less than He intends us to be; content to possess less than He intends us to possess.

I will never forget my first night under canvas. The Scout troop to which I belonged had spent some time studying the theories of camping. Now, for two weeks on the Isle of Wight, we were to put theory into practice. We marked out the site, pitched tents, lit the fires, and prepared the evening meal. The troop leader was delighted with our prowess. Then, tired from travel and excitement, we laced up the tent flaps and settled down in drowsy comfort.

In the early hours the storm broke. The wind howled in from the sea, whipping the pegs out of soil softened by the rain. We clung desperately to the poles as the tents caught the gusts like parachutes. After a great deal of amateurish struggle we winded them. We were soaked; our kit was soaked; our spirits were damp. Our leader struck up the song, "Are we down-

hearted? No, No, NO." He found himself singing a solo.

In the early light of morning we found a new site and made camp again. The

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new day came, soft and sunny like a winsome child apologizing for a prank. We forgave. We stayed. We soon discovered the site to which we had been driven so unceremoniously was far more satisfactory than the first. Tall trees shaded us from the afternoon sun. At night they took the punch out of the winds from the sea. And—not the least important advantage to a group of boys—the farm from which we obtained our supplies was adjacent to the camp.

This is how God deals with us. When we have pitched our tents at a place of our choosing, He bids us strike them again. We refuse? Then He strikes them for us. But when the storm

is past we see that what we thought brutal was benevolent; what appeared painful coercion was, in fact, providential guidance. Through experiences like these we learn that, through change, God works out definite and designed results. He brings us to safer ground.

When Moses called the Israelites out of Egypt they obeyed promptly. The risk was gladly taken. The bruises and indignities inflicted by their enemies still hurt in body and mind. In other words, they could obey God's call without any conflict of self-interest. It paid them to obey.

Later in the pilgrimage, when the wounds had healed, the benefits to be gained by obedience were not so apparent. Obedience and self-interest were no longer closely related. Then the Israelites requested Moses to call a halt.

So it is with many a disciple. Here is a man, for example, who is struggling with a grievous fault. His health, finances, and home life are suffering. One Sunday, perhaps as a last resort, he attends a church service. He hears of a Savior who forgives the vilest and who frees men from the bondage of sin. "This is for me," he

says, and driven by sheer desperation, gives his heart to Christ. Self-interest has motivated his desire to change. He will recover his

◆ ...When the storm is past we see that what we thought brutal was benevolent; what appeared painful coercion was, in fact, providential guidance.

health, improve his bank balance, and regain the affection of his loved ones. But the further he goes in the Christian life, the less help will he get from self-interest. Like Israel, he wished to break with a certain bondage. This he achieves through temperance and industry. But Christ calls him further than that; He calls him on to truth, humility, and holiness. Duty and self-interest are now no longer in sympathy. Eagerness gives place to reluctance. The love that once had wooed a ready heart must now deal sternly with an unwilling heart. This man must be shown that it is possible for him to do the will of God independently of gain. So a per-

sistent, bewildering, and unsettling Providence nudges him into one situation after another until he learns that those who lean on Christ are independent of the supporting props of self-interest.

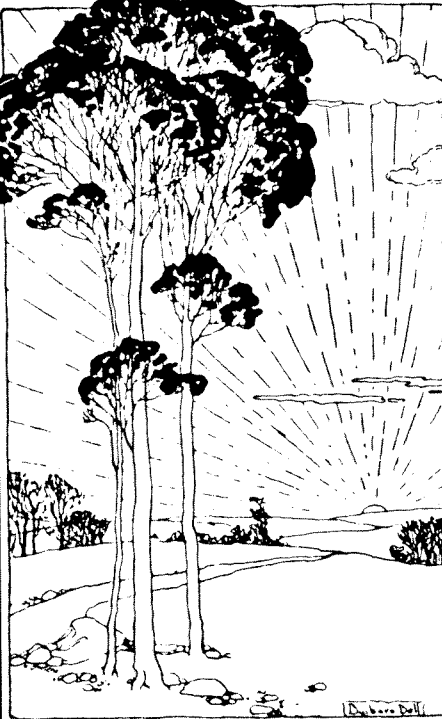


Which is More Dangerous, Large Sins or Small?

I, Maybelle Woiak had this dream and it seems to mean something. I cannot get it out of my head. I was told to write it down, so here goes:

I dreamed I was in this valley. We were standing by our car and my grandchildren were close by playing. I looked up and saw this enormous snake crawling down the side of the hill. I was hollering at the grandchildren to look out for this large snake. This snake had crawled down this hill so many times that there were grooves. We were watching and it crawled on by. We were so busy watching the large snake, we didn't see a small brown one. It grabbed my hand and was biting me. I couldn't get it off. Someone said its

fangs were dull and it had to chew to get the poison in. I kept crying, "Get it



PATHLIGHTS

off!" but no one could. This dream has bothered me. (The dream ended there.)

When I was out for a

walk the other day, it came to me what the dream meant.

The large snake represented the sins we can see. They always take the same path; they have since time began, thus the grooves. The small snake is the little sins. Things that don't seem so wrong, but they keep piling up until they get a hold of us and cause a fall, the same as a large sin would have.

I really don't understand these things, but it seems that I've been urged several time to write this and mail it to the *Advocate*. Please pray for me and my family.

*Maybelle Woiak
Pittsville, WI*



1994 MICHIGAN STATE REUNION

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our love and greetings to all!

Once again the Michigan State Reunion of the Church of Christ opened on a beautiful sunny day, Friday, June 17th, at the Ravenna Local. The prayer service began at 10:30 a.m., with many beautiful prayers being heard.

After a delicious lunch downstairs, we assembled in the sanctuary for a song service, and following this, the afternoon preaching service began.

Elder Gale Brantner opened the 2:30 service with prayer and introduced Elder C. Andrew Brantner of Janesville, Wisconsin, as our preacher of the hour. Brother Andrew admonished us that we are commanded to be perfect... (even as our Father in heaven is)... and through Christ we can be... that our minds need to be more open for the conclusion of the whole matter, as it is told to us in Ecclesiastics. We have a free moral agency so that we might choose good over evil, as we

work our way unto salvation. In Ephesians 4:11 & 12 we are told that the goal, and that of Zion, is to perfect the Saints. So, that is our purpose... to perfect ourselves, thus edifying the body of Christ, and give glory unto God. At the time of our resurrection—everyone will be raised to a perfect form and will live with Christ for 1,000 years... we will have much work to do during this time for all the innocents shall be raised with us in Zion. To fully know the purpose of this life read Isaiah 60-62 where it tells us the mission of the Church of Christ. This is our home-work assignment. We are commanded to study and search all the words of Isaiah. Closing prayer was given by Elder Gale Brantner.

Next, we all enjoyed the fellowship of each other and a wiener roast, while being joined by other members arriving with their campers. There were joyful hearts and warm greetings awaiting all those who arrived.

Saturday morning, June 18th, at 10 a.m., we gathered in the church parking lot before we departed together for a short drive to Crockery Lake/Grose Park for a baptism. Kallie Jones, the daughter of Lori and Michael Jones, was baptized by Elder LaVerne Lussendon from the Bradley-Hopkins Local. It was a beautiful warm morning, perfect for a baptism!

At 11:00, we all gathered once again in the church. Elder Max Spencer gave the opening prayer. The laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost was given by Elders Gale Brantner and LaVerne Lussendon. During the hand of fellowship to Kallie we were all eager to give our newest little sister a big hug... most of us have known Kallie since she was just a tiny one, and now she is a beautiful new Saint! May God bless you Kallie! Welcome Sister!

We then were led into a season of prayer, and many testimonies were given, which are praises unto our

Lord, as explained by Elder Aaron Heath. Many wonderful praises were heard as testimonies of our Lord's goodness. Closing prayer was given by Elder Max Spencer.

At 2:30, after another wonderful meal, we assembled again for another preaching service. Priest Emery Pinder opened with prayer and introduced Elder Adam Porter as the preacher of the hour, while downstairs a Young People's class took place. Brother Adam spoke about the time in which we live and the dangers out there in the world that are threatening our families. The world is trying to draw our children away from the priorities that we have established, and the government is trying to draw our children away from our religious influence. We need to be much more watchful of these situations to protect our children. Also, we need to firmly establish our priorities in the home and establish Godly values by teaching them of the doctrine of Christ and living this example. Brother Adam used Ephesians 5:21-33 to show us how Christ should be at the head of the church and our household. And in Ephesians 6:1-4 we

are told to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In Proverbs 8:17, we see that those who seek the Lord early shall find Him...our children then will have His support during those decision-making years ahead. Our family units need to work as a team with Christ in the center, for in these latter days we are living in perilous times...we just can't sit back and wait for Zion to come...we need to strengthen our children now in the ways of the Lord...for they are the future of the Church of Christ. Closing prayer was given by Priest Emery Pinder.

Meanwhile, downstairs the Young People received their '94 Reunion Keepsake-Lesson booklets, studied a lesson about Zion, and did several crafts. We enjoyed ourselves very much, and much was learned during the time we had together. We also planned a presentation for Sunday afternoon (to show what we had learned to the rest of the congregation) and had a frozen treat.

At 4:00 p.m., a song service took place, with specials by Elder LaVerne Lussendon, Neva Housnecht with sons Oliver and

Milo, Elder Aaron Heath, and Ken Haines...what beautiful voices they all have! We especially enjoyed the Housnechts! Thank you all!

The 4:30 preaching service was opened by Elder Gale Brantner, who then introduced Elder Joe Smith from Ava, Missouri. Brother Joe read from the 4th chapter of Micah and reminded us of Daniel's prophecy that "many shall run to and fro" and that this will be a signal... "that knowledge shall be increased." Brother Joe asked us...is this the Church of Christ or not? make up your mind! If it is then...receive Christ and take upon you His name, put on the whole armor of God. We will have to be strong in the Lord and wrestle with the powers of darkness which is spiritual wickedness. Brother Joe used Ephesians 2:19 in explaining the habitation of the Lord, this foundation being that of the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Brother Joe also used John 12:31-36 in explaining that we do have the light of Christ with us, that we should be the children of light. Also, in the Book of Commandments, chapter

4:5 and in John 1:12 we are told that those who receive Christ take upon them HIS name. In Hebrews 6:1-2 we are told what His principals are, this is the foundation we must lay and bring the Church of Christ out of obscurity! This we are commanded in the preface of the Book of Commandments. Closing prayer was given by Elder Gale Brantner.

After another wonderful meal, provided by the Kitchen Committee, we again assembled in the sanctuary for another preaching service. The opening prayer was given by Elder Max Spencer and he introduced Elder Sam Gould as our preacher of the hour. Brother Sam told us...there is a war out there...whether we like it or not...are we in it? Our children are being claimed by the world! He told us that there is much confusion in the church, and many things are slipping away...do we remember why we do certain things? If we aren't told these things, then someday they will cease to be done...we must search out these things and understand. We must know and understand the laws of God if we are ever going to obey them. We also must understand God's promises, for

"blessed are they who seek to bring forth Zion,"...for Zion shall be redeemed by power, and this power we shall receive when we live the way that we should. Brother Sam asked, "Does everyone in Zion have to be perfect?" He explained that it is not true that everyone has to be perfect before entering into Zion...because Zion is for the perfecting of the Saints! You must be pure in heart to be in Zion, though...that means that all your thought must be pure, for only those who will be pure in heart will see God...and God will be in Zion! Remember, you can't build with a pick-ax...establish the truth, build on the foundation of truth! You cannot love both God and mammon—one has to go. Elder Max Spencer gave the closing prayer and asked that we all come in an attitude of fasting and prayer for the following morning's sacrament service.

On Sunday, June 19th, the sacrament service was opened with prayer by Elder Gale Brantner. Pastor Gale then explained the purpose of the service is to gather in the saints in fasting and prayer, drawing our minds away from the world, asking for God's help and in under-

standing God's word, gift of discernment and prophecy. Elder Aaron Heath read to us a poem entitled, "My get up and go, has gotten up and went" and explained to us that our faith must lead us unto perfection. Pastor Gale then led us into a season of prayer in which many voices were heard thanking and petitioning our Lord. Following this, the service was opened to testimonies, prayers and songs as the leading of the Spirit directs. Many wonderful testimonies were heard and felt by all. An administration was given to Tristin Gould, son of Enoch and Patty Gould of Minnesota. Closing prayer was given by Elder Aaron Heath.

After a delicious "last" meal from this year's Kitchen Committee (wonderful job!), we reassembled upstairs in the sanctuary for the Young People's presentation. We opened with prayer given by Elder Sam Gould, and then the Young People presented a skit showing a group of worldly people who stopped a group of righteous travelers and asked them questions. The travelers explained that they were going to Zion, what it is, where it is, what will it be like, who will be

there, and why. Of course, the worldly people wanted to come too, and they were told that all can come unto the Lord if they have an eye single to the glory of God. Next, we very much enjoyed hearing three of these "young ones" (Laura, Tiffany, and Amy) sing "In the Garden"...they have such beautiful voices! Closing prayer was given by Elder Sam Gould.

Our last preaching service of the '94 Michigan State Reunion was opened by Elder Gale Brantner with prayer. He introduced Elder LaVerne Lussendon as our preacher of the hour. Brother LaVerne asked if we remember when there was a time like this in all of history (meaning the condition of the world). How about in the time of Noah, just before the flood? Brother LaVerne quoted scriptures from Rev. 3:7-8, Genesis 6:1-8, and Matthew 23:29-41, and told us that since 1948 the Jews have been gathering back to Israel as prophesied. He then read portions of Matthew 24, Ezekiel 38-39, and Acts 5. He admonished us that God hates discord among the brethren and He also hates lies. He also used II Peter 3:9-14 and pg 171 vs 32-33, in the Book of Mor-

mon, going on to explain how the elements will melt with fervent heat and all the works of man shall burn up. So, as we are told in the Book of Mormon on page 430, v 228, in the 16th chapter of Alma...WE MUST PREPARE TO MEET GOD! Closing prayer was given by Elder Sam Gould.

And thus, another reunion has taken place...and our Watchmen have cried out...we did not want to part, but we did so with joy in our hearts for having had the fellowship of worshipping with the other saints, and for the nourishment we received in hearing God's words. We ask that the time that we shared will strengthen us and that we may carry His Spirit with us and on to others...and "Until We Meet Again"..."May God Be With You..."Til We Meet Again!"

We also ask that this report will uplift you who weren't able to be with us at the reunion, that it may kindle your desire to seek the Lord, to "Come Unto Him" and be strengthened by His Spirit and His Love.

With a thankful heart, once again, your sister and reporter, Debbie Brantner Vogel

There Is Wonder

There is wonder in the sight
in a bush of virgin white,
There is strength and majesty
in a spreading maple tree,
mystery and power untold,
in a dandelion's gold.

There are miracles galore
in rosebush by the door,
Robins hoping on the lawn,
Apple trees with blossoms on,
squatty bushes by the walk,
flanked by clumps of hollylock,

Timbered mountains tall and grim,
Valleys filled from rim to rim
with a shimmering purple haze,
headlands where red poppies blaze,
and tufted ears of barley nod,
flirting with the golden rod.

There is wonder and delight
in a swallow's joyful flight,
but to me the wonder lies
in a rapt beholder's eyes,
one whose heart is clean to see
miracles in bush and tree.

For in the meanest flower that blows
Something of God's beauty glows.

—Edna Jaques



N E W S

Ravenna, Michigan

Greetings from the Church of Christ in Ravenna, Michigan.

Elder Max Spencer preached his first funeral for my sister Alice Westveer in Utica. Next Saturday he will do his first wedding, that of my grand-daughter Sandra Heath to Arthur Hanis.

Our Paster Elder Gale Brantner was the preacher of the hour this Sunday, June 26th, the very day Brother Gale was called eight years ago. He started by giving his testimony of when that calling came about, and that by accepting that office he lost his family of the earth. But I am sure the family of God has brought a certain measure of love and care to him, from all the brothers and sisters in the church. He decided to

take a trip to get away and think things over. He went to Palmyra, New York. While there he knelt at the spot where the angel appeared so many years ago. He also had a dream at the motel in which the number 26 came up. Sr. Vivian asked him the name of the song. That woke him up and he wrote it down and went back to bed. He found later it was number 26, "One Fer-vent Prayer." He thought the Lord was trying to tell him something. He came back home, and has been real busy serving the Lord and working for Him ever since in the ministry and the missionary field. Only the Lord and time can heal the broken heart.

Elder Peter Gould has been in Muskegon, Michigan, for almost a month because of his work. One Sunday he preached to our local on faith. Another Sunday his wife and children came and also visited our local.

This past Wednesday prayer meeting night Brother and Sister Malone from Arizona paid us a visit also. We are very happy for all our visitors.

Remarks were given by Elder Max Spencer, telling of the need to be baptized and believe in His doctrine.

On Sunday, July 10, Elder Peter Gould preached a powerful sermon, one we needed very much. Elder Aaron Heath opened the 11 o'clock service with prayer, then called for song 370, "...Who will go and help this shepherd kind, help Him the wandering ones to find." Peter said he had something of a burden on his soul and heart concerning brothers being against one another. He spoke of Zion and the melting of the hearts, then they could begin to build Zion—one heart and mind, John 17:11. We must get rid of all pride and anger. We must have humility. I believe I can say truthfully the Lord gave Peter a sermon of rebuke to the church, and one needed for some time. Brother Peter is going home Tuesday. We will miss him very much. He played the piano and sang, and we enjoyed it very much. We also had another visitor, Lois Armstrong, my daughter.

*Sister Lois Heath
Reporter*

Collins, Missouri

"It just doesn't get any better than this!" You've probably heard that line on a somewhat tasteless TV commercial, referring to some worldly pleasures. Well, early this morning, while sitting on my front porch, I was given opportunity to view that line in a more appropriate way. The birds were all singing and getting busy with their chores, a light rain was just finishing up its work from the night's much appreciated rainfall, the clouds were drifting away with the quiet breeze, and I felt such a peace. I looked around and began to thank God for the wonderful blessings He's given to me. I felt as if He had come to join me on my front porch and share the beauty I saw. The peace and joy I felt was...well, "it just doesn't get any better than that"—so to speak. It was so beautiful. I cried.

Speaking of blessings, our Pastor Jack Martin underwent prostate surgery the latter part of May. On one of Jack's check-ups afterward his doctor remarked two or three times of Jack's remarkable recovery and progress. Betty complimented the doctor by saying

that they had a good surgeon, to which he replied, "We have a good Lord!" This certainly has reinforced all of our faith to see that God looked ahead, even to the surgeon who would operate, and supplied a man with faith and trust in God.

On the 21st of May, four days before Jack's surgery, Jack and Betty celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary together. All their family was there, along with many friends in the community—and some from quite a distance, as well as several from our church family from Independence and locally. They sure are a special couple. We offer them our congratulations and much love.

On June 19th at 4:59 p.m. another blessed event took place. Little Sheala Renea Herd was born. Her happy—very happy—parents are Shawna and Dale Herd. Sheala has a proud older brother, Aaron, who seems pretty happy to share his home with his new sister.

One week later Miss Sheala was attending church with her family and was held up before God for a blessing by her grandpa, Elder Allen Kauffman, and was assisted by Elder Jack Martin.

These are a few obvious

blessings I wanted to share with you, but there are others that are around us that I hope we won't fail to notice and thank that Great God who has seen fit to bless us each day. "Take time to smell the roses"—and thank God for a nose!

In closing, here are a few sermon quotes to think on:

- ✓ *We need our "Garden of Gethsemine" where we can pour our hearts out to God.*
- ✓ *Our conversation and what we do... (what we say vs. how we act.)*
- ✓ *It behooves us all to have a conscience. And with a conscience we can discipline our lives.*
- ✓ *What steals us away from the fold of God?*
- ✓ *God knows our thoughts—we don't have to do or say a thing.*
- ✓ *It's not just repenting of your sins, but forsaking them.*
- ✓ *God's place is judgment—our task is forgiveness.*

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman*



A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Springfield, Missouri

7-14-94

Dear Church Family,

Hello to each and every one of you. I may not know all of you but I'm sure that you've heard and prayed for my brother, Martin, and I. There is not much news to report from the Springfield Local, as we haven't had church very often. Everyone is so busy with things happening in their lives, and are away from home during the summer, that we don't have enough people to hold service. Once school starts again we will settle down to

a regular schedule.

I know that it is almost past the time that everyone plans and takes their vacations, but I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to visit. We have extra beds, and Branson is only a 45-minute drive. There are also four lakes all within an hour's drive of Springfield. We would be glad for the company and it would save you the cost of a motel. Please call me at (417) 725-9533 if you would like information on the Branson/Lakes area.

We really enjoy the traveling ministry when they visit. They always have an

uplifting message and we appreciate them traveling all the way from their homes to be with us.

I was fortunate enough to attend Sunday service at this year's Camp for all Ages. I wasn't up for staying the whole camp, but I did ride with Sister Florence Kommer.

I really enjoyed the service and was glad to see so many there. I pray that next year I will be able to attend the whole camp.

Keep our Local and all of us in your prayers.

*Love in Christ,
Jamie & Sandy Addie*

1994 Tri-State Reunion

This year's TRI-STATE REUNION of the Church of Christ will again be held at the beautiful Whitewater State Park in Minnesota. The dates for the reunion are September 2nd to the 5th. We will be using the facilities at the indoor group camp. The camp will open for our use at 1 p.m., Sept. 2nd, with a departure time of 11 a.m., Sept. 5th. Food will be furnished as well as lodging in the cabins at the camp FREE!!! You will need to purchase a park permit for your vehicle. Please come if you can and bring a friend.

For more information contact:

Merlin Eddy
3370 203rd St. W.
Farmington, MN 55024
(612) 463-2218

1994 Phoenix Reunion

The 1994 Phoenix Reunion will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 25-27, 1994.

We invite all to come and worship with us.

For further information contact:

Elder Brian McIndoo
18824 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 867-7063

Elder Ken Oar
19012 N. 29th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 569-2249

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

	<u>Price Each</u>
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$ 4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Commandments (hard bound)	9.00
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	5.00
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Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Leather)	20.00
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Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Marvelous Work and a Wonder, The—by Daniel MacGregor	3.50
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
 Jesus' Life and Teachings - 4 Quarterlies for Ages 8-10
 Who Am I? - Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools / \$1.30 individuals.

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AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

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.