

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 71

Independence, Missouri — December 1994

Number 12



Christ the Son

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
Still, the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

---Phillip Brooks

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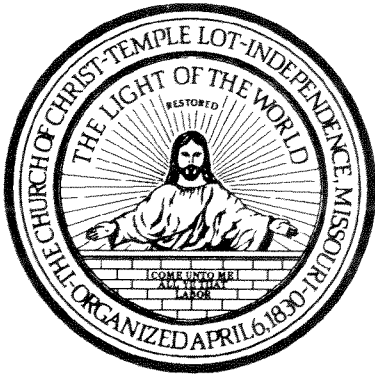
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Zion's Advocate is ...

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.

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

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.

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

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church nor the opinions of the editorial staff.

Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

Guest Editorial

It's Christmas again. In all Christendom, no other occasion is more significant. When something seems important to a man, he wishes to remember it, to think of it, to speak of it, to use it to strengthen and better his life. And so we have Christmas. There is a glow about it that no other time of the year can equal.

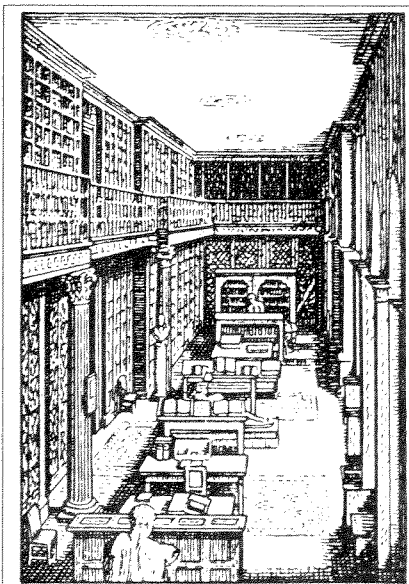
It is a time of self-forgetting, of thoughtfulness, of generous impulses, and spontaneous sharing. It appeals to everyone because everyone understands it. It inspires kindness, brotherhood, cheerfulness and happiness.

And it doesn't matter where we are, in a frozen land of ice and snow or in a climate where warm breezes blow and flowers bloom—there will always be warmth inside us if the spirit of sharing is allowed to have full sway. Christmas is a world-wide experience and its spirit should last throughout the year.

So, because the Wise

Men brought gifts to lay at the feet of the baby Jesus, we give gifts to keep alive the feeling of "peace and goodwill." But we should remember that the best gift we can give to our friends and loved ones does not come wrapped in festive paper and fancy bows. The absence of this gift can not be compensated for by a diamond pin, a bicycle, a doll, or a motor boat. We can't buy this gift with money, yet everyone can give it. It doesn't appear on any shopping list. The price is high but we can all afford it. These priceless gifts are invisible things: being kind to each other, being able and willing to understand the problems of others and willing to lend a helping hand—yes, loving and serving one another, for by our faith in God and man we become strong in patience and grace. We can give friendship to those who need it, courtesy to all we meet and understanding to those who may think differently than we.

If every gift given at Christmas time is a token of



ARCHIVES

personal thought and friendly feelings then the thought and interest will remain long after the gift is forgotten. John Greenleaf Whittier said:

"For somehow, not only at Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you."

Sometimes I think we

are guilty of thinking that all the required effort of this special occasion is too exhausting and we wonder if we are going to be able to "get by" or "through" the Christmas season. But it presents a challenge to every one of us to be cheer-

◆ If every gift given at Christmas time is a token of personal thought and friendly feelings then the thought and interest will remain long after the gift is forgotten.

ful, friendly, sympathetic and helpful in all our associations. It may help us to remember why we have Christmas, that the spirit of it is more important than any commercial angle, and that surely weariness must have been a part of that first Christmas even as it is likely to be this Christmas.

Of course there is the ever-present danger of Christmas being too commercialized and of us forgetting the true meaning of the day. It should be our sacred duty to see that we and ours do not fall into this error. We should mark well

that Christmas is not just the gay wreaths in the windows, the magnificent tree glimmering with myriad colored baubles and twinkling lights, the excitement of mysterious plans and secrets, the parties, the turkey and pumpkin pie—no, it's much more than all these. It's the mysterious light of enjoyment in a child's eyes, caused as much by the excitement of seeing you open a gift from him as in seeing his own; it's happy fellowship and goodwill; it's the birth of Christ and what that has meant to the world; it's nourishment for the soul and the mind. In the words of Carl Holmes:

"We miss the true spirit of Christmas when our minds are clouded by materialistic thinking. Christmas should mean more than just a legal holiday, the getting and giving of presents, the enjoyment of things which we can see and hear, the satisfying of the senses. Christmas should have a deeply spiritual significance for all of us. It is the anniversary of the birth of Him who brought love, joy, and peace into

the world.

"The message of Christmas, 'Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will' is the golden Rule for world peace today. The two concepts, peace and good will, are inseparable. We cannot

◆ The two concepts, peace and good will, are inseparable. We cannot have peace without good will toward all men.

have peace without good will toward all men. Peace and good will are more than words—they are acts born of sacrifice and love. Peace on Earth inspired by good will is the noblest gift that man can bring to the world on Christmas Day."

Yes, Christmas is a thrilling, wonderful time of year, a time when we more nearly approach that perfect life manifested by the One whose birthday we celebrate. And we certainly agree with these words written by Bert Barnes:

"December has a

music all its own—a joy not found in other months. In the great symphony of the universe, the season of Christmas rings with a melody unequalled by the gaiety of Spring or the sunlit brilliance of Summer. It is a season of significant reflection—a time when men turn to the Stars of Heaven and renew their hope for a fuller understanding of that message given by Him who was born in an obscure manger so long ago. Christmas is the one eternal festival.”

And speaking of music—no Christmas is complete without it. And whether we participate in it or just listen to it, it certainly helps us to reverence and glorify our deep-seated beliefs. Voices blended in harmony of song, in our all-time favorites, lend beauty to our worship. And whether we sing with our family and friends around the tree on Christmas Eve, whether we listen to the carols outside our window, or whether we listen to the recorded sound of such familiar strains as *Joy to the World*, *Silent Night* or *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, it is a wonderful way

to express the deeper feelings of the heart. For music speaks a universal language more eloquent than mere words.

We pray that the Special Star of old, that guided the Three Kings to the manger, will guide us to the quiet assurance that the true Christmas Spirit is to be found in our fireside circle of family and friends and that the Christmas Spirit is rapture and mystery and joy, found only by loving and sharing with others.

Esther M. Caviness

—from the *Zion's Advocate*, 1963, pg 178.

Abundant Life

Life to me is not a dream
Of wealth, of fame or pleasure,
Or pleasing picture on the screen
To view at ease or leisure
Man's perfection is God's design
And life in fullest measure,
His precious promises are mine,
The choicest, richest treasure.

I can't betray a sacred trust,
Or sacred call neglect,
For that which moth and rust
corrupt,
Or truth can not protect.
Forgetting not I am but dust,
My heart for life is yearning,
So trusting in the power divine,
I'm living, loving, learning.

—A. A. Yates

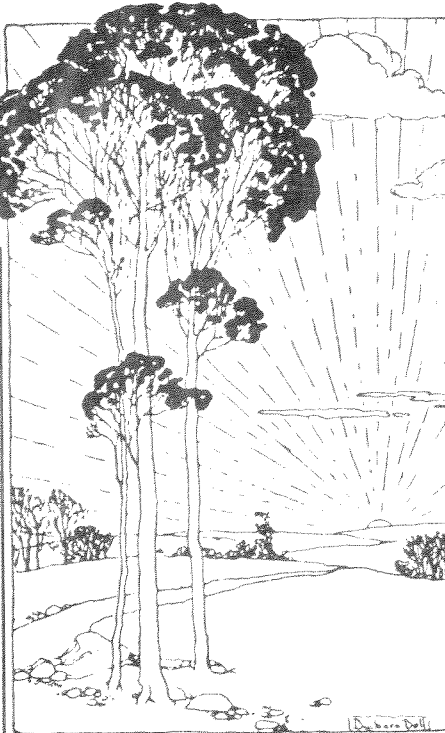
Alone in a World of Strangers? Not with God!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Church of Christ:

We moved to the Cincinnati area in September of 1993. At the time of writing this letter we have lived here only about six weeks. During this time I received numerous blessings, almost on a daily basis. I want to tell you about one of my most recent blessings as it happened just last weekend.

When we moved to Ohio in September, our daughter, Melody, enrolled in the University of Cincinnati and was accepted in the University Marching Band and immediately went out of town to a training camp for a week. The day she returned to the University, on a Sunday, a college-type girl approached her on the campus and asked her if she was going to church. She stated that she was not going that day and that she really missed it as she had

only missed attending church on Sunday when



PATHLIGHTS

she had chicken pox or when we were out of town. The girl, Jennifer Willis, asked for her name and phone number and said she would call her about meeting with other students on campus who also enjoyed meeting together on Sun-

day.

This girl started calling Melody at home and I took several of her calls when Melody was not home. Something about the calls bothered me and I prayed about it (I seem to pray about almost everything since I moved here); however, I was surprised when the answer came from such an unexpected source. Jennifer called and tried to get Melody to attend a weekend retreat, then, when Melody did not attend she called every few days inviting her to other meetings.

Friday night, October 15, 1993, I was working in the kitchen. Since Dick was in California, and Melody wasn't home either, I had the television on for company. I really do not know what I was watching, but it was a news-type program such as "20/20". This program did a segment on a church called the "Cincinnati" Church of Christ,

and they changed the name of the city to match the location of this church all over the country. They had received many complaints regarding the activities of this church. The church's focus was obtaining power over its members and obtaining members with money. They believe in forced fasting to break the will of the new members. It seemed many members of this church had committed suicide because of the things other members had told them. The church forced their members to get new members. After this broadcast ended I watched the 11 o'clock news on the same channel and they gave a local update on the

Cincinnati Church of Christ. They stated that this group had been banned from the University of Cincinnati campus several years ago, and since that time their membership was not growing in this area. The group preys on people new to the area as new people are vulnerable. The television station stated this was not to be confused with the regular Church of Christ; however, the group used the name "Church of Christ" to gain acceptance.

I sincerely believe this program was brought to my attention in answer to my prayer concerning the calls from Jennifer Willis. Last night, Jennifer called

again and I asked her the name of her church and she said, "Cincinnati Church of Christ." We have been admonished to pray over our crops and our children. God does answer prayer and I believe He gives special guidance to those members who find themselves all alone in a world of strangers, if we just remember to ask! Thanks be to God.

Your sister in Gospel bonds,

*Marcia Christian
Loveland, Ohio*

Will God's Miracles Ever Cease?

While attending college as an isolated member in Christ's church, I received the *Zion's Advocate* and was blessed and strengthened by the many testimonies from my brothers and sisters in Christ, that I read in "Pathlights,"

and I felt the need to praise the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the True and Living God, by writing the ways that He performed miracles in my life. I hope maybe to return a portion of the strength I received. Although it will be impossi-

ble to write each of the miracles I received during that time until now, please bear with me as it is difficult to condense the miracles, and accomplishing this endeavor may take more than a single issue.

When I quit high

school at age 16, I did not know that it was part of God's plan for my life that I return to school. In fact, after I met the college enrollment requirements and submitted, due to the prompting of others, an application to a private institution, I told my brother-in-law, "I will not be accepted, but if I am, I will go because I will know it is God's will." This miracle did happen, along with showers of other miracles. With insufficient time to study for tests, they would be postponed occasionally. Yet, while studying, concepts would be impressed upon me which I later found contained on the tests. Prayer before, during and after the tests proved effective as I made sufficient grades to succeed, and grades just as high or higher than others who were better prepared.

My assignments also required much preparatory time before qualifying for a

grade, and when I needed time extended beyond the due date, God softened my professor's hearts and they accepted the assignments. My professors also accepted some hand-written assignments. However, when every paper was required to be typed, I learned to type using a computer after being granted a position in an organization, and even though my first attempts to use a computer were hilarious, the typed papers were still accepted, thus enabling me to get and keep my cumulative rating above average. This was required for elementary education majors, a field of study that God showed me I should embark upon. I believe it was God's will for me to be a teacher since He paved the way for me, by allowing an application which was submitted to the teacher's board for approval. Once I was in the program, God inspired my

mind with ideas to use on the many perplexing projects for each course in the teacher education program.

My advisor recommended I stay with the course outline so I could take each class when it was offered at this unique institution run on tri-semester, because only certain classes were offered every summer. Nonetheless, when I registered for differing beneficial classes of interest, my request was signed each semester by my advisor. Although I chose to stay mainly with the outlined schedule, changes in administration came with a new president for the college which caused me to worry. Nevertheless, God showed me that He could use the changes to continue to work miracles in my life.

*Your sister in Christ,
Patricia Gould*

CORRECTION

to Zion's Advocate, Vol 71, No. 11, November 1994

Brother Ron Temple's office of calling is that of a teacher, not priest. We apologize for this error.

“The Hand of the Lord is Upon Us”

A Testimony by
Evangelist Placido
Koyoc Yam

(Translated
by Kathy E. Ely)

We are infinitely thankful for your prayers for my daughter, Raquel. The resulting blessings have been, and will be, unforgettable testimonies for the people of God here and in the United States.

I feel so sad that I couldn't visit your country during the 1992 Conference. First, I had an unbearable cough that was caused by bronchitis. Secondly, my daughter, Raquel, was seriously ill. Her doctor told me that he didn't have much hope. Raquel had an infection of the liver and her intestines, and lesions on her heart. Her abdomen was swollen and her body and eyes were yellow. We cared for her day and night for two weeks because she was suffering too badly to sleep well.

One night Raquel had a dream. Close to her hammock she saw some trees with withered branches. She began removing her pain and

hanging it on the withered branches, but when she was halfway through, she didn't have the strength to remove all the pain and rested. Suddenly, Raquel saw a slender, crystal flask with a red light within. She could feel that this flask symbolized part of her life and was gazing at it when she saw another small flask fly through the air and hit it, but it didn't damage the red flask. Then she saw a larger flask strike it and the red flask was destroyed and the light put out. Raquel felt that this symbolized the end of her life. Later, she awakened in pain.

Brothers and Sisters, this symbolized the end of my daughter's life as demonstrated by God. However, in tears we prayed day and night and our prayers rose to the throne of our Heavenly Father. When she returned to the doctor for a blood analysis, he was surprised to see that in the week between the 5th and the 12th of April (this was during the conference when the whole church was praying for Raquel—*kee*) she had begun to eat, her liver was normal, and she didn't need a blood transfusion for

her heart or intestines.

The doctor gave her medicine for twenty days and is going to make a special study on medicines that he is going to use for her. On hearing this, Raquel began to think that she would have to be operated on again (she had a difficult gall bladder surgery the year before—*kee*) and became quite upset.

That night, I prayed to our God and had a dream. In my dream a doctor came to visit me and told me these words:

“Son, I came to tell you to tell your daughter, Raquel, to be at peace. Her doctor always thinks of her welfare and he doesn't want her illness to return because it would be fatal. Her doctor is studying the medicine to find a better treatment. If they are able, they will do so; if not, they will only use medicine to help her.”

Soon I awakened and when she awoke I told her of my dream and she has been content to this day. These experiences are proof that our God loves us, hears us and sends messengers to console us. We don't know how many years will be granted to

us in this life; only our Lord knows. Our Lord, the Creator of the heavens, allowed my daughter to be born with a defective organ so that He could manifest His great and eternal power in her life, and by this means we are able to draw nearer to Him each day.

I would like this testi-

mony to be published in the Church papers so that all of our brothers and sisters, young people and small children, will know that the hand of the Lord is upon us. May the grace of our God be with each one of you now and always.

*Your brothers in Christ,
Placido and Family*

P.S. Today Raquel is back at work three days a week, cheerful and always present at the daily services, giving praise to God.

Letter from the Editor...

This past year there have been several issues of the *Zion's Advocate* that have arrived at your door step much later than I and the rest of the staff have desired. I learned in the army that there may be reasons but there is no excuse. So, I offer no excuse, but a reason we need to share with you, our readers.

I, as editor, have waited for articles, sermons, poems and testimonies to come so that each issue could be as full as possible. Sometimes I have been successful waiting, being blessed with a full *Advocate* and timely articles, sermons or testimonies. Other times this wait has only brought forth delays and, I am sure, your disappointment.

From now on, I, as editor, will endeavor to send each of you your *Advocate* in a timely manner. To do this the staff

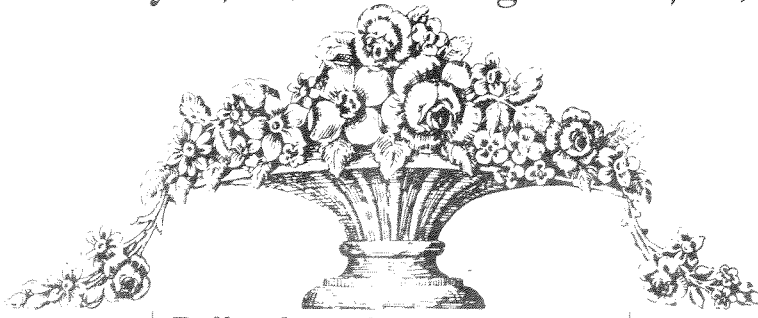
and I will need your help. Each facet of service to the Lord and to each other should be a matter of prayer for each of us in our conversation with our God. The *Advocate* is just one of these facets, but is an important tool to reach all of our readers with sermons from every pulpit within the Church of Christ, Temple Lot. Each of us have received enlightened understanding of scriptures—this, too, is meant to be shared with each other through the *Advocate*. Some of you are blessed with the talent of writing poems—again, share these with all of us in the *Advocate*. Testimonies—is there anyone of us that has not had a testimony of God's mercy and goodness in our lives? Through these we catch a glimpse of God's omnipotence, but at the same time His very personal care of the individual!

If we each share what we have I believe the pages of the *Zion's Advocate* will not be able to hold all that God has and continues to give. Elijah asked of the widow woman a mere cake, not much. All she had was enough to prepare one last cake for herself and her son, then they would die. She gave willingly to Elijah first. The meal and the oil increased with the giving, not the hoarding. Give what you have and see if God will give you the increase. If you give and I cannot print your contribution for lack of space or time, please do not be offended. You are contributing to God's work and I pray He will bless you for your desire and effort.

*In Gospel Bonds,
Elder Michael McGhee
Editor, Zion's Advocate*

---Marion Olive Sprague---

February 9, 1914---August 13, 1994



Marion O. Sprague was born in Independence, Missouri, on February 9, 1914, to Charles N. and Marion O. Denham. She passed from this life August 13, 1994, at the Independence Regional Health Center.

Marion was a granddaughter of George P. Frisbey, and often recalled sitting on her grandfather's lap, combing his beard. She was baptized by Elder Clarence L. Wheaton, and was a life-long member of the Church of Christ.

In April, 1936, she met

Rolland D. Sprague. They were married August 16, 1936, and would have celebrated their 58th anniversary. Marion was very active in church work. She helped publish the *Zion's Advocate*, served as both local and general church chorister, taught and directed Bible School, and was an Associate Editor of the *Advocate* for several years, also writing numerous articles.

She is survived by her husband, Rolland, and their children, Joyce E. Harris, Jon D. Sprague, Janice L. Welch

and Dana D. Reddis, along with thirteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind many relatives and friends who were touched by her love, her faith, and her dedication to the gospel.

Services were conducted by Elder Robert Eddy and Elder Alvin Harris. Music was provided by Grace Rudd, David Rudd, and Neva Housknecht. Interment was at Mound Grove Cemetery, Independence, Missouri.

Submitted by Janice Welch

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

NEW YEAR'S YOUTH RETREAT

DATE: Friday, December 30, 1994 thru
Sunday, January 1, 1995

PLACE: Independence, Missouri

ACTIVITIES: Friday: Sports
Saturday: Skiing
Sunday: Special Services

AND LOTS OF FELLOWSHIP!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Randy Sheldon (816) 229-6712 or
Jeff Oldham (816) 358-4940



N E W S

COLLINS, MISSOURI

It's fall. It's cold, cloudy, and misty. The trees have lost all their bright colors and are becoming bare and sort of sad looking. Sometimes days like this one affect me sort of like these pitiful trees and I feel sad, maybe lonesome. But there is a warm light I can turn on and turn to, where I know I'm welcome. It's as close as my knees, bent just enough to support my weight—and there it is: warm sun-shine; some one to talk to who will listen carefully and understand what no one else can. I thank God for the avenue of prayer.

On October 7th, 1994, our sister, Butone Livingston left this earthly life. She had been afflicted with serious lung problems and a weakened heart for such a long time. She called for the elders several times during her illness and received blessings that helped her get through the bad times. Always she

was glad for a visit. The last time Brother Kauffman came to administer to her, her greatest concern seemed not so much for herself, but for her children. Mothers are like that, you know. She was a sweet lady who will be missed by all who knew her.

Brother Jack Martin was called upon to conduct Sister Butone's funeral service and was assisted by Brother Allen Kauffman. Services were held at the Cantlon Funeral Home in Urbana, with burial at Mission Ridge Cemetery, also at Urbana.

The Collins Rally was held October 16th, opening with a 9:00 a.m. prayer service, followed by four short sermons by Elders Dan Lawrence, Rodger Bruner, Joe Smith, and Jack Martin. We all enjoyed lunch together and closed our afternoon service with a sermon from Elder Marvin Case. The day passed so quickly—sort of like the last day of a reunion service—leaving us with renewed hope and direction. Our thanks go to all those who shared their time with us.

The 1994 Annual Harvest Fest was held October 31st at the Adams' farm just southeast of Warrensburg. It had rained until afternoon, but the weather cleared for a fun evening of good hot chili, hot dogs cooked over a campfire, a few marshmallows and

lots of other goodies, followed by singing, a hayride, and good ol' visiting. The night was pretty cool, but not windy. I remember noticing how bright the stars were while we sang around the campfire. I'm glad Clete and Nancy, Tommy and Luke (Wiley) have made this all possible for us. We enjoy and look forward to it each year.

In closing, I will leave you with a few sermon quotes I hope you will consider:

- Service—does it end at noon (when church is over)?
- Endurance includes work—it's not by accident.
- We have a destination—a place we want to go. Between here and there, there is opposition.
- We would rather reject something from God than change our life.
- The changing of our attitude is what repentance is all about.
- It is our job to be the helping hand.
- Be a friend; let your love take action.

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman*

HOUSTON, MISSOURI

Greetings from southern Missouri. Our beautiful leaves are falling fast. We always enjoy the beautiful colors painted by the hands of God.

We have had so many good sermons from our pastor and the visiting ministry. Most all the sermons are teaching us to obey our Master. They also teach us to be aware of the times we are living in. "Oh, Dear Lord, please help us to remember the many things they have told us, and help us to prepare ourselves for your coming."

We welcome our new members to our local. Tracie Harvell was baptized on Sunday, August 7th. On Sunday, October 30, Jeremy and Billie Joe Carney were baptized. Our friends of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints let us use their font, then we all returned to our church for the confirmation service. Jeremy and Billie Joe were married in our church this August, 1994. Billie Joe's mother and grandmother gave them a beautiful wedding. They are from Delaware. Jeremy's parents, Joe

and Alice Carney and family and friends came here for the wedding.

Brother and Sister Harvey E. Seibel were here two weeks to show some very interesting video tapes. We must be watching and praying that we may not be caught sleeping, for we know Christ will be coming soon.

Sister Anna Keeney was in the hospital for almost five weeks. She was allergic to an antibiotic. She lives with her daughter Mary Jane.

Our pastor, Brother Arthur Smith, has had cataract surgery recently.

Sister Sylvia Seibel has been in the hospital. Please remember those here in your prayers.

Sunday, November 6, nineteen people came after church to bring the Sacrament to sister Keeney and Mary Jane. The guests from out of town were: Brother and Sister Glen Gill, Brother Darin Crull and Brother Donald Gill. Brother Darin sang a special for Sister Keeney. This was a beautiful service!

Thank You, Father

In humbleness, we thank
You, Father,
For the goodness You
have shown,
For the blessings and
compassion,
For comfort when we
walk alone.
Thank You for our daily
bounty,
For the love we share
each day.
Thank You for the right
to worship,
Each in our own chosen
way.
Thank You for Your
hand that guides us,
Right from wrong, in all
we do.
May we grow in
understanding,
Always grateful—
Thanking You.

—Bill Carr

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