

# Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

Volume 72

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Number 4

## A Call to Zion

Praise the Lord who calls His children  
To come where He will safely keep  
Women, children, sisters, brothers,  
Shielded 'neath His Holy feet.  
Come to Zion. Come to Zion.  
Make your Savior's joy complete.

He hath called His children often,  
Who will heed His hast'ing voice?  
War is coming, plague, destruction,  
Come ye people of His choice.  
Come to Zion. Come to Zion.  
There with your Savior to rejoice.

Ye who have your first love leaven,  
Learn your brother's keeper be.  
Thus with love our hearts knit safely,  
Shall our eyes in oneness see.  
Come to Zion. Come to Zion.  
Should not the eagles with the  
body be?

—*Stephen S. Gould, 1989*  
*written with guidance of the Holy Spirit*

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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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# The Glories!

By Elder Joseph F. Smith

If there ever was a subject that brought about division in the Church of Christ, this is one. I beg of the reader to read this article completely, to give it fair consideration, for the thoughts contained herein are not in accord with the original teaching of this Restoration doctrine. I do believe, with all my heart, that what I am about to write is a clearer declaration of that doctrine.

Let us begin with the root source of this theology of the glories. 1st Cor. 15:40-42:

*"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in*

*corruption, it is raised in incorruption."*

Another source for this theology is found in the 76th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants, R.L.D.S., 1978. In this section is described the different glories, giving a full description of the requirements of each level of glory, and supposedly their final condition. It was interesting to read in the preface of this section a statement from Joseph's own personal history, which I will quote here:

*"From sundry revelations which had been received, it was apparent that many important points, touching the salvation of man, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled. It appeared self-evident from what truths were left, that if God rewarded every one according to the deeds done in the body, the term 'heaven,' as intended for the saint's eternal home, must include more kingdoms than one. Accordingly*

*on the 16th of February, 1832, while translating St. John's gospel, myself and Elder Rigdon saw the following vision."*

Apparently this question had been bothering them for some time. In their translating of the scriptures they came to the 29th verse of the 5th chapter of John, which reads as follows:

*"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*

They were, however, given the translation as follows:

*"...They who have done good in the resurrection of the just, and they who have done evil in the resurrection of the unjust." (I am quoting from the 78th sect. D. of C., verse 3d & e.)*

Then they say "...Now this caused us to marvel..." I have read this over several times and I see nothing to marvel at. Both quotations

are saying basically the same thing. But let's continue on.

For the most part I have only two great objections to this revelation. First, I object to their application of the glories reward being applied to eternal life after the day of Judgment. I do this for several reasons. You will notice that in the quotation from 1st Cor., 15th chapt., and in John 5th chapt., verse 29; and in section 76 D. of C., it is speaking of the resurrection. The 20th chapter of Revelation tells us that the resurrection takes place during the one thousand years of the reign of Christ here on earth, after which comes the day of Judgment. Notice this, also from the 15th chapt. of 1st Cor. 24-27:

*"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted,*

*which did put all things under him."*

Christ is going to deliver up the Kingdom (This is singular; only one Kingdom

◆ The reward, then, is eternal life, and I can find no place where eternal life is to be divided into different levels of glory.

JFS), to God the Father, after He has perfected that Kingdom, which is made up of peoples who have been brought to perfection. Remember Eph. 4:11-13:

*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of faith, and of a knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fullness of Christ:"* (emphasis mine JFS).

In the above, we begin to get a basic understanding of the work that is to be accom-

plished during the thousand years reign of Christ. It is during this time that He is going to bring His Kingdom unto perfection, by putting all things under Him, and by overcoming all His enemies. We can see his *determination* in the following from Zeph. 3:8-12:

*"Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering. In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt*

*no more be haughty because of my holy mountain. I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD" (all emphasis mine JFS).*

The second thing I object to in this section 76 is the statement in verse 5h, "wherefore, as it is written, they are gods..." Where is it written???? While it is true, our relationship with God is like unto the relationship of Christ to God, because, after we are baptized and receive the Holy Ghost, by the laying on of hands, we become BORN of God, by the same source of power by which Christ was conceived in the virgin Mary, the Holy Ghost; however, this does not qualify us as being GODS. Those who receive the holy priesthood, either the Melchizedek or the Aaronic, become SERVANTS of God, but this does not make them gods. I believe that from this irrational statement has grown the false "Adam God theology." This teaching, found in some restoration churches, whereby a person may progress from one level of glory to a higher level of glory, by their works, to the point where they become as

gods, is contrary to every scriptural concept found in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and the early revelations.

◆ ...When Christ will offer up to the Father the Kingdom, it will be perfected, and there are no varying degrees of perfection.

I want to go back to the preface of this section of the D. of C., 76. In the quotation from Joseph's personal history, he states: "...that if God rewarded every one according to the deeds done in the body, the term 'heaven,' as intended for the saint's eternal home, must include more kingdoms than one..." Where is it written that Heaven is to be the saint's eternal home??? To the contrary, I find no place where man is to dwell other than on this earth, or the new earth as spoken of in the book of Revelations 21:1:

*"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."*

While it is true that the

soul of man goes back to the God who gave it life at the time of death, and then is consigned to a place where they are to await the coming resurrection, and this place may be the paradise spoken of by Christ, or the prison house for those who are not qualified to rest with the righteous, these places being somewhere other than this earth; yet, there is no place that I can find where the body, soul, and spirit of man, being united, is to dwell eternally, other than this earth, or the new one.

Another thing in the preface of this section 76 of the D. of C. that bothers me is the statement, "...that if God rewarded every one according to the deeds done in the body..." Let's consider the "reward." We find in Matt. 19:16:

*"And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"*

And this also from 1 John 2:25:

*"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (emphasis mine JFS).*

And from the Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 1:120:

*"And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil..."*

The reward, then, is eternal life, and I can find no place where eternal life is to be divided into different levels of glory. The resurrection, yes, but eternal life is not, for we must remember that when Christ will offer up to the Father the Kingdom, it will be perfected, and there are no varying degrees of perfection.

Let's look also at the portion of the statement where it says "...according to the deeds done in the body..." The word 'according,' as defined by the dictionary, means "in agreement, harmonizing with, agreeable, just..." In Matt 16:27:

*"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."*

And this from 1 Pet. 1:17:

*"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth*

**according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear..."**

The judgement that is to

◆ **The judgement that is to be rendered by God is determined by our works, but not necessarily the amount of our works, but rather whether our works be good or evil.**

be rendered by God is determined by our works, but not necessarily the amount of our works, but rather whether our works be good or evil. For instance the very reference which Joseph mentioned in sect. 76, verse 3c&d, the 5th chapter of John, 29th verse:

*"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*

Or, as they have rendered it in this section:

*"...they who have done good in the resurrection of the just, and they who have done evil*

*in the resurrection of the unjust."*

If we are to find "glories" then it must be where the Bible and latter-day revelations say it will be "...So also is the resurrection of the dead..." in the resurrection, during the thousand years prior to the day of judgement. 1 Cor. 15:22-23:

*"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."*

Paul, in this letter to the Corinthians, is speaking about the resurrection, and explains here that all men will be resurrected, and that this will be done "every man in his own order." This same idea is expressed in the following from the Book of Mormon, Alma 19:64-68:

*"I say unto thee, my son, that the plan of restoration is requisite with the justice of God; for it is requisite that all things should be restored to their proper order. Behold it is requisite and just, according to the power and resurrection of Christ, that the soul of man should be*



*restored to its body, and that every part of the body should be restored to itself. And it is requisite with the justice of God, that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good; And if their works are evil, they shall be restored unto him for evil: therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order; everything to its natural form; mortality raised to immortality; corruption to incorruption; raised to endless happiness, to inherit the kingdom of God, or to endless misery, to inherit the kingdom of the devil; The one on the one hand, the other on the other; the one raised to happiness, according to his desires of happiness; or good, according to his desires of good; and the other to evil, according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long, even so shall he have his reward of evil, when the night*

*cometh."*

Where then is the glory of the sun??? It would be with those who come forth in the beginning of the resur-

◆ Many times we are influenced by traditional thinking, which could cause us to develop the wrong idea, and once we get set on a course, it is sometimes hard to see any other way.

rection, for they shall reign with Christ for one thousand years. As each one is to come forth "...in his own order...", it is only reasonable to believe that as the thousand years begin to pass this brings about the glory of the moon, and the glory of the stars, as those come forth in their order. It is interesting, in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, verse 35, we find that some saints had endured torture in order to obtain "...a better resurrection..."

Sometimes, in the reading of scripture, we fail to identify and understand the meaning of some words. Many times we are influenced by traditional thinking, which could cause us to

develop the wrong idea, and once we get set on a course, it is sometimes hard to see any other way. Overlooking, or passing by some words, without due consideration, develops an improper view of a subject. When we place the "glories" concept within the confines of the thousand years of the reign of Christ, it clears up some contradictions.

May God move to strengthen His Kingdom, may we move toward unity in all our understandings is my prayer.



# Aspects of Forgiveness

By Sr. Margret Gill

To forgive is to pardon, excuse, or exempt. A simple word, with magnanimous meaning representing a magnanimous act.

The greatest example was the words uttered by Christ while hanging on the cross. He'd been abused and wounded, and was dying, yet unselfishly says — "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Christ didn't say, "If they do such and such, forgive them." The people were even unaware of what they did that would require forgiveness. Christ made no demands on them by their behavior in receiving forgiveness, but rather, simply asked God to forgive them.

In another example, Christ was teaching a group of people when a woman was brought before him who had been taken in adultery.

*"And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when*

*they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."* (John 8:3-7)

Unlike the Jews at Christ's crucifixion, the woman, being Jewish, knew the law and punishment according to the law regarding this behavior. Christ, also knowing the law, didn't deny man the right to exact the punishment according to the law. But neither did he say, "stone her." Instead he turned the responsibility in-

ward to each man and said, "...He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8). Christ didn't expand his statement to say he that thinks he is without sin, or he that has committed lesser sins, because He knew that mankind is a sinner by nature. It was very simple and straightforward ("...He that is without sin among you...") insomuch that those to whom he spoke, left.

*"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst" (John 8:9).*

The accusers left without throwing stones. And Christ, the Son of God, said unto the woman, "Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said



unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:10-11).

Christ, a man without sin, unlike the woman's accusers, did not even take on the responsibility of condemnation. In so doing He pardoned her of the requirement under the law. And instead told her to "go and sin no more."

It's interesting that He didn't say, go thy way (a way she had been headed), but rather in the single word, go, implied a new beginning, a going forward with no condemnation of the past.

In another scripture, we read about how many times Christ told us to forgive.

*"And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him"* (Luke 17:4).

*"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven"* (Matt 18:21-22).

Peter did not include as part of his question if it

made a difference as to whether each time the sin to be forgiven was for the same sin or different sins. He simply asked how often must we

◆ ...If we have to stop and count the number of times a sin is committed and keep track of the times forgiveness is granted, we've lost the point of forgiveness.

forgive. Neither did Jesus specify as to the kind of sin or number of times for the same sin. He simply said, "...Until seventy times seven." This indicates that if we have to stop and count the number of times a sin is committed and keep track of the times forgiveness is granted, we've lost the point of forgiveness.

Moroni 6:8 reads: "...but as oft as they repented, and sought forgiveness, with real intent, they were forgiven." This doesn't say that if it is with real intent the sin will not be repeated. But it does say "as oft," corresponding to Jesus' answer when he said, "...Until seventy times seven."

One of the most powerful statements of Christ shows man's final responsibility regarding forgiveness.

*"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."* (Matt. 6:14-15, see also III Ne 5:107, Mark 11:25-26, Matt 18:34-35)

*"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"* (Col 3:12-13).

*"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven"* (Luke 6:37).

*"And if he confess his sins before thee and me, and repenteth in the sincerity of his heart, him shall ye forgive, and I will forgive him also: Yea, and as often as my people repent, will I for-*

*give them their trespasses against me. And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses: for verily I say unto you, He that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under c o n d e m n a t i o n "* (Mosiah 11:138-140).

From this study of Christ's example regarding forgiveness, the following is concluded:

**1** Forgiveness is granted without requirements made to the transgressor by the one doing the forgiving. Christ, a perfect man and

one without sin, did not even put stipulations on His forgiveness to those to whom His forgiveness was imparted.

**2** Forgiveness is granted with or without the transgressor's knowledge of the sin.

**3** Forgiveness is continuous and is required over and over without distinction of sins or number of violations relative to the same sin.

**4** Forgiveness of others is necessary in order to be forgiven by our heavenly Father.

Are we, as professing

Christians and members of the Body of Christ, being careful to follow his example in regard to forgiveness?

*"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).*

*"For that which ye have seen me do, even that shall ye do; therefore if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day" (III Ne 12:35).*

# **NOTICE!! YOUTH CAMP!!!**

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**AUGUST 6-11**

Plan now to attend! Camp is for all Youth ages 12 through 18 and will again be held at Camp Farwesta near Cameron, Missouri. Additional information will be presented in future issues of the Advocate. Now is the time to make your plans. For additional information contact:

Sue & Buzz Brickhouse  
5713 Logan Road  
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# The Wise Purposes of the Lord



By Apostle  
Roland Sarratt

In a revelation given through Joseph Smith, Jr., the Lord said this in part: "Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion..." (Book of Commandments 5:3). It has been said that the cause of Zion is a righteous and holy people. As indicated in the scriptures, the literal establishment and the building up of Zion will be for a place of refuge for such a people when the destruction foretold in the scriptures will come upon this land.

## Part Two & Conclusion

The literal building up of a place of refuge will surely bring about great demonstrations of the Lord's work and power among his people which will possibly equal many of such incidents of which we have read in scriptural history. We have reason to hope that the Lord will deliver his people from destruction or a subservience to a godless world power of which we see evidence today in the world and even on this promised land. Due to our present environmental state in being so totally dependent upon the temporal strength (particularly the monetary system) of this nation with all its involvements worldwide, we must be aware that the actual transition of becoming independent, physically secure and protected from any outside forces will necessitate the hand of God in directing and protecting us if indeed we are to be a part of Zion.

The prophecies that point to the Zion of the last

◆ ...The literal establishment and the building up of Zion will be for a place of refuge for such a people when the destruction foretold in the scriptures will come upon this land.

days indicate the existence of a people with a lifestyle very different from what we are presently experiencing. The spiritual and physical changes that must occur for Zion to become a reality will probably take place simultaneously. One can hardly exist without the other: a holy people will need the place of refuge that Zion will provide, but a place of refuge would become misused and corrupt unless the people are holy. So perhaps the greatest change that will most likely occur first will be the cleansing of the place and the people in the area where Zion is to be established. As it stands today, it seems almost impossible for

such to be accomplished. Yet we have reason to trust in the wise purposes of the Lord and the power of His almighty hand to bring it about.

The several examples given in the first part of this article (previous issue) show us some of the ways that the Lord has worked with men of old in accomplishing His wise purposes. We have cause to have confidence in the Lord that He will work with His people in similar ways in the building up of Zion in these last days.

Again let us consider some of the aspects of those examples. The Lord gave specific commandments to individuals who exercised faith in him and He provided ways by which His commandments could be accomplished. We can understand that this refers to more than the commandments that have to do with moral and righteous behavior that would apply to all peoples generally in any time period. This would have to do with specific instructions given to an individual that the Lord has chosen in doing a certain work, such as the work that Joseph Smith did in translating the Book of Mormon. In such a work, an individual may not know in the begin-

ning all that he is to do or why he is to do it, but he must be willing to trust in the wise purposes of the Lord and do precisely as he

◆ The prophecies that point to the Zion of the last days indicate the existence of a people with a lifestyle very different from what we are presently experiencing.

is commanded as did Nephi and Mormon.

The right response and immediate obedience to the direct commands of the Lord might be rather difficult for many of us because we are more accustomed to inspirations which we interpret by our own feelings. This leaves a big opening for controversies and errors because of the intervention of personal wills and the lack of true discernment.

We have reason to believe that the Lord has not given us the commandment to build up Zion and leave it to us to build according to our own designs and wills. Neither will He speak in generalities; but rather, He will give specific command-

ments in all that concerns Zion both temporally and spiritually. The Lord is the great architect and creator; surely He will not have us consult and depend upon modern day architects and contractors for the building up of Zion and most especially, the building of His temple.

If we are to have a part in the building up of Zion, every physical aspect of our lives may require radical and most unusual changes in the compliance of the Lord's command, similar to what the families of Noah, Lehi and Jared experienced. The end result, however, will prove to be a cause to offer praise to God for His glorious hand of guidance and protective love.

At this point in time, we might ask, will the Lord use miraculous means to protect and provide for his people in these last days, such as he did for the Israelites in parting of the Red Sea and feeding them manna? Will He move upon His people to build a city of refuge, building by building, fort by fort?

We seldom talk about such things, which may indicate that we are not really sure that there will be a literal Zion built up in these last days, and that we are

lacking the hope of being a part of it. But time is running out and the Lord's return is imminent!

Although the subject of the building up of Zion may be vague in the minds of many of the people of the church today, we can be sure that the Lord will do all things which are expedient to him in the fulfillment of the wise purposes in this day as in ancient times. Our future then lies in the hope that there will be those of this people who will exercise faith and give complete obedience to the precise instructions of the Lord in the fulfillment of his purposes.

Let us pray that our hearts and minds will be open to accept the wise purposes of the Lord even when we can't know the end result immediately. More especially, let us prepare ourselves that we will receive the word of God by the gift

of revelation as He would speak to His people today in directing His work. Let us pray that we might have the gift of discernment that we

◆ ...The Lord has not given us the commandment to build up Zion and leave it to us to build according to our own designs and wills. Neither will He speak in generalities; but rather, He will give specific commandments in all that concerns Zion both temporally and spiritually.

will know His voice when He speaks. And again, let us pray that we will be willing to respond in full and com-

plete obedience to His commandments.

*"And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God, he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide ways and means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he hath commanded them" 1 Nephi 5:59.*



## **HOLD THIS DATE!**

The 1995 Arizona Camp For All Ages will be held Friday, June 30th, through Sunday, July 2nd, at Walnut Ranch near Heber, Arizona. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information coming soon!



# Historical Excerpts Concerning the Book of Mormon

The following is taken from "A Voice of Warning and Instruction to All People," by Parley P. Pratt.

Ye gloomy scenes, far hence,  
intrude no more;  
Sublimar themes invite the  
muse to soar  
In loftier strains, while scenes  
both strange and new  
Burst on the sight, and  
open to the view.

Lo! from the opening heavens, in  
bright array,  
An angel comes—to earth  
he bends his way;  
Reveals to man, in power, as at  
the first,  
The fullness of the Gospel  
long since lost.

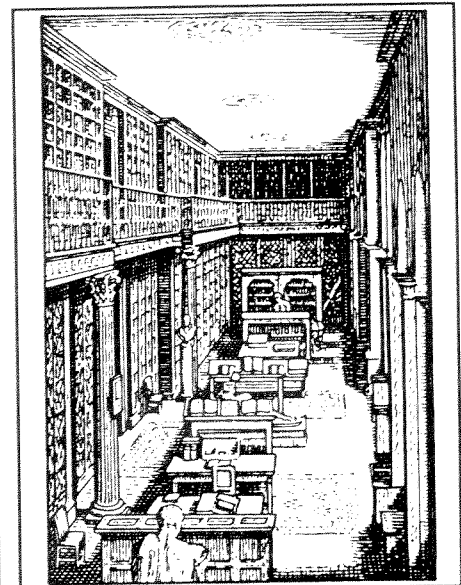
See earth, obedient, from its  
bosom yield  
The sacred truth it faithfully  
concealed,  
The wise, confounded, startle at  
the sight,  
The proud and haughty  
tremble with affright.

The hireling priests against the  
truth engage,

While hell beneath stands  
trembling, filled with  
rage;  
False are their hopes, and all  
their struggles vain,  
Their craft must fall, and  
with it all their gain;  
The deaf must hear, the meek  
their joy increase;  
The poor be glad, and their  
oppression cease.

The following account of the discovery and translation of this record is extracted from a tract by Elder Orson Pratt, published at Edinburgh, in 1840, entitled, "Remarkable Visions," &c., to which our readers are referred for further particulars:—

"How far below the surface these records were placed by Moroni, I am unable to say; but from the fact that they had been some fourteen hundred years buried, and that, too, on the side of a hill so steep, one is ready to conclude that they were some feet below, as the earth



A R C H I V E S

would naturally wear, more or less, in that length of time; but they being placed toward the top of the hill, the ground would not remove as much as two-thirds, perhaps. Another circumstance would prevent a wearing of the earth; in all probability, as soon as timber had time to grow, the hill was covered after the Nephites were destroyed, and the roots of the same would hold the surface; how-



ever, on this point I shall leave every man to draw his own conclusions, and form his own speculation.' But suffice it to say, 'a hole of sufficient depth was dug; at the bottom of this was laid a stone of suitable size, the upper surface being smooth; at each edge was placed a large quantity of cement, and into this cement, at the four edges of this stone, were placed erect four others; their bottom edges resting in the cement at the outer edges of the first stone. The four last-named, when placed erect, formed a box; the corners, or where the edges of the four came in contact, were also cemented so firmly, that the moisture from without was prevented from entering. It is to be observed, also, that the inner surface of the four erect or side stones was smooth. This box was sufficiently large to admit a breast-plate, such as was used by the ancients to defend the chest, &c., from the arrows and weapons of their enemy. From the bottom of the box, or from the breast-plate, arose three small pillars, composed of the same description of cement used on the edges; and upon these three pillars was placed the record. \* \* \* This box, con-

taining the record, was covered with another stone, the bottom surface being flat, and the upper crowning.' When it was first visited by

◆ ...It shall be carried to the Gentiles, of whom many will receive it, and after will the seed of Israel be brought into the fold of their Redeemer by obeying it also.

Mr. Smith, on the morning of the 22nd of September, 1823, 'a part of the crowning stone was visible above the surface, while the edges were concealed by the soil and grass. From which circumstances it may be seen, that however deep this box might have been placed by Moroni at first, the time had been sufficient to wear the earth, so that it was easily discovered when once directed, and yet not enough to make a perceivable difference to the passer-by. \* \* \* After arriving at the repository, a little exertion in removing the soil from the edges of the top of the box, and a light pry brought to his natural vision its contents.'

'While viewing and con-

templating this sacred treasure with wonder and astonishment, behold! the Angel of the Lord, who had previously visited him, again stood in his presence, and his soul was again enlightened as it was the evening before, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and the heavens were opened, and the glory of the Lord shone round about and rested upon him. 'While he thus stood, gazing and admiring, the Angel said, Look!' And as he thus spake, he beheld the Prince of Darkness, surrounded by his innumerable train of associates. All this passed before him, and the heavenly messenger said, 'All this is shown, the good and the evil, the holy and impure, the glory of God and the power of darkness, that you may know hereafter the two powers, and never be influenced or overcome by that wicked one. Behold, whatever entices and leads to good, and to do good, is of God, and whatever does not, is of that wicked one. It is he that fills the hearts of men with evil to walk in darkness, and blaspheme God; and you may learn from henceforth that his ways are to destruction, but the way of holiness is peace and rest. You now see why you could

not obtain this record, that the commandment was strict, and that if ever these sacred things are obtained, they must be by prayer and faithfulness in obeying the Lord. They are not deposited here for the sake of accumulating gain and wealth, for the glory of this world; they were sealed by the prayer and faith, and because of the knowledge which they contain, they are of no worth among the children of men, only for their knowledge. On them is contained the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as it was given to the people on this land; and when it shall be brought forth by the power of God, it shall be carried to the Gentiles, of whom many will receive it, and after will the seed of Israel be brought into the fold of their Redeemer by obeying it also. Those who kept the commandments of the Lord on this land desired this at his hand, and through the prayer of faith obtained the promise, that if their descendants should transgress and fall away, a record might be kept, and in the last days come to their children. These things are sacred, and must be kept so, for the promise of the Lord concerning them must be fulfilled.

No man can obtain them if his heart is impure, because they contain that which is sacred. \* \* \* By them will the Lord work a great and

◆ "...There is nothing that is desirable in the works of darkness; that they cannot bring happiness; that those who are overcome therewith are miserable; while on the other hand, the righteous are blessed with a place in the kingdom of God, where joy unspeakable surrounds them..."

marvelous work; the wisdom of the wise shall become as naught, and the understanding of the prudent shall be hid, and because the power of God shall be displayed, those who profess to know the truth but walk in deceit, shall tremble with anger; but with signs and with wonders, with gifts and with healings, with the manifestations of the power of God, and with the Holy Ghost, shall the hearts of the faithful be comforted. You

have now beheld the power of God manifested, and the power of Satan; you see that there is nothing that is desirable in the works of darkness; that they cannot bring happiness; that those who are overcome therewith are miserable; while on the other hand, the righteous are blessed with a place in the kingdom of God, where joy unspeakable surrounds them; there they rest beyond the power of the enemy of truth, where no evil can disturb them; the glory of God crowns them, and they continually feast upon His goodness and enjoy his smiles. Behold, notwithstanding you have seen this great display of power, by which you may ever be able to detect the evil one, yet I give unto you another sign, and when it comes to pass, then know that the Lord is God, and that he will fulfill his purposes, and that the knowledge which this record contains will go to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people under the whole heaven. This is the sign; when these signs begin to be known, that is, when it is known that the Lord has shown you these things, the workers of iniquity will seek your overthrow; they will circulate falsehoods to de-

stroy your reputation; and also will seek to take your life! but remember this, if you are faithful, and shall hereinafter continue to keep the commandments of the Lord, you shall be preserved to bring these things forth; for in due time he will again give you a commandment to come and take them. When they are interpreted, the Lord will give the Holy Priesthood to some, and they shall begin to proclaim this Gospel and baptize by water, and after that, they shall have power to give the Holy Ghost by the laying on of their hands. Then will persecution rage more and more; for the iniquities of men shall be revealed, and those who are not built upon the Rock will seek to overthrow this church; but it will increase the more opposed, and spread farther and farther, increasing in knowledge, till they shall be sanctified, and receive an inheritance where the glory of God will rest upon them, and when this takes place and all things are prepared, the ten tribes of Israel will be revealed in the north country, whither they have been for a long season; and when this is fulfilled will be brought to pass that saying of the Prophet; 'And the Re-

deemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.' But, notwithstanding the workers of

◆ "...But with signs and with wonders, with gifts and with healings, with the manifestations of the Holy Ghost, shall the hearts of the faithful be comforted."

iniquity shall seek your destruction, the arm of the Lord will be extended and you will be borne off conqueror, if you keep all His commandments. Your name shall be known among the nations, for the work which the Lord will perform by your hands shall cause the righteous to rejoice and the wicked to rage; with the one it shall be had in honor, and with the other in reproach; yet, with these it shall be a terror, because of the great and marvelous work which shall follow the coming forth of this fullness of the Gospel. Now, go thy way, remembering what the Lord has done for thee and be diligent in keeping his commandments, and He will deliver thee from tempta-

tions, and all the arts and devices of the wicked one. Forget not to pray, that thy mind may become strong, that when he shall manifest unto thee, thou mayest have power to escape the evil and obtain these precious things."

We here remark that the above quotation is an extract from a letter written by Elder Oliver Cowdry, which was published in one of the numbers of the "Latter-day Saints' Messenger and Advocate."

Although many more instructions were given by the mouth of the angel to Mr. Smith, which we do not write in this book, yet the most important items are contained in the foregoing revelation. During the period of the four following years, he frequently received instructions from the mouth of the heavenly messenger, and on the morning of the 22nd of September, A. D. 1827, the angel of the Lord delivered the records into his hands.

These records were engraved on plates which had the appearance of gold. Each plate was not far from seven inches in width by eight inches in length, being not quite as thick as common tin. They were filled on

both sides with engravings, in Egyptian characters, and bound together in a volume, as the leaves of a book, and fastened at one edge with three rings running through the whole. This volume was something near six inches in thickness, a part of which was sealed. The characters or letters upon the unsealed part were small and beautifully engraved. The whole book exhibited many marks of antiquity in its construction, as well as much skill in the art of engraving. With the records was found a curious instrument, called by the ancients the Urim and Thummim, which consisted of two transparent stones, clear as crystal, set in the two rims of a bow. This was in use in ancient times, by persons called Seers. It was an instrument by the use of which they received revelation of things distant, or of things past or future.

In the meantime the inhabitants of that vicinity, having been informed that Mr. Smith had seen heavenly visions, and that he had discovered sacred records, began to ridicule and mock at those things. And after having obtained those sacred things, while proceeding home through the wilderness and fields, he was

waylaid by two ruffians, who had secreted themselves for the purpose of robbing him of the records. One of them struck him with a club be-

◆ "...Know that the Lord is God, and that he will fulfill his purposes, and that the knowledge which this record contains will go to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people under the whole heaven."

fore he perceived them; but being a strong man, and large in stature, with great exertion he cleared himself from them, and ran towards home, being closely pursued until he came near his father's house, when his pursuers, for fear of being detected, turned and fled the other way.

Soon the news of his discoveries spread abroad throughout all those parts. False reports, misrepresentations, and base slanders flew as if upon the wings of the wind in every direction. The house was frequently beset by mobs and evil designing persons. Several times he was shot at and

very narrowly escaped. Every device was used to get the plates away from him. And being continually in danger of his life, from a gang of abandoned wretches, he at length concluded to leave the place, and go to Pennsylvania, and accordingly packed up his goods, putting the plates into a barrel of beans, and proceeded upon his journey. He had not gone far before he was overtaken by an officer with a search warrant, who flattered himself with the idea that he should surely obtain the plates; after searching very diligently, he was sadly disappointed at not finding them. Mr. Smith then drove on; but before he got to his journey's end, he was again overtaken by an officer on the same business, and, after ransacking the wagon very carefully he went his way, as much chagrined as the first at not being able to discover the object of his research. Without any further molestation he pursued his journey until he came into the northern part of Pennsylvania, near the Susquehannah river, in which part his father-in-law resided.

Having provided himself with a home, he commenced translating the re-

cords, by the gift and power of God, through the means of the Urim and thummim; and being a poor writer, he was under the necessity of employing a scribe, to write the translation as it came from his mouth.

In the meantime, a few of the original characters were accurately transcribed and translated by Mr. Smith, which with the translation, were taken by a gentleman named Martin Harris to the City of New York, where they were presented to a learned gentleman

named Anthon, who professed to be extensively acquainted with many languages, both ancient and modern. He examined

◆ "...Those who are not built upon the Rock will seek to overthrow this church; but it will increase the more opposed, and spread farther and farther..."

them, but was unable to de-

cipher them correctly, but he presumed that if the original record should be brought he could assist in translating them.

But to return. Mr. Smith continued the work of translation, as his pecuniary circumstances would permit, until he had finished the unsealed part of the records. The part translated is entitled "The Book of Mormon," which contains nearly as much reading as the Old Testament.

—Submitted by Apostle William A. Sheldon

## Colorado Reunion—1995

**T**he Colorado Reunion of the Church of Christ will be held on June 9, 10 and 11, 1995, at 3233 B1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Please contact one of our Reunion Committee members for information about housing and meals, if you are coming.

Please take note that, as of April 2, the area code for western Colorado will be changed from 303 to 970.

Bob Ely  
3201 B1/2 Road

Grand Junction, CO  
81503  
970-434-8090

Jim Shaw  
533 Lonnie Way  
Fruita, CO 81521  
970-858-7244

Russell Bell  
P.O. Box 1137  
Palisade, CO 81526  
970-464-4624

We look forward to seeing all who can come to worship with us in the name of Christ.

*Enid E. Bell, Secretary*

## Michigan State Reunion

**T**he Michigan State Reunion of the Church of Christ will be held at the Ravanna Local on June 16 through June 18, 1995. All are welcome. Please contact Elder Max Spencer for information if you plan to attend.

Elder Max Spencer  
11610 E Apple Ave  
Ravanna, MI 49451  
(616) 853-2391



# Living Faith

I get to thinking of our sick ones, and am caused to wonder at the number that are almost chronically sick, you might say, and continue that way year after year. Oh, we have faith in the gospel ordinance, in a way. We believe that we should send for the elders, they should anoint with oil, and pray over the sick. We believe it; but do we actually manifest that faith?

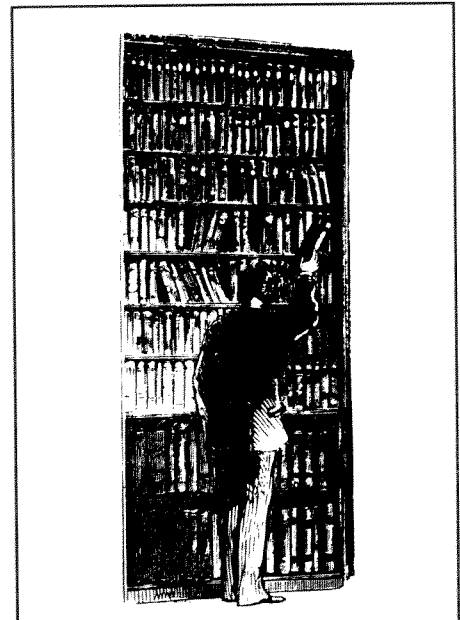
Paul had faith, and besought the Lord to be healed of his "thorn in the flesh," and continued to seek for the blessing until the Lord refused and told him, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

That was a living faith; but too often today we manifest, I do not say a "dead faith," but at least a lazy one. For when we call a local together to pray for some afflicted one, it is difficult to fill an hour of prayer. We come together and offer the same prayers we have uttered 400 times or more before, in a more or less perfunctory manner, and then go home, and then it was just as we expected, the sick one

didn't get much of a blessing.

But there have been instances of a manifestation of that living faith that Paul had.

There was an old-time elder, D.S. Mills, living in California (I have been in his widow's home, and have met his children), and his companion elder who at one time took a coast steamer to go from Los Angeles to San Francisco to a district conference, and the boat encountered a fierce storm, so much so that everybody was awakened and waited on deck expecting the boat to go down any minute. Brother Mills and Prethero went to their cabin and began to pray by turn; and after a season of prayer one would ask, "Do you see any light, brother?" If the answer was no, they continued in prayer for a season, and then asked the same question. Finally Brother Prethero said, "Yes, I see light." They went on deck, and in the presence of the captain and the crew and the passengers, Elder Prethero rebuked the wind and



FROM the FILES

storm and commanded them to cease, and they did. Then he raised his hand and he spoke in prophecy, telling them that on its next voyage, the ship would be lost with all on board. They reached San Francisco in safety, and the entire crew refused to go farther. However the ship company, in defiance of the warning, hired a new crew, and the ship proceeded on its way northward, and was never heard of again.

And on numerous occasions the same procedure



has been followed and elders have retired by themselves and prayed turn after turn until one or more received light and instruction, and then they were able to go to the sick one and rebuke and command. So I believe that in Brother Winegar's case if two or more elders could join together, and were agreed,

and would continue in prayer until spiritual light was received, he could be healed, or the Lord's will be made known not to heal. It would hardly be likely that a whole local could sustain a protracted session of prayer such as would be required.

Perhaps that is one reason why trials are coming to

the Church which will drive the whole Church to her knees, and fulfill a powerful sermon preached at Independence a number of years ago by Joseph Luff from the text: "To your knees, O Israel."

(Ed. Note: "To your knees, O Israel": *Zion's Advocate*, Oct. 1993, p. 163.)

## The Saints of Our Lord

(Sung to: *Send Me Forth*)

We have seen the rain fall lightly on the world of our own Lord.

We have heard the birds singing all in one accord.

We have heard the breeze blow lightly through the trees of this world; and, we have understood the peace that we find in His word.

(Chorus:)

We are the saints...

(echo: We are the saints)

of our Lord...

(echo: the saints of our Lord.)

We shall fight the wondrous fight day or night.

We are the saints...

(echo: We are the saints)

of our Lord...

(echo: the saints of our Lord.)

With His strength, we are the saints of our Lord.

He has given us a calling to spread His love throughout the world, to give his words of peace to those who have none.

To stand on the mountain tops of this wondrous world and shout of the victory He has given to you and me.

(Repeat the chorus:)

Now the times of trial are coming, we must stand all alone, stand with truth, faith, and honor with our Lord.

He has given us life that we can stand with Him. Now stand up and show your faith to all the world.

(Repeat the chorus:)

If we dally very much longer, we will lose our faith. We will be cast to the world with those who have none.

So, we must work with one another to gain back the truth; that, we may stand together and show the world His light.

(Repeat the chorus:)

*Received through the Holy Spirit and sung by Sister Laura Gill at the Tri-State Reunion during Labor Day weekend, Whitewater State Park, St. Charles, Minnesota.*

*It was a choice spiritual experience for all who heard it sung, and must be long remembered by one and all.*

*—submitted by Apostle Robert H. Jensen by permission—Missionary in Charge of Minnesota.*

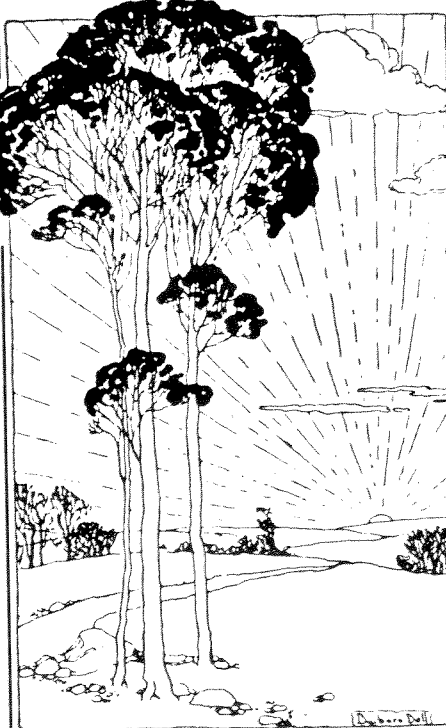
## Through the Eyes of a Child

This testimony is not mine. Rather it belongs to my daughter, Vanessa. She gives it to you. Please receive it into your hearts and allow it to give you strength and encouragement as this is why it is given.

She was born to this world with several handicaps. There are many who fare much worse and we are always grateful to God that she has progressed as far as she has. And, the miracle still continues.

When Vanessa was born, she was not expected to live. We were to find out later that she was retarded and had cerebral palsy, as well as epilepsy. We were told that she would never walk. She now does walk, and with her own special charm, she can even run. God has relieved her of the epilepsy. She continues to progress, though at a decidedly slower rate. But, progress she does. The doctors suggested at one time that she would never develop beyond a vegetable state.

Any who know her will attest that this is not the case. God has blessed her. As we await to hear her speak, we are often sere-



### PATHLIGHTS

naded by her "talking" in her sleep. Oh, sometimes she tries our patience, but she has taught us true patience a hundred times more. She has been a blessing to all who know her. She is an example of pure innocence. She causes all,

as do other disabled people, to reflect upon our own blessings, and the frailty of life. We live our life differently than we would have without her. Better, I think, in the spiritual sense. She touches the hearts of all who come to know her and in this special way she ministers unto all with a witness that God is love.

Some years ago, while attending a school in Independence, Missouri, she was placed before a poster board. Her hands were dipped in paint and she was allowed to swirl them about on the paper. After this was dry, the teacher cut out the shape of a bell from another sheet of poster board, and fastened it on top of the painted one. In this way, anyone would end up with a fine picture to take home. We proudly hung it on our wall. I looked at this bell and wondered why the teacher did not help her paint the entire area, as part of it was left unpainted. Later, Vanessa's grandpa, Elder

Charles Brantner, was over to visit us. He was "taken aback" for a moment when he saw the picture. He saw something we had not. We were looking at what was NOT there instead of what WAS there. As you look at this picture, you too may see what IS there.

Though we are not "sign seekers," all must know that often God will give us a little nod

every once in a while to reassure us that He is near and in control. How else can we explain a portrait of this detail, every stroke in it's proper place, being painted by a child who at that time was tested to be at a three-month level of development. The teacher doubling the odds of chance by selecting the outer

shape of a bell and doubling them again by electing not to help Vanessa to fully

has been evident all her life through. This happened about 1982 so I must apologize for not sharing this in the pages of the *Advocate* sooner. Many of you will no doubt recall seeing this portrait at a Missouri reunion some years ago. May this be as great a testimony to you as it has been and still is to us and may God bless you always.



paint the area. Even the chance of placing the cut-out in the reversed position would double the odds of chance yet again.

We had been praying for God to help Vanessa and to help us to help her as well. God answers prayer. I prefer to believe that God is with her and He wants us to know it. This

*Elder Andrew Brantner  
Lee's Summit, Missouri*



# The Three Nephites

They stood in trembling silence near,  
The three with downcast eyes;  
Near Christ before the multitude  
Beneath the smiling skies.

“What will ye I should do to you?”  
Fell gentle, sweet, and clear,  
How could they tell the boon they  
craved—  
To linger always here?

From the vast eternity of heaven  
And all the beauteous earth,  
To choose, and frame the wish in words,  
That honored well its worth.

Fast beat their hearts with wild desire,  
Then well nigh ceased to move;  
As on each paling, flushing face  
They felt those eyes of love.

No word, no voice for that new hope,  
To linger here with men,  
And love and lift the multitude  
’Til he should come again.

The hour was radiant with light  
And rich with power Divine,  
Here beat the wondrous Heart of Life  
The Spirit’s bread and wine.

Into the silence crept the sound  
Of leaves by soft air stirred;  
Of insects hum, and men’s deep breath,  
But never sound of word.

Then fell the voice with nature tuned,  
“Behold I know your thought,  
More blessed are ye,” and lo, the thing,  
They feared to ask was wrought.

All up and down the busy world  
And by the lonely ways,  
They pass to bless their brother man—  
E’en to these latter days.

Quick changed from common human  
state,  
Yet left manlike below,  
They suffer not death, nor weight of  
years,  
Nor sorrow, pain, or woe.

Then shall I fear to ask a gift,  
Though far too great it seem.  
The thing that He can do for me  
Is greater than I dream.

I may not look beyond the gates,  
But this to me is given,  
In lifting up the fallen one,  
We both are nearer heaven.

*Vida E. Smith Yates*

## N E W S



N E W S

## RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

Hello from Ravenna Local:

The last time I wrote I told you about Debbie Brantner becoming a Grandmother. I forgot to add Debbie's last name, which is Vogel. Sorry Debbie. But you know, Debbie, God was good to us making us grandmothers. The nice part of being grandmothers is that you get to spoil the children, then you get to send them home to their parents.

Elder Aaron Heath and his wife Sue went to Wisconsin to have a meeting there.

On New Year's Eve a small group of church people gathered at Elder Aaron Heath and Sister Sue's house for an enjoyable evening of fellowship. We had hobo pies we made in their fireplace. I think everyone had a good time. I stayed overnight. Sue and I took a

long walk in the snow. It was a very peaceful New Year's Eve. When we got up in the morning to get ready for church it looked like a winter wonderland. It was so pretty out, everything was sparkling white. We enjoyed this beautiful sight God sent us.

Last fall my husband and I got up early to make a trip to Reed City for a visit with my sister. The sun was just beginning to rise. It was so big and beautiful, a big red ball. As we drove along the colors kept changing; it was breathtaking. Only God could make something this beautiful and all for free. Then a day or so later we were taking care of Sue and Aaron's pets and we took them home in the evening just as the sun was setting. I don't know which was the prettiest—the sun rising or the sun setting. I thought about all of the beautiful sights God gives us and wonder how often we take the time to enjoy them. We pay money to go see man-made things when all we have to do is take time to enjoy what God has so freely given. There's evidence of God in every plant and tree and in the beautiful flowers.

But we go about our business and fail to see all He created. There is so much to do in these days that just a simple walk in the woods is a luxury. We need to stop and smell the roses, then thank God for being so good to us.

The secret of life is enjoying the passing of time. If you want to be loved be lovable.

God be with you.

*Your reporter,  
Norma Keith*

**COLLINS, MISSOURI**

At the time of this writing it's just a few days before the official beginning of spring, and believe me, all the little birds at my house are busy declaring it! The days are still chilly, blustery and often gloomy, but those happy little birds tend to brighten and cheer things around them with their sweet songs. I enjoy them. Happy springtime to you all.

Our sister Jo Eddy has been in the hospital recently because of some internal bleeding.

After recuperating sufficiently, her husband Bob took her to Omaha to have her liver checked again. The news there was not good and her doctor recommended she be put on the liver transplant list as soon as possible. After much prayer and consideration Jo has agreed to be put on the list. She and Bob will be returning to Omaha this week for further tests and such as is necessary on her liver. I'm not sure how long they will be gone, but I request your prayers on Jo's behalf that God will be in charge of all that is done.

Vincent Yates, eldest

son of Joe and Floralice Yates, passed from this life February 19, 1995, at the age of 74 years. Vincent is the father of Wallace and Arlen Yates and Nancy Harrison, all of the Preston-Urbana area. These are three of his oldest children, all of which attend church here at Collins. I'm sorry and make apology that I do not know the names of his other children, but I can say that he was a father well loved by all his children and held in high regard by many friends and neighbors. He will be sadly missed.

It has been a somewhat dreary winter, but gratefully spring is coming to bring brighter days. Here are a few quotes from sermons we have enjoyed. I hope they will be of use to you.

- There is a God and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- We know in our hearts when we have displeased God.
- We can't let up just because we've come this far—the prize is yet before us.
- Do we blend pretty good with the world?? (No one would suspect we're

Christians?)

- Be the best that you can be—strive for perfection—don't just get by.
- Justice is great—as long as we're "just."
- The most expensive thing is "time."
- Our life is a living test of where we will put our faith and trust.

*Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman*





# Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

Volume

Independence, Missouri

Number

**T**he *Zion's Advocate* needs your submissions! Articles and testimonies are its life blood. So take a moment this afternoon and, as the Lord directs, jot down that testimony you've been meaning to write, or begin the article that's been on your mind. If you need a trigger to help you get started, look over the suggested topics below. We look forward to seeing an article from you in the *Zion's Advocate*!

- Why are the Seven Principles of the Gospel important?
- Why is Baptism Important?
- What is our claim to being Christ's church?
- How important is the Book of Mormon?
- How can we rely on the Unchangeableness of God?
- Who is Spiritual Israel?
- How can we exercise our Talents in the Service of the Lord?
- How do we fill our Lamps with Oil?
- How can we enjoy the Gifts of the Spirit?
- What are some practical ways we can Overcome the World?
- What specific steps can we take to overcome particular weaknesses, such as: Anger, Pride, Lust, Temptation?
- How can we return to the "Old Paths"?
- How can we become "As a Little Child"?
- What will it take for us to become a Humble People?
- How important is paying Tithing?
- How can we show true Thanksgiving to God?
- How can we find the right Mate?
- How can we improve our Marriage?
- What are some basic steps to raising Godly Children?
- How can we build Stronger Families?
- Why is America the Land of Promise?
- How can we, as Christians, become involved in our Government?
- What can we expect to face in these, the Last Days?
- What can we do to help bring about Zion?

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**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 1995 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 16 through 18, at Independence, Missouri.

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

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- 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.  
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Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051.

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**PRIESTHOOD VISITATION**

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