

# 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

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## GOD'S CREATION

It was a rainy day and I was full of  
gloom,  
And then I chanced to look outside  
and saw the roses bloom.

I heard the birds sing in the trees as they  
built their nests,  
I saw the creations of the Lord and felt  
that I was blest.

I saw the greenness of the grass brought  
on by the gentle rain,  
And the beautiful hue of the trees that  
stood along the lane.

I saw the corn form in the stalk as I  
gazed at yonder field,  
Thinking of God's miracle in how it  
got its yield.

An oak tree in the valley from an acorn  
grew,  
And I thought of all the wondrous  
things that the Lord can do.

Telling this to a friend, I felt an inner  
pain—  
He didn't see the things I saw, he only  
saw the rain.

—Sam Kilduff—1995

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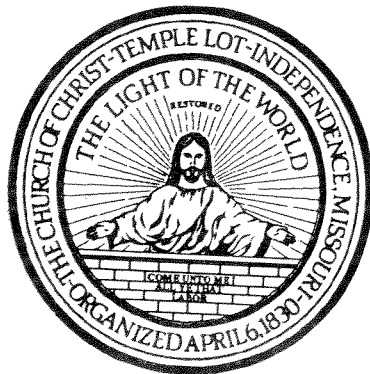
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

ARTICLE

# Anger

By Elder Ken Oar

Anger—it is the one thing that affects each of us. Webster defines anger as a strong feeling excited by a real or supposed injury; often accompanied by a desire to take vengeance, or to obtain satisfaction from the offending party; resentment, wrath, ire. In James 1:15-20 we are warned that the wrath of man does not work the righteousness of God, that it is the lusts of the flesh, the carnal man, that causes us to be angry.

Unfortunately, we do get angry with our spouse, our kids, neighbors, and co-workers. We each at some time get angry. What causes us to be angry? What are some of the results of anger? Is there justified anger? How does God feel about anger? How do we overcome anger? These are some of the questions that we will try to address in this article.

There are many reasons we may get angry: one of the kids breaks a window; someone says something to us or about us or someone else that hurts us; we don't get our own way; we reject God's word; perhaps we lose something of value. There are

many reasons we may get angry and these are only a few. The root cause of our anger is, of course, Satan. In 2 Nephi 12:24 we read that in the latter days he will rage in the hearts of men to stir them up to anger against that which is good. In 1 Nephi 5:44-52 we find that some of the children of Lehi and Ishmael murmured and complained

The end of anger destroys families and friendships; clouds our perception of the world and people, and causes us to make the wrong decisions.

about their lot, becoming angry with Nephi. In Proverbs 29:22 we read that an angry man stirs up strife, just as Laman did. The natural man yields to these devices of Satan for anger is a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-20). The end of anger destroys families and friendships; clouds our perception of the world and people, and causes us to make the wrong decisions.

Anger puts us in Satan's power, and could ultimately destroy our soul.

We usually end up not liking ourselves. We become hard hearted and separated from God. Anger puts us in Satan's power, and could ultimately destroy our soul.

Let us examine some ways we can overcome anger. Second Peter 1:3 contains one of the most precious promises found in the scriptures. We are told here that the power of Christ "hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness..." The scriptures contain the answers to all of life's problems. When we are angry we usually say things that we should not. As we read in Proverbs 15:1, we say grievous words and these words usually stir another to anger. One of the first things we must now do is attempt reconciliation. In 3 Nephi 5:71-72 we find that if a brother (or sister) hath anything against us we are to go to them and make reconciliation before we can approach God with the full purpose of heart

that He requires. Note that it is our responsibility to do this whether we are the offended party or the one giving the offense. Harboring anger only makes it worse. Apostle Paul in his admonition in Ephesians 4:26 warns against this when he

No matter how just we feel our cause is, prolonged anger is the destroyer of the soul.

tells us not to let the sun go down on our anger. Sin enters in when we keep anger in our hearts. We must take care of anger at the time it takes place.

When we go to a brother or sister we may need to repent to them and ask their forgiveness. Or we may need to give our forgiveness to them. For we read in 3 Nephi 5:107 that if we cannot forgive others their sins God will not forgive us. Also we need to repent before God and seek His forgiveness. Anger is a sin and we need to have God's forgiveness to overcome it.

When we submit ourselves before God we must be willing to follow His direction no matter how hard it may seem. To effectively deal with anger we must be willing to get rid of our pride. This means submitting to God and to each other, being willing to admit when we are wrong. Many times our anger may be such that we must fast and pray to be rid of the cause

of our anger, be willing to ask God to do whatever is necessary to help us overcome this in our life. Anger is rebellion against God and we must be reconciled to God to overcome anger. In order to overcome anger, or any sin in our life, we must put Christ first in our life. If He is not first, the central part of our life, then self enters in and we are led by our own nature, and ultimately by Satan.

In John 15:1-5 the words of Christ tell us that without Him we can do nothing; if all we do is not for Him our life is empty. There is no such thing as righteous anger except from God. We do not have the right

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to stay angry. Paul made this very clear when he admonished us not to let the sun go down on our anger. We may get angry—that is a human emotion. But we must take care of that anger at the moment it happens. It is when we harbor this anger that we start to get ourselves in trouble. Our perspective of others and ourselves starts to change. No matter how just we feel our cause is, prolonged anger is the destroyer of the soul. Remember, be swift to hear and slow to anger (James 1:19 and Proverbs 14:29). When we come to a situ-

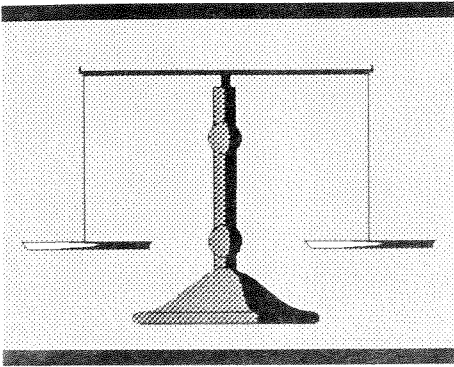
ation that could result in our getting angry, a soft answer can turn away anger in someone else (Proverbs 15:1).

We read in 3 Nephi 12:34-35 that Christ is our example; that what we have seen Him do we are to do also. If we do this

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we will be lifted up at the last day. Christ showed us how to deal with life's problems, how to overcome anger. Study the words of Christ and do as He has commanded and we can overcome not only anger but all that may trouble us. Keep in mind that Christ must be the center of our existence. If He is not, we are nothing. In closing I would like to quote from Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

# REWARD OR PUNISHMENT



**By Elder Arthur G. Smith**

Created in the image of God, we are spiritual beings with the intelligence and ability to reason, think, and control our actions. We know good and evil and we live daily with this knowledge. We make the decisions daily that will result in our spiritual life or death, reward or punishment. How did this all come to be the established state or condition for mankind?

According to the Bible, Adam and Eve were created by God and became the first parents of all mankind. Placed in a garden planted by God with all the creatures He had made, Adam and Eve were given the opportunity to chose obedience to the Lord and enjoy this paradise of plenty. They enjoyed daily a contact with God, walked and talked with Him.

With all the beauty and complete comfort of the Garden of Eden, they made a choice that would change their lives forever; they listened to Satan and partook of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The Lord told them that if they disobeyed, in that day they would surely die.

The Lord was bound to keep his word and Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden and separated from God that very day. They had ceased to live in the presence of God and were now subject to death both spiritually and physically. The freedom of choice to obey or disobey the Lord that they exercised is our inherited right, and we cannot escape the promised word of God: we are rewarded for our obedience and we will be punished for our sins.

The love of God has provided a plan for our salvation, or escape from sin. This will bring us back into His presence at the day of judgment. The gospel (good news) only requires us to be faithful and obedient to all His commandments. The reward promised for obedience is eternal life.

Just as surely, if we reject the salvation offered by this gospel through repentance, we will be brought back into his pres-

We make the decisions daily that will result in our spiritual life or death, reward or punishment.

ence at the day of our judgment and subjected to punishment for our sins. The Bible tells us that we will be judged according to our works: if our works are good or evil, so will our judgment be. Our words and behavior in this life will determine our future state after death.

In childhood we become aware of behavior guidance in our homes and families. We soon find the first rule of life is to obey. There is the love of our parents that nurtures us with the promise of reward for good behavior and correction for misbehavior. We all want the very best for our life: happiness, peace, and prosperity are the rewards of our achievements and good habits.

When we are old enough to go to school we soon learn that again our behavior is rewarded or punished, accepted or rejected. Our relationships with others is a learning process of getting along in peace with our

fellow students. The lesson assignments are required to be completed and are graded for our achievement; a good grade or a poor grade is assigned and made part of a record that is permanently kept by the school

We should never lose sight of the consequences of the thoughts of our hearts which translate into deeds.

and kept available for all to see.

In our adult life we learn to work and earn our living by the service we render to an employer, or our fellow man, some by the tilling of the soil and animal husbandry, others by the conversion of raw products into useful items by many different skills and processes. In every case it is by what we do and how well we do that we are rewarded or gain, or by our errors and misdeeds suffer loss. In every case we are in a continuing relationship with our God; He is keeping a record that is permanent and will be opened at the judgment day.

Revelation 20:12: *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the*

*books, according to their works."*

The gospel plan of salvation teaches us that Jesus came to save us from our sins and from the death that was pronounced on Adam and all his seed. He was the sacrifice for sin for all mankind if we will accept and obey His gospel and keep the commandments. He was and is the very Son of God, the Father. Jesus was born into this world to die as the sacrifice for sin; the Son of Man. He is also called the Lamb of God, our Savior and King.

We have the promise of eternal life offered to reward us for our love and obedience. What that will be like we have no way of knowing unless we are informed through the Spirit of God. This is also promised if we obey the commandments and the gospel of salvation. Faith in God is the first essential step, and to be repentant for our sins follows as we recognize that our relationship with God requires us to humble ourselves. That we should be baptized in water and by the Spirit for the remission of sin is plainly taught by Jesus in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Then we may have an understanding given us of all the promises made for our salvation and eternal life. We will have hope, and hope is necessary for us to have charity. Charity, the pure love of God, in our hearts will be a blessing to others around us daily.

1 Corinthians 2:9-11:

*"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath re-*

There is a simple test we can use to put to our thoughts and the decisions we make to act on. Ask yourself, "Is it only for my own self esteem, or for my own pleasure?" If so, perhaps you should reconsider the matter.

*vealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."*

We should never lose sight of the consequences of the thoughts of our hearts which translate into deeds. Speaking of evil persons Solomon wrote, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." We are to be judged by our thoughts. For surely as we think, we act and speak and express what is in our hearts.

Alma 9:23-27: "For our words will condemn us, ye, all our works will condemn us; we shall not be found spotless: And our thoughts will also condemn us; and

We are held responsible for our choices and the results that follow. Selfishness is a basic sin.

*in this awful state, we shall not dare look up to our God;...we must come forth and stand before him in his glory,...That he is just in all his works, and that he is merciful unto the children of men, and that he hath all power to save every man that believeth on his name, and bringeth forth fruit meet for repentance."*

Romans 2:6-11: "Who (God. AGS) will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh

*good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."*

We are invited, not forced or compelled, to love God and keep his commandments. It is a voluntary service that we engage in to worship God as our first duty, and love of our fellow-man must be our motive. Any other motive is self-serving and leads us to be tempted to sin.

There is a simple test we can use to put to our thoughts and the decisions we make to act on. Ask yourself, "Is it only for my own self esteem, or for my own pleasure?" If so, perhaps you should reconsider the matter. We are held responsible for our choices and the results that follow. Selfishness is a basic sin.

Galatians 6:7-8: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

We are living in the perilous times of the end and we are surrounded by violence and evil. Our children are at risk of their lives by going to school. Parents are at risk going to work to make a living. Our faith in God is tested at home, in the market place, and even in the places of worship there is no safety from corrupt minds and evil doers. Read 2 Timothy,

chapter 3, verses 1-7, for an apt description of our times and the spiritual depravity that surrounds us today. Many may not survive in this wicked world, but the questions we need to ponder

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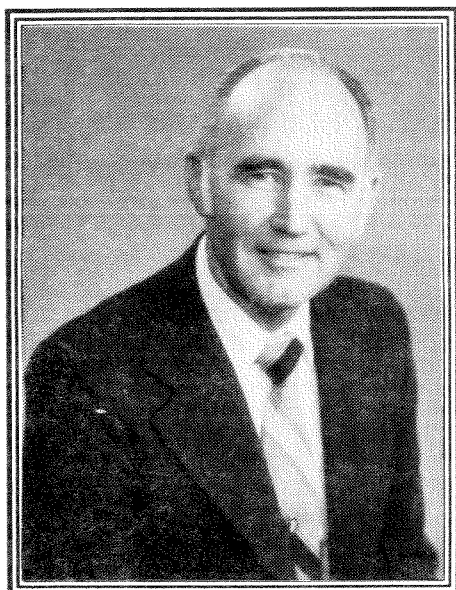
are, "Am I truly a Christian, a follower of Christ? Am I just a church member and not prepared for eternal life?"

I Peter 4:17-18: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

# OUR VITAL HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS: PART SIX

## DUTIES OF PARENTS

(CONTINUED)



**By Apostle Donald McIndoo**

In the previous article we read God's instruction to parents from Ephesians 6:4. In the last clause of this verse we found that it is the duty of the parent to raise one's children in a structured discipline patterned after God's manner of discipline. This discipline is also to incorporate the instruction of God's holy word to one's children. Now we shall consider

the first clause of this important verse.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath ...." This word *provoke* means to arouse or to stir up our children to wrath. I am reminded of a cute little puppy I saw; he was just a little ball of fur, something to cuddle in your arms. But there was a problem; this little pup had five little immature masters, and they were constantly teasing and mauling the animal until he couldn't stand to be touched. He was stirred up to a frustration and anger that caused him to nip at anyone who touched him. We are to avoid stirring up our children "to wrath."

Vines<sup>1</sup> tells us this word translated as wrath signifies a type of anger that slowly builds up; it doesn't release in an outburst of rage, but simmers and lasts longer. In Colossians 3:21 the same subject is addressed with an additional insight: "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they become discouraged."

The father and his wife are to decide upon a code of conduct for the family, the basic rules of the home, the types of discipline to be used and when, the rewards received for good behavior, and the basic values to be developed.

In this passage the word used is anger, but in the Greek the word has a variety of meanings; such as exasperation, anger or indignation. The reason we must avoid this response in our children is clearly pointed out—"lest they become discouraged." I am sure that most can remember some goal you once set, only to become discouraged



later. Upon becoming discouraged our natural tendency is to lose interest and give up, and that is precisely what it means in this passage—to lose heart and give up.

This is what God does not want to happen, for if your child loses heart and gives up, what is he giving up on? On his parents

You fathers must keep in mind that God is holding you responsible for your family.

and their methods of discipline. Hayes<sup>3</sup>, the authority on the causes of juvenile crime, states that the attitudes of the children he sees in the justice system reflect “confusion, frustration and eventually anger.” That is just what the Lord does not want; it is what He is warning us about. In Luke 2 we are told that “the child (Jesus) grew, and waxed strong in spirit.” That is what God wants for each of our children.

Why did the apostle, speaking by authority of the Holy Ghost, write directly to the fathers? Perhaps fathers have more problems with this than do mothers, who tend to be more sensitive to the feelings and needs of her children. But today we see that the vast number of fatherless homes are producing a terrible harvest of crime and violence, so that couldn't be the main reason.

Dads, it is because God has made you the one who is ultimately responsible for this important task. The father and his wife are to decide upon a code of conduct for the family, the basic rules of the home, the types of discipline to be used and when, the rewards received for good behavior, and the basic values to be developed. Father, it is your responsibility to see that plan is made and is harmonious with God's word, but it would be impossible for you to carry it out all by yourself. God has provided you with the perfect help, your wife.

The mother is given a great responsibility in all this nurturing process for she is the father's primary help, the person most often present and the one with the greatest sensitivity toward the children's needs. She is the person with the closest ties to the child and the one to whom they fly when problems arise or hurts intrude. Later on father will depend upon and give authority to the school teacher, principal, counselor, doctor, Sunday school teacher and the pastor. All of these may assist in the training process but ultimately it is the father's responsibility to insist that it is carried out properly. He will not knowingly provoke his children to anger and exasperation, nor will he permit anyone in the entire nurturing process to do so. You fathers must keep in mind that God is holding you responsible for your family.

This brings us to the very crux of our study: What are

those things we do as parents which can stir up our children to anger, exasperation and frustration, sometimes causing them to give up on us? And even more importantly, what things can we do to avoid this potential problem? I shall include the conclusions of the two authorities who have studied

...They (kids) are confused, frustrated and stirred up to anger and exasperation when they are under-disciplined.

thousands of cases, one in the juvenile court system, and the other in scriptural counseling. Interestingly, they have arrived at the same basic conclusions. This is interesting, but not unexpected, for their conclusions are really based upon scripture. We shall consider three basic factors that can cause anger and frustration to develop in children's lives.

The first and most common factor may come as a surprise to you. It is underdiscipline. In Hebrews 12:5-6 we find an important concept:

*“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."*

God requires us to discipline (teach, train, nurture) our children; our concern is indicative of our love for them. There is another good reason—they

...There is too little structure in many homes. Children need and want limits and reasonable rules. They need to know just what is expected of them.

are confused, frustrated and stirred up to anger and exasperation when they are underdisciplined. We will consider some of the more common forms of underdiscipline:

1. No limits, or too few limits are placed upon the child's activities. He/she is allowed too much free time, with too little supervision. As has been pointed out, there is too little structure in many homes. Children need and want limits and reasonable rules. They need to know just what is expected of them. It makes it easier for them when their friends put pres-

sure on them to engage in misbehavior. "No, my father won't allow me to go there." The pressure is now off the kid and put on Dad. "Are you kidding? Go beg your Mom a little," the friends say. "Oh no, that just makes it worse." End of conversation and end of pressure.

2. The most commonplace problem is a lack of consistency. This also takes many forms:
  - a. Children are given an instruction, but there is no follow-up to insure that it was carried out.
  - b. One day the child is punished for a broken rule; the next three days the parents are too busy to enforce, or too inattentive to even notice the rule being broken, and it goes unpunished. This was unnoticed by all but the child.
  - c. Parents enforce a rule only when it bothers them; if they are not bothered today, or if it is another person who is bothered, the broken rule goes unnoticed.
  - d. The rules sometimes change day-by-day. Mom is a little tired and out of patience on

Tuesday. Her child does something and she over-reacts. Later she is sorry for the outburst but doesn't speak of it to the child; however, on Wednesday she is overly lenient to

Some families have too many rules. Remember God's plan? He had just ten basic rules for the conduct of His children.

make up for it. (Parents do this, teachers do this, referees do it.) The counselor<sup>2</sup> points out the confusion in the child: "Yesterday I got murdered for nothing, and today I got away with murder."

3. Sometimes unannounced rules are made up after the infraction has taken place. This is very confusing to the child.
4. Some families have too many rules. Remember God's plan? He had just ten basic rules for the conduct of His children. Why do too many rules lead to underdiscipline? Because the parents

have to turn into policemen, always on guard for an infraction. Most generally the rules aren't enforced consistently. It's too difficult for the parents, and the announced punishment becomes too difficult to enforce.

Parents who do not enforce a strict set of manners at home are often embarrassed by their child's behavior in a restaurant, etc., and over-react with excessive punishment.

Every rule needs to be enforced; **if not enforced, it is better not to have the rule!** Parents should also be very careful about making ultimatums they don't really wish to enforce. Children are often stimulated by what they perceive as a dare.

The next type of discipline with undesirable results could be called overdiscipline, or a discipline which is too extreme. In Phillipians 4:5 the Lord instructs us, "Let your moderation be known unto all men ...." We can see that all extremes are unscriptural.

1. Some parents get in the habit of making unnecessary rules just to show who is in charge.
2. Some parents have a tendency to flaunt their authority in public, but worry little about discipline when in private. I have seen parents who obviously did not do a good job of disciplining their children put on a great imitation of a strict parent at school in front of the teacher. Parents who do not enforce a strict set of manners at home are often embarrassed by their child's behavior in a restaurant, etc., and over-react with excessive punishment.
3. Sometimes parents get in the habit of saying "No" to everything. The wise parent learns what needs to be enforced and what the child could learn through experience.
4. Finally, in some homes the majority of the comments heard about the children are those of a negative nature. There are few words of praise for jobs well done or good behavior. Even if this isn't exactly true, it often comes across in this way to the children, so make that special effort to commend your children for their good qualities and efforts, and always let them know you love

them.

5. It goes without saying that any type of discipline which injures the child physically or emotionally is both criminal and unchristian. Such abuse, often done in the name of discipline, is

The third great cause of poor disciplinary measures which damage the child stems from divided authority.

now the leading cause of death for children four and younger. How great has been the moral decline of our nation!

The third great cause of poor disciplinary measures which damage the child stems from divided authority. The prophet Amos asks the question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Parents, and potential parents (this could well be a matter discussed in pre-marital counseling), need to prayerfully think through the matter of discipline in their home before problems ever arise. They need to develop a "code of conduct" for the family—what kinds of behavior will be acceptable and which unacceptable. They should prepare scriptures pertaining to the unacceptable. They should decide

upon the kinds of penalties to be exacted for misbehavior. They need to consider what kinds of positive reinforcement (God promised blessings for obedience) will be used.

Having made these deci-

...(Parents) need to consider what kinds of positive reinforcement (God promised blessings for obedience) will be used.

sions beforehand, each should be responsible for carrying them out in a consistent manner, and each should be supportive of the other. Remember, fathers, who is ultimately responsible in the eyes of God.

All parents should be aware of the fact that children are going to test the limits with each parent. By the time they are three they know just how far they can go with mother and how far with dad. One may be more lenient, the other more exacting, and Junior is going to play this secret knowledge to the hilt. If possible, he will make a game out of playing one parent against the other. That is why both parents need to be agreed upon the nurturing process. When the children are older and more difficult decisions need to be made, one parent might easily say, "Your father and I need to talk that over

and we will let you know our decision."

Parents, none of us will do a perfect job of parenting, but there are great rewards awaiting both the children and the parents of those families where the effort is made. God wants you to be actively involved in every aspect of your children's lives. He expects you to establish in your homes a structured environment of love, concern, nurturing and instruction which will develop a discipline of Christian behavior. May the Lord guide, direct and bless us in this noble mission.

...None of us will do a perfect job of parenting, but there are great rewards awaiting both the children and the parents of those families where the effort is made.

1. Vines, W.E., *VINE'S Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, World Bible Publishers, Iowa Falls, IA, 1981.
2. Adams, Jay E., *Christian Living in the Home*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

3. Hayes, E. Kent, *Why Good Parents Have Bad Kids*, Doubleday, New York, 1989.

## *My Personal Religion As to Guilt*

**W**e've all had feelings of guilt if we possess any Christianity at all. There are and were people who have committed great atrocities and never felt remorse. However, because of the redemption, we are told that it is given to all men to know good from evil (II Nephi 1:117).

Now I've never committed atrocities but I've surely experienced my share of guilt. When I wasn't walking as close to God as I should have been I occasionally felt little twinges of discomfort over something I'd done. (I knew better!)

Then as I matured and grew spiritually, I felt so much worse if I slipped and didn't do as I knew I should. I would feel so guilty when I erred.

There seems to be a tendency

to be very unforgiving toward ourselves and to feel unworthy. There have been times I felt too guilty to ask forgiveness.

But my loving God has blessed me so! Sometimes I've been rewarded with knowledge of His forgiveness as I've prayed to become stronger. Other times I've unexpectedly felt a warm, cleansing flow wash over and through me and felt the warmth of love and forgiveness.

Guilt is a terrible feeling — but I've found that simply experiencing it has led to repentance and therefore forgiveness. It is much too unbearable to live with guilt when we have the means to correct and destroy that unpleasant feeling in our lives.

*Meredyth Malone*

CORRECTION

## Correction to the March, 1996 Zion's Advocate

Those of you who read the *Zion's Advocate* have by now found one very important letter missing from the title of Apostle Marvin Ely's latest article, *Humility and Charity*. Our dear brother has challenged each of us to become more humble and charitable to receive answers to our questions and direction at the hand of the Lord.

Brother Ely has admonished us to:

Commit to become humble and charitable.

The letter missing from the title is the letter... 'I'.

The missing letter 'I' added to this admonition becomes:

'I' commit to become humble and charitable.

This must be our personal commitment, 'I' to the Lord.

Our questions then will be answered and our direction assured of the Lord.

My mistake was failing to notice the missing 'I' in humility. I pray each of us individually and collectively as a body of Christ will not make the mistake of overlooking or withholding our personal commitment, 'I', to humility before the Lord.

Editor—*Zion's Advocate*

The first issue of *The Searchlight* was published just one hundred years ago this February.

The first paper published by the Church of Christ after 1844 was the *Truth Teller*. The *Searchlight* was the second, *The Evening and the Morning Star* was the third, and the *Zion's Advocate* was the fourth.

*Nicholas Denham*

# TEEN CHALLENGE '96 YOUTH CAMP

August 11-16



Located an hour's drive from Kansas City, **Camp Far-West** is a capable camp that has a **Large Cafeteria, Cabins and Dorms** for sleeping, a **Pool, Lake, Fishing Pond**, and much, much more!

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This isn't free—it costs \$80 if paid before July 1st, and \$90 if paid after July 1st.

If you have further questions, call Buzz & Sue Brickhouse at (816) 356-9214.



*See You  
There!!!*

NEWS

**RAVENNA, MICHIGAN**

Hello from the Ravenna Local:

The weather here has finally turned warmer. It seems so good to have a little sunshine.

We had good news. Our own Amanda Felfe was married January 29th to Jamie Washburne. We wish them both much happiness. We miss Amanda and her son Charles very much since they moved to Gemfask, Michigan, which is in the upper part of Michigan. We hope that one day soon she will bring her new husband down to meet us and attend church, as well as her son Charles. There's

an empty place in church where they used to sit.

Sister Debbie Vogel had surgery recently but is doing just fine, and is back in church. This makes our young people especially happy as she is their Sunday School teacher. Her mother and father came to stay with her to help out during her recovery. I believe everyone knows her father is Elder Charles Brantner and her mother is Jean. We were so glad to see them too! They are not just Debbie's parents, they are also a part of our church family, even though they belong to a different branch of our church. What a difference it makes to have our loving friends visit us.

Obeying God at first seems hard  
Until we come to see  
That all He asks is for our good  
And makes life full and free.  
The way of obedience is the way  
of blessing.

For lasting satisfaction, put  
God's will first.

I leave you with this  
thought: if you wouldn't write it  
and sign it, don't say it.

*Your Reporter  
Norma Keith*

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT

# Colorado Reunion

Once again, we are pleased to invite all of you to the Colorado Reunion, to be held on June 7, 8 and 9, 1996, at the Orchard Mesa Local, Church of Christ, 3233 B1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Space for visitors in our homes is very limited so we urge you to let us know of your plans as soon as possible. Our com-

mittee will also be glad to send you local motel information.

**David D. Larsen**  
(970) 434-7830  
3043 B Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

**Daniel L. Carroll**  
(970) 243-8567  
2991 B 3/4 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

**Robert E. Ely**  
(970) 434-8090  
3201 B1/2 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

We are looking forward to having you visit us and join with us in the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Enid E. Bell, Secretary*



OBITUARY

# Gladys Elodie Masoner

April 17, 1903—January 15, 1996

Gladys Elodie Masoner was born April 17, 1903, at Ava, Missouri, the eldest of seven children of Maude and Morse Shedd, and died January 15, 1996, at the age of ninety-two years, eight months and twenty-nine days. She was baptized into Christ November 2, 1913, a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and transferred her membership to the Church of Christ May 5, 1929.

She married Granville Nels Hedrick June 7, 1929. To this union was born one daughter, Linda Rae.

She worked for the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Independence, Missouri for twenty years and retired to

care for her family. Granville died in November, 1961.

In 1971 Gladys married Orrin E. Masoner, who died in 1983.

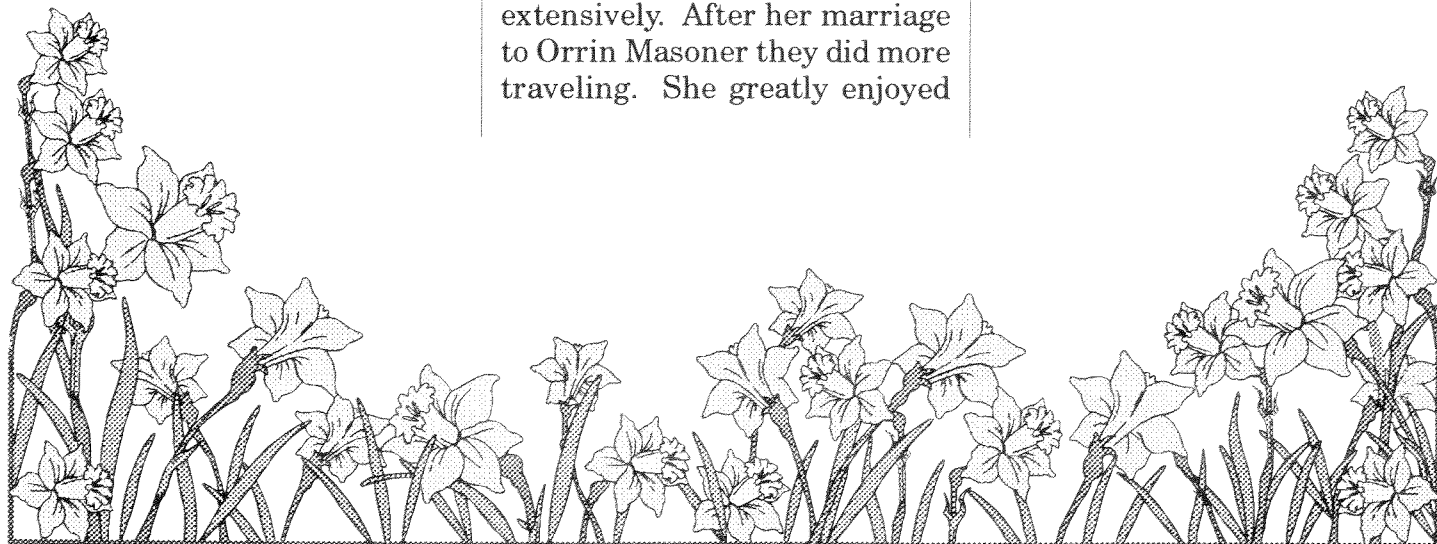
She was born into a family full of love and high moral integrity. Church activities were the center of her life. She was fond of memories of church gatherings and socials all during her youth and long after her marriage to Granville. They were married at the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot where they were members.

For years Gladys cultivated a large garden and canned most of the fruits and vegetables for winter use. She loved to talk about her gardening days. She also loved to travel and did so extensively. After her marriage to Orrin Masoner they did more traveling. She greatly enjoyed

people's birthdays and sent many cards to express her love for family and friends. She was every inch a lady.

Besides her daughter, Linda Rae Sherer, Gladys is survived by two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren, two brothers, Robert Shedd and Wyman (Bud) Shedd, both of New Hall, California, and one sister, Verna McFann of Phoenix, Arizona.

Funeral Services were held January 19, 1996, at Speaks Midtown Chapel in Independence, Missouri, with Nicholas F. Denham and C. LeRoy Wheaton in charge of the service. Interment was in Mound Grove Cemetery in Independence.



## OBITUARY



# Thank You God, for Grandma

*Given in Eulogy of  
Alvina Caroline Bell*

This morning I have the privilege of representing the grandchildren in giving a brief eulogy of Grandma. Because of a special characteristic of hers, I have difficulty in knowing just who I represent. There are many, many more than the 23 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren for whom she loved and reserved a place in her heart. She received joy from being called grandma.

My earliest memories of Grandma Bell were of visits to Ava, Missouri. There I recall waking up to the smell of coffee and bacon. I remember going down some steep

narrow steps from the upstairs bedrooms into a warm kitchen. It didn't matter if I was first or the last to arrive at the breakfast table, I received a warm sourdough pancake, bacon and juice. I remember many occasions in Grand Junction of large family gatherings. We would eat in the shop food that she prepared in her postage stamp sized kitchen. I have memories of mountain camping trips, with grandma at the camp fire or cook stove preparing the meals. As late as last Labor Day she had family over to serve them a meal. Her ambition was to serve and accommodate each one of us. She had a servant's heart be-

cause she Loved People.

Grandma was unbelievably patient. She carried a calm, collected atmosphere about her even during the hustle of serving the large gatherings or in the crisis of some injury. Once a three-year-old great-grandchild accompanied her on a trip to the fruit shed. There, while grandma looked in the freezer, the child abandoned her and latched the door which locked Grandma inside. Rather than a frantic pounding of walls, she busied herself cleaning and arranging matters in the shed. Much later the great-grandchild returned to release her from her prison. Grandma was so kind that she did not mention the incident for nearly ten years, when we all could laugh at the story rather than be frustrated with the child.

With that collected calm grandma also possessed a quiet strength and determination. Discipline was important to her and no grandchild thought it wise to challenge her household rules. Even grandpa knew there were limits. He could never get her permission, and therefore never owned a four-wheel-all-terrain-vehicle.

Family and friends were very important to grandma. Her heart was as big as the outdoors that she loved, and each one of us had a sizable place in that heart. Every one of us received birthday cards and letters and Christmas cards and letters. A childhood craft given to her for a gift was greatly valued and displayed forever. How

did she display all those photographs of us in her small living room? Grandma was an encyclopedia of memories of our past actions and deeds. Her value of family could be seen in the time she spent for us. Whether it was playing a Scrabble game with a grandchild, a one-on-one visit, or preparing a meal for the "clan," whenever one of us came to town we were important to her.

Grandma was content with her life. She spent nearly forty years in her tiny little kitchen but we never heard a complaint. She would even accept and live with breakdowns rather than asking for help because she could be content with it and she was concerned that she not put someone else out of the way. She would have been embarrassed by the to-do we have made in her passing.

Hidden behind Grandma's quiet calm nature was a wonderfully fresh sense of humor. She could joke at her own failings or laugh at a funny memory, such as holding the flashlight while grandpa shot the snakes in the outhouse and then she couldn't hear for awhile. She could even become involved in a harmless prank. While Grandpa was on a hike a grandson delivered a catch of fish to Grandma. She cleaned them and then informed him not to tell Grandpa because she didn't want him to know she could clean fish.

There are many other qualities that we could ascribe to Grandma but the one that

was most apparent and the one that most profoundly impacted us was her strong and undying faith in God. She didn't boast of worldly goods but she did boast of seeing God's handiwork in her life and in our lives. She took great joy that her children and grandchildren committed their lives to her God. Over the past few years as she battled cancer she lived on prayer. She once commented after Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died after a short bout with a similar cancer, that Jackie didn't know about prayer. Her desire was to live close to her God. Recently she was overheard in a private moment up in the mountains singing the prayer "Close to Thee." Grandma didn't sermonize her values. She lived them. What a benefit she has been to us. Now it is our call to live those values so that our children and grandchildren might know our grandmother. And what a grandmother she was. So, before each of you here, we the grandchildren of Alvina Bell want to thank our God for Grandma.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1996 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 29 & 30. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1996 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 21 through 23, at Independence, Missouri.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

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 First Presidency or First Apostles?  
 God's Purpose in America  
 Great Plan of Redemption, The  
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 Principles of the Gospel, The—Baptism  
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 Principles of the Gospel, The—Laying on of Hands  
 Resurrection and Eternal Judgement  
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 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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## SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for SS materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

**Bible Stories to Grow By**—52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7  
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**Church History for Juniors**—Includes a Teacher's Guide  
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Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

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

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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.