

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 Gost;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

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“... Teach them an everlasting hatred against sin and iniquity; Preach unto them repentance, and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls.”

(Alma 17:65-67) 73 bc.

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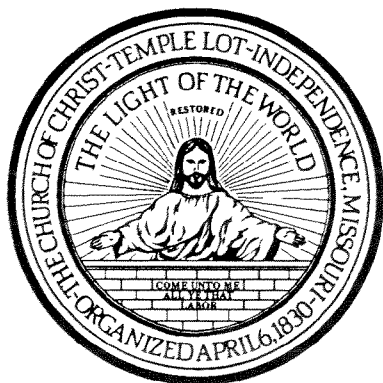
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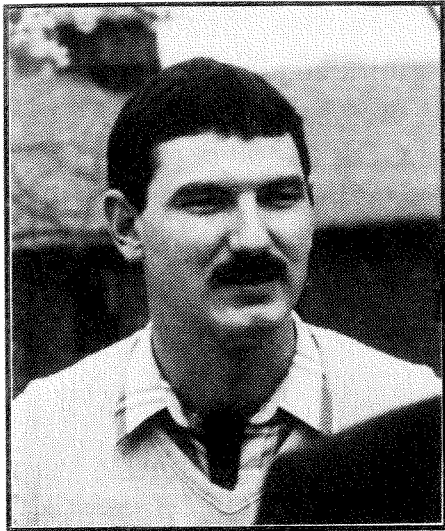
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Zion's Advocate is ...

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.

How Much is Your Family Worth?

Elder Joel A Yates



What would you say if the question in the title were asked you today? What kind of response would you give? Would you try to put a monetary value on your family, or would you consider their worth as something you would give your life for? This question I ask mostly to men who have families living in this dangerous world. There is something that God put in the heart of a man that makes them protective of the things that they love. Most men have a protective nature in them about their families, and I know many that would step in harm's way to protect them.

This is the way men have been throughout the generations of time. Since the beginning of time, men have given their lives in defense of their families, their rights, and their freedoms. It is a responsibility that God gave to man. We read in the Word of God:

50 Nevertheless, the Nephites were inspired by a better cause; for they were not fighting for monarchy nor power; but they were fighting for their homes, and their liberties, their wives, and their children, and their all; yea, for their rites of worship, and their church;

51 And they were doing that which they felt was the duty which they owed to their God; for the Lord had said unto them, and also unto their fathers, That inasmuch as ye are not guilty of the first offense, neither the second, ye shall not suffer yourselves to be slain by the hands of your enemies.

52 And again, the Lord has said that ye shall defend your families, even unto

bloodshed; therefore for this cause were the Nephites contending with the Lamanites, to defend themselves, and their families, and their lands, their country, and their rights, and their religion. (Alma 20:50-52).

This scripture makes it clear that protecting and defending our families is a duty that we owe to God. What an awesome responsibility the Lord has placed on men in caring for the needs of their families. It seems that far too often we men do not realize the responsibility God gave us in the care of our wives and children.

We like the sound of being the "head of the house" or the one that "wears the pants in the family", yet oft times we forget what that really means. The Word of God tells us in Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." This scripture tells those of us that are

husbands and fathers that just as Christ is the head of the church, we are responsible for being the spiritual head of our families. This in itself is a huge responsibility to give our families the spiritual support that they need to overcome the problems and sins of this world. We also read in Ephesians about the love that a husband should have for his wife, "25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" (Ephesians 5: 25). Comparing the love that a husband should have for his wife and the love that Christ had for His Church, we can begin to understand the kind of love a husband should have for his wife. What does it mean to give one's life?

It is true that Christ gave his life by death on the cross, and death could be required in the scriptural giving of a person's life, but the life that I desire to consider is the life that is lived. Christ didn't give his life in one day, for life is not lived in one day, but he gave it day to day until the time it called for his death on the cross. When we recall a person's life we just don't

think about one day of their life, but we recall years, months, weeks, days and moments in their lives that stand out. This is what Christ did for His Church. He gave his life for it by living His life so that everything He did was with the good of the Church in mind. This should reflect the love of a man for his wife, that in his daily life the things he does should be for the good of his wife and family. How many of us reflect this kind of love for our wives and families? We are living in a family unfriendly world. As Christians, we are rubbing shoulders with people in our jobs and schools, etc., who usually are concerned only with themselves. Though we may not always see this, it effects us as well.

The scriptures tell us about the days that we are living in and it truly draws a picture of America today. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5:

- 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, un-

- holy,
- 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Do you realize that we live in *perilous* times? Perilous defined in the Bible means difficult, dangerous and reducing the strength of Christians. Have you realized the dangers of our day, and the danger that it poses to our wives and families? The very first item on the list is so evident in our world and it is one of the biggest problems in marriages: people are lovers of their own selves. Christ also warned us of this day when he said in Matthew 24:12 "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." These conditions of the world are truly dangerous to us as Christians, and they are reducing our spiritual strength to serve our

God and protect our families and our freedoms. It is evident because of the iniquities in these perilous times, love has gone cold in many hearts. People have forgotten the love that we husbands should have for our God, wives, and families. Not many of us are even thinking about needing to defend our wives, families, and our freedom from an army that is marching against us. The enemy that is doing battle against us is not flesh and blood.

Our battle field today is not a conflict against an army of men that have tanks and guns, and are surrounding our homes, killing our families, and destroying our freedoms. The battle lines that we face today are more destructive to our families than a physical army. Ephesians 6:12 tells us: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." It is difficult to fight a battle when you are not aware that an enemy is about. A horrible battle is raging in the world today and it stands

at the front door of each of our homes and threatens the safety of our families. Unfortunately, it seems many of us do not see the enemy.

The enemy that threatens our families is on a mission to destroy all that he can, as 1st Peter 5:8 tells us: "8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The Lord has always warned His people and told us what we need to be aware of, and this scripture gives us a warning. He is warning us to be sober, or serious, and vigilant—which means watchful—because the enemy of our soul walketh about seeking to destroy any who are unaware. How often do you really consider the activities that your family engages in and judge how much worth they are to your family in the light of Christ? One thing we have often lacked is the ability to make decisions in the area of right and wrong. The acceptable morality of the world, which changes from day to day, influences our decisions instead of the Word of God which never changes.

The Word of God tells us that we must judge right from wrong, tells us how to judge, and warns us not to judge wrongfully. Moroni 7:13-17 reads:

- 13 For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night.
- 14 For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ;
- 15 Wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil;
- 16 For after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither

doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him.

17 And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge, ye shall also be judged.

Judging right from wrong is a responsibility that every Christian has, but it is especially important for those of us who have the responsibility to give our families the spiritual support and strength that they need to grow in the shelter of God's love. I realize that we can not always shelter our families from all of the dangers in the world, but I find we often allow these things into our homes and many times we may not even realize it. How often do we just stop and look at the things that we do in our homes?

What television programs are watched in your home? How much time is spent watching it? Is it ever used as a baby sitter? What kinds of movies find their way into the

VCR? Could you stand in the light of Christ and declare that they are good and of some benefit? What kind of music is listened to in the home? Do the words and the message give support to Godly principles? What kind of activities does your family engage in? Do you set aside time to study the Word of God, or give time to teaching it to your children to ward against the temptations and deceptions raging in the world? Do you and your family spend time doing activities of good Christian endeavor? It seems that men in America today do not take much time to consider these questions, or they are too busy to take responsibility for them. This causes many families to suffer and our enemy begins to destroy our families. It is time we take our homes back from the enemy, and make them a place of refuge and peace—a place to support our children against temptations and sins of the world. A home where the Holy Spirit dwells. If we want our children to grow up and be good Christian men and women, we must set the example first.

They must be able to see us put the proper priorities in our lives and give time to those things that are most important. It has been far too long that we men have expected our wives to do the job that God commanded us to do. If our families are to survive the advances of the enemy it is necessary that men take their place in the spiritual care of their families.

Our enemy is still advancing upon us and our families. We must open our spiritual eyes to see that destruction and spiritual death await our families unless we rise up and fight for them and confront the enemy of our souls. We do not have time to spend on ourselves while our families are in peril. We must always be aware of our family's needs and remember that caring for them is a duty that we owe to God. I hope that everyone who reads this will consider it prayerfully, and let the opening question burn in your memory: How much is your family worth? Will you give your life for them?

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

(Or the Kingdom of God on Earth)

(Or the saints of the household of God built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone In whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord)



by Harvey E. Seibel

1. THE FATE OF THE EARLY CHURCH (CHRIST'S BRIDE)

A. Paul in reference to the church said, "FOR I KNOW THIS, THAT AFTER MY DEPARTING SHALL GRIEVOUS WOLVES ENTER IN AMONG YOU, NOT SPARING THE FLOCK" (Acts 20:28-31).

B. Christ also warned of this by stating, "AND FROM THE DAYS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST UNTIL NOW THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SUFFERETH VIOLENCE AND THE VIOLENT TAKE IT BY FORCE" (Matthew 11:12).

C. Paul again referred to this in his Thessalonian letter when he said, "FOR THAT DAY (the return of Christ) SHALL NOT COME, EXCEPT THERE COME A FALLING AWAY FIRST, AND THAT MAN OF SIN BE REVEALED, THE SON OF PERDITION; WHO OPPOSETH AND EXALTETH HIMSELF ABOVE ALL THAT IS CALLED GOD, OR THAT IS WORSHIPED; SO THAT HE AS GOD SITTETH IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD, SHEWING HIMSELF THAT HE IS GOD...FOR THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY DOTH ALREADY WORK" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

D. Daniel also saw these things when, in referencing the fourth (Roman) beast and in speaking of one of its horns, said, "I BEHELD AND THE SAME HORN MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS AND PREVAILED AGAINST THEM UNTIL THE ANCIENT OF DAYS CAME...AND THEY SHALL BE GIVEN INTO HIS HAND UNTIL A TIME AND TIMES AND THE DIVIDING OF TIME" (Daniel 7:21-22, 25).

E. John also saw these things when in speaking of this same Roman beast said, "AND IT WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM TO MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, AND TO

OVERCOME THEM" (Revelation 13:7)

For the sake of brevity, while this mystery of iniquity was already at work in Paul's day, it did not come to full fruition until after the fall of the Roman Empire and the removal of the Exarchate in 570 A.D. At that point the Papacy began its rule. Revelation 17 identifies the woman sitting upon this beast as that great city (Rome) which ruled over the kings of the earth. The Pope usurped the place of Christ in the church and persecuted the saints with a great slaughter during his ruthless reign, estimated to have been between 50 and 100 million people. His reign over the saints however was to have an end when the prophesied period of 1260 years had expired (the time, times, and half or dividing of time, the 42 months, the 1260 days of the various prophecies).

2. THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH
(THE BRIDE'S RETURN)

A. In Daniel the second chapter Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image, the meaning of which, Daniel interpreted to the King saying, THE LORD HAS MADE KNOWN WHAT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS AND THAT IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS (the fourteen kings represented by the image) GOD SHALL SET UP A KINGDOM, WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED. This he describes as a little stone cut out of the mountain without hands which shall smite the image on its feet and break in pieces all fourteen kingdoms.

B. HISTORY REVEALS THAT THIS IMAGE STOOD UPON ITS FEET ONLY ONCE AND THAT WAS IN THE YEARS

1829-1830. Prior to and after those dates one or more of those kingdoms represented did not have sovereignty and were not independent.

C. John tells us that, "I SAW ANOTHER ANGEL FLY IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN, HAVING THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL TO PREACH UNTO THEM THAT DWELL ON THE EARTH, AND TO EVERY NATION, AND KINDRED, AND TONGUE, AND PEOPLE" (Revelation 14:6, 7). Christ, in speaking of the end of the world, said: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). Isaiah tells us that: "...it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths..." (Isaiah 2:2-3).

D. The prophecies referenced above concerning the man of sin, the little of horn of Daniel, and the beast of Revelation indicated that the reign of this anti-Christ would have an end and that judgment would again be given to the saints. That period of darkness was to last for 1260 years and since history informs us that it was in 569-70 A.D. when the Pope commenced his reign then that dominion over the saints was to have an end in 1829-30.

3. THESE MATTERS WERE FORMERLY UNDERSTOOD

A. Sir Isaac Newton: **"THERE MUST BE A STONE CUT OUT OF A MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS BEFORE IT CAN FALL UPON THE TOES OF THE IMAGE AND BECOME A GREAT MOUNTAIN AND FILL THE EARTH. AN ANGEL MUST FLY THROUGH THE MIDST OF HEAVEN WITH THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL TO PREACH TO ALL NATIONS BEFORE BABYLON FALLS AND THE SON OF MAN REAPS HIS HARVEST...** But if the last age, the age of opening these things be now approaching, as by the great success of late interpreters it seems to be, we have more encouragement than ever to look into these things" (Observations on the Prophecies, p. 250, 251).

B. Martin Luther perceived that the ancient and primitive church must, on the one hand, be **RESTORED** in opposition to the papacy by which it had been so long oppressed (D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation, vol. 3, p. 80).

C. John Wesley: "The times which we have reason to believe are at hand (if they are not already begun), are what many pious men have termed, 'the latter-day glory'....And yet the wise men of the world, the men of eminence, the men of learning and renown, 'cannot imagine what we mean by talking of any extraordinary work of God!' They cannot discern the signs of these times! They can see no signs at all of God's arising to maintain his own cause, AND SET UP HIS KINGDOM OVER THE EARTH" - Sermon 71.

D. Charles Wesley:

"Almighty God of love
Set up the attractive sign,
And summon whom thou dost approve
For messengers divine.

"From favored Abraham's seed
The new apostles choose,
In isles and continents to spread
The dead-reviving news.

"**Previous to that dreadful day**
Which shall thy foes consume,
Jesus to prepare thy way,
Let the last prophet come."
- Prophetic Times, vol 2, p. 144.

E. Roger Williams, founder of the first Baptist Church in America: "In the poor, small span of my life I desired to have been a diligent and constant observer, and have been myself many ways engaged in city, in country, in court, in schools, in universities, in churches, in Old and New England, and yet cannot, in the holy presence of God, bring in the results of a satisfying discovery that either the begetting ministry of the apostles or messengers to the nations, or the feeding or nourishing ministry of pastors and teachers, according to the first institution of the Lord Jesus, is yet restored and extant...THE APOSTASY OF ANTICHRIST HATH SO FAR CORRUPTED ALL THAT THERE CAN BE NO RECOVERY OUT OF THAT APOSTASY TILL CHRIST SHALL SEND FORTH NEW APOSTLES TO PLANT CHURCHES ANEW" (Kelly's Presidency and Priesthood, pp. 109, 110).

F. Sir Isaac Newton: "Newton came to the

conclusion...that the time had not then arrived for the full light to shine, but looked for clearer light to shine in future days, saying: 'About the time of the end, in all probability, a body of men will rise up, who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition.'" - Totten's Our Race News Leaflet, Number 90, June, 1898, pp. 325, 326).

G. Sir Isaac Newton, 1733 A.D.: "...*the sanctuary is not yet cleansed.*" - Observations on the Prophecies, pp. 123, 124).

H. Archdeacon Woodhouse, M.A., 1805 A.D.: "*The 1,260 years are not yet elapsed*" - The Apocalypse, p. 303.

I. Messrs. Riverton and Hatchard, 1810 A.D.: "How or when did the woman return from her long stay in the wilderness? To which it must be answered *that as her stay in the wilderness is not yet completed*, the method of her return, being future, cannot be pointed out" - Daniel's Metallic Image, p. 333.

J. Reverend G. S. Faber, B.D., 1811 A.D.: "We are living in the predicted days of antichristian blasphemy and that the 1,260 years are rapidly drawing near to their termination" - Dissertation on the Prophecies, vol. 2, p. 220.

K. Latis Gratius, a priest in the Catholic Church, A.D. 1739: "The old time Gospel, and the Gifts thereof are lost. False Doctrines prevail in all the Churches on the face of the earth. All we can do is exhort, the people, to be just, fear God and Shun Evil, and Pray. Prayer and purity may cause an angel to visit a deep and distressed Soul. But I will tell you. God will have spoken, within one hundred years. He will restore the old Church again. I see a little

band of people, led by a Prophet and a faithful leader. They are persecuted and burned out and murdered.

"From every Nation, shall true believers, be gathered, by speedy Messengers, and then shall the Almighty God speak to the disobedient nations, with thunder, lightning, and destruction, such as men have never known before."

4. THE RETURN OF THE BRIDE OR THE COMING FORTH OF THE WOMAN FROM OUT OF THE WILDERNESS.

A. In the spring of 1820 a young man of 14 being confused as to which church he should join and upon reading the scripture in James 1:5 which says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him", concluded to ask God. In doing so the Lord appeared to him and instructed him to join none of them for they all taught for doctrine the commandments of men. Three years later he became concerned about his standing before the Lord and again sought Him in prayer. The messenger which appeared to him at this time revealed that a record of the ancient inhabitants of this land was hid up in a hill nearby which contained the fullness of the everlasting gospel. He was permitted at length to obtain this record and the means of their translation. During the course of translation it became evident that baptism was necessary and so he and his scribe went into the woods to seek the Lord, in response to which an angel came down and bestowed the authority of the priesthood upon them, at the same time com-

manding them to be baptized. Then on April 6, 1830 the Church of Christ was once again officially established upon the earth after an absence of 1260 years.

5. SUPPORTING EVIDENCES CONCERNING THIS WORK

A. Ezra 2:63 and Nehemiah 7:65 told the Jews who had returned from Babylon that they should not eat of the most holy things till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim. That instrument was buried in the hill along with the plates containing the record and was the means by which the record was translated.

B. Isaiah 29 tells of a sealed book and a marvelous work that God will accomplish. A part of the record which was found in the hill was sealed and Joseph Smith (the young man who was chosen of God to do this work) was forbidden to translate that portion. As a sign that this book had come forth, the Lord prophesied through Isaiah (also in this chapter) that a little while later the former and latter rains would return and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, etc. This prophecy was fulfilled in 1853 just 24 years after the coming forth of this book or record, known today as the Book of Mormon. And so in confirmation to Psalm 85:11 truth indeed did spring out of the earth.

C. Ezekiel 37 tells of two records called the stick of Joseph and the stick of Judah which were to be made one in God's hand. These are the record of the Jews and the record of the seed of Joseph. Today we know them as the Bible and the Book of Mormon, the histories of God's dealing with two factions of the house

of Israel. The Book of Mormon is a second witness for Christ in America and confirms the testimony of the twelve apostles of the Lamb in the land of Palestine.

D. Daniel 9:24-27 tells of the 70 weeks which are determined upon the people of God. The command to build and restore Jerusalem was given by the Medo-Persian king in 460 B.C. After 69 weeks (or 483 years) Messiah would be cut off. Yet He is to confirm the covenant for 1 week (or 7 years), and in the midst of the week (after 3 ½ years) he would cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, which He did by the sacrifice of Himself. By this act He had fulfilled one half of His divine commission, that is, 3 ½ years of ministry. Yet He was to confirm the covenant with many for 1 week or 7 years. What or how was this done. The Book of Mormon tells us that after His passion in Jerusalem and His resurrection, He appeared to those of the House of Israel in this land (America) and then to the lost tribes of the House of Israel led elsewhere. And so He fulfilled his 7 years of ministry among all of His people wherever they were scattered all over the world.

E. Did Christ really visit the inhabitants of this land of America? The stories handed down by the various American Indian tribes and by the Polynesians bear powerful testimony that He did so. One example will suffice for the present. Quetzalcoatl was the bearded white God who visited these people long before the coming of the black robed priests. He taught them a gentler way of life. He was said by them to have been born in the east across the ocean and that this birth was to a virgin.

They also knew of his crucifixion and after visiting them here told them that one day he would return again. When Cortez and his Spaniards appeared on their coasts the Aztecs at first thought their bearded white God had returned. However they soon were disabused of that idea.

6. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS TERMED MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH in Revelation 17. The reason for this is that she is the embodiment of the old Babylonian religion founded back in the days of Nimrod. In the Book of Mormon she is termed the Great and Abominable Church. That she is the mother of harlots is shown by the presence of her many offspring, or the offshoots which broke off from her during the Protestant Reformation. These churches are all her daughters and their authority all trace back to the mother church. Therefore since a stream cannot rise higher than its source (notwithstanding that God did move upon the reformers to break the grip that Catholicism had upon the world) it was necessary that God restore again to earth that which the Reformer's could not, that is, the authority from heaven to officiate in the ordinances of the gospel (the Priesthood), the gospel buried up in the earth to come forth in this dispensation of time, and the Church with apostles again set therein.

7. CURRENT STATUS OF THE BRIDE

“...when the Son of man cometh, shall he

find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). This question by Christ is a statement of conditions that were to accrue near the time of His coming. It wasn't that faith would be totally lacking in the world, but rather of its scarceness and this despite the presence of the Bride in the world. When this kingdom was cut out of the mountain without hands it was described as being a little stone (Daniel 2), one which would one day fill the whole earth. Joel 2 tells us that this condition of smallness will continue until just before the great day of the Lord arrives, a time when great trouble will have come. Says Joel, “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountain: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations....Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: LET THE BRIDE-GROOM GO FORTH OF HIS CHAMBER, **AND THE BRIDE OUT OF HER CLOSET.** Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?” (Joel 2:1-2, 15-17)

PATH LIGHTS

(The following testimony was given at our Young Peoples' Camp in Yobain, Yucatan this July)

July 15, 1996

Yobain, Yucatan

With these words I would express the great blessings of God which I have received in my life. In the year, 1990, there was an unforgettable day for me, because it was that exact day when I felt the desire to change my life and I decided to be baptized. It was a moment so special that I shall never forget it, for I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life and I felt an incomparable joy.

After these vivid experiences there came to be a purpose in my life, for which I thank God as He has allowed me to fulfill it. One of these objectives was the desire to teach our children about the Word of God and to be able to share with them my vivid experiences. There were obstacles which made it difficult to carry out my desire; for example, it was difficult to discover the way to teach them of the great love of God for us and it was difficult to express the depths of my feelings so they could understand them.

At times I was a little discouraged because I thought I couldn't fulfill this great responsibility which I felt. One night, being very tired from my work that day, as I lay down I was caused to meditate about my effectiveness for my God, because I had been worrying about doing my temporal work well. Why was I not more concerned about my Christian life, keeping busy at cultivating my life in service to God?

In that moment I felt an immense desire to pray and ask the direction of God. While I was

praying I heard words of encouragement which said, "Maricela, Maricela, continue onward and do not tarry. Struggle to obtain the goals you have planned; work toward them and I will be with you." Upon finishing my prayer I thought it was a dream, and then I understood that it was the Spirit of God which once again was encouraging me to continue forward.

In that instant I felt a profound joy in my heart and I could not keep back the tears. Later it caused me to meditate; I thought, "Why, being a daughter of God and having been transformed by Him, was I not working in actions that could benefit me and be of benefit to other Christians?" In that moment I made the decision to continue teaching the children, and then the fears which I had experienced disappeared. To this day I continue to struggle each day to make myself a better Christian, because I discovered that the mission of each believer is to teach and transmit to others that which he has received from the Lord - there is no better way than to testify of Him.

This is my testimony,
Maricela Pech (age 21)

P.S. My message to each of you young people is to labor in the work of God, cultivate your lives, be vigilant and alert against the strategies of the enemy, for we are walking in a world full of evil diversions. One false step and we can fall, but if we fight the good fight "we shall triumph", and we shall become good Christians and obtain that eternal life which God has promised us.

OBITUARY OF ALMA SANTEE CAMP

Alma Santee Camp, known to everyone as "Al" was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 12, 1909 the son of Joseph H. and Alice Santee Camp and passed away in his home on July 29, 1996. He had attained the age of 87 years.

He was united in marriage to Betty Jean Ford on March 1, 1942 and unto this union two sons and two daughters were born.

Al is survived by his wife Betty Jean of the home in Newburg, Missouri: son Dan and his wife Frankie Camp of Oklahoma, two daughters Sandra Kirk of Springfield, Missouri and Gale and her husband Gene Baker of Newburg; grandchildren: Ed, Jeff, Missy, Evie, Angie, Kenny, Becky, Rick, Renee, Stacy, Aaron, Carrie, and Ben; ten great grandchildren: Shane, Meagan, Mandi, Kyle, Autumn, Jade, Justin, Gordon, Samantha, and J. D.; two brothers: Rodney and Gareth Camp of Springfield, Missouri and one sister Vivienne Bean of Arlington Heights, Illinois with other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by son Richard Dale Camp in 1973 and a grandson Jay Zarantonello and will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was a member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot and held the ministry there. He enjoyed reading, history, archaeology and fishing.

Funeral services were held in the Long Funeral Home in Dixon, Missouri on Thursday, August 1, 1996 at 3:00 P.M. with Elders Marvin and Leslie Case officiating. Neva Housknect sang "Just As I Am" and "Just A Closer Walk With Thee". Burial was in the Hughes Cemetery near Dixon. Serving as his Pallbearers were Jamie Swinney, Ben and Gene Baker, Jeff Van Wie,

Kenny Kirk, and Pete Garza.

*DEDICATED IN THE MEMORY OF
ALMA SANTEE CAMP BY HIS
GRANDDAUGHTER EVIE (KIRK)KIMSEY*

The man who chose to love rather than hate,
is no longer with us due to fate.

Though we feel the sorrow of not having him here,
we must remember he's always near.

For this is the man who taught us to trust,
so now our lives we must readjust.

He has been taken to a peaceful place,
where suffering is absent from his face.

His pain he no longer has to hide,
he has the Lord along his side.

This man who helped both friend and stranger,
is forever protected from any danger.

He walked with God throughout his years,
and the reward for him is no more tears.

Now we live our lives with out him each day,
yet he's still with us to show the way.

We said goodbye for he was ready to depart,
but his memory lives on within our hearts.

NOTICE

SPECIAL TWO NIGHT SERIES

The Church of Christ, S. W. corner of Lexington and River Street, will present a special series by Apostle Roland L. Sar-ratt. These meetings will be held October 17, 18, 1996, Thursday and Friday evenings, beginning at 7 pm, at the Church.

The theme will be:

OUR HERITAGE

- 1. Ancient or Past
- 2. Modern or Present

Everyone is invited to come and hear this very important subject expounded to us by the missionary for the state of Mis-souri.

EAST LOCAL REPORT

In the opening remarks of a recent preaching service the observation was made that for the service to be of value to those present it required more than the efforts of the preacher. To benefit, the congregation had to listen'.

A report can not give you the whole of the sermons, but these are a few of those things said that are worth listening to, not only with the ears, but minds and hearts open too.

There is that need of repentance, 2 Peter 3:9. Also the corresponding need to forgive others. If we do not forgive, we cannot be forgiven, Matthew 6: 14-15. And also, if we know that we have of-fended another, we are to make it right before we bring our offering to the Lord. Matthew 5 23-24. We are to become per-fect, Matthew 5: 48; to come to that statu-re of Christ, Ephesians 4: 13.

There was a strong testimony to the validity of the Book of Mormon, and its translation as stated by both Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdrey by the use of the Urim and Thummim, or interpreters as spoken of in the Book of Mormon, Church History, page 27, paragraphs one and two. There is still a sealed portion to come forth, a "revelation from the begin-ning to the end but not until the gentiles come clean before the Lord." Ether 1: 86-101.

All that God does is consistent. He has power to complete whatever He has be-gun and it will be done to His specifica-

tion. Only man errs.

We are living in perilous times, evi-dence of the closeness of the Lord's re-turn. Nevertheless through Him we can have hope and be free from fear. Hold to the scripture, in them is found the path to eternal life. John 5: 34. We are to live Godly lives; we are to provide an example to the world. Our commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel-and live it in word and in deed with full pur-pose of heart. Repentance and baptism by water the gate, 2 Nephi 13: 23-26, then cometh the visitation of the Holy Spirit.

One of the preachers related a dream. In the dream he found himself under a banquet table, very hungry, eating of the crumbs that had fallen. He felt this was representative of the spiritual condition of the Church.

We are to go on unto perfection, He-brews 6:1 Perfection is possible or He would not have commanded it. Our hu-man love is limited and judgmental, but we are to be possessed of that pure love of Christ that is Charity. Moroni 7:52-53. God's love is unconditional, yet he c can-not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance, Alma 21:18.

There is to be no disputations among us, He will help us change that which needs changing. The spirit of contention is not of God, 3 Nephi 5: 29-30, 8:68.

A personal formula:

- 1. Turn to God in humility.
- 2. Determine the desire; choose it.
- 3. Learn of God; His meekness; His burden is light, His yoke easily borne.
- 4. Don't give up!

Press forward feasting on the words of Christ, endure to the end and you shall have eternal life. 2 Nephi 13: 30. No one has suffered as Christ suffered to give hu-manity the chance of salvation. 2 Nephi 6: 1, 45-47. The natural man is at enmity with God, Mos. 1: 119, but, He cometh into the world that He may save all men-If-they will hearken unto His voice, 2 Nephi 6: 45. By the power of the Holy Ghost you may know the truth of all things. Moroni 10:5.

Amy Schrader, Reporter

Ravenna Local Report

It has been a while since I have writ-

ten. My husband was in the hospital and nearly died, I was thankful for my chil-dren who were with me and helped as much as possible. I was also thankful for all the prayers that were said on our be-half. Those prayers were answered, there were many times that like the verse "foot-prints" says that the Lord carried me . Without Him I would never have gotten through those days. He also sent me a mir-acle, when my husband was released from the hospital they sent a large packet of instructions and he has a lot of pills to take. I knew it was going to be hard for me to understand all the things I had to do, besides preparing a salt free diet. My miracle was my grandson's wife who is also a visiting nurse's aide. She asked if she could stay with us and help take care of grandpa. So she moved in for two weeks and she set up his pills so we knew how and when to take them. She helped with the housework and exercises he had to do. She also has a Job-she would go to that, then come back here to help. She has children and my grandson took care of them, he also did our lawn and things his grandpa couldn't do, I know that God works in mysterious ways. I thank Him so much for sending us this help we so badly needed. My husband is doing very well, he has lost fifty lbs.. And I know God has been there for him.

Our church had a breakfast at Dennys restaurant,. There were twenty two that attended, we had a nice fellowship.

Lets give our loving thanks for our Lords lavish gifts. God gives enough grace for whatever we face. When you count your blessings, it adds up to thank-fulness.

May God Bless all of you
Norma Keith.

Missouri Camp For All Ages

The Missouri Camp For All Ages will be held October, 4-6 at Watkins Mill State Park. Near Kearney, MO. Camp will last from Friday night to Sunday af-ternoon. If you plan to attend please con-tact:

Rick Olson
5629 Logan Rd.
K.C. MO, 64136
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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1997 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 6. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 7. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on April 4 & 5. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1997 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11 through 12, 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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- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
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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
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- Principles of the Gospel, The — Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel, The — Laying on of Hands
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- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
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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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