

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 is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea: Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof,
Selah.*

Psalm 46:1-3

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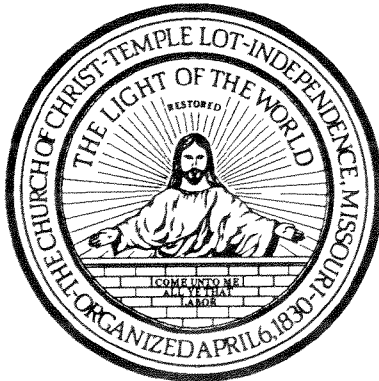
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Zion's Advocate is ...

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.

THE WORK OF THESE

LAST DAYS

by Harvey E. Seibel

Genesis 49:22-26 and Deuteronomy 33:14-17 - The blessings given to Joseph exceeded that of his progenitors even unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills and these hills encompassed the land choice above all others, Joseph's land, a chosen land of the Lord. This is the land to which Nephi was led. To the people of Jared the Lord declared that, "after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord" (Ether 6:2).

This is the land referred to by the Lord through the prophet Nathan wherein he stated, "I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more" (2 Samuel 7:10, also 1 Chronicles 17:9).

The chief blessings were given to Judah and Joseph wherein Judah was to receive the Sceptre and Joseph the Birthright. The blessings to Joseph were given particularly to Ephraim and Manasseh wherein Manasseh was to become a great nation, while Ephraim was to grow into a multitude of nations (the name 'Israel' specifically being placed upon these two sons of Joseph). Thus the foundation for the two houses of Israel were laid, looking to the time of the future division of the nation into two kingdoms. As history shows the sceptre was given to the house of David. As for Joseph, the promise of a multitude of nations could not be fulfilled in the land of Palestine. Thus when Ephraim departed from Judah he took the ten tribes with him and founded Samaria. The kingdom was known variously as Israel, Ephraim, or Samaria as distinguished from the sister king-

dom of Judah to the south. Ephraim ruled the kingdom in the north. This rule ended with the Assyrian captivity in 721 B.C. the nation being removed from their land and resettled in the latter country. Unlike the later Babylonian captivity of the Jewish nation, the northern captivity never returned again to their own land but were in time dispersed among the Gentiles of northwestern Europe, commencing the prophesied fulfillment of the many nations of Ephraim. They would never again return to Samaria, their ancient homeland.

But what of Zion? Anciently Zion was a place associated with the kingdom of Judah. In 2 Samuel 5:7 we read, "David took the stronghold of Zion: the same is the city of David." Zion was actually the name of one of the four hills upon which the city of Jerusalem is situated. In Psalm 78:68 however we are told that God, "chose the tribe

of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.”

But what of Zion today? Like Israel above, it too was to be removed. The command for this removal is given in Isaiah 40:9. “O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain...” But where is this high mountain? Could it be that land promised to Israel by Nathan the prophet? Could it be the land choice above all other lands, the chosen land of the Lord? Consider:

In Ezekiel 17:22-24 we learn of a tender one who is to be broken off from the king’s house, that of Zedekiah the last King of Judah. “Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, *and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent*: In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it...” The fulfillment of this prophecy is given in Helaman 2:129 and 3:56. “Now the land south was called Lehi, and the land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did

bring Mulek into the land north, and Lehi into the land south.” “And now will ye dispute that Jerusalem was destroyed? Will ye say that the sons of Zedekiah were not slain, all except it were Mulek?”

It is in this mountain that Israel will ultimately serve the Lord. “*For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel*, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me...when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered...And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers” (Ezekiel 20:40, 41, 42).

What country is this? Isaiah 2:2 & 3 tells us, “in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains...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...” Says Jeremiah, “At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people...Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel...Thou shalt yet plant vines *upon the mountains of Samaria*...Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God. For thus saith the LORD, Sing with gladness for Jacob, and *shout among the chief of the nations*: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth...They shall come with weeping, and with supplications...*for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn*...For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob.. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion...and they shall not sorrow any more at all” (Jeremiah 31:1, 4, 5, 6-9, 11, 12).

But is this land, the chosen of God, the place to which Zion was to come? “...behold, this land (America, Hes) saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance; and the Gentiles

shall be blessed upon the land. And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles; and *there shall be no kings upon the land*, which shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations; AND HE THAT FIGHTETH AGAINST ZION, SHALL PERISH, SAITH GOD; FOR HE THAT RAISETH UP A KING AGAINST ME, SHALL PERISH" (2 Nephi 7:17-20).

Zion and the land choice above all others are here equated as one. But there is a warning given to those who are so blessed as to have the privilege of living in this great land. "And others will he (the devil, Hes) pacify, and lull them away into carnal security that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well...Therefore, wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion" (2 Nephi 12:25, 30). Amos also gives a like warning, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in *the mountain of Samaria*, which are named *chief of the nations*, to whom the house of Israel came!...but they are not grieved for the affliction of

Joseph" (Amos 6:1, 6).

From this we can deduce that the Samaria to which Israel came, named 'chief of the nations', and which is here stated to be the place of Zion, was not the Samaria of ancient times. Ancient Samaria was never at any time named chief of the nations and neither did ancient Israel come to that Samaria. They were already there when they founded it. Therefore this land is that land which was chosen of the Lord from the beginning and which became a land choice above all other lands. It was the land promised to Joseph and Israel. As for Zion it was never at any time associated with the Samaria of old. As ancient Samaria was the land of Israel so also is the modern Samaria of today.

"And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you" (3 Nephi 9:58-59). "Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him,

which dwelt upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven...And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph...Wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, when the earth shall pass away" (Ether 6:3, 6, 8). This New Jerusalem will truly be the city of Zion.

That Israel and Ephraim are one (nationally, not tribally) is shown in various scriptures and is the direct fulfillment of the special naming of Israel upon the heads of Ephraim and Manasseh. In 2 Chronicles 25:7 we read, "for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim." "And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz...king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah, *king of Israel*, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it...And it

was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate WITH EPHRAIM” (Isaiah 7:1, 2). “And the head of Ephraim is Samaria” (Isaiah 7:9). And Samaria was the capital city of Israel of the ten tribes of the north. “The LORD shall bring upon thee, and upon thy people...days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria” (Isaiah 7:17). When Ephraim departed from Judah, he took the whole ten tribes with him and ruled over them, building in the process the new capital of Samaria. Ephraim was Israel because so named by Jacob his father. “So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? Neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents...So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day...there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only...Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solo-

mon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me” (1 Kings 12:16, 19, 20, 23-24).

Previously we saw how the Lord chose the tribe of Judah the mount Zion which he loved. Now consider the following: “...behold, *Zion hath said*, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me; but he will shew that he hath not. For can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me” (1 Nephi 6:44-46).

That Zion is a place for the pure in heart there can be no doubt. “The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God” (Psalm 87:2-3). “Beautiful for situation,

the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King” (Psalm 48:2).

When is Zion then to become a reality? We know from latter day revelation the command to the early elders to seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. From the Book of Mormon we are given this word: “And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost” (1 Nephi 3:187).

When is it finally to be redeemed? We have seen the passage of over 160 years since the beginning of this work and yet the vision of many is still unfulfilled. A cleansing is necessary before Zion can be redeemed. It is apparent from scripture that this cleansing will take place at the very time Zion is redeemed. “Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together” (Isaiah 1:27-28). “And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that re-

maineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy...When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion” (Isaiah 4:3, 4). “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity” (Matthew 13:41). Consider the following:

“Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction. The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant. For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us. And it shall come to pass at that day, saith the LORD, that the heart of the king shall perish, and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder” (Jeremiah 4:6-9).

This evil from the north must be the coming of Gog out of the north parts against the mountains of Israel. In Joel

we have more concerning this northern army which is to come upon God’s land. It will be the time of Jacob’s trouble but he shall be delivered out of it. It will also be Zion’s greatest trial, a time of great alarm. “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain (America): let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand...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 (the millennial period)...The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” (Joel 2:1, 2, 10-11)

“Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning...Let the priest, 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? THEN WILL THE LORD BE JEALOUS FOR HIS LAND (AMERICA), AND PITY HIS PEOPLE...I will remove far off from you the northern army (Gog, i.e. Russia), and will drive him into a land barren and desolate...” (Joel 2:12, 17,20).

This scripture shows very pointedly that at the time these events take place Zion has not yet been redeemed. But in the moment of its greatest extremity the priests the Lord’s ministers will weep between the porch and the altar and plead for the people of the Lord and for deliverance from the power of the heathen. This is the final calamity to befall our country before the coming of Christ which is signaled by the very signs delineated above in the sun, moon, and stars. Thus this redemption will not come until the very end, or until just prior to the appear-

ance of Christ in the heavens. Then shall be deliverance for the saints in Zion and in Jerusalem, not from the great tribulation which is already upon us, but from the day of the Lord (his wrath) which is to come almost immediately upon the redemption of Zion. But because of our current condition the following is stated:

“The sinners in Zion are afraid...Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” (Isaiah 33:14), or survive the coming of Gog? The answer, of course, are those who have walked righteously, that despise the gain of oppressions, that refuse to take bribes, that keepeth his ears from hearing of blood, and his eyes from seeing evil. Such shall dwell on high. Bread shall be given him and his waters shall be sure. And they shall see the Lord in his beauty.

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one

day? Or shall a nation be born at once? FOR AS SOON AS ZION TRAVAILED, SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER CHILDREN. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? Saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? Saith thy God..For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many” (Isaiah 66:7-9, 15-16).

Again we can see that Zion's redemption does not come until she is brought to her greatest extremity, her travail, but as soon as she does she will bring forth her children. Her redemption will be sudden. God will perform this work and cause her to bring to the birth. But as for the wicked great wrath will fall upon them and the slain of the Lord will be many.

“Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and

before his ancients gloriously” (Isaiah 24:23). “When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory” (Psalm 102:16). “Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: *for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion*” (Isaiah 52:8). “For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after. Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof...And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: *in the latter days ye shall consider it*” (Jeremiah 30:17-18,

22-24).

When will the greater work of Zion commence? We know that the kingdom was cut out of the mountain without hands in 1829-30 and that was the time the Lord set His hand the second time to gather His people. That date marked the inception of the marvelous work and a wonder wherein God, in truth, did send his prophet Elijah as foretold in the book of Malachi and the choice seer as foretold in 2 Nephi. But what of this work and when may we expect its fulfillment?

“And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years and many generations...at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; And then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer...AND HE

MEANETH THAT IT WILL NOT COME TO PASS, UNTIL AFTER THAT THEY ARE SCATTERED BY THE GENTILES” (1 Nephi 4:16, 17, 18, 26). “And it meaneth that the time cometh that *after all the house of Israel have been scattered* and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; And by them shall our seed be scattered. AND AFTER THAT OUR SEED IS SCATTERED, *the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles*, which shall be of great worth unto our seed” (1 Nephi 7:15-17).

We may understand from this scripture that the greatest fulfillment of this marvellous work of God was not to take place until after the scattering of the Indian peoples of this land. That scattering was not complete until the terrible tragedy of the battle of Wounded Knee, South Dakota in the year 1890. Then was the prophecy fully fulfilled concerning the scattering of Lehi's seed. The 20th century dawned shortly after

when the wrath of God began to be poured out more fully upon the nations. This century has seen more blood and carnage than in any previous century heretofore.

“And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose founder is the devil, THEN AT THAT DAY, THE WORK OF THE FATHER SHALL COMMENCE, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, which are of the house of Israel” (1 Nephi 3:236-237).

The work in Yucatan was begun in the 1950's. Since then the work has been expanded among other tribes in this country. The greater work however is yet to be accomplished, a work which will be done by one from their own number, a special servant. Says Lehi, “And now, behold, my son Joseph, after this manner did my father of old prophesy. Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed: for thy seed shall not be destroyed, for they shall

hearken unto the words of the book (the book brought forth by the choice seer, the Book of Mormon). And there shall raise up one mighty among them, which shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren" (2 Nephi 2:44-47).

"...therefore, when ye shall receive this record (the Book of Mormon), ye may know that THE WORK OF THE FATHER HAS COMMENCED upon all the face of the land" (Ether 1:114).

The Lord in 3 Nephi 7:42-45 tells us that when the words of Isaiah which says, "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion", etc., *"then is the fulfilling of the covenant which the Father hath made unto his people...And then shall the remnants which shall be scattered*

abroad upon the face of the earth, be gathered in from the east, and from the west, and from the south, and from the north; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God" (3 Nephi 9:48-49).

And "...if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive, AFTER THAT THEY HAVE SCATTERED MY PEOPLE, then shall ye which are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them...as a lion" (3 Nephi 9:51, 52). "Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries...And thou shalt beat in pieces many people...And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel. And behold, this people will I establish in this land...and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you" (3 Nephi 9:53, 55, 57, 58-59).

"And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fullness of my gospel shall be preached unto them, and they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God,

and shall pray unto the Father in my name. Then shall their watchmen lift up their voices; and with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye. THEN WILL THE FATHER GATHER THEM TOGETHER AGAIN, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance" (3 Nephi 9:69-71). "AND THEN SHALL BE BROUGHT TO PASS THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN, AWAKE, AWAKE AGAIN, AND PUT ON THY STRENGTH, O ZION; PUT ON THY BEAUTIFUL GARMENTS, O JERUSALEM, THE HOLY CITY, for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit down, O Jerusalem; LOOSE THYSELF FROM THE BANDS OF THY NECK, O CAPTIVE DAUGHTER OF ZION" (3 Nephi 9: 74-75). "AND THEN SHALL A CRY GO FORTH, DEPART YE, DEPART YE, GO YE OUT FROM THENCE, TOUCH NOT THAT WHICH IS UNCLEAN; GO YE OUT OF THE MIDST OF HER; BE YE CLEAN, THAT

BEAR THE VESSELS OF THE LORD. FOR YE SHALL NOT GO OUT WITH HASTE, NOR GO BY FLIGHT: FOR THE LORD WILL GO BEFORE YOU; AND THE GOD OF ISRAEL SHALL BE YOUR REARWARD. BEHOLD, MY SERVANT SHALL DEAL PRUDENTLY, HE SHALL BE EXALTED AND EXTOLLED, AND BE VERY HIGH. AS MANY WERE ASTONISHED AT THEE (HIS VISAGE WAS SO MARRED MORE THAN ANY MAN, AND HIS FORM MORE THAN THE SONS OF MEN); SO SHALL HE SPRINKLE MANY NATIONS; THE KINGS SHALL SHUT THEIR MOUTHS AT HIM: FOR THAT WHICH HAD NOT BEEN TOLD THEM SHALL THEY SEE; AND THAT WHICH THEY HAD NOT HEARD SHALL THEY CONSIDER” (3 Nephi 9:79-83). THEN SHALL THIS COVENANT WHICH THE FATHER HATH COVENANTED WITH HIS PEOPLE, BE FULFILLED; AND THEN SHALL JERUSALEM BE INHABITED

AGAIN WITH MY PEOPLE” (3 Nephi 9:85).

“And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the WORK OF THE FATHER HATH ALREADY COMMENCED unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people which are of the house of Israel. *And when that day shall come*, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. FOR IN THAT DAY, FOR MY SAKE SHALL THE FATHER WORK A WORK, WHICH SHALL BE A GREAT AND A MARVELOUS WORK AMONG THEM; and there shall be among them which will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them. But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the

devil” (3 Nephi 9:93-97).

We can see from this that the greatest fulfillment of this great and marvelous work will be when the marred servant accomplishes his ministrations.

Then we are told that those that will not hear shall be cut off, “And my people which are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep...Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off.” (3 Nephi 9:99, 100). “Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent...But if they will repent...I will establish my church among them...and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, which are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among

them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the WORK OF THE FATHER COMMENCE, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the WORK OF THE FATHER commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem...then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations...And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward" (3 Nephi 9:101, 10:1, 2-5, 7-8).

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, which were scattered upon all the face of the earth; And they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory" (3 Nephi 3:230-231).

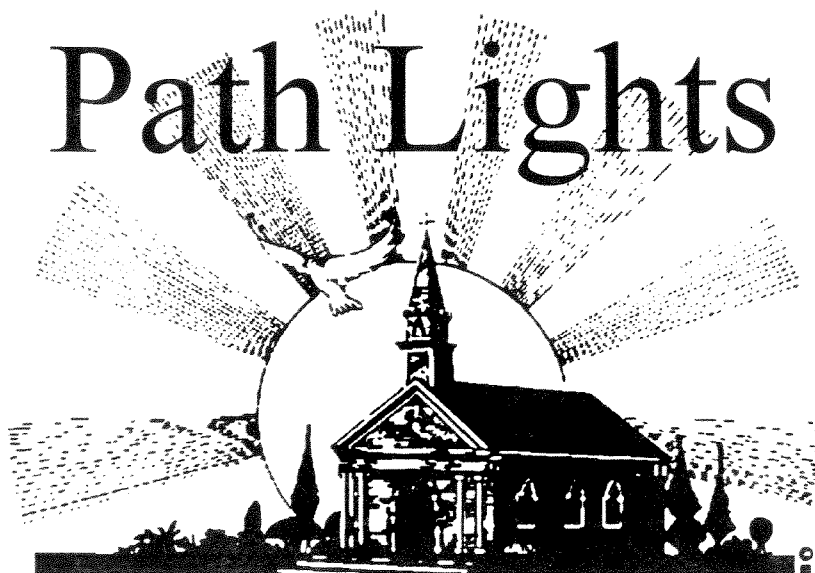
It appears from the scrip-

tures that this work is to have its greatest fulfillment centering around the cleansing of Zion, the coming of Gog, and the work of the marred servant, all three of which are yet to come to pass, but from all evidence it is now all but upon us. The work of the gathering also will then occur and this when they have been brought to see eye to eye. The bringing forth of Zion again in these last days is the Lord's work. It will not be done by the wisdom of man. We are commanded, however, to seek to bring forth Zion, and those that do so will have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. Yet it is the Lord who will cleanse His people and remove from His kingdom that which offends and them which do iniquity. Zion will be redeemed with power and not through any machinations of our human weakness. Since God's word does not return unto him void this work will be accomplished. Neither does he delay His coming but in everything all is done exactly according to His timetable. God is not frustrated. He is perfectly capable of performing His strange act. Did

he not begin and end the various time prophecies (the 1260 years and the 70 weeks, etc.) precisely on time? Then why not the final drama of history? As for the work of the restoration, God who knows all things, understood the frailties of men and made provision for such from the beginning, the same as He knew before the days of Moses, that the children of Israel would have to wander 40 years in the wilderness before entering the promised land. The same has been true of us, whether we like to admit it or not. Yet our days of wandering are nearly over and the great work of possessing the kingdom is at hand. The time for dawdling is over. Six years only remain until the dawning of the seventh day. It is now imperative that we cease our sleeping and slumbering for the bridegroom soon cometh. And when he does, will He find us with oil in our lamps and ready to enter in with him into the marriage of the Lamb?

Think, yes think seriously on these things, for the time for procrastination is over.

Path Lights



My Personal Religion In Grief

I have experienced loss of a husband and parents, as well as very dear friends. I have close friends who have also lost a spouse and others close to them. The ones whose faith is shallow or non-existent have not been able to cope. Two have had break-downs, one has no hope or joy left in life, they all have absolute despair.

At the times when life seemed the most bleak, I have been granted a most blessed peace and acceptance. My Heavenly Father has allowed me to accept the way things are and He has given me comfort and companionship during the lonely times.

I've been hard-pressed to explain to non-believers how I have been at peace even though sor-

rowful. They cannot be consoled and continue to resent their very existence. How sad!

We all must experience grief; but oh, how wonderful it is to have hope in a resurrection and a calming peace and comforter to attend us as we turn the pages of our lives and see what's in store in the next chapters!

Meredyth Malone

The Race

A children's race, young boys, young men,
How I remember well.
Excitement, sure, but also fear,
It wasn't hard to tell.

They all lined up, so full of hope,
Each thought to win that race,
Or tie for first, or if not that,
At least take second place.

And fathers watched from off the
side,
Each cheering for his son.
And each boy hoped to show
his Dad,
That he would be the one.

The whistle blew, and off they
went,
Young hearts and hopes a' fire,
To win, to be the hero there,
Was each young boy's desire.

And one boy in particular,
Who's Dad was in the crowd,
Was running near the lead and thought,
My Dad will be so proud.

But as he speeded down the field,
Across a shallow dip,
The little boy who thought to win,

Lost his step and slipped.

Trying hard to catch himself,
His hands flew out to brace.
And mid the laughter of the crowd,
He fell flat on his face.

So down he fell, and with him hope,
He couldn't win it now.
Embarrassed, sad, he only wished,
To disappear somehow.

But as he fell, his Dad stood up,
And showed his anxious face,
Which to the boy, so clearly
said,
Get up and win the race.

He quickly rose. No damage done.
Behind a bit that's all.
And ran with all his mind and
might,
To make up for his fall.

So anxious to restore himself,
To catch up and to win,
His mind went faster than his legs,
He slipped and fell again.

He wished that he had quit before,
With only one disgrace.



I'm hopeless as a runner now,
I shouldn't try to race.

But in the laughing crowd he searched,
And found his Father's face.
That steady look which said again,
Get up and win the race.

So he jumped up to try again,
Ten yards behind the last.
If I'm going to gain those yards,
I've got to move real fast.

Exerting everything he had,
He gained eight or ten.
But trying so hard to catch the lead,
He slipped and fell again.

Defeat! He lay there silently.
A tear dropped from his eye.
There's no sense in running anymore,
Three strikes, I'm out. Why try?

The will to rise had disappeared,
All hope had fled away.
So far behind. So error prone.
A loser all the way.

I've lost, so what's the use, he thought,
I'll live with my disgrace.
But then he thought about his Dad,
Who soon he'd have to face.

Get up! an echo sounded low,
Get up and take your place.
You were not meant for failure here,

Get up and win the race.

With borrowed will get up, it said,
You haven't lost it all.
For winning is not more than this,
To rise each time you fall.

So up he rose to win once more.
And with a new commitment.
He resolved that win or lose,
At least he wouldn't quit.

So far behind the others now,
The most he'd ever been.
Still he gave it all he had,
And ran as though to win

Three time he'd fallen stumbling,
Three times he rose again.
Too far behind to hope to win,
He still ran to the end.

They cheered the winning runner,
As he crossed first place,
Head high and proud and happy,
No falling no disgrace.

But when the fallen youngster,
Crossed the line last place,
The crowd gave him the greater cheer,
for finishing the race.

And even though he came in last,
With head bowed low, unproud,
You would have thought he won the race,
From listening to the crowd.

And to his dad he sadly said
I didn't do so well.
To me you won, his Father said,
You rose each time you fell.

And when things seem dark and hard.
And difficult to face.
The memory of that little boy,
Helps me in my race.

For all of life is like that race,

With ups and downs and all,
And all you have to do to win,
Is rise each time you fall,

Quit! Give up! You're beaten!
They still shout in my face.
But another voice within me says,
Get up and win the race!

Unknown

Submitted by William Sheldon

NEWS

MOGOLLON LOCAL REPORT

Hello, with thoughts of good and blessings wished to our brothers and sisters everywhere. Summer has been a whirl, here and gone, the Lord above us like a gentle breeze with His daily watchcare. So unseen by the world, as yet. We trudge along, waiting for greater things. We had a lot of visitors from the Phoenix local. They would camp in Heber and then come in for church. We surely enjoyed that, and many came just for the day. May God bless you because of your desires for good.

Well, we had a very special day here in Show Low Sunday. Our hearts were knit with the hosts of Heaven and with yours, for I knew you would rejoice. Karli and Ben Cloyd were received into the fold. Jay Moser baptized them and Joel Yates confirmed. Andy and Andrew drove up from hunting; Chris, Aaron and Erika

came with Jay; Bill and Karin brought Dane and Tasia; Karli's friend Amber came and my niece Kassi. The weather was cold and rainy on Saturday, a beautiful warm sunny day on Sunday and very cold and very windy on Monday. Jay told us of other times he has witnessed the Lord control the weather for church events. let us be mindful of them in prayer until their hands are strong enough to hold on to the rod, and even until the end.

Re-union is very close.. I hope to see some of you there. It is my prayer that the Lord will have a message of direction for His people. May God's spirit brighten the place where you are.

your sister in Christ,
Kathly Cloyd

Missouri Reunion

The Missouri Reunion was held at the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot August 16, 17, and 18.

Apostle Marvin Ely has graciously again shared his notes concerning some of the prayer services and preaching services which I was unable to attend. These are his comments on the Friday and Saturday prayer services.

The opening prayer service had remarks read from the book of Enos in which Enos wrote that his father was a just man and had taught him in his language, and also in the nurture and admonition to the Lord. In the first testimony the importance of hope was stressed. He also said there is a lot of joy in the world even though we have many trials. The importance of enduring to the end was stressed. Sister Jo Eddy's needs were brought to our attention. We had a special season of prayer for her in which many took part.

In the Saturday prayer service comments were made that God has set up a complete

plan for us. Also he said that the plan of redemption had been laid down from the foundation of the world. A sister commented that many times the songs chosen fit the minister's sermon. She also stated how much she had been touched by songs. She further mentioned how she had been blessed in her cancer surgery and that in eight years since the surgery there had been no complications. Brother Placido Koyoc Matu testified how well the camp for the young people in Yucatan had gone. He stated it was a wonderful week and the young people had personal experiences. He said, "My testimony is that when we want to serve the Lord we have many trials." He further testified of the power of God and that he prayed for us every day.

The opening sermon was given by Brother Leslie Case and he stressed the importance of abiding in Jesus Christ who is the true vine. Also we were charged to bear much fruit and to love one another. He stated

that without Christ we can do nothing. He further read from Moroni 7:49-53 in which we are informed that charity is the greatest of all and that whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. We were also told to pray with all energy of heart that we might be filled with this love. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son." Rev. 21:7.

Brother Marvin Case delivered the afternoon sermon. The theme centered upon the importance of faith and hope in our lives. "Behold I say unto you, that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised to life eternal; and this because of your faith in him according to the promise." Moroni 7:47 He also read from Alma where Moroni prayed that the cause of the Christians, and the freedom of the land might be favored. He closed his sermon in reading John 13: 34-35. "A new commandment I give

unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Friday's evening sermon was given by Evangelist Hubert Yates. This sermon stressed the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands; which the Lord had preserved for a righteous people. See Ether 1: 29. He went on to say that his heart was burdened because of the lack of righteousness today in our nation. He stated that we are to set that standard for Jesus Christ and love him as well as keep his commandments, James 5:16 was cited "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." He further read from Ether 1: 30-35 in which we learn of the marvelous blessings that could be for the Gentiles if our nation would but serve the God of the land who is Jesus Christ, but if not they will be swept off when ripe in iniquity. Also, he stressed that the Church of Christ is the bride of Christ and we have a responsibility to reach out to the Church in

addition to those around us. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness..." Isa. 32:17 He also stated that we must be rooted and built up in Christ. Col. 2:5-7

On Saturday morning our minister was Brother Andy Brantner. He referenced when Jesus spoke to Alma saying "And he that will hear my voice shall be my sheep; and him shall ye receive into the church; and him will I also receive." Mosiah 11:128 we were also admonished that this life is the time to prepare to meet God. Also, we were told that all things work together for good for those that love God. We need to get ourselves in such a condition that when Christ comes we may abide the day of his coming.

Elder Allen Kauffman was the afternoon speaker. He started out by saying that we have to climb the mountains to become a better people. This life is the time to prepare to meet God. He that overcometh shall inherit eternal life. "And see that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in

good works." Alma 5: 41. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. ." Romans 8:28. He further asked if we had been spiritually born of God and received his image in our countenance as well as experienced a mighty change in our hearts. (See Alma 3:27-29). We were further informed that greater is he that is in you than he who is in the world. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." Psalm 24: 3,4.

Apostle Jay Moser gave the evening sermon. He read Romans 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." We are in a battle to overcome our personal sins and then we can make changes in the world around us. Brother Jay used a collection basket in which he had a collection from his own life. Driver's license, marriage, children, house, T V, VCR, career, ministry, etc.. We need to think about our priorities and make sure this

collection doesn't own us and that we are not always trying for bigger and better. The cares of this world can choke out our spiritual life as seen in the parable of the sower in Matt. 13:22. He challenged us to become active partners with God (who owns all) to solve our problems and to overcome. He challenged us to become whole (John 5:1-9 & 14). His final challenge was to all parents, especially the Dads. He admonished us to rise up against evil and make a difference in our own homes. Stand up and do right and we can overcome.

In the last sermon Sunday Apostle Ely reviewed this reunion's themes. He noted that each minister has no prior knowledge of the others thoughts and yet, as usual, the Sermons always tie together. We Can see God's direction and purpose in that truth. He stated this is a day of fear and yet we can leave this place with hope, "Perfect love casteth out fear." He also stated our responsibility in a day of change is to stand for right. If we stand on the foundation of Christ, satan will have no power over us. He

admonished us to stand steadfast in Christ and feast upon the words of Christ. He closed with Ether 5:28,29,30, which tells us to have faith, hope, and charity. Which charity is the pure love of Christ. If we increase our faith we will increase our power to overcome.

Apostle Roland Saratt opened the Sacrament Service by reading from Isaiah 53: 4 John 3: 14-16 and Nephi 12:26 reminding us of Christ's perfect sacrifice and our need to draw close in the Spirit. There were many testimonies of God's goodness to us in our daily lives. Many told of physical and emotional healings. One Brother felt led to ask for administration due to a leg problem. Several of the ministry shared their experiences in the work place. We were admonished not to be ashamed of our Lord but to witness and testify to our fellow workers. Another brother shared how God had brought only good out of their house burning. His family had felt so much love from all who came to their aid. We rejoiced with a sister as she shared how the first reunion in New York

state had been actualized and was a blessed success.

We enjoyed two other special activities. The first was a presentation by our youth who had just returned from camp. We were given a view of all the classes offered, their campfire activities, plus their fellowship and fun times. The presenters stated we were looking at the future of the Church. I think we were all impressed by their spiritual endeavors. The second event was an offering from each local of music (voice and instrument), poetry, or readings, etc.. All ages were represented and each talent glorified our Father in heaven.

We come to reunion expecting to be fed by the word, encouraged by the Spirit, strengthened by fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. I believe those expectations were met.

Until next reunion,
vaya con Dios.
Marlene Cobb.

EAST LOCAL REPORT

October

The preachers for the month have been, Brothers Charles Brantner Larry Beem, Buzz Brickhouse, William Sheldon, Andy Brantner, Robert Oldham and Isaac Brockman Jr.

Some of the pertinent truths expressed have been; We are all sinners and we cannot be saved in our sins but must be saved from them. We must recognize what our sin is and put it from us. A lie is a lie, there is no such thing as a white one. And sin is sin, as summed up by John in the scripture, sin is the transgression of the Gospel law. The word translated sin means to miss the mark or goal.

The ultimate purpose of human life is to gain Eternal life. God gave us the freedom to choose to live the law as He gave it or not. When He finished the creation of the world, He said it was very good. He established laws which if obeyed would keep it very good. He created man in his own image with the poten-

tial to become like unto Him. True Zionic principles if lived by will result in Eternal life. We need to be prayerful about our own lives that we might see the establishment of that City called Zion.

We need to honestly judge ourselves as to this question. Do I love the Lord with all my might, mind, and strength!

There is joy and there is fun. What the world offers is fun and it is temporary. To be filled with the grace and spirit of the Lord is joy, everlasting if we abide therein

The field is white already for the harvest....say nothing but repentance to this generation; keep my commandments, if faithful to the end we shall be saved in the Kingdom of God; no greater gift than the gift of salvation.

Search the scriptures diligently that you might know the will of God. Be diligent, temperate, not lifted up in pride. Do not boast, bridle your passions, do not be idle, acknowledge your own unworthiness, be merciful to

others, Christ's a love for each is like that shepherd who went out for that one lost one.

This land is a land choice above all other lands. Whoever dwells in it shall serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, or be swept off when ripe in iniquity. How do we serve God? We must concentrate on the decrees of God, individually and collectively. We are to abhor sin, to abstain from even the appearance of it.

God is a just God, and we owe everything we have to Him. We can't even imagine how much God loves us, no matter who we are. We are human and are subject to temptation but God does not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear. He will prepare a way of escape, if we will seek it. We need not be fearful. We can do all God requires of us. What He asks is possible. His promises are sure, when we obey! We must forgive if we would be forgiven.

We cannot hope to wear the wedding garment unless

we are clean inside and out. We cannot bear fruit except we abide in Christ, and His love abide in us. If we would be fruitful we must add to our faith, virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance patience, to patience Godliness, to Godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness Charity, which is the pure love of Christ. With these attributes, be ye perfect is not impossible. God does not command the impossible.

There is a dearth of excellence in the world today. The ultimate end of sin is death. One can have no inheritance in Zion except there be a cessation of that which has no place in the Kingdom of heaven.

We need to recognize where we have been to know where we now are spiritually. It took the Israelites forty years to be able to enter the promised land, it is taking us much longer. We must not limit God. The only thing He cannot do is what He has said He will not do. How many times do we hang Jesus back on the cross by our choices and actions? We need to per-

sonally know the Rock upon which we are grounded. Is the word of God indelibly written upon our hearts? Have we been spiritually born? Have we received His image on our countenances? Have we experienced that mighty change in our hearts? Do we walk keeping ourselves blameless? Are we sufficiently humble? Are we stripped of pride, of envy? Are our garments washed white? If not, we are not prepared for His coming, we are not prepared to meet Him.

Time is short, it may be shorter than we think. Christ has authority to judge us and His judgments are just, and we will be judged by our works; by our lifestyles, do they separate us from the ways and will of God? Are we prepared to meet Him? If not we need to prepare quickly.

To me it has been amazing how the month's sermons interlocked. I have selected comments many of which were expressed in more than one. These are the things pertinent to our salvation and we need to set our hearts upon learning and applying them.

One other statement worth thinking upon was that,

"The natural world operates in a similitude of the spiritual.

November

The East Local Reporter, i.e. me, was out of the state for much of the month of August, so I will combine the August report with that of September. The preachers of the period have been Brothers Larry Beem, William Sheldon, Joseph Smith, Ron Temple, Steven McGhee, Sam Gould, Mike McGhee, Randy Sheldon, Norman Warfield, Frank Fann and Roland Sarrat. As you may well know we were given a host of things to think about.

The counsel of the introduction of the first service of the month of August was to—listen! Mind and heart open to whatever words of instruction the Lord may offer, God still strives to bring people to the fulfillment of His purposes. He accomplished a great thing in the 1820-1840 era, What happened that it did not continue? Even in the Church there has been a decline, the family relationships have deteriorated, the chastity of marriage has lost its importance,

we have been influenced to believe that what we have is more important than what we are, the Sabbath is no longer saved for worship, there's been a loss of conviction. Are we truly converted to that which we proclaim? Does expediency take precedent over right? The Savior knows all about each of us, our only success is to know the will of God for our lives and then live it. We must be careful not to let material things take precedent over the spiritual. Our spiritual condition is of the most importance.

It is important to keep the historical events of the Restoration of the Church in mind. Important to remember that - the Lord pointed out the place where the Temple of the Lord will stand, and the place for the gathering of the people to begin; here at the center place, the land of Zion.

We are to be the salt of the earth. We can't follow the ways of the world and retain that savor needed to be the Lord's salt. Our witness to those without must be done in wisdom. Only God's Spirit can give the right answers to questions. We must be open

and subject to it at all times if we are to be that -light upon a hill.

All of the Lord's blessings are involved with obligations. His reproofs often followed by a promise, if! A warning, we can't deceive God, He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Charity must possess us, Iniquity is to know a thing is wrong but do it anyway. All must repent. Do we know what repentance, is that change that occurs in our hearts, minds and feelings when we are really repentant? We stumble and fall over three Ds., doubt, discard and disbelief.

Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 4: 2. "And there was not any man who could do a miracle in the name of Jesus, save he were cleansed every whit from his iniquity."

Our outreach needs to go to our own who are dropping aside as well as to those outside. Each one of us as we entered the waters of baptism promised the Lord we would follow Him and keep His commandments for the rest of our lives. Do we? Or have we become negligent? Do we

abide God's laws?

The Book of Mormon tells us there is to be a city, the New Jerusalem, to be built up upon this land, a place where the Zion of God is to begin, beginning at the Temple Lot. Zion is the New Jerusalem.

All things common. Why have we not got that? The Book of Mormon says they were the happiest of people. Is it because we don't put God number one?

A testimony given in a sermon, "I had been praying for about ten hours and starting to repent of my sins, and I was led to understand some things. God's people are running out of time. As long as we keep part of our hearts in the world, as the Church grows holier, the casualness of our lives, our choices will take us away from it. If we learn something we should apply it in our lives. When we see some thing in our lives that needs changing, and we say, maybe, or, tomorrow, or, ya but, that is hardening our hearts. God expects obedience. It may not make sense to us, but, what Christ did on the cross, was not common sense to man's thinking.

There is a law of death and a law of liberty or life. The first is bondage the second is liberty. We must learn to be honest with our selves. If what we do need an excuse, it is questionable. We sin because we want to, we need to be honest about that. What we need to be saved from is ourselves. Pride is part of the law of death.

The humble person is the one who is living the law of liberty. Obedience to the commandments of God is the law of liberty. The law of liberty is not the quick way, or an easy way, but it is the only safe way.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians, 10: 12. That is where we stand today The Book of Mormon states that those who know God and then fall away are in danger of becoming more hardened than if they had never known him. We are confronted with sin every day but we don't have to let it become part of our lives.

Christ said the scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites. A hypocrite is one that professes to believe but lives entirely

different. For an example, a few lines from some of our hymns. We sing...

Sweet hour of Prayer,...but are we there? Blest be the tie that binds,...but let any little thing sever it. Serve the Lord with gladness,...but, gripe if we are asked to do some little thing. I love to tell the story,...but never mention it to our friends and neighbors. We're marching to Zion,...but don't even march to the worship services when held. Oh day of rest and gladness,...talking about the Sabbath day,...but, use it for chores and recreation.

Do any of these hit home? Does our righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees? We need to answer that question about ourselves. If what we do is opposite of what we claim, that is hypocritical. "Ye are therefore commanded to be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5: 50, Inspired Version. If God gave that Command it is a possibility to be perfect. It does not help to know all things in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Latter Day Revelation if we don't do those things God

commanded us to do, it is for nothing. Knowledge alone wont get us into the Kingdom of Heaven. Knowing is not enough it takes doing. We are promised Eternal life through obedience.

God does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. Whoever sins becomes the servant of that sin. The Gospel is a means of showing us our true selves, as a mirror. Repentance brings forgiveness. Repentance is to turn our lives around. To say we do not, have not sinned is to lie, we then become a hypocrite.

The Lord has not asked anything we cannot do, the choice is ours. The ultimate purpose of human existence is to give Eternal life; God gave us the capacity to choose, to live life after His example or not. Do we obey?

Sister
Amy Schrader

Tempel Lot Local

This is the time of year when Missouri will win your heart. The leaves that are left on the trees are brilliant in oranges, reds and yellows. The air is crisp in the morning and evening and perfect during the day.

Our local at the Temple Lot has been busy with services and activities. The annual business meetings were held in September. Elder Alvin Harris remains our pastor, assisted by Elder Jim Case. During the Sunday school business meeting Brother Gary Welch was elected to continue as superintendent and Brother Shaughn Sprague as assistant. Sister Caroline Hedrick will be director of Vacation Church School.

After a summer break, the Junior Choir (7-12 year olds) and the Senior Choir (teenager) has resumed its regular schedule under the direction of Sister Manon Lawrence. On the first and third Friday evenings of each month, the Lawrence home is a pleasant mixture of song, visiting and play for around 30 children

and parents. Practice has also started on Sunday afternoons for the adults and teenagers who are singing in the Christmas cantata in December. Sister Janice Welch is directing that choir.

The United Workers, who usually meet during the first Thursday morning of each month, met in the evening in September. Several women who usually are unavailable during the day meetings met with their sisters for a salad buffet and then made prairie dolls under the direction of Sister Grace Rudd. Their annual garage sale that month earned over a thousand dollars.

In September, the C.A.R.E. Group, which meets on the Saturday before sacrament Sunday, hosted an educational for members and the YPCL on evolution vs. creation. Elder Glenn Gill and Brother Harvey E. Seibel presented my interesting facts, along with a video. In October, Teacher Dan Lawrence gave a presentation on our responsibility as Christian vot-

ers to be aware of government legislation and then showed us ways of gathering information on issues and candidates.

Our young people continue to meet each Saturday with the YPCL. In September they enjoyed a luau at Brother and Sister Andy and Carol Brantner's home. A cook-out and study on anger at the pastor's home; and participated with Mo. Camp For All Ages in October.

Brother and Sister Don and Bonnie Case hosted the Annual Cider Press in October, following the wedding and reception of Bob and Liza (Ferrier) Hedrick. A potluck dinner, visiting, music and fun were served up with the fresh squeezed cider. The following day, Brother and Sister John and Enid Bell, visiting from Colorado, sponsored a potluck for the local and visiting friends and family. Another opportunity for fellowship was enjoyed.

Some of our brothers and sisters have shared special happenings with us. Sister Bertha Case had her 96th

birthday on September 15. She was in the hospital on that day, but enjoyed a small family celebration there. Brother Alvin Harris shared his 65th birthday celebration with the local and friends after evening church on September 22. A card shower was announced for our brother and sister, Forest and Irene Maley, in recognition of their 49th wedding anniversary October 6.. We also have anew addition to our church family. Bill and Cynthia Fann have a baby girl. Alyssa Marie Fann was born on September 27th, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long.

In a recent sermon, Elder Alvin Harris asked for a show of hands on who was baptized. Then he asked to see the hands of anyone who had a family member who was not baptized. It was a similar set of hands. He challenged us throughout the sermon to accept the responsibility of sharing the gospel with those family members. "Pray for that opening," Elder Harris said. He mentioned giving our family, especially our children and grandchildren, the basics from the scriptures, plus expo-

sure through attendance at church services and activities. It is often harder to share the gospel with family members than with complete strangers; but as Brother Harris reminded us. it is our responsibility, and God will give us the wisdom of how to approach them if we move out in faith. God be with us all as we accept this challenge'

Your sister,
Debbie Vogel

Collins Local News

It is with a heavy heart that I send news of a dear and special sister's passing, and yet, I have the greatest confidence in her rest with God. Our sister, Wanda Jo Eddy passed from this life September 10th, 1996 due to complications of a second liver transplant. She fought a long and hard battle that she might continue in this life to serve our Heavenly Father, her family, her grand-children, her friends, her Sunday school class—to teach and to learn. Her thoughts were always for some one else's welfare. Through it all, her faith and trust was in God and His will and wisdom to do what would be best. And so it is that we also must put our faith and trust in God's wisdom that we too may find a place in God's rest as our sister, Jo, has.

Funeral services were held September 14th at 10:30 A.M. at the Vansant-Mills funeral home in Clinton, Mo. Elder Leslie Case officiated, assisted by Elder Allen Kauffman. Brother Donald Gill sang in honor of our sister Jo

Eddy. Her casket bearers were members of the Golden Valley Bluegrass Association and burial was at the Englewood Cemetery, also in Clinton. Our sister will be missed by so many. We extend our sympathy and prayers to our brother Bob and all of the family. May God comfort each one.

Victor Witt was in a motorcycle accident around the first of September and was in the intensive care unit of Cox South Hospital in Springfield with a broken arm and head injury. Victor and his family attend services here at Collins when possible. Victor sent word to have Brothers Jack and Allen come to administer to him. He is home now and doing very well, but not yet able to go back to work because of his broken arm.

Jack and Betty Martin have made a safe trip to and from El Paso, Texas where they make connections with a hospital in Mexico for arthritis treatments. They were gone about a week. We are sure happy to have them safe at home again.

In closing, I will leave you with a few sermon quotes to consider.

Are we weighed in the balance and found wanting?

Is your life right with God?

Perhaps I'm not fully committed.

Every moment of your existence you must make choices.

Is church a convenience or a priority?

The battle begins within ourselves flesh against spirit. We cannot fool God.

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

Cowgill News

Our summer has come and gone, I always look forward to October with it's cool days and nights and it's beautiful show of colors, also the relief from long hot summers days.

May 4, Randy Sheldon, Jim Case and others brought the young people from Independence for an outing to Cowgill. During our Sacrament services that morning several of the young people gave their testimonies of the goodness of God that they had experienced in their lives. After we had a bountiful lunch we enjoyed a song service, this was a blessing with several specials. We had over 50 present that day. We are always glad to have these young people come and welcome them back any time along with their leaders. Marcia and Dick Christian from Tennessee and their families, Melody and daughter, and Jason and Trace and Tanner were here July 21 to attend the wedding of John and Colette Bryant which took place the 21st at the Independence local. Congratula-

tions to them, also we send our congratulation and best wishes to Donald and Traci Gill who were married June 1st at the church in Independence. The following day they were all here for the blessing of their granddaughter Marissa Ann she was blessed by her Uncles, Brother Loren Bryant and Brother Gerald Bryant. A beautiful service, with 33 present that day. We have had some wonderful blessing this summer and thank God for every one of them.

The weekend of June 7th, 8th, and 9th Lois Harris, Margaret and Glenn Gill drove to Colorado to attend the reunion, On their way out they stopped at Greeley, Co to visit Lois sister Mildred Hooker.

This past weekend Sept, 27 Enid and John Bell from Grand Junction are visiting Lois at her home in Cowgill.

Rose and Delbert Baily also visited relatives in Colorado this summer.

Lisa Wratt and her two sons Ian and David flew to

Washington state, to visit with here family, Trevor expressed his thanks to God to have his family back safe and sound.

On Sunday Oct 27 Bro. Leslie Case and his wife Irene were here. Brother Case preached for us that morning. After having lunch together most of the members went to Independence for the baptism of Trever and Lisa Wratt by Bro. Loren Bryant. Later laying hands on them according to the ordinances of the Church of Christ for the reception of the Holy Ghost. I pray Gods richest blessing upon this couple and their family. Because of sickness I was unable to attend these servises but I know it was wonderful.

We have a new neighbor who has been attending servises this past summer, we want to welcome her, she is Joann Sanders.

your reporter
Sister Elizabeth Crist

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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.*

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