

Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 74

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"Choose Ye This Day"

Seek to be guided in thought and deed,
Try to be where God would lead,
Your time and breath is God's gift to you.
He gives you life and power to do—

The things you choose whether good or bad,
'Tis yours to choose: Be joyous or sad,
The temples of God are the lives we build,
From the plan He gave, secure and beauty
filled.

Joining the church is a worthy deed,
A firm foundation, all temples need.
But other timbers, in this structure fine,
Must make for beauty in a life sublime.

Don't try to build your temple alone,
But ask for help from God's great throne.

And when you have builded by the aid He
gives,
Your life makes record that God surely lives.

Temples thus made strong and secure
Yield not to temptation and worldly allure.
Life and time are yours to use:
The way you spend it, you must choose.

Feed your soul on chaff or wheat,
Buy for self the bitter or sweet.
Perhaps you know you are doing wrong,
Thinking you won't continue long.
While planning to do otherwise,
It may be later than you realize.

—Joseph E. Yates

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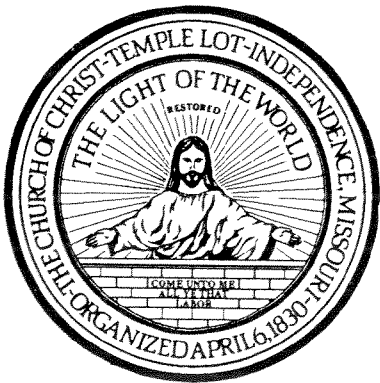
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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 Restored Gospel

By Elder Arthur G. Smith

“And 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, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgement is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” Revelation 14:6-7.

We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored in these latter days in the original fullness that God intended to be the message to mankind. We need to define what we mean by the simple terms “restored” and “restoration, so commonly used by thousands of latter-day saints.

To restore anything of substance, or that which represents a given value, we look to see what it was like in the original state. Only then can we know what is needed to be restored. This gospel is essentially of three parts: the message (the doctrine of Christ), the messenger (preacher), and the author-

ity to preach or proclaim the message. There can be no missing part or there is no fullness to this gospel.

Obviously there was something amiss or there would be no need for an angel to fly to the earth. We are aware of the fact that there was in the hands of mankind the written words (except those writings that had been lost or taken from the records by intent or error) of the Bible, and the records of a people here in the Americas that have been recovered from the earth, the Book of Mormon. What was missing was the authority to preach, to baptize, to administer the Holy Spirit.

We are at once confronted with the antiquity of this gospel. The old testament Bible gives us little knowledge to tell us of the doctrines and practices that existed before the law was given to Moses. They knew something about the gospel for Job testified, *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth”* Job 19:25.

The new testament of the Bible introduces us to the life and the ministry of Jesus, the history of the early Christian church after the crucifixion, and the workings of the Holy Spirit

that Jesus had promised to the disciples and the apostles. It was a glorious age of the early church that was soon swallowed up in the apostasy of the second and later centuries, as history has recorded.

John saw a vision of what was to happen to the church after Christ had gone back to heaven:

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child

was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days” Revelation 12:1-6.

This “man child” of the woman (the true Church of Christ) was the authority given by the Holy spirit to those who were in the ministry of that early church. This was lost or taken away within a period of time because of corrupt practices and evil doctrines in the churches.

The testimony of the new testament scriptures have been preserved with enough detail to give us a good understanding of prevailing doctrines and practices. Enough is there that it can be followed in a faithful restoration of the gospel message.

Likewise, the recovery of the Book of Mormon from its hiding place by the power of God has now disclosed the manner of God’s dealing with the people here in the Americas. The ministry of Jesus Christ here among these people is ample proof of the remarkable consistency, plainness, and truth of the gospel message, so that we can see what should be established in the restored church. Even the proper name of the church is given as the Church of Christ.

“Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in

my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he

This gospel is essentially of three parts: the message (the doctrine of Christ), the messenger (preacher), and the authority to preach or proclaim the message.

will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save it be called in my name?” III Nephi 12:19.

The “fullness of the gospel” requires ministry that is “sent” or called of God. As Paul wrote to the Romans,

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? ... So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Romans 10:13-15, 17.

Paul, when writing to the Hebrews about priesthood, made a very strong statement for proper authority for a preacher. There must be a revelation of the will of God in this calling; no one can of himself claim this privilege, not even Jesus Christ.

“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee” Hebrews 5:4-5.

The gospel of Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit has the quality of “fullness” as spoken of in Bible and Book of Mormon scriptures. We then have the fullness of the gospel with the written word of God in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, the testimony of the spoken word by one who is sent, and the confirmation of the truths as exhibited by spiritual gifts.

In June of 1829, before the church was organized, a commandment was given to Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer. “Behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock.” This was a commandment that should have been obeyed without question. What did they have in their hands?

They had the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Did they obey this commandment? History tells us that the forms of church government and even the name was changed within a few short years; divisions, chaos, and persecutions followed them everywhere they went. In the meanwhile, thousands of people were brought to the knowledge of the restored gospel and obeyed, became baptized members, kept the faith, and were blessed by the spirit in many ways as was promised. The restored gospel has been kept alive by faithful men of God who have recognized and believed in the fullness of the gospel and have been blessed by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We also are warned that the blessings that attend the fullness of the gospel can be taken from us. We are held responsible to God for what we teach and do with the gospel message, and the Holy Spirit will not be with us if we do not take this responsibility seriously. We read in the third book of Nephi, chapter 7, verses 31, 34 and 35,

"...In the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fullness of these things shall be made known unto them. And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you, At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel,

and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole

In June of 1829...a commandment was given... "Behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock." What did they have in their hands? They had the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret combinations; and if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them...."

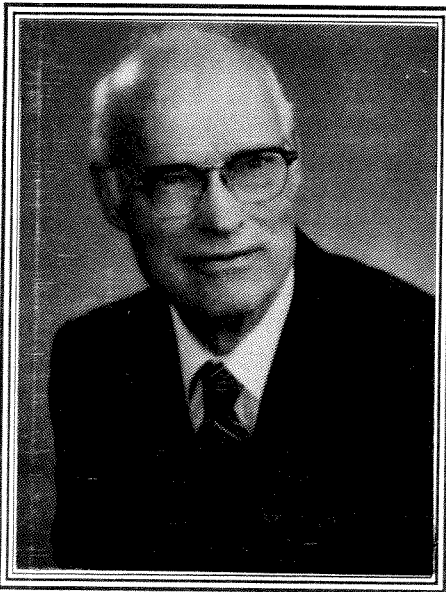
I have counted twelve major unscriptural doctrines and practices that have troubled the latter day saints that can in no way be justified as part of the

restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You may be able to count even more. These were added and brought confusion, controversy, and division that has caused the Holy Spirit to be withdrawn. We have reason to believe that we have not seen the end of our errors. Apostasy and sins never correct themselves. We are human and suffer the weaknesses of the flesh, one of the greatest of which is pride. We must humble ourselves and repent to our Father in heaven and change our ways and seek the Holy Spirit to guide us in everything.

We need to recognize the penalty that God promises has now happened to some we know quite well. It will be applied to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) if we fail to heed the warning. May God bless us with wisdom of our need to repent is my prayer daily.

FROM A SERMON

Persuade Our Children to Believe in Christ



From a Sermon by
Apostle Marvin E. Ely

“For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do. ... And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our chil-

dren may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins” 2 Nephi 11:43-48.

One of the greatest responsibilities we have is our responsibility to our children. We must teach them to be trustworthy, reliable and of good moral quality. Also, we must impress upon them that they are accountable and answerable for their actions and deeds. Parents have a special duty towards their children to train them in the way of the Lord. Fathers should not provoke their children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (see Ephesians 6:1-4). The things we do and teach should point our children to Christ, and also that they may become responsible citizens.

“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged” Colossians 3:20-21.

The “all things” statement above needs qualifying for it would never include wrong or evil things but only those things that are good.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” Ephesians 6:1-4.

Solomon admonished his son to receive his words and to hide his commandments with him, as well as inclining his ear to wisdom and his heart to understanding. This understanding would include what the Lord would want him to do with his life. This understanding is to be sought after as he would seek for silver and search for hidden treasures (see Proverbs 2:1-4).

"Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path" Proverbs 2:5-9.

It is important to teach our children the importance of prayer in their daily lives. Prayer should become a regular part of their lives. By praying they will be better able to resist the ever-present temptations. And also they could have wisdom in their decisions of life.

Jesus said: "...Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; For Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name; and whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you. Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be

blessed" 3 Nephi 8:50-52.

Alma admonished his son, Helaman, to preach unto the people repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also to teach them to humble themselves and to be meek and lowly in heart. Alma told his son to teach the people to withstand every temptation of the devil with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart, for such shall find rest for their souls (see Alma 17:66-67). Jesus was meek and lowly in heart and we are to become like unto him. We need to so live by our example that our children would desire to be humble, as well as meek and lowly in heart, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.

"O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good: Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your

sleep; and when thou risest in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day" Alma 17:68-70.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not" Proverbs 1:7-10.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding" Proverbs 4:1. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. ... But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble" Proverbs 4:14-15, 18-19.

It would be well to address the statement: "the way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble." Wicked and wrong doings will cause one to stumble and walk in darkness. If they are

followed long enough people could get to the point where they would no longer realize on what they were stumbling. An example of this was Korihor (see Alma 16:59-69) who followed wrong beliefs so long that he no longer believed there was a God, and except Alma showed him a sign he would not believe in God. Alma gave him a sign and Korihor was struck dumb so that he had no more utterance.

“And Korihor put forth his hand, and wrote, saying: I know that I am dumb, for I can not speak; and I know that nothing, save it were the power of God, could bring this upon me; yea, and I also knew that there was a God. But, behold the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form of an angel, and said unto me, Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown god. And he saith unto me, There is no God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say. And I have taught his words; and I taught them, because they were pleasing unto the carnal mind; And I taught them, even until I had much success, inasmuch, that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause, I withstood the truth, even until I have brought this great curse upon me” Alma 16:66-69.

Korihor had followed the deceit of the devil for so long that he no longer realized he had stumbled but believed that

One of the greatest responsibilities we have is our responsibility to our children.

these things that were pleasing to the carnal mind were true. He no longer believed there was a God until he received a sign and was struck dumb. We must never underestimate the deceit and cunning of the devil. We must persuade our children to believe in Christ and follow Him so they may be able to resist the power of the devil.

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left:

remove thy foot from evil” Proverbs 4:20-27.

King Benjamin admonished the people to always remember the greatness of God and their own nothingness. He further told them to humble themselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and to stand steadfastly in the faith of that which was to come. that which was yet to come was the coming forth of Jesus Christ. If they would do this, they would always rejoice and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of their sins (see Mosiah 2:20-22).

“And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true. And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceable, and to render to every man according to that which is his due. And ye will not suffer your children, that they go hungry, or naked; Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers; he being an enemy to all righteousness; But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to

love one another, and to serve one another..."
Mosiah 2:23-27.

On December 28, 1988, Evangelist Placido Koyoc had a vision in which he saw his family, then all his brothers and sisters in his congregation, which represented to him the church at large. He was overcome with the impression that there was a great need within the church. The vision then faded and he pondered what he had seen. There came to his mind a list of needs for which he thought we should be praying. He listed them along with a few scriptures that came to his mind. Three of these needs follow as they, especially, pertain to our responsibility to our children, as well as the responsibility of our children.

1 Pray for the responsibility of parents to God and to their children. Ephesians 6:4; Mosiah 2:25-27.

2 Pray for the duties of our youth toward God and their parents. Ecclesiastes 12:1; Ephesians 6:1-2.

3 Pray for our little ones, their duties to God and to their parents. Colossians 3:20.

A considerable number of young people and adults meet each Wednesday afternoon to unite their prayers for these specific needs (eight specific needs of which the above three are a part). Others meet at 5 a.m. Sunday to pray earnestly for these needs of the church. At last report they are still con-

tinuing their prayers for these needs. We each would do well to likewise pray over these needs and unite our prayers with them.

It is important to teach our children the importance of prayer in their daily lives.

"Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness" Alma 16:219.

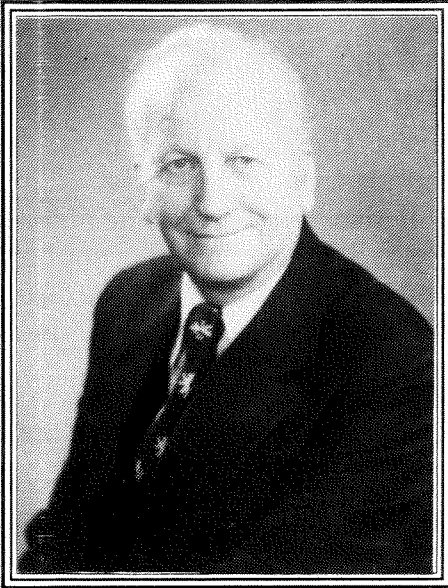
"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,

walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" 1 Peter 5:5-9.

In order for our children, as well as the adults, to be able to resist the devil they must be founded in Jesus Christ. This will also help them to be able to cope with the trials, the troubles and the afflictions that are often times a part of this life. It is important that we make a concentrated effort to persuade our children to believe in Christ, and follow Him and not the ways of the world. Jesus has the way of eternal life.

"Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God" 2 Nephi 13:29-31.

Is Gambling Permissible Among the Saints of God?



By **William A. Sheldon**

The spirit of gambling is sweeping the land as a flood of water, a fact which is discernible to any who will survey the national scene in even a cursory manner. The natural man is disposed to acquire money, or goods, or property, and thereby to enrich himself (1) at little or no cost to himself, (2) at the expense of others, or (3) by obvious fraud. We are here considering that God's people (members of the Church of Christ and/or those who claim a faith in Christ) will shun enrichment through the two latter means. But is it acceptable with God to seek for riches, having no other purpose than for personal

aggrandizement or gain in power or wealth? Is this not the real underlying motivation behind gambling?

It is acceptable to God if one uses wealth in a true spirit of charity (a pure love of God and of mankind); if the wealth has been obtained in an honorable manner, and because he has received of the plenitude of God, desiring to impart to others according as he has received.

"And after that ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted" Jacob 2:24.

How many are there who possess and retain this true spirit of charity? Only a few, for—

"...How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" Mark 10:23.

Why is this so? Because the heart becomes set upon earthly

treasure, rather than the heavenly. It becomes an idol, and as such is just as offensive to God as was the worship of graven images by ancient Israel after they had been directly spoken to by the Almighty and had known of His miraculous preserving power over their enemies.

We know of nothing in the scriptures which plainly prohibits gambling aside from that which is plainly referenced regarding greed or covetousness, which, as before stated, underlies and motivates one to yield to this very insidious temptation, which ultimately brings sorrow and possible death.

Just suppose this: I will only gamble a little this once, and if I lose, so what? I am not hurt, nor have I hurt any other. I **may** win a hundred dollars! Hey, with only a quarter in this slot machine, I have gained five dollars! So, I will use this money and maybe there will be more! Oh well, I lost it all, but I only really lost a quarter. Better luck next time!

But you see: the seed is planted; almost surely it will grow! You may be just as sure that the odds are stacked against the gambler; he cannot finally succeed in his desires! Yet "the beat goes on," for he is

soon just as much addicted as the one who experiments with alcohol or other drugs, and the effect, more often than not, is felt in grief and suffering also by others of his loved ones. But the greater loss pertains to ones relationship to God, and to his great loss in the kingdom of God.

Meditate upon the following scriptures bearing upon this spiritual plague, which seems so innocent, but as an element of cunning deception (it's so fun!) contributes to a veritable flood of destruction for mankind:

"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house..."
Prov. 15:27.

"The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long..." Prov. 21:25-26.

"...Ye covet that which ye have not received (of God/w.a.s.)" Mos. 2:41.

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" Eph. 5:3.

*"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (lust/ w.a.s.) and covetousness, **which is idolatry**"*
Col. 3:5.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith

[The gambler] is soon just as much addicted as the one who experiments with alcohol or other drugs...

*content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For **the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"* 1 Tim. 6:6-10.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have, for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Heb. 13:5.

"...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" Luke 12:15.

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also**"* Matt. 6:19-21.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters...Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"
1 Cor. 6:9-10.

Now, it is not an occasional yielding to this temptation, or having gambled in the past, nor of having been engaged in some way in this activity; but rather, it is the danger of being overcome by lustful desires for money, or etc., which will draw one into a way of life which is incompatible with the righteousness required of the saints of God and the kingdom of heaven.

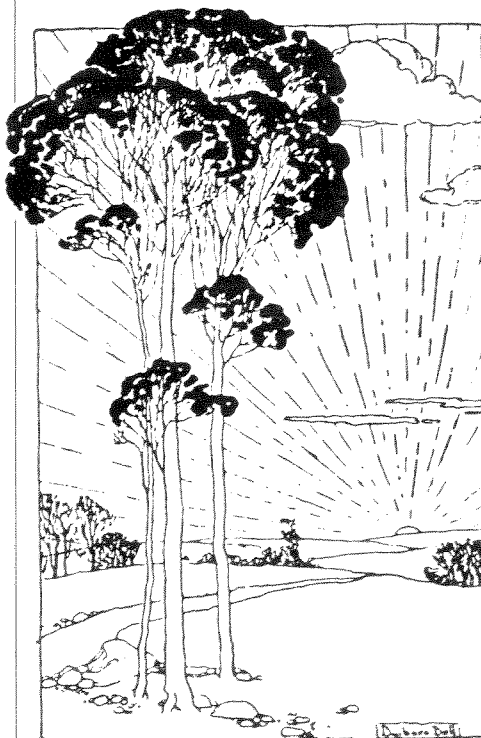
My Personal Religion and My Thoughts on Prayer

My own feelings about prayer are likened to having a telephone. First I must want the service, then I must pay my bill. The fee for always having the availability of its use is obeying God's commandments.

But just having it accessible doesn't do me any good unless I put forth the effort to use it. I can't make the proper use of my phone (prayer) line until I consciously put it to use. There is never a busy signal and God is always there. Sometimes I need to talk about many things; I want to express gratitude, seek blessings, make requests. At other times, only an ardent plea for "Help" is all I can say.

My line is a direct one: I needn't be routed through other stations. It is absolutely useless to me if I neglect to use it. I also must

know how to access my line. I must have the desire to speak to the One on the other end of the line, then use this



means of conversing with my Lord.

Does He ever call me? Not by the ringing of a bell, but through other means. Sometimes it's a still small

voice, often by His working in our lives. We can often see miraculous blessings occur before our very eyes.

When I have finished my (prayer) visit, I am satisfied that my concerns are being cared for by my Almighty Friend.

Meredyth Malone

NEWS

EAST LOCAL, MISSOURI

January

The New Year brought a multitude of pertinent instruction from our ministry, if we have ears to hear and hearts to receive. The preachers of the month were Brethren Steven McGhee, Smith Brickhouse, William Sheldon, Isaac Brockman, Ron Temple, Samuel Gould, and Norman Warfield. Understandably I can only give you what, to me, were the kernels of their sermons. Naturally much was repetitive, but we need it all repeated until it becomes the basis of our thinking.

We need to uncomplicate our Spiritual lives, and to not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ: it is the power of God unto the salvation of our souls. No unclean thing can enter His kingdom. Without charity, that spirit of the pure love of Christ, we are nothing. We must have charity to become the children of God (Moroni 7:58-59).

We must needs partake of His divine nature, having faith, that assurance that He is. We must have patience, a serenity that waits on the Lord, godliness; how do we get godliness? Philippians 4:8, "...Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." What do Christ and God think about? A good question.

We must have justice, a moral uprightness, knowledge and understanding of spiritual verities, and temperance, not allowing ourselves an indulgence in carnal activities. We must have brotherly kindness, seeing each as one that Jesus was willing to die for. We as humans, as we are, are not prepared to meet God. That is why Jesus has given us the gospel and commanded us to prepare by obedience to it (2 Peter 1:2).

God does not change (Malachi 3:6); man has strayed from His ordinances. But the promise is that He will return into the lives of all who will turn from their own willful ways

unto Him. There is no variableness in God (James 1:17); all the promises of scriptures are for all who heed His teachings. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34); all are equal in His love, and He asks all to yield to His will (Acts 17:24-28). He is not far from us and only through Him do we have our being. Without faith (trust) in Him we cannot please Him (Hebrews 11:6). God has not changed. We are to become like Christ; we are to praise Him by our way of life. He is to be reflected in our countenances (Alma 3, 28, 37). If we do not feel these things in our life it is because we have not yet submitted with that broken heart and contrite spirit.

As many as receive Him become the sons (children) of God. He created all in heaven and in earth; He is the light and life of the world and He came to save us from our sins (from sinning?) when we repent (cease from sinning?) (3 Nephi 4:42-52). All His promises will be fulfilled when we yield and obey. We must recognize the sins within us and spew them from us.

Have we felt the power of redeeming love? do we still feel it? Have we, do we, walk blameless before the Lord? sufficiently humble to meet God (Alma 3:46-60)? Hebrew 6:1-2 gives us the basic principles of the gospel. Baptism is only the door, we must continue on in His footsteps. What deters us from doing what He has commanded? We have been given our agency; we can choose to do as He has said or not to. Why not want to do what He has said? Because it is more fun not to? Our wants can be our own undoing. We need to focus on the spiritual benefits, make them our aim in life. The real pleasures of life are in the joys of the Spirit. Nothing the world offers can compare.

Each must work on changing themselves; we can not make those changes in or for others. If, when, each changes himself, the world will be changed. We have only a very small portion of that which the Lord desires to give us. Philippians 2:1-5: We are to have the same mind that was in Christ, to walk blameless, thus to be a light to the world about us. God's truth has been revealed, it is up to each one whether to believe (obey) or not.

Isaiah 55:7-11: Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Our thoughts are not as God's thoughts. Our ways are not His ways. God's whole purpose is to bring good to His creation both here and hereafter. God keeps His covenants; what He has said He will do, but His promises are only to the faithful and obedient.

The pilgrims came to this land for freedom of worship. When tragedies befell, they wondered why. We too are as pilgrims; when all is not well we too must seek to know what we have done, are doing, or have not done, that these things should be. All the commandments of God are for our good. The people of King Benjamin's time made a covenant to be obedient to His commandments all the rest of their lives (Mosiah 3:1-12), and they were called the children of God. We too make such a covenant in the waters of baptism; baptism was the door of entrance into this relationship with God. Are we being faithful to our commitment to always remember Him and keep the commandments He has given to us, which promise we renew whenever we partake of the emblems of the sacrament, that which will enable us, the people of these latter days, to fulfill His purposes in us?

What does it profit if a man has faith unless his daily life shows it (James 2:14)? God does not ask anything of us that is not possible; it is up to us to see that we live as we claim to believe. Upon the first two great commandments (Matthew 22:36-40) hang all His law and commandments. Is this love evident in our daily lives? John 15:13-13: Do our actions and words verify this love in our lives? It is an unconditional love. As Matthew 5:44-48 indicates, it includes our enemies, which we must love if we are to become perfect even as our heavenly Father is perfect. We, as the converted Lamanite, should rather sacrifice our own life for love of them than to take the life of an enemy (Alma 14:117-120). This is the kind of love we should have for all, even as we must needs have charity (Moroni 7:45-53), be possessed of it, that we may be pure even as He is pure, and a true follower of Him.

The 159th psalm sounds a warning note

(verses 1-9): there is no escaping the all-seeing knowledge of God. Nothing can be hidden from Him. That's an awareness we need to keep foremost in our minds. Who, or what, can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39)? Only our own willful desires.

There can be a comparison between the people of Exodus and of now. Exodus 14:10-17: The Lord prepared a way of escape for them from Egypt; He has given a way for us of this day to escape Babylon, for it will fall (Revelation 14:18). There will be perilous times in these days (2 Timothy 3:1-18), men lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, and persecutions of those who will live godly. It has been said that we are willing to fight for our religion, even die for it, but are we willing to live for it?

2 Nephi 8:21, "O house of Jacob, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord; yea, come, for ye have all gone astray, every one to his wicked ways." Does this apply to us? Look about; are there idols, that which occupies His place in our lives? On the other hand, verse 48 says, "Say unto the righteous, that it is well with them; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings." Are we the righteous? "The sinners in Zion are afraid. . . He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly. . . shall see the king in his beauty. . ." Isaiah 33:14-17. Are we really living righteously?

2 Nephi 8:66: In that day (our day?) the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious. His Church? Can that be said of us now? Those in Jerusalem and in Zion shall be called holy. There shall be a tabernacle—a Temple? do we want it? In the last days—our day? the mountain (government) of the Lord will be established in the top of the mountains and all nations will flow unto it (2 Nephi 8:18-21) to learn of His ways and to walk in His paths, for the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. We must learn to walk in the light of the Lord. He has prepared an escape from the destruction of Babylon. His righteousness is the only way.

To accomplish the Lord's purpose we must be willing to give up the trivialities of this life. We are called to walk away from materialism. No man can serve two masters; our eyes must be single to the glory of God (Matthew

6:21-22). If we lack wisdom we may ask of God (James 1:5-8); we cannot be double minded, tossed to and fro between serving God and the pull of our own contrary desires. We must not claim we are tempted of God, to try us; He cannot be tempted with evil nor does He tempt anyone with evil. When we are tempted it is because of our own lustful desires (James 1:13-15).

The Lord has given us a lot of instruction; our need is to learn to follow it. Each must rectify their own erring; none can fill another's void. We cannot list all the ways we can commit sin; we must watch our thoughts, our words, our deeds, and obey the commandments He has given, or perish (Mosiah 2:48-49). We cannot hear the word only but must do it; to hear only is to deceive oneself (James 1:23-25).

February

Through the month of February the East Local functions carried on much as usual, with no big ripples that I know of. Our preachers were Brothers Roland Sarratt, Joseph Smith, Larry Beem, William Sheldon, Mike and Steve McGhee. They have given us much instruction concerning our spiritual lives, as a people and as individuals. But to be of benefit it must be implemented. That is up to us. Following are excerpts of those sermons:

Jesus walked on water to His disciples in the boat. Peter attempted to but his faith failed. We may well be facing a time when we will have to—figuratively speaking—walk on water. We must extend ourselves by faith beyond what we can know. In Cole's vision, he found himself standing on a rock. That is the only way to be able to stand in the days ahead.

Because of the fall of Adam the natural man is at enmity with God (Mosiah 1:119-126). Man's science says that which can't be proven does not exist. The scripture says that which can't be proven is of God. We need to yield to God, not to the will of our own flesh, for we will be judged by our own choices.

1 Corinthians 2:9: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Such things are called the mysteries. They can only be discerned by the mind of Christ. Men cannot reason them out. Life eternal is to know God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3). We need to search the scriptures (John 5:39) to learn of Christ and what is required of us for eternal life. This life is our time to prepare for eternity. If we are immersed in the things of this world, we will not be comfortable in His Kingdom or in His presence.

The Lord does not owe us anything; we owe Him all. Have we been spiritually born of God (Alma 3:27-40)? We must measure ourselves by these things, ourselves. We must consciously prepare for what is to come, not allowing ourselves to become imbedded in the ways of man, nor to use man's way in our efforts to promote the Gospel. Man's way cannot do it.

Matthew 25:1-13: In the parable of the virgins, the virgins represent people who are claiming to serve the Lord but are sleeping. God's patience with us is amazing. What excuse do we have? Are we willing to serve Him with all our heart, might, mind and strength, as well as love Him? We are members of Christ's church, yet we excuse ourselves for not being diligent in serving Him. We are to go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1). The offering He requests is a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We must break from our unrighteous desires; a contrite spirit is a humble one. If any one does not want to be transformed by the Holy Spirit something is wrong. Phrases from a poem by Lyle Johnson, *Make Me Real, Lord*: "In a world of plastic people. . .so easy just to play the part. We cram our minds with truth, Yet don't respond to what we know. Habit tells me what to say, routine guides what to do. Behind all this activity Lord, Is the reason still You? Lord make me real, may I be all that I appear." We need to beg God to help us grow; if we do so honestly, He will transform us to His likeness.

The signs of the passing of time are abundant. How close are we to the return of Christ? What is a living church? One that has the spirit of Christ, that has hope, that has before them the goals laid out for them to accomplish and the zeal to push forward, will-

ing to abide the commandments which He has given, determined to do the work assigned.

In the Book of Mormon, Ether speaks of the New Jerusalem to be built upon this land (chapter 6:3-8, also spoken of in 3 Nephi 10:1-2), and the designated location is in this city. In February of 1831, Joseph Smith received a revelation concerning this New Jerusalem (Book of Commandments 44:9), and again in March of that same year (Book of Commandments 48:59-62) mentioning this New Jerusalem to be called Zion. In August of that year there were elders assembled here and were honored to bear record of the land where the Zion of the Lord would stand (Book of Commandments 59:1-17), that same Zion that Ether was speaking of, stating that the prophets shall not fail, and that He had sent them here to Jackson County to identify the place upon which that Zion shall stand.

The celestial law of God is, "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" Matthew 22:37-40. The challenge today is to put this love into practice, not to say, but to do, that we may be able to stand in the day of the judgement of Zion. We have a promise of Jesus Christ that He will be in that Zion, a blessing such as we cannot even conceive of.

God is no respecter of persons. None is loved more than another. Humility is a must in our lives; if we desire honor or glory we err. When we are baptized we are committed to follow Christ throughout all our lives, to live for Him in our homes, jobs, schools, wherever. We are not to remain as children in our understanding; we are to come to the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). We must know the truth if we are to be able to discern if what is taught is gospel truth or not. We are to lay aside malice, guile and hypocrisies (1 Peter 2:1-3). If there is envy, strife and division are we not yet carnal (1 Corinthians 3:3)? These things should bring us up short to determine if we are guilty or not, lest we fall short of being able to enter into His rest (Hebrews 4:1), to fear lest we not

be worthy to have place in His Zion; of not being worthy of seeing His temple built. We desire that all have a part in these things.

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." We all have a responsibility to live by the commandments of God. If we do, like a magnet we will draw others to Him.

2 Nephi 5:70-74, as well as Isaiah 51, gives a promise to those that hearken unto the Rock of which they are hewn. The Lord's judgements are coming upon the earth. We've had warnings of this for 160 years. Our fear need not be of these things, but of the Lord, if we hearken not to His words, or haven't established a relationship with Him. The only way we can stand is to follow Him by obedience to His gospel and teachings. There needs to be a turning of our hearts and lives unto the purposes of God. If we have been baptized we have entered into an everlasting covenant; thus, we have the opportunity to enter into His Kingdom, if obedient. Christ said that whoso heareth these sayings of His and doeth them is built upon a rock.

Alma 12:14-20: Wouldn't it be great to have a calling like that? We already have it. We have been called out of the world. They received of the Spirit; we have received of the Spirit. We all need to look at ourselves as a working element of it, not as a dormant element. If we feel a concern about the Church, don't blame the Church, blame ourselves. I set goals in my daily work. Do we set goals, spiritual goals, for our daily lives? Many of us testify that there is nothing greater in our lives than this gospel. Do our lives verify that? If our priorities are right, are set straight, the Lord's purpose will have a greater place in our lives, greater than all other things!

Philippians 1:27: I want to center on, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ. ..." Our conversations are very important. Our conversations and our actions mean something; we can lift someone

up or we can tear them down. Helamen 5:136-139 tells a story about what Satan does; he finds the weakness and tries to destroy, and if possible will use God's own people to do this. 3 Nephi 4:27 tells the result thirty years later.

Every follower of Christ should use their conversations to build up, as Paul puts it in Timothy 4:12; to be an example in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity. Also (verse 16), to take heed to the doctrine to continue therein, not only for one's own sake, but for those that hear you.

Ephesians 4:29-32: Let no corrupt communications proceed out of our mouths, let all bitterness, wrath, anger clamor, evil speaking and malice be put away. In that vein we go to James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." And in chapter 3:2, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man..." The tongue is but a little member; do we bless God and curse men out of the same mouth? These things ought not to be.

I'm sure it breaks Christ's heart to see division and strife among His people. We need to pray for the Lord to cause His understanding to be upon us, that we allow Him to work within our lives. Book of Commandments 24:38: There is to be no iniquity in the church, neither hardness with each other, nor lying or back biting or evil speaking. How quick those can destroy a family, a church, even a nation.

So we are to let our conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ, to speak in truth. We have a duty to resist temptation, and when we speak we need to speak with love and kindness, with honor and respect, in an attitude that shows that deep abiding love referred to in the scriptures, that pure love of Christ.

Amy Schrader

NEWS

TEMPLE LOT, MISSOURI

Our winter continued through January and February, bringing us several large snow storms and frigid temperatures, but now we look forward to signs of spring and the arrival of our brothers and sisters for Conference in April,

We lifted prayers of praise to God in January when we were told by Shaughn and Angelita Sprague that their six-year-old daughter Savannah had had her last chemotherapy January 13. Tests showed no cancer cells present. The shunt used for the treatments was also removed at that time. Savannah will be tested once a month for the next three years. She had been diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia in 1994. Your prayers and letters of encouragement were appreciated by the family and are still needed for the months ahead. Thank God for the great blessings he has given our little sister and her family.

We also thank God for the safe arrival of little Jonathan Thomas Geier, new born son of Cory and Kayla Geier. He arrived on January 29, weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Carrie Geier gave a shower for the baby in January.

We have enjoyed getting to know our brother Stephen Kimball the last few months. Stephen, son of Mike and Barb Kimball, moved to Kansas City, Missouri, from Oklahoma in January when he got a job in this area. He divides his attendance between the two Independence locals and is enjoyed by family members as well as his church brothers and sisters. We also have welcomed Laura Gill into our local this year. Laura is the daughter of John and Nana Gill and is presently living with her uncle and aunt, Jim and Bonnie Case. She attends Lone Jack High School with her cousin Paul and is enjoying the YPCL meetings and associations.

In January, the United Workers met at Irene Case's home for a

soup/salad luncheon and to make Victorian keepsake boxes under the direction of Grace Rudd. They also sponsored the annual Sweetheart Banquet on February 7. After a delicious meal, a program began which brought laughs, tears, and a lot of reminiscing. Three couples were chosen to share their stories of how their relationships began. Their testimonies, along with the beautiful music played and sung by individuals and a triple-trio of women, were an encouragement and delight.

The YPCL met on Saturday evenings with a variety of activities: a study with Mike McGhee on pride; a study with Tony Grzincic on family relations; a hockey game; costume party; planning meeting and movie night. They also attended the YPCL Winter Retreat held in late December, and helped present the Sunday School class at the Temple Lot that weekend.

The Jr. Young People had a costume party in December, dressing as Bible or Book of Mormon characters. They made gingerbread men candles. In January, leader Tamara Grim took the group to a gym for two hours of activity. Though the group is small right now, Tamara continues to provide creative activities each month for them.

The CARE Group had elections and a planning meeting in January. Randy Sheldon is the new leader. One activity is planned for each month of this year, with several of them coordinating with the YPCL and Jr. Young Peoples.

The Sunday School food drive continued through the winter months. A large box labeled "Feed My Sheep" encouraged everyone to bring a non-perishable food item each week to assist individuals to help restock community food pantries which were running drastically low.

On Sundays, Joyce Harris provides us with a weekly bulletin which includes a prayer list. This week there were over a hundred names on the list, including brothers, sisters, family

members and friends who need our prayers for their physical or spiritual needs. The names are from many different locals and cover some very immediate needs. Though the list may appear overwhelming, the requests are taken seriously, and it is good to be able to share in prayer and concern when we are aware of a need. Joyce will often tell us about the people, giving us a more personal connection with them, and she is quick to share with us the blessings and answers to those requests as she finds out about them. We can then rejoice and praise God.

In a recent sermon, Elder Leroy Wheaton told us that we should continue to remove from our lives and from the church any worldly influences that have crept in and caused division and contention. In order for the church to go forward we have to put the gospel into practice in our lives. We have to work together, as the parts of our body work together. He reminded us to put the same effort into spiritual things as we do with charitable concerns for physical needs. Brother Leroy read from Isaiah 58 and emphasized verse 6: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

*God bless you,
Debbie Vogel*

OBITUARY

Stella J. Winegar

January 22, 1917—February 5, 1997

Stella J. Winegar, 80, went home to be with Jesus Wednesday morning, February 5, 1997, at her home near Columbia Falls, Montana.

She was born January 22, 1917, in Bemidji, Minnesota, to Leon A. and Alice E. Gould. She was raised and educated near Bemidji, Minnesota.

She was baptized into the RLDS church on July 25, 1926, and transferred into the Church of Christ in November 1930, and was received into the Minneapolis, Minnesota local.

She married Fred A. Winegar on October 26, 1939, in Bemidji. They lived there until moving to Columbia Falls in 1948. They lived in Columbia Falls until 1971, when they moved to the Deer Park area near Columbia Falls.

She was active in church work, and loved gardening and her grandchildren. She liked to play music and write songs. She loved children and was loved by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Fred, three sisters, and

a brother.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Evelyn York, Darleen and Bill Frishkorn, and Dan and Sarah Winegar, all of Columbia Falls, Montana, and Margaret Smith of Dillon, Montana; six brothers and sisters, Arlo Gould and Don Gould of Bemidji, Eugene Gould, Darlene Smith, and Amy Schrader, all of Missouri, and Helen Taubert of Wisconsin; 12 grandchildren, Marshall York of Plentywood, Montana, David York, Brett Winegar, Beau Winegar, Brandon Winegar, Brittainy Winegar, Amy Westberg, and Aaron Frishkorn, all of Columbia Falls, Montana, Don Smith of Kirkland, Washington, Ian Smith of Dillon, Montana, Rebecca Murphy of Vista, California, and Rachael Frishkorn of Kalispell, Montana; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Apostle Marvin Ely officiated. Burial was at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

This song was sung at her service:

I Will Follow Him

Words & Music by Stella Winegar

Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will go;
Whether through the rain or sunshine
On the pathway here below.
Jesus, Thou art all I've wanted,
My Redeemer and my Guide.
There's no other one beside Thee.
Let me walk close by Thy side.

He's my life, my hope, my being.
He is all the world to me;
And I'll follow at His bidding
For the way I cannot see.
I will follow none but Jesus.
Jesus is the light, the way.
Jesus is the resurrection;
I will follow Him today.

When the days grow dark and troubled
And all happiness would flee.
Then a voice so soft and tender
Whispers "child, remember Me."
I will follow none but Jesus.
Jesus is the light, the way.
Jesus is the resurrection;
I will follow Him today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1997 SCRIPTURE THEME CAMP

~May 16-18~

Please mark your calendar and plan to join your brothers and sisters at this year's Scripture Theme Camp, sponsored by the Church of Christ, Temple Lot local. No age barriers... come one, come all! It will take place at Camp Shawnee, which is part of the Knob Noster State Park system between Knob Noster and Warrensburg, Missouri. This year's theme asks, "How Can We Demonstrate Our Faith?"

ONE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Sites are available for pop-up campers and RV's, but the Camp Director **MUST** be notified no later than April 6th. If you plan to utilize a pop-up camper or RV, call, write or otherwise notify the Camp Director listed below as soon as possible.

CAMP DIRECTOR:

Gary Housknecht
11308 E. 78th Street
Raytown, MO 64138
Phone (816) 737-3240

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mark Hill
J. Paul O'Haro
Don Case
Gary Welch

COLORADO REUNION

~June 13-15~

The Colorado Reunion will be held June 13, 14 and 15, 1997, at the Church of Christ, Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B $\frac{1}{2}$ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. The Lord has graciously blessed us in the work on the addition of our church, and we hope to have it ready to occupy when reunion time arrives. We ask for your prayers in our behalf. To inquire about housing with our local people or motel accommodations, please contact any of our Reunion Committee members:

Robert L. Ely
3201 B $\frac{1}{2}$ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(970) 434-8090

John E. Bell
572 34 Road
Clifton, CO 81520
(970) 434-7100

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

We look forward to seeing all who can attend to join in worship of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

Attention!!!

YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 12-18

Plan to attend the Summer Youth Camp!!!

DATE: AUGUST 3-8

Fun & Fellowship ~ Learning & Laughter!

For More Information Contact:

**Buzz Brickhouse at
(816) 356-9214**

TEEN CHALLENGE '97

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

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