

# Zion's Advocate

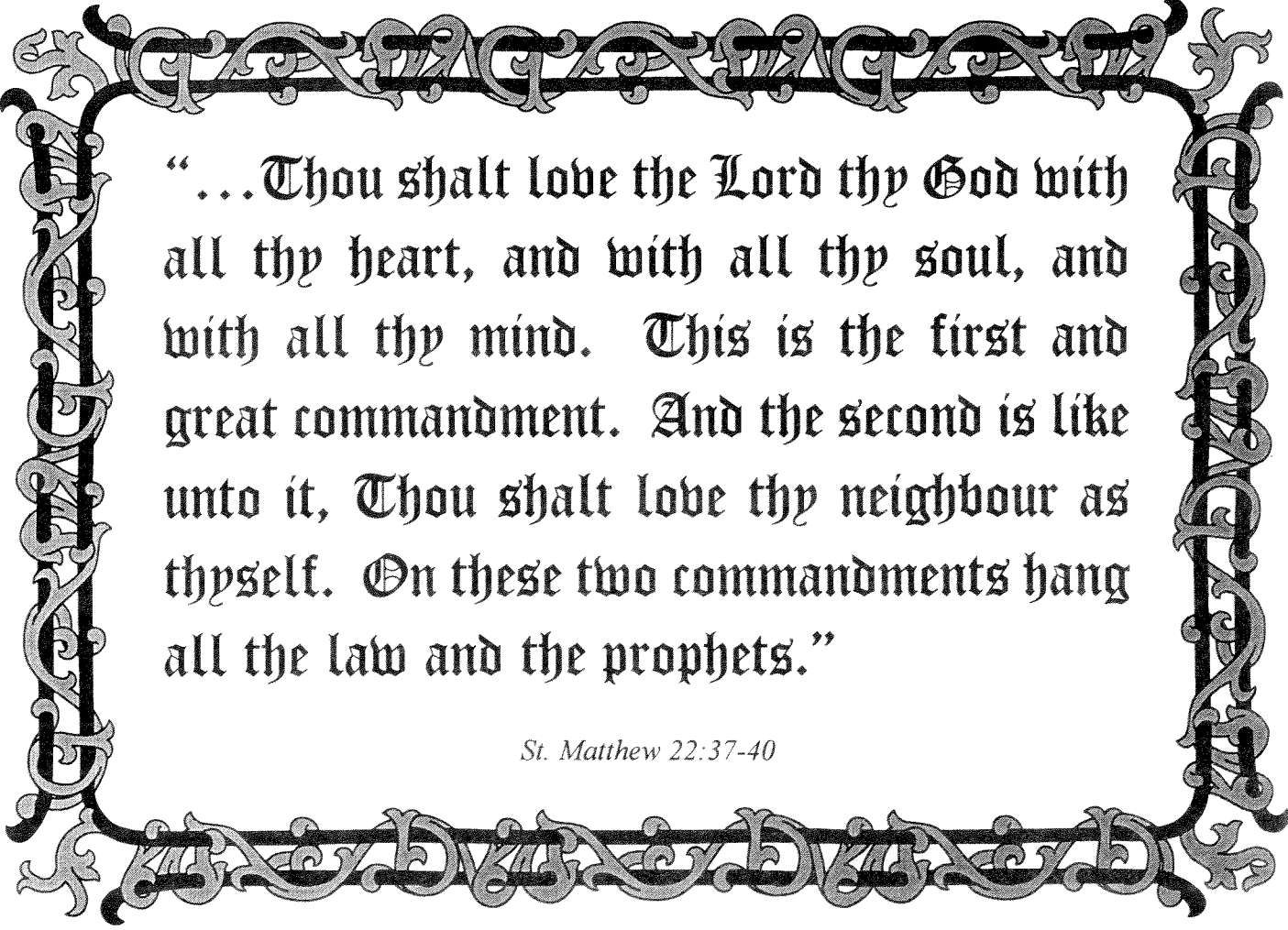
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;"*

1 Nephi 3:187

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“...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.”

*St. Matthew 22:37-40*

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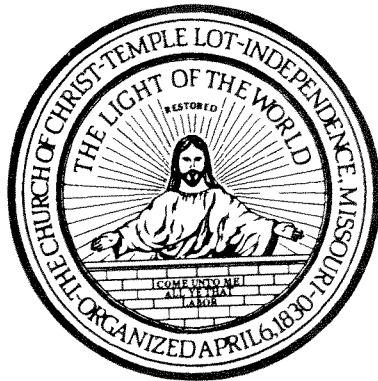
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Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on IBM or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a big help to our process.

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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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Zion's Advocate

► FIRST ISSUE ZION'S ADVOCATE COVER REPRINT, Vol. 1, No. 1~May 15, 1922

The Church of Christ at Independence, Mo., takes great pleasure at this time in issuing Zion's Advocate, for we believe that the time is at hand when all Latter Day Saints should have their minds turned toward the great work of Zion's Redemption. There is great responsibilities resting upon all that have taken upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ in these last days, for God is unchangeable, he is the same yesterday, today and forever, therefore it behooves those placed in charge of the work here upon the earth to let their light shine as a beacon, to light the way for those that are groping in this dark world of doubt and uncertainty.

For that reason we have decided to publish the Advocate, and place before the world the belief and doctrine of the Church of Christ relative to the gathering of the children of Israel and the redemption of Zion. The standard bearers of this latter day work have great responsibility attached to their work; in order that they may succeed in their work, they must be strong and courageous, for their place is not only at the battle front, but to hold their standards high so that those who follow may continue to have courage to press on to the victory. Not only that, but when their standards trail in the dust then will the enemy take renewed courage, and have greater power to overcome those that follow.

The Church of Christ has taken the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the revelations given in these last days for their guide, and it will be upon this basis that the publishers of the Advocate will seek to establish the principles and means by which the restored Gospel will be effective in breaking down the cunning plans of the devil and his agents that have retarded the work of the gathering.

The Lord has said, "Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled." D. & Cov. 98:4, therefore we wish to affirm that the Church of Christ stands upon that position, and are looking forward to the fulfillment of all things that the Lord has promised in connection with it.

If you are interested in the building up of "the waste places of Zion" and the gathering of "the pure in heart," then we hope that our efforts in advocating the principles by which this work will be done, will not be in vain, but will cause a burning desire in your hearts to help us build up the Kingdom of God on the earth. For this work is not dependent upon any one man, but each and every person that has taken upon him the name of Christ has pledged himself to do all that is in his power to help establish righteousness in the earth, so we are safe in taking up the work of advocating the cause of Zion to all men that are seeking for that city whose maker is God. If this appeals to you as one of the means by which good can be accomplished in this direction, then let your friends and neighbors know it, let them read your Advocate; send their names to us that we may be able to send them a paper too.

We have decided to print the Advocate at this time because of the fact that many saints from all factions of the Latter Day work are writing to us that they may receive an understanding of the ideals of the Church of Christ in regard to the perplexing problems that are confronting the world today. For they realize that perilous times are at hand, and that as yet no place of safety has been prepared. These inquiries are not confined to any certain locality, but have come from almost every state in the Union, Australia, England, Germany, and Canada. Therefore, we feel that through the Advocate these inquiries could more effectively be answered than through private correspondence.

Not only that, but often the questions are of such importance that the answers would be of general interest to all Latter Day saints, also, it would give the members of the Church of Christ a more regular way of being in touch with the church here at Independence, Mo.

To them we would say, take new hope, be a missionary in your locality, spread the cause of Christ among all people that you come in contact with, and we will do all that is in our power to help you in your efforts.

*[After more than 75 years we are still  
an Advocate for Zion. —editors]*

RESTORATION TEACHINGS EXAMINED

# FIRST PRESIDENCY AN INNOVATION OF MAN



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

The claim of the establishment of a First Presidency in the Church of Christ has been one of the most mysterious happenings in the early church. The lack of pertinent details, as well as the lack of supportive scriptures, is reason enough for any searcher of truth to question its authenticity. During the 1920's the ministry of this church, the Church of Christ, made an extensive research and study which resulted in this church taking the position that the establishment of

the First Presidency was not of God, but was, in fact, an innovation of man.

In *An Outline History of the Church of Christ*, on page 139, this statement is recorded:

On October 8, 1925, of the fall conference, a resolution was adopted which abolished the office of Presiding Elder. During the afternoon session of the same day, a desire was expressed in a resolution to perfect the organization in harmony with the teachings of the Bible and the Book of Mormon; and it was also resolved: "That we petition the Lord for direction as to the choosing of the Apostles, and such other matters as he may see fit to impart unto us."

On the previous page of that same history this sentence can be found:

This study soon divulged the fact that the origin of a First Presidency over the apostolic council was, in itself, a very vague and conflicting innovation.

This Church of Christ took a stand at that point that brought about a distinct difference between it and most of the other churches of the "Restora-

Although we have had to answer the question many times during the past seventy years or so why we don't have a First Presidency, the answer is always pretty much the same: there is no scriptural proof of such an office in the Bible or the Book of Mormon.

tion," those claiming the same origin of the Church of Christ that was organized on April 6, 1830, in New York. Prior to this action in 1925, this church had believed in having a first presidency or a presiding elder as the head of the church. Although we have had to answer the question many times during the past seventy years or so why we don't have a First Presidency, the answer is always pretty much the same: there is no scriptural proof of such an office

in the Bible or the Book of Mormon. Unfortunately, that is not a sufficient answer for most of the inquirers that we encounter. For that reason this article is written to our friends of the "Restoration," in the hope that some plain talk will bring sufficient light upon the subject to those whose minds are open to the truth.

There have been many who have been convinced by some means that the First Presidency was divinely established in the early church during Joseph Smith's time. To substantiate their convictions they have searched the scriptures for proof and have found hints of what they feel are evidences of those much desired offices.

One of their claims is that it was God's will that a man should occupy as head of the church in the place of Jesus Christ after his ascension into heaven. In latter day revelation that office was given the name President of the High Priesthood. However, it appears that the head of the church was not to act alone, but he was to have at least two assistants which would make the First Presidency three in number. These three were to act in the place of Christ as head of the church and head of the twelve apostles.

Who were those three in the New Testament church? Some claim that they were Peter, James and John. If that be true then there had to be four vacancies in the apostolic council after Christ ascended into

heaven. But that is not true. There was only one vacancy; only one man was chosen, Matthias, and he filled the vacancy

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If we are to believe that there was a First Presidency in the New Testament church, we have to resort to conjecture to do so.

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of Judas who had betrayed Christ and had taken his own life. From the time that Jesus sat down with the twelve apostles to partake of the Passover (Luke 22:14) until He was crucified there was no time nor occasion where he would have called out three additional men (or one for that matter) to occupy in his place. Peter was identified as one of the twelve apostles at that time (verses 31-34).

If we are to believe that there was a First Presidency in the New Testament church, we have to resort to conjecture to do so. Those three additional men did not exist according to the scriptures. Jesus did not appoint a man, or three men, to take his place when he ascended into heaven. To say that he did we have to read between the lines and make the scriptures say something that they do not say.

Jesus did make a special

provision for His disciples before He ascended into heaven, but He did not choose a mortal man to take His place here on earth. Jesus said, "...I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth..." John 14:16, 17. That Comforter (the Holy Ghost) was sent on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts, chapter 2.

Of all the particulars that were given concerning the works and ministrations of the twelve apostles, surely an office as important as a president over the church as was set up in Joseph Smith's time would not have been omitted in the New Testament. But that is exactly what some are saying had to have happened. There is absolutely nothing in the scriptures that tells us that such an office existed in New Testament times.

If we were to say that only the Bible lacked that information and that such an office was established in Book of Mormon times we would have cause to concede to the claim. However, the Book of Mormon is lacking that pertinent information as well. This really causes us to question the claim for the First Presidency because the Book of Mormon is to supply some of the plain and precious things that had been taken out of the Bible. Some very important information was given by Moroni in the latter part of the Book of Mormon which might have been left



out had he not been guided by the Spirit to write it. He quoted the words of Christ concerning the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, he gave information concerning ordinations, and recorded the prayers to be given over the bread and wine. Surely if the office of First Presidency had been inadvertently omitted by Mormon, Moroni would have been guided by the Spirit to give pertinent information concerning it. However, he, as well as his father, were completely silent on the subject.

Some have said that Nephi was the one chosen by Christ to occupy as president of the church, but the same problem exists as in the Bible: there are only twelve men chosen as Jesus' disciples and Nephi was one of them. No where can we find the additional three men necessary to make up the First Presidency. And again, such an office to preside over the church would have been much too important not to have been mentioned anywhere in the accounts recorded during and after the time that Christ was here on earth.

So where must we go to get that important information? Well, let's try the Old Testament. Some have said that Moses occupied the position of President of the High Priesthood over the "church in the wilderness" during the time that he led the Israelites out of Egypt (Acts 7:38). Did he indeed? Where does it say that?

There is very little written

in the scriptures that indicates the position or priesthood office that Moses held, but he did anoint and consecrate Aaron

For twelve and one-half years the church had a First Presidency with no official record of the establishment and ordination of that office in the church.

and Aaron's sons. Moses was raised up by the Lord to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, and he was instrumental in giving the schoolmaster law (Law of Moses) (Galatians 3:24, 25). He truly was a type of Christ inasmuch as he prophesied of Christ, saying that God would raise up a Prophet like unto himself (Deut. 18:15).

We find that Moses has been quoted and referred to by many men of God. Joseph who was sold into Egypt prophesied of Moses. Some of his words were quoted by Lehi just before Lehi died (2 Nephi 2:31-35). In all the writings of the men of God and the words of Christ in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, Moses' priesthood office was never directly named. In latter day revelation, however, we find that he received his priesthood through his father-in-law, Jethro, who was the priest of Median (1835 D & C

4:2, R.L.D.S. D & C 83:2 & Exodus 18:1).

Alma tells us that Melchisedec was a high priest and that there were many before him and many after him but none were greater (Alma 10:7, 15). That priesthood was after the order of the Son, which order was from the foundation of the world (Alma 9:70). In all probability Moses was a high priest holding the Melchisedec Priesthood. Did that make him a president of the high priesthood or the president of the church? Were Aaron and Hur part of that Presidency? Were the twelve princes of Israel the twelve apostles at that time? Here again we have to read between the lines because there certainly isn't anything in the scriptures that confirms such a theory. Try as we might we can't make the word of God say something that it does not say.

Perhaps we should take a closer look at what happened in the early church during Joseph Smith's time and how the office of First Presidency had its origin. In May of 1829, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were ordained by a heavenly messenger to the priesthood of Aaron, and afterward they baptized each other and ordained each other according to the instructions given. However, this ordination did not give them the power to bestow the Holy Ghost. On April 6, 1830, they ordained each other as elders according to a previous commandment and laid hands upon

all those who had previously been baptized that they might receive the Holy Ghost. All this was done according to divine instructions given of God.

The ordination of Joseph Smith to the office of President of the High Priesthood lacked the particulars that were given at the former ordinations. In fact, that incident failed to be recorded or even mentioned at the time that it was supposed to have occurred. The only account that we have wasn't put into print until three months after Joseph Smith's death. The following is his brief account of that happening as given in his history:

"On the 26<sup>th</sup> I called a general council of the church and was acknowledged as the president of the high priesthood, according to a previous ordination at a conference of high priests, elders and members, held at Amherst, Ohio, on the twenty-fifth of January, 1832" *Times and Seasons*, Vol. 5, No. 16, p. 624, Sept. 2, 1844.

It has been concluded that the above incident where Joseph Smith was acknowledged as president of the high priesthood took place in Missouri on April 26, 1832. Going back in his history to the account of the Amherst conference we find that it is also very brief, so brief that he failed to even include the fact that he was ordained President of the High Priesthood at that conference. Unfortunately, no one else recorded it either. Also, a

revelation was given at that conference but there was nothing given in it relating to the President of the High Priesthood.

For twelve and one-half years the church had a First Presidency with no official record of the establishment and ordination of that office in the church. No one knows who did the ordaining or by what authority or commandment it was performed. It appears that Joseph Smith was his own witness to the happening, but we have no proof that every word in his history printed three months after his death are actually his.

Yes, there are many proofs that Joseph Smith acted in the position of president of the church, but his authority to do so is what is under question. And, yes, we know that there are revelations that seem to substantiate that authority. To prove that authority we must ask when were those revelations given, and were they given prior to or at the time of his supposed ordination to that office?

The earliest revelation printed that provided for the office of president is found in the 1835 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, section 2 (Section 17, R.L.D.S. D. & C.). We find this in verses 16 and 17:

"No person is to be ordained to any office in this church, where there is a regularly organized branch of the same, without the vote of that

church; but the presiding elders, traveling bishops, high councilors, high priests, and elders, may have the privilege of ordaining, where there is no branch of the church, that a vote may be called. Every president of the high priesthood (or presiding elder), bishop, high councilor, and high priest, is to be ordained by the direction of a high council, or General Conference."

In an indirect way that commandment may have provided authority for a First Presidency. However the printing of this revelation that was made in 1835 differs from the first three printings of this revelation. The first printing was on the front page of the first issue of the *Evening and Morning Star*, dated June, 1832. The above quote was not in that revelation as it was printed then. Nor was it in the revelation as it was printed the second time one year later (June, 1833) in the *Evening and Morning Star*. Nor was it in the Book of Commandments, chapter 24, when it was printed in 1833. That revelation was given in June, 1830, in Fayette, New York.

The proponents of the First Presidency tell us that those in Independence who were responsible for the printing of the revelations had altered some of them, and that this revelation contained the above quote when it was given in June, 1830. If that be true then Joseph Smith surely would have been very upset when he received the first issue of the *Evening and Morn-*

ing Star with that portion of the revelation missing. However, we find in his history, for whatever it is worth, this bit of information:

"In July, (1832) we received the first number of *The Evening and Morning Star*, which was a joyous treat to the Saints. Delightful, indeed, was it to contemplate that the little band of brethren had become so large, and grown so strong, in so short a space as to be able to issue a paper of their own, which contained not only some of the revelations, but other information also,—which would gratify and enlighten the humble inquirer after truth" *Times and Seasons*, Vol. 5, No. 16, p. 626, Sept. 2, 1844.

If Joseph Smith was not cognizant of the changes that had been made at that time surely he would become aware of them sooner or later and would confront those who were responsible. Later was June 25, 1833, when he wrote a letter to W. W. Phelps in Zion from Kirtland, Ohio. The following is an excerpt from that letter:

"The following errors we have found in the commandments, as printed: Fortieth chapter, tenth verse, third line, instead of corruptable, put corrupted. Fourteenth verse of the same chapter, fifth line, instead of respecter to persons, put respecter of persons. Twenty-first verse, second line of the same chapter, instead of respecter to, put respecter of. Forty-fourth chapter, twelfth verse, last line, instead of hands put heads" *Times and Sea-*

*sons*, Vol. 6, No. 3, p. 800, Feb. 15, 1845.

No mention was made of the revelation that was given at

...There are over one thousand differences both in wording and doctrinal teachings in the revelations that are in the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants as compared to the same revelations in the Book of Commandments.

Fayette, New York in June, 1830, which was chapter 24 in the Book of Commandments. However, Joseph Smith must have had the completed book or manuscript in his hands because he referred to chapter and verse which corresponds with the Book of Commandments as we have it today. If Joseph had examined the book or manuscript that closely and read as far as the fortieth chapter he surely would have noticed that two whole paragraphs were missing from chapter 24. In fact those who have made extensive comparisons of the Book of Commandments and the Doctrine and Covenants in more recent times have found, not two,

but three additional paragraphs in that revelation as printed in the Doctrine and Covenants that were not in the Book of Commandments, and two hundred thirty-one other word differences. In our church history we are told that there are over one thousand differences both in wording and doctrinal teachings in the revelations that are in the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants as compared to the same revelations in the Book of Commandments. (See *An Outline History of the Church of Christ* page 52.)

We might not have considered these differences of any significant importance if they had nothing to do with the establishment of church doctrine or the church structure. If the claim for additional priesthood offices, which were not founded by scripture and by the earlier revelations, was not involved, we would be less likely to question the changes. However, it is obvious that many of the changes that were made in the revelations when they were printed in the Doctrine and Covenants accommodated for the offices of the First Presidency which did not exist at the time that the church was being established in the years of 1829 and 1830.

We find ourselves asking the question, why? Why should a people be so compelled to believe in a priesthood office that was set up by man and not by God? Is not what the Lord gave sufficient for the church? Why



should we want a mortal man who is subject to weakness and error to exercise himself as a hierarch over the church when the Lord had already established his church with twelve men chosen as his disciples?

Around forty years ago I was told by my father of a short conversation that he had had with an elder in one of the Restoration churches. The elder was an avid student of scripture and history. In confidence the elder told my father that he had made a great search in an effort to prove the authenticity of his church, which proudly supported a First Presidency. The elder admitted that his search did not lead him to the church established by Christ in Jerusalem, but rather, to the Catholic Church. The elder, however, still maintained a belief in the First Presidency to his death.

There was a time when the Israelites desired a king. Although the Lord warned them that it would not be good for them, they persisted until He gave them what they wanted. At a later time the same thing happened on this land among the Nephites. In both instances time proved that the Lord was right because there were evil men who came to power and caused much hardship and sorrow.

You might say that this has nothing to do with the church. In truth it does. There was a time in history that a hierarchy was set up in the church which brought about an apostasy well

known to all students of the restored gospel of Christ. Speaking of the return of Jesus Christ, Paul wrote this:

*“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”* 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

When the Church of Christ was established again here on earth, the proclamation that was declared to the world was that the fullness of the gospel of Christ had been restored, and with it the establishing of the church as it was in Jerusalem prior to the apostasy. But what caused the apostasy? Was it not the setting up of a hierarchy over the church with a one person head who was supposed to take the place of Christ?

It is difficult to understand why the church in its infancy would enter again into that path of apostasy from which it had just emerged. The “Reformation” had thrown off some of the ordinances of darkness that had kept the people from enjoying the light of the gospel, but it wasn’t until the fullness of the gospel was restored that they were able to enjoy the true light that had been known in the days

of Christ and His apostles. Now the people could look with great hope to the church being blessed with all the gifts that it had known in days of old. Unfortunately their hope was short lived, although the Lord did bless the church in spite of the errors that began to come into it.

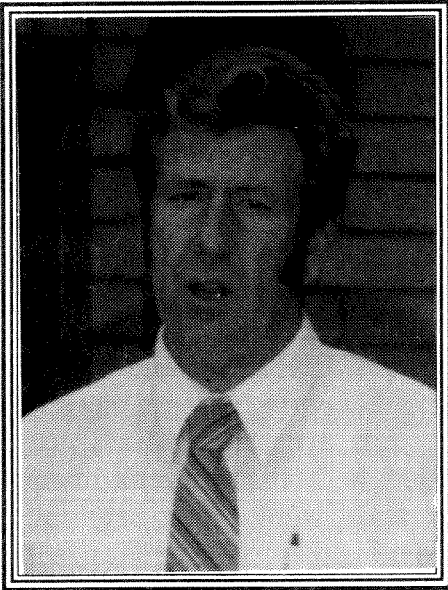
Within two years after the church was organized the groundwork of a new unauthorized hierarchy was begun. Human aspirations of power and control emerged to thwart the work of God. Glory be to God for He truly is wiser than man and more powerful than the devil. He strove with a small band of His people and brought about certain corrections in the church structure which complied with the commandments as they were given originally. The Lord is still striving with this little band known as the Church of Christ, and we are thankful that He hasn’t given up on us yet.

Let us give thanks that the Lord has freed us from that innovation of man known as the First Presidency. Let us diligently pray that the Lord will see fit to free all of our friends of the “Restoration” that are still trusting in that innovation, that they may realize that it is not of God, and that they may come and enjoy the true light of His gospel with us.



DEVELOPING A ZIONIC ATTITUDE

# Prefer Thy Brother



**Elder Allen Kauffman**

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! 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" Is. 52:7-8.*

Our goal in life should be that whenever or wherever this *zionic condition* occurs that we

will be righteous enough to be with Christ and dwell with Him.

*"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. 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. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation" Psalm 24:1-5.*

This is the kind of people that we are to be: a people with clean hands and a pure heart, doing the things that we are taught in the scriptures, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, and not lifting our souls up to those things that bring us to naught: *"Be in the world, but not of it."*

Love is probably one of the most important things that we should possess to reach this type of condition. When He was asked, *"Which is the great com-*

Our goal in life should be that whenever or wherever this *zionic condition* occurs that we will be righteous enough to be with Christ and dwell with Him.

*mandment in the law?"*

*"Jesus said unto him, 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.*

If we can learn to have this love that Christ was speaking of, that is the first step to reaching that goal of a *Zion* condition. It says at the beginning of this article "that the Lord will bring

again Zion"; mankind, in all our efforts, cannot force the Lord's hand. He will bring about this condition when He sees fit to do so. We can't rush or detain God.

*"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets"*  
Matthew 7:12.

This is one of the first things that we teach our children in Sunday School—that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. And I think that as adults, this is the first thing that we forget to do.

*"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon"* Isaiah 55:6-7.

Every year we ask to have a solemn assembly to prepare ourselves for Conference, and I think that it's fine to do so. But when Conference starts I think we forget about the prayers that we offered to God to guide and direct us, and go about doing things on our own.

*"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say*

*unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them*

It says... "that the Lord will bring again Zion"; mankind, in all our efforts, cannot force the Lord's hand. He will bring about this condition when He sees fit to do so.

*which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"* Matthew 5:43-48. See also I John 4:4-11.

This is probably the hardest thing to do: to bless them that say bad things about you, and run you down, and ridicule you, but Christ says if we want to be the children of God, this is what we have to do. This fulfills the law of love, and if we only

love those that love us, we're no better than the other people of the world. Christ gives us the example to follow, "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*"

*"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love"* I John 4:18.

*"And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure*

love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen” Moroni 7:49-53.

Zion—is it a place or a condition? I think that most of us would agree that it is both a place and a condition! I feel that we all know where the place is to be located, but perhaps we need to work on the condition. I remember the admonishment that Brother Ely gave us at a reunion: “We must humble ourselves and we will get the answers to all our differences.” Have we heeded that admonishment? Have we taken this advice to heart, or thought it applied only to others, our brothers and sisters? I think that we all need to heed the warning and put ‘our own house’ in order. There’s an old saying that we need to sweep our own back porch, and not try to be sweeping our neighbors.

*“And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the*

*roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold the fig tree which thou cursedst is*

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**I remember the admonishment that Brother Ely gave us at a reunion: “We must humble ourselves and we will get the answers to all our differences.”**

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*withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses” Mark 11:20-26.*

I know that it is most difficult sometimes to forgive some-

one, but look closely at what Christ is telling us. If we don’t forgive others, He will not forgive us. That’s pretty harsh, but that’s what it says, like it or not.

*“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” I John 4:4.*

We have a gift that no other people have—the gift of the Holy Ghost. We need to exercise that gift, to allow it to lead us into all truths and not to be lead about with every wind of doctrine. But above all we must have that charity that we are told to have. If we have that, all other things will fall into place and will automatically come, because we have LOVE in our hearts.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

# What Is That In Thine Hands?

By Clarence L. Wheaton  
(1893~1976)  
Apostle 1926~1976  
From a sermon, circa 1960

*"And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee. And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? and he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee" Exodus 4:1-5.*

When the Lord spoke to Moses from the flame in the burning bush and told him that he was to be chosen as an instrument in His hands to deliver the children of Israel from bondage, Moses said unto God,

*"Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say unto me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" Exodus 3:11:13-14.*

After thus revealing to Moses His name and commissioning him to go on his mission of deliverance, and prepare the elders of Israel for their part in this great undertaking, Moses realized the greatness of his task and that it would take more than just his word to move these elders and the people to obedience, and as we all do when measuring such great tasks from human eyes' experience alone, he exclaimed,

*"But, behold, they will not believe me nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say the Lord hath not appeared unto thee" Exodus 4:1.*

Surely the spirit of God gives inspiration, and unless Moses and others similarly situated to perform special works for the Lord shall have the inspiration of God to know what the gifts and talents are that God has placed in their hands, they cannot accomplish that work successfully.

Surely the spirit of God gives inspiration, and unless Moses and others similarly situated to perform special works for the Lord shall have the inspiration of God to know what the gifts and talents are that God has placed in their hands, they cannot accomplish that work successfully.

Let us examine the text: "What is that in thine hand?"

If you were asked this same question by the Lord today, what would your answer be?

Examine your hands, each of you.

Meditate a moment. Then in your hearts evaluate that which you see in your hands.

The Lord said unto Moses, "What is that in thine hand?"



Moses examined the object in his hand and said, "A rod."

The Lord commanded Moses, "Cast it on the ground."

And when Moses had done so, it became a serpent and he fled from it.

*"And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail, And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the Lord God of their Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee" Exodus 4:4-5.*

This was a simple experience, and yet it was to have a far reaching effect, not only upon Moses and the children of Israel, but upon future generations of men. It was a simple test of faith, a test of the spiritual strength of Moses, and a lesson to us of how faith can move upon the mind of man and cause him to trust God, and thus perform his task.

Did Moses use this miraculous gift, which he found in his hand, as a source of amusement for his friends?

No! With faith in God and confidence in his mission, Moses plagued a tyrannical king with his rod; he smote a river and caused it to turn to blood. Again he caused a plague of lice and another of frogs to come upon the Egyptians. He caused a Pharaoh's throne to topple,

and freed an enslaved people, and through them gave laws and a Savior that brought justice and salvation into the world.

**Look into your hands. What gift, what talent, what power have you there that can arm you to meet the Goliaths of today; Goliaths of greed, selfishness, social inequalities and injustices, spiritual immorality...?**

That is what Moses did with the simple gift of a rod that he held in his hand. Look! Yes, look into your hands, examine thy gifts, O man or woman, see what power is hidden there that God needs to have in use today.

Compare that which is in thine hand with that of others.

Turning to the 17th chapter of 1st Samuel, we learn that the Philistines gathered together their armies for the purpose of invading the land of Israel, and we find the two opposing armies drawn up for battle,

*"Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on one side and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side; and there was a valley be-*

*tween them" I Sam. 17:2-3.*

Thus were the very existence and liberties of Israel at stake and jeopardized by a foreign aggressor. And the Philistines sent out their champion, Goliath, who was a giant and mighty man of war, and challenged them to send a man of the Israelites to fight him, and as the battle should go so would the results be for Israel. This champion, Goliath, was six cubits and a span in height, or nine feet and six inches tall.

*"When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine they were dismayed, and greatly afraid" I Sam. 17:11.*

A survey of the armies of Israel showed them all to be afraid, and they ran from him. That is, all but one, a stripling shepherd boy of an obscure tribe by the name of David. And when he talked with Saul, Saul could not turn him from his determination to answer the challenge to his people. He placed his armor upon him and a helmet of brass upon his head and sword in his hand. But this was not to be the armor of this shepherd, as we learn by asking the question, "David, what hast thou in thine hand?"

And we find that in his heart was faith.

*"And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a*

shepherd's bag...and his sling was in his hand..." I Sam. 17:40.

And out of that faith he was able to meet Goliath with these words,

*"Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied"* I Sam. 17:45.

And therein was the secret of power in the hands of David. He met his adversary and slew him with a sling and a smooth pebble from the brook. Just small things, but when consecrated to the service of God, they become mighty in demonstration against the powers that fight against God. Look into your hands. What gift, what talent, what power have you there that can arm you to meet the Goliaths of today; Goliaths of greed, selfishness, social inequalities and injustices, spiritual immorality, and such that challenge the very deepest faith in our souls?

Look in your hands! In your hearts! In your minds! What do you find there? A pen that is mightier than the sword? A talent of music that would cause the sinner to turn to God? A gift to preach that would inspire men to seek salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ? An acquired skill, a profession, a trade, the knowledge of which

taught to others would make life happier and enable them to raise their standard of living? Then remember that God is calling you to active service to build a kingdom and a city of righteousness, and with your gift seasoned with a faith like David's, prepare to meet the challenge of these modern Goliaths.

If you have such gifts in your hands, and I am sure that each of you have, then ponder these words.

## The Dreamer

By Goethe

Lose this day loitering-  
Twill be the same story tomorrow-  
Then the next more dilatory.

Then indecision brings its own  
delays,  
And days are lamenting over  
days.

Are you in earnest?  
Seize this very minute-  
What you can do, or dream  
You can begin it.

Courage has genius,  
power and magic in it.  
Only engage, and then grows  
heated.

Begin it,  
And the work will be completed.

Turning now to 1st Kings 17 we learn that Elijah, the prophet, prophesied against Ahab who had raised altars to Baal, and thus incurred the Lord's wrath. To protect Elijah, the Lord told him to go down into Zarephath where he would find a widow who would provide him food and lodging during the great famine that was in the land. And so, we ask her, "My good woman, what is it in thine hands, which can supply sustenance for a prophet of God?" And she said,

*"As the Lord thy God liveth, I have no cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse..."*  
I Kings 17:12.

Yet, with faith in God, she shared that meager fare with the servant of the Lord and they had sufficient to last through a great famine. This is indeed an inspiring account of what can be done with the little we may sometimes have in our hands to help in the Lord's work if we season it with love and faith.

Surely in this principle we can find the secret of power to the church and the preaching of the Gospel among the children of men (i.e., if we love Him and one another as we should, then we will consider the substance that God has placed in our hands with a view of using it to the glory of His kingdom). As Elder Joseph Yates recently said in a sermon, "WE DERIVE OUR GREATEST BLESSINGS

FROM THE THINGS WE SHARE WITH OTHERS." And there is no better way to prove this than to,

*"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall they barns be filled with plenty and thy presses burst out with new wine" Prov. 3:9-10.*

And especially would we have you consider these promises to Israel.

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" Mal. 3:10.*

*"The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouse, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself...if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways" Deut. 28:8-9.*

Compare these promises with those God has made to latter day Israel, as taught in the revelations to this church, and we find that the blessings to fol-

low are identical. Thus, the storehouse (or tithes) is a Gospel institution. Therefore, look again into your hands, and see

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What a different world this would be indeed if we could take the scales of disbelief, doubt, and distrust from our eyes, and unreservedly say to God, "Though my means are small, yet in faith I will take of that which You have placed in my hands, and thinking less of self, share with others the blessings You, Lord, have given me... that the Gospel may be more effectually preached and the poor among men be caused to rejoice."

---

what you may have, little or great, to cast into the work of the Lord.

As an example, let us again turn back the pages of scripture and take our place beside Jesus as he stood over by the treasury, or storehouse, of the Temple, in Jerusalem, as recorded in Mark 12:41,44. Let's study those who were casting their offerings therein. Some were rich and haughty, proud, and desired to be seen of men as they cast of their abundance into the treas-

ury, while others, out of the goodness of their hearts, made offerings, which were, in reality, sacrifices. Among the latter group we see a poor widow approaching timidly to the treasury, and we will ask her, "My good widow, what is that in thine hand, which thou desireth to cast in?"

She replies, "I am a widow. My income is small but I desire to share it with others. Here are two mites, a small amount, I know, but it is all that I have."

This offering Jesus observed, for he said:

*"Verily, I say unto you. That this poor widow hath cast more than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all of her living" Mark 12:43-44.*

And, brothers and sisters, did you ever figure how small that widow's offering really was? One mite was the equivalent of 3/4 cent in our money, thus two mites equaled 1 1/2 cents. She was very poor, was she not? Are any of us that poor today? Yet she shared what she had. And Jesus, witnessing it, took note. I am sure that He remembered her and caused her to rejoice exceedingly. What a different world this would be indeed if we could take the scales of disbelief, doubt, and distrust from our eyes, and unreservedly say to God, "Though my means

are small, yet in faith I will take of that which You have placed in my hands, and thinking less of self, share with others the blessings You, Lord, have given me both spiritually and temporally, that the Gospel may be more effectually preached and the poor among men be caused to rejoice." (See Isa. 29:19.)

Again, we point you to another lesson: a multitude had listened all day to the Savior as He preached to them in a desert place. They were tired and hungry. They hungered and thirsted for righteousness. At evening, His disciples would have sent them away to the city to find food and lodging, but Jesus, perceiving their intent, called them, and evidently asked, "Ye apostles, disciples in deed, what have ye in your hands with which to feed this multitude of five thousand souls, who through the day have listened to me here in this desert place?" And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fishes."

Surely a mite, compared with the need, but when leavened with faith and love, and the desire to share, we find that they not only fed the multitude, but had left over more than they had to begin with, even twelve baskets full (see Matt. 14:17-20).

Again, Look into your hands? Do you dare meet this challenge to your faith and profession of love of God and your fellow men?

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and I will open the windows of heaven and pour ye out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" Mal. 3:10-12.*

And then there was the woman of Bethany who had some precious ointment. When asked what she had, she said, "I have an alabaster box of very precious ointment with which to anoint the feet of a friend." So she anointed the feet of Jesus, and in so doing, anointed a lowly Nazarene, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who, even dying, would live forever more.

Now we see God coming down from Teman, and we approach Him and ask, "Lord what have you in your hands?"

And we have the answer, "I have horns in my hands. There is the secret of My power, and with this power will I bless mankind, and give them power through the Holy priesthood of My Son, that they shall heal the sick, bestow my Spirit upon them, bless their children, and ordain my ministry, and thereby bless their fellow men."

And coming down from Mount Paran (see Heb 3:3) to meet Him, was the Holy One, His Son, and we ask Him, "Lord Jesus, What have you in your hands?" And we can hear His reply ringing down through the ages, "I have wounds in my hands from the nails from which I hung on a cross. They were received in the house of My

friends, who caused me to suffer the agony of death that I might share the most precious gift of all...LIFE. Not of this mortal life, but of ETERNAL LIFE and immortality, which could only be shared by My death and resurrection, that I might rise and live forever more. Take, therefore, as I offer it to you, and share with Me this cross, that in doing so, ye too may arise and live."

So let me repeat, again and again, Look into your hands, "What hast thou there?" And when you understand the purpose of the gift, re-dedicate your life to God, and use that gift for the blessing of all mankind. Bless it with these words,

*"Hold thou my hand, dear Lord, Hold thou my hand..."*

*And when temptations come, help me to stand...*

*Constantly near to Thee, All shall be well with me,*

*Holding Thy hand, dear Lord, Holding Thy hand."*



## NEWS

## COLLINS, MISSOURI

The Collins Local sends New Year greetings to all of our brothers and sisters in the gospel. It is our prayer that we all may prosper spiritually as the days unfold to us. It will be necessary that we keep our focus on God and trust Him for the strength we will need to meet the trials of each day. And we must not neglect to pray for one another.

As many of you know, our brother, Marvin Cook, son of Norma Cook, lost his battle to cancer—but won his quest for salvation. Marvin felt a need to come and spend time at his mother's home a short time before his death, December 16th, 1997. During his stay he called for administration and prayer. His heart and soul changed. He took on a different attitude and even a physical look of joy came over him. He told his mother that he wanted to "take God home with him," and that's just what he did. Aunt Norma, Donna, Jean, and Justin went to visit him a week or so after he had gone home and saw even more spiritual progress and a wonderful peace in him and in his home—with his wife, Gwen, and 17-year-old daughter, Sammie. This has brought a great comfort to Aunt Norma and to all of us.

A memorial service was held for Marvin at York, Nebraska, with a great many of his friends paying tribute to him in word and in song.

His funeral was held here at the Collins Local with Brother Allen Kauffman in charge and Brother Jack Martin assisting. It was a beautiful service and the sweet Spirit of God seemed to rest on everyone present. Burial was at the Robinson Cemetery near Wearbleau, Missouri. When we say: "May he rest in peace," I really believe that he does.

The New Year has brought more sadness and yet a wonderful assurance that God is near. Four-year-old Brady Jordan DaMitz, son of Clay and Tiersa (Yates) DaMitz, grandson to Dennis and Olivia Yates, slipped from this mortal life in his sleep January 2nd, 1998. He was a sweet, precious, loving little boy who has touched the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Funeral services were held January 5th at the Cantlon Funeral Home in Urbana, Missouri. Services were opened by Brady's great grandfather, Brother Curtis Yates, followed by a beautiful and loving tribute given by Brady's father, mother, aunt, and grandfather. Their deep expressions of love touched all who were there. Clay and Tiersa exhibited a tremendous courage in the face of what could have been deep despair, but showed forth a great trust in God and His all-knowing wisdom. May God continue to bless this family in the days to come.

Our Community Christmas Program was well attended this year. Brother Jack Martin was our speaker for the evening. There were also songs and readings offered by our friends from other churches that

were so sweet and sincere. We all enjoyed the evening and the good spirit that attended us.

On New Year's Eve a few of us got together at the church for a chili and soup supper, followed by a volunteer program of songs, poems and some beautiful testimonies. We didn't stay late, but felt we had been blessed in our association together. I appreciate my brothers and sisters so much. And like our brother, Roma Harrison, said—"We can show our emotions without worry of ridicule."

I'll leave you with a few sermon thoughts:

- ◆ *If we get dis-couraged we cannot en-courage others.*
- ◆ *Likened Church to football half-time where the coach calls players in to re-group and go out to overcome the world—and win!*
- ◆ *There's a need for us to step back and think of the "Blessed Assurance" of Christ's birth and gift of salvation.*
- ◆ *Humble ourselves and ask for direction and forgiveness.*
- ◆ *All things are possible, but WE have to DO it.*
- ◆ *When you say "I believe," that's good, but remember, when trials and troubles come to put your TRUST in God.*

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

## ATTENTION TEENAGERS!!!!

All Teenagers Ages 12-18 are invited to come and fellowship with 100 other teenagers for five days out of the summer!! **TEEN CHALLENGE** will be held at Camp Far Westa on August 2nd through 7th! For more information call **Buzz or Sue Brickhouse at 1-816-356-9214**. Be looking in upcoming *Zion's Advocates* for **Camp registration forms!!!**

**Hope to see you there!!!**



OBITUARIES

# Marvin Leon Cook

FEBRUARY 19, 1942 ~ DECEMBER 16, 1997

Marvin Leon "Tiny" Cook, 55 years, died in his home Tuesday, December 16th, at York, Nebraska. He was born February 19th, 1942, in Collins, Missouri, to James and Norma (Sarratt) Cook. He married Gwendolyne Gage September 30, 1978, near Waco, Nebraska. He was a bus driver for the York public schools. He was widely known for his singing and guitar playing. In 1997, Marvin was inducted into the Ne-

braska Country Music Hall of Fame.

Marvin graduated from Collins High school in 1960. He was baptized into the Church of Christ at Collins at the age of 15 years and remained a member until his death.

He is survived by his wife Gwendolyne of York, three daughters, Samantha Cook of York, Sheri Kemmen of Missouri, and Lori Wilson, also of

Missouri; two sons, Jeffrey Cook and Michael Clark, both of Missouri; his mother, Norma Cook of Collins; a sister, Donna Cook, and a brother, Terry Cook, both of the Collins area; and thirteen grandchildren.

Marvin was preceded in death by his father. Burial was held at Robinson Cemetery near Collins.

# Brady Jordan DaMitz

NOVEMBER 10, 1993 ~ JANUARY 2, 1998

Brady Jordan DaMitz, son of Clay and Tiersa (Yates) DaMitz, was born in Bolivar, Missouri, on November 10, 1993, and departed this life on Friday afternoon, January 2, 1998, in the Citizen's Memorial Hospital, Bolivar, Missouri. He was at the time of his passing 4 years, 1 month and 23 days of age.

Brady was preceded in death by his paternal great-grandfathers: Earl Duncan and Fred

DaMitz. He is survived by his parents, Clay and Tiersa of the home; one sister, Megan DaMitz of the home; his maternal grandparents, Dennis and Olivia Yates of Preston, Missouri; his paternal grandparents, Ernie and Charlotte DaMitz of Cross Timbers, Missouri; his maternal great-grandparents, Curtis and Mary Ellen Yates of Preston, Missouri and C. O. and Katy Balentine of Drexel, Missouri; and his paternal

great-grandmothers, Ruby Duncan of Holden, Missouri, and Ellen DaMitz of Macks Creek, Missouri.

Brady was a beautiful, loving, precious child of God. He touched the lives of many. His spirit will live on through those who loved him. He was a blessing to us all and we will never forget him. We love you "Bubby."

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1998 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on April 3 & 4. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1998 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 10, 11 and 12, at Independence, Missouri.

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