

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;"*

I Nephi 3:187

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Sabbath Day

We've passed another Sabbath-day,
And heard of Jesus and of heaven;
We thank thee for thy word, and
pray
That this day's sins may be
forgiven.

May all we heard and understood
Be well remembered through the
week,
And help to make us wise and good,
More humble, diligent, and meek.

Bless our good minister, we pray,
Who loves to see a child attend,
And let us honor and obey
The words of such a faithful friend.

So when our lives are finished here,
And days and Sabbaths shall be
o'er,
May we along with Him appear
To love and serve thee evermore.

—Selected

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THE APOSTLES' MISSIONARY FIELDS

- Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214
- Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346
- Robert H. Jensen, 2230 Clay, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005; 402-291-1951
- Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255
- Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85024; 602-569-1900
- Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85024; 602-569-1240
- Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85024; 602-569-2414
- Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605
- William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-461-8956
- Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona; 602-569-9296

GENERAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OFFICE:

- Apostle William A. Sheldon, assisted by Evangelist Marvin Case, Elder Leslie Case and Elder Charles Brantner.
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GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
5713 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham
5709 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 462
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Michael McGhee
18907 E. 6th Street N.
Independence, Missouri 64056

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Ron Temple
5621 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

David Rudd

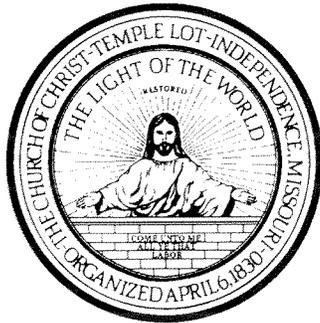
4917 Casey Court
Independence, Missouri 64055

FEATURE EDITOR—"Pathlights"

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Missouri 64052

PRODUCTION STAFF

Rickey J. Olson
Harvey L. Seibel



WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

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Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

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.

God Gave Them Up Unto VILE AFFECTIONS



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

Paul's letter to the Romans became scripture from the simple fact that it contained many truths that were needed to be said in that day. We are convinced even at this day that he was truly inspired to write those words. Yet we find the modern world ignoring Paul's counsel and the very things that would save this generation from the sinful direction in which it is going. The world not only willfully ignores Paul's writings but it also disregards the Word of God generally as we have it

today.

When Paul wrote to the Romans he briefly addressed a matter that had not been addressed by any other of the ministry before or since as plainly as he did. We therefore must thank God that he was led to write as he did.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them" Romans 1:18, 19.

Paul was well acquainted with the Romans and was able to judge them as being knowledgeable and intelligent. He gave them no slack in their accountability to God for their wrongful lifestyles. Although he speaks of mankind in general it is apparent that he found it necessary to begin his letter with certain pointed remarks that would target the problems within their society.

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image

made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" Romans 1:22, 23.

Here Paul condemns idol worship which has been a great sin in the eyes of God down through the ages. We are not rid of it even in this day. But the consequence of such a sin as Paul points out should be an eye-opener to us if we are not fully conscience of God's reactions to man's disobedience.

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" Romans 1:24, 25.

Paul exposed a sin that is common to mankind that many fail to recognize today: they worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator. This was a great offense to God. Idol worship was bad enough but as in all willful sinning one sin leads to another and they not only worshipped idols but

they worshipped themselves, even their own bodies. God's reaction was not to stop them but to let them go to the very bottom of the pit in their self-wills.

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet"
Romans 1:26, 27.

It should be understood that God did not cause the vile affections to come upon the men and women to lust toward their own gender, but when the people willfully turned in that direction the Lord ceased to help them and did nothing to stop their progressive sinfulness. What Paul is pointing to in this writing is what is commonly known today as homosexuality. Paul was a Roman and he was careful not to accuse them directly. However he made it known that the condition of the people that he described was a result of continuous rebellion against God which brought about a just consequence. In the next four verses Paul makes it very plain that the vile affections was only a sign of a greater rebellion of man.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their

knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" Romans 1:28-32.

The rejection of God even to the point of not wanting to retain God in their knowledge is the cause of God giving them over to a reprobate mind to do those things that are not convenient. We might say that that which is not natural is not convenient. Paul told them that they knew the judgment of God and that they also knew that they which commit such things are worthy of death. But without a conscience they go one step further into the pit: they have pleasure in them that do the same things that they are guilty of doing.

What might we say about Paul's words? Is he a little extreme? Would he have cause to say the same things about our society today if he were here?

Surely we can see a similarity in the world today, especially in the disposition to justify ho-

mosexuality. No, I am not condemning individuals who suffer from the tendencies of homosexuality, but rather I find that this nation, and perhaps most free nations today, have crossed the line of what the scriptures tell us is ripening in iniquity. That line is the very disposition of not liking to retain the knowledge of God. The increase of homosexuality and the various unnatural and inordinate practices today are only signs of the displeasure of God as He withdraws His Spirit and gives them over to the vile affections of their hearts.

The basis of Paul's reasoning is what we find throughout the scriptures as we peruse them in our studies. He had a sense of respect toward God and God's purposes in mankind, which includes the very nature of man in his fallen state. God, knowing all things, designed our bodies to be reproductive even as all creatures are reproductive. Unless there was the natural desire toward the opposite sex there would be no continuation of the various species. So it was God's intent that there would be recreation of all creatures including mankind and He gave the command: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." Genesis 1:28.

Although this has to do with this temporal existence only, we know that God foreordained these things to be that there would be the family environment by which children

might be properly cared for and nurtured by their parents. Having planned this arrangement from the beginning, God gave His blessings upon the homes of those who responded to the love that brought the husband and wife together.

The scriptures tell us that the natural man is an enemy to God. That is true if man is unwilling to respond to the prompting of the Spirit of God and if he depends entirely on the will of the flesh in seeking the satisfaction of the natural man. When a people have been blessed of the Lord in knowledge and understanding and have received the truths of God through His word, and then they fall away into wickedness to the point that the Lord will no longer strive with them, then they become subject not only to the imaginations of their hearts but also to the power of Satan. At that point they will go against even that which is natural to the flesh and generally decent in behavior.

Certain signs can be seen leading up to such an unnatural state. The lack of chastity of women in behavior and dress along with the men's failure to respect and properly regard the woman indicates a lack of caution and restraint in controlling the natural will of the flesh. This leads to fornication and adultery which will cause divorce and destruction of families. This is only one step toward the greater whoredoms that inevitably will follow if not

corrected.

There is a certain attitude that is a definite sign of the direction the people are going when they follow that course. They become too familiar with one another concerning their private lives and talk openly and even brag about their sexual relationships with others. They defy all laws and social guidelines of behavior in their talk and actions. They like to shock those that try to maintain proper behavior. They indulge themselves with various forms of pornography and dirty jokes. Their varied sexual urges are encouraged rather than restrained. If the people continue in such lustful indulgences all sense of conscience and control is lost. They become subject to a Satanic force that has trapped them.

Down through the ages the mercy of God has kept many peoples from this type of destruction because of their ignorance. However those whom the Lord has enlightened through the gospel of Christ have reached a point of accountability that gives them a more full opportunity to rise to a higher spirituality and perfection. With that opportunity comes the consequence of the Lord giving them over to a reprobate mind as Paul has described, should that people turn away from the truth after being enlightened.

We dare not guess what all is involved in a people being turned over to a reprobate

mind, but Paul seemed to have a sure knowledge of such. His description gives us a reason to believe that homosexuality can be a part of that reprobate mind. Regardless of what actually brings about the desire toward a person of the same gender, whether it be physical, mental or spiritual, it is almost a sure thing that the environment of an over-indulged people with unrestrained lusts of the flesh has much to do with it.

This brings us to the dilemma that we are facing today in this country, the land of promise. The ripening in iniquity is evident in many things that affect us daily, which includes our government, schools, laws, entertainment, religions, etc. Although there are many people who hold to the basic moral values that are given in the scriptures, the more popular influences, such as television shows, movies, magazine articles, etc., have made light of moral behavior and mocked the more established ethics of past generations. The will to throw off traditions as being inhibiting is evident in most social activities today. Tragically, there is no effective resistance to the trends. In fact our government leaders and agencies have been pressured politically to favor the trends when they might otherwise have stood for the traditional ethics of the past.

Perhaps it would be well to review some of our traditional beliefs:

1 Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman viewed and rewarded by the Lord with a special bond of love between the two. To take for granted that special bond of love is to show disregard of God's presence in that relationship. Some may do so in ignorance and still retain a degree of the favor of the Lord. Those who willfully violate their covenant, however, will find themselves in the disfavor of the Lord and, unless there is sufficient repentance and restitution, they will remain there.

2 It is not the Lord's will that there be any sexual relationship between a man and woman before they have made their marriage covenant. The practice of living together as married people without having made a marriage covenant is in absolute violation of God's law and is in direct disrespect to the Lord. Such a sin can be repented of but it must be with the full intent of correcting one's lifestyle thereafter.

3 Divorce is not to be considered a recommended legal course of action when a husband and wife reach a certain point of incompatibility. Divorce is a breaking of the marriage covenant which the Lord has already blessed with a bond of love. Therefore restoring of the love between the two is needed, but only they can do that. Some outside counseling might be helpful by reminding them of the importance of God's

love in their personal lives and the importance of obeying God's will. Divorce may be inevitable, especially if the marriage covenant is broken by adultery. Even then the marriage covenant can be mended by full repentance and a full resolve to not repeat the sin. Also the innocent party must be willing to forgive the one who has sinned against their marriage. If both have sinned against the marriage covenant, both must repent of their sins and forgive each other.

4 The continued divorce and remarriage as is commonly done in this country is a flagrant disregard to God's will and is indicative of an open rebellion against Him. To willingly follow that trend while knowing that it is wrong is to bring the consequences of God's disfavor and condemnation upon oneself.

5 Promiscuous sexual relations, prostitution, rape, incest, polygamy, etc. are all abominations in the sight of God. In the scriptures they are called whoredoms. Such actions and activities indicate a lack of conscience and an over-indulgence of the will of the flesh. When these sins began to become commonplace and socially tolerated we can judge such a people as reaching a dangerous level of iniquity.

6 Homosexual relationships, no matter how socially accepted they may become, will never receive the special bond of

love from God that a marriage between a man and a woman receives. This is true by the simple fact that God never intended two men or two women to marry and establish a family relationship. Again the trend to accept such practices and relationships is an offense unto God.

Finally, we should be aware that God, as our Creator, has brought into being the very existence of human kind. He has a purpose for our existence which includes this day of probation. His purpose, among other things, is to test us by letting us experience physical urges toward the opposite sex. At the same time God has given us laws of conduct that if obeyed will guide us in a good marital relationship with a spouse and may also bless us with a family. This is true only to the point that His laws of conduct are obeyed. To go against His laws of conduct in our relationships with others is to bring sorrow and shame into our lives. God's laws of conduct can be found throughout His written word, the scriptures. Search them out that you might know the truth and live according to them so that you will not follow the trend of the world.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A REAL MISSIONARY STORY

Enroute from Independence to Denver recently in company with Brother Wheaton I was permitted the courtesy of looking into his diary. I was interested in learning of his first experience upon leaving home without purse or script. I asked him the privilege of using it for the *Advocate*. The Brother kindly consented and so here it is. We may say that we have several real missionaries who are only waiting the hour when they may go forth. Oh it is a real pleasure to go forth in active service in such a Cause.—*Ed.*

October 29, '25—Final preparations were completed today for me to make a trip to eastern points for the purpose of doing some Missionary work. Grips all packed for an early start. Odessa, Missouri, to be the first point of destination by invitation of a Mr. Bruce. Divided last change I had, consisting of a few pennies, with the children, having determined to go forth without purse or script. After prayers to bed for rest and an early start.

Oct. 30, '25—Up early and ready for the start. Breakfast over. Prayers for the welfare of the family in my absence. Fond farewells of Angela and the children taken. May the good Lord protect them. The journey begun. Fear to look back lest I waver in my resolution and return back to the arms of my family. Could not keep back the tears at departure, not knowing when or under what condition I might return. Stopped at the Post Office for expected mail. Had a fine talk with Brother Daniel MacGregor whom I met as per previous arrangement up on the square, in which he gave me much brotherly advice and counsel. Received first

financial help from two men who stopped and talked to us during this conversation. This enabled me to ride part way on the street cars. Out on the highway filled with hope and expectations for a profitable journey. Walked about an hour before I was able to receive any assistance. A kind hearted man stopped and gave me a ride to the crossroads of Lee's Summit and State highway No. 2. Walking again. Picked up again and carried to Grain Valley. Shades of evening are drawing around. Determined to stop at a cousins, Sister Miriam Mason. Directions to their home obtained, started out again. Picked up again and carried to the lane that led to the home above referred to. Twenty-seven miles covered today. Welcomed by Sister Mason and her husband, where I was provided with a warm supper and a comfortable place to sleep. Had a fine talk with both of them about home news and the gospel. To bed for a good night's rest.

Oct. 31 '25—Up for an early start. Breakfast over, farewells taken, and the days journey begun. Rode to town with Mr. Mason in his farm wagon. The morning air was crisp and invigorating. My mind reflected upon the mercies of God and I thought how wonderful was His creations as viewed in the early morning light. One thing particularly interesting to me was a large flock of sheep gathered together upon a high elevation. As this picture was presented to me I could not help but see the similarity between the gathering of the saints and the sheep, as shown by Christ, for they were gathered there for protection from the elements where they could have a wide view of the surrounding country side, where they could see the approach of preying beasts. So we also should be gathered together in Zion for protection where from the high-tower of righteousness we can observe the signs of the time.

After walking for about an hour I was picked up by a young man by the name of Oscar Davis of Memphis, Tenn., who carried me to Oak

Grove. There I made several house to house calls and distributed tracts and articles of faith. With proper means it is possible that an opening could be made here. Not having received any leadings of the Spirit to tarry, I moved on to Odessa, the point of destination. After about half an hour's walking I was picked up and carried to my destination. Arriving there I immediately inquired the way to Mr. Bruce's place. Going there I found that he was not at home and they did not know when he would be home. This brought my first disappointment. I walked back to the main highway filled with doubts and misgivings. I seemed to be left alone, felt no inspiration. I did not know which way to go. I was in the state of mind where I could easily have turned back and laid down the work. I seemed to be enveloped in a mist and did not know where I was going, but I decided to keep on walking until I could make up my mind what to do. I found myself traveling in the opposite direction from home. I walked many miles foot sore and weary. It seemed as though I was doomed to disappointment and failure in that which I had undertaken. Few people passed me going in my direction. Several times I was the object of jokes and raillery from passers by, which in my discouraged condition was like adding fuel to the flame.

As the shades of evening began to draw around me I came to an old country school house behind which was an old shed for sheltering the children's horses. I went into it and prayed for guidance. My whole soul was poured out to God in the anguish of my spirit for I was sorely tried and down hearted. My whole body ached from the unusual strain that had been imposed upon it, between my heavy grip and the exercise of walking so far. But during this brief communion with the Father I received comfort and strength. I had passed through the trial of my faith and had conquered. I was blessed with the spirit of inspi-

ration that flooded my soul and brought renewed strength and courage. There was no turning back now. I was prepared to go to the ends of the earth if it should be the Lord's will. My face was set firmly ahead. My heart was lighter, my footsteps firm and quick. The burdens of the day had rolled away and I was as fresh and strong as I was when starting out in the morning. How I rejoiced and praised God both in word of mouth and by song. I swung into a quick active pace to the tune of "My Faith Looks up to Thee," and "Jesus Lover of my Soul." I went on and on. Dusk came on and I prayed God to direct me to a place to stay all night. I heard the rapid approach of a car in the distance behind me. I did not signal for a ride for it was almost dark, but I heard the driver shut off the engine and the car came to a stop a few feet in front of me. A young man addressed me, offering me a ride in his car. After first friendly overtures were made he shifted his grips and invited me to ride with him. Exchanging the usual courtesies I found his name was Mr. Hanlon of New York. He asked me how far I was going. I was directed by the spirit to tell him I was going to St. Louis. This seemed to please him for he expressed himself as pleased to have companionship on so long a journey. (Thus far I had only traveled about forty miles in two days and it was two hundred and eighty miles from Kansas City to St. Louis.) Thus were my prayers for help immediately answered and I was traveling in a warm closed car into the night to the place where the Lord intended for me to make my first opening. I told him my mission and talked to him of the gospel. My manner of going into the field awoke in this man of the world an admiration and respect that was indeed cheering to me. In the course of time we came to a cross roads lunch stand and garage, where hot sandwiches were obtained and the car replenished with gas and oil. Our journey was then continued with a bright moon overhead that lighted our way over hill and dale and through a country side dotted with pleasant farms and villages. We arrived in Fulton, Missouri, about 11:25 P.M. Mr. Hanlon expressed himself as being determined to stop there for the night, and drew up to the entrance to a hotel. Thinking that it was the end of my

pleasant trip with him I alighted and thanked him for his kindness. Starting to leave him he asked me where I was going. I replied that I was going to find a place to stay all night. Here was evidenced another instance of God's watchcare over me, for this young man smiling said, "You will do nothing of the sort, for you are my guest till we reach St. Louis." Proceeding to the hotel he secured a room for each of us with bathroom facilities. He invited me to make my toilet, after which we retired to the restaurant and obtained a hot meal. Thus were the promises of old verified by the Lord. Retiring to my room I lost no time in falling on my knees and praising God for the way my seeming defeat was turned into a blessing.

Nov. 1, '25—Up at 5:30 cleaned up and ready for the developments of the day. My prayer was that God would soon open the way for me to preach the gospel. Breakfast obtained, we proceeded on our way to St. Louis, where we arrived about 11:30 A.M. Mr. Hanlon let me out at the Public Library. I thanked him for his kindness. He then revealed to me that he was a Catholic and member of the Knights of Columbus. My prayer to God was that he would bless him for the kindly treatment afforded one of His servants. The greatness of this city appalled me, for it was the largest city I had ever been in. Having obtained a sandwich with almost the last money I had, I began to make my plans for the work ahead of me. Remembering that Elder John W. Rushton was located at St. Louis I spent the last of my small store of change for car fare to the Church where I thought I might be able to find him, (for it was Sunday). I arrived there just at the close of services. Being introduced by him to several of the members I was invited to go with him to one of the members for dinner. This brother where we stopped then took several of us for a ride over the boulevards of the city, after which he left me at the church. Having nothing else to do I remained for the evening, where I assisted brother Rushton with the service. After the service I started to leave not knowing where I would stay for the night nor worrying for I had faith that the Lord would provide my every need. Asked where I was going I told them I had no definite place to go but would

find lodging somewhere for I was determined not to reveal to them my financial condition for fear that they would misconstrue my purposes in coming to the church. However the Lord over ruled in the matter and moved upon one of the members to take me into his home. Going home with him I was provided with a lunch after which we talked the gospel story till midnight in spite of my fatigued condition. Retired that night with the assurance from the Father that my opportunity for preaching the gospel in that city in a short time would come.

In the following days I perfected my plans for making my first attempt to start a series of meetings. The brother where I stayed the first night gave some money to us in prosecuting our work. With this I rented a small hall and prepared for meetings. Obtaining an opportunity to exchange some labor for printing I had some hand bills printed which we diligently circulated in the neighborhood of our mission and at the Reorganized church. The Lord blessed us in basket and in store. As the days went by, coal and fuel, food and a place to sleep were provided. Each instance was an example of the heavenly Father's watchful care. Holding services here for about ten days we succeeded in converting and baptizing several new members into the Church of Christ who had formerly belonged to the Catholic Church. One of the sisters had at one time contemplated being a Nun.

Many other interesting bits of information could be cited to prove that if we go forth believing that we will receive that which we ask for in faith, but what has been said will suffice. May these few experiences of the past in which I was permitted to go forth in the name of Christ and bless those that I came in contact with through the preaching of the gospel and administering to the sick encourage others to make the sacrifice for the cause of Christ. For I testify to you all that if you will put your trust in God and go forth in faith that you will not only be able to preach the gospel in "word," but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.—C.L.W.

—from the March, 1927,
Zion's Advocate

Love Thine Enemy

By Jim Gordon

Did Jesus love the scribes and the Pharisees? I say yes. In St. John, chapter six, verses 51, 52 and 53 we find:

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

Since the scribes and Pharisees were the rulers of the synagogue it was said in their presence, for if we continue with verses 59 and 60 we find this:

"These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"

It was indeed a hard saying, and before the crucifixion even his closest disciples didn't understand it, so why did he confuse the Pharisees with it? Jesus had many of these rhetorical encounters with the leaders of Judaism during his ministry and quite often he responded with a lesson that was impossible (from their point of view) to understand.

I used to think he was being unnecessarily hard on them, but I have since come to another conclusion. It was common practice among some great teachers of that time to start students out by showing them what they didn't know, and if they resisted, to humiliate them with their ignorance. What I believe we see between Jesus and the Pharisees was a form of tough love. When they felt they had all of the answers and most of them wrong what other choice did the Master have? He had to find a way to convince them that they had learned their religion wrong and needed to be retaught by him.

In John 13:7 we find the way Jesus handled Peter, a man who acknowledged his ignorance and was willing to do what

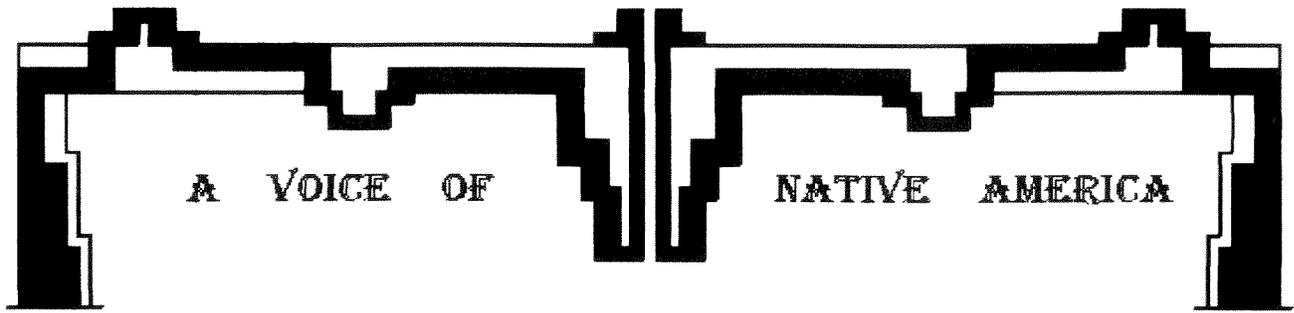
Jesus told him to do whether he understood it or not.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, what I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

Peter's humility about what he knew gave Jesus the opportunity to be kind in his teaching methods.

With all of the controversy about doctrine in the church today I wonder about this. Both sides can't be right. So if our Lord came to be among us today how would he treat us? Like the Pharisees or like Peter? The choice is really ours; but either way it would be an act of love.





Referring to "A Voice of Native America" as meaning the ancient Native Americans prior to the coming of the European, I would like to quote something written by such a person who lived about eighty-one years before Jesus was born. This is an American before this land was named America, a person who is a predecessor to the present-day Native Americans, commonly known as American Indians. This is a Native American by the name of Amulek.

"Now these are the words which Amulek preached unto the people who were in the land of Ammonihah, saying: I am Amulek; I am the son of Giddonah, who was the son of Ishmael, who was a descendant of Aminadi: And it was the same Aminadi who interpreted the writing which was upon the wall of the temple, which was written by the finger of God. And Aminadi was a descendant of Nephi, who was the son of Lehi, who came out of the land of Jerusalem, who was a descendant of Manasseh, who was the son of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt by the hands of his brethren" Alma 8:1-3.

Yes, my Native American

brethren, according to the words of this ancient American, Amulek, his ancient grandfather, Lehi, came from Jerusalem to this land that we now call America. This is the same Jerusalem that we read about in the Bible, the same Jerusalem where Jesus lived and established His church. It was from this Jerusalem, 600 years before Jesus was born, that God directed your ancient grandfather, Lehi, to emigrate to this land which was given to him and his descendants as a land of promise, this very land we now call America.

This same Lehi (the father of the American Indian) caused a record to be kept by his son, Nephi, telling us about some brass plates they had brought with them from Jerusalem. Nephi has this to say about these brass plates:

"And it came to pass that my father Lehi also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household

from perishing with famine. And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt, by that same God who had preserved them. And thus my father Lehi did discover the genealogy of his fathers" 1 Nephi 1:164-167.

Our vision is made clear then, by all of this, that your ancient Grandfather Lehi, being the father of most American Indians, was a descendant of his ancient Grandfather Joseph, who is of the house of Israel that the Bible speaks of. You are, therefore, also of the house of Israel and a recipient of the many blessings from God that were given to that house, or that family. This is the same family of which Jesus was born, out of the tribe of Judah (the Jews) and became the Christ, the Savior of the world. This is the family that Joseph was born from, the tribe of Joseph, and became the savior (temporally) of the house of Israel when he fed them during the seven-year famine as written in the Bible.

As the house of Israel, your ancient grandfathers have known God for many hundreds of years, and made covenants with Him, and promises have been passed down to you

through them. These promises and covenants are preserved for you in the written record that your ancient grandfathers kept as they lived on this land of America. They tell us in these very records they preserved that these words are especially for you, their descendants that would still be living in this day and age. Listen to one of these ancient writers, named Moroni, who wrote to you about 420 years after Christ, almost 1600 years ago:

“Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. And when ye shall receive these things, I

would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things” Moroni 10:3-5.

My Native American brethren, hear the voice of your ancient Native American grandfathers by reading the Book of Mormon, the very record they kept and preserved for you! This is the book they wrote and it will take you through the pages of time and history as you study and learn about the trials and accomplishments, of wars and peace, of love and hate, of triumph and despair: yes, of the life of your grandfathers and brethren. But most of all, you

will learn of the love of Jesus Christ that He felt for your people as He walked among them here in America! Christ established His church here in this land, taught faith, repentance, baptism, the laying on of hands for healing, blessing, and ordination. He taught the resurrection, eternal judgment and brotherly love of all mankind. He taught these things to *your* ancestors, and they want you to know and understand these things. You can read of these things in the Book of Mormon, which you can obtain by writing to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

Elder Gale I Brantner

Variety of Christians

- ✱ A lot of Christians are like wheelbarrows—no good unless they are pushed.
- ✱ Some are like canoes; they need to be paddled.
- ✱ Some are like kites; if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away.
- ✱ Some are like footballs;
- you can't tell which way they will bounce next.
- ✱ Some are like balloons, full of wind and ready to blow up.
- ✱ Some are like trailers; they have to be pulled along.
- ✱ Some are like neon lights;
- they keep going on and off.
- ✱ But, thankfully, some are like good watches—open-faced, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.

*Submitted by
Elder Allan Kauffman*

For You I Died

What would you do if I said I
loved you,
Would you say you loved Me
too?
What would you do if I said I
needed you,
Would you say you needed Me
too?

What would you do if I said I'd
walk with you,
Would you say you'd walk with
Me too?
What would you do if I said I'd
cried for you,
Would you say you'd cried for
Me too?

Lord, I love you, need you, for
you I've cried,
I've even tried to walk by Your
side.
Lord, do you love me, need
me, have You walked by my
side?
Yes, He answered—for you, my
child, I've even died.

~ Janeen Addie

Pray for Zion

Let us bow our heads and
pray,
That we soon shall see the
day,
When the Lord will send us
men,
Like grandsons of Benjamin.

Amlicites rule us today
In their rough God-flouting
way.
Innocent blood spilled on the
land,
By many a Lamanitish band.

See, oh Lord! If thou wouldst
please,
Surely we have need of these.
Tell us Lord ere strength is
spent,
How long before the land
repent.

Send us men both true and
strong,
For this boon, Oh Lord, we
long.

~ Jim Gordon

1998 LADIES' LUNCHEON CONFERENCE REPORT

1998 Ladies' Luncheon CONFERENCE REPORT

It is always a pleasure to report on our annual General church United Worker's Luncheon. It seems to get better and even more receptive every year!

We began by electing our new officers, which are as follows:

- **Chairwoman: Lisa Gill**
- **Assistant Chairs: Carrie Geier & Tricia Cardello**
- **Secretary: Melissa Seibel**
- **Treasurer: Irene Case**

We introduced a new slogan which states we are "Women United in Gospel Bonds to Love and Support." Our theme for discussion also surrounded our slogan.

We discussed ways to help our elderly and needy. We also collected a list of elderly and needy individuals, their addresses and locals attended. We are going to make a concerted effort to contact these people and help in any way we can.

We also introduced a new program called *Partners Addressing Letters (P.A.L.)*. All who wished to participate entered their name and address in a basket, and pulled out someone else's name. We were all



encouraged to write letters, make telephone calls or send e-mail to get to know this other person better. (All locals present participated.) Our door prizes this year were stationary and pens to remind us to stay in touch with our new PALs.

Our program, as always, centered on women's issues. We divided into groups and discussed seven questions. Our time was blessed by open communication, testimonies, laughter and tears.

The discussion questions are as follows:

1 Do you think the women of today have any more (or less) responsibilities than the women of the past?

Among the answers:

- More responsibilities, but less physical labor.
- Many are also helping to support the family monetarily.
- Must deal with the extra challenges of our society.
- Not necessarily *more* responsibilities, but different challenges.

2 How do you think women's roles have changed in the last generation?

Among the answers:

- Women have taken on too much responsibility.
- The focus is not in the home anymore. The focus is a second income.
- The sense of responsibility to care for the home and children is still present,

in spite of the gained income.

- Many more single mothers.
- Many more women are pursuing a higher education.
- Many children are raised in child care, instead of the home.
- Women have less respect.
- Divorce is more prevalent.
- Cellular phones, fax machines and computers keep women busy and increase stress levels.

3 What are some techniques you have used that help you get everything done? For example: what are some ways you have found that make housework more efficient?

Among the answers:

- Put things away as you use them.
- Use of lists, weekly menus, shopping lists and calendars.
- Delegating responsibilities.
- Complete one job before starting another.
- Stop and pray.
- Smile at my kids.
- Rotate jobs.
- Work together.

- Assign specific jobs to the children.
- Have husband help.
- "Clean Shower"—you don't have to scrub.
- Make lists of priorities.
- Buy five pounds of hamburger, make up several casseroles and put them in the freezer.
- Use a bread maker.
- Do multiple tasks.
- Accept lack of perfection.
- Use prayer to organize.
- Practice preventive maintenance.
- Keep up, so you don't have to catch up.

4 How do you know when you're doing too much?

Among the answers:

- I am too tired to care if it is done or not.
- Becoming crabby, irritable and angry.
- Can't sleep well or sleeping late.
- Feeling shaky inside.
- When things aren't done to your satisfaction.
- Tired in body and in mind—exhaustion.
- Getting nervous and edgy.
- When you're stressed

and your children are fighting for your attention.

- Making mistakes.
- Find it isn't fun anymore.
- Eventually physical illness.

Ways to feel better when you reach the point of doing TOO much:

- Hot bath, prayer, soft music, doing something for yourself, scream in the freezer!

5 Is there a point when you should say no when asked to do *one more* activity? Is it ever appropriate to say no when someone asks you for help? Why?

Among the answers: Yes, Yes, Yes!

- Know your limitations.
- Use common sense.
- You can develop a bad attitude.
- You can't care for someone else if you don't take care of yourself.
- You can begin to feel taken advantage of.
- You can't give important things the attention that they deserve.
- Sometimes you need to let people do the things that they should be

doing for themselves. It is better to teach them to do it for themselves. (We can handicap or enable them.)

- You need to keep a balanced life.
- It is okay to say no when it brings neglect to your family or to yourself.

6 Share some struggles you've had to maintain your integrity as a woman in Christ. How have you and God worked through them? What are some lessons you've learned from those struggles?

Among the answers:

- Avoid the very appearance of evil.
- Work on thinking righteously as well as doing righteously.
- Think of what Jesus would do.
- Patience with children—start counting.
- Pray and ask forgiveness and help—then keep praying.
- Hold your tongue.
- Don't let the shock of bad language, etc., wear off to become commonplace.
- Tolerance.

- Making a stand for what you know is right and eventually people will accept it.
- Confront anyone attempting to teach what you know is wrong.
- Keep your cool when you don't feel like it with God's help.
- You learn you can't go with the crowd—you must be a loner sometimes.

7 What are some suggestions you have to strengthen the bonds of support we have for each other? (Or, in other words, how could we support each other better?)

Among the answers:

- Sharing our time.
- Phone calls.
- Refrain from gossip—we don't need to know the specific problem or details to pray for that person or situation and have prayers answered.
- Always look for the good and lovely in each person.
- Have prayer partners.
- Share emotional support.
- Let them know you care about them even if they aren't having any trials, but especially

during their trials.

- Be encouraging, not negative.
- Listen—be open and honest.
- Show interest.
- Send letters, cards and e-mail.
- Take her to lunch.
- Be aware of each other's needs.
- Pray for the gift of charity—then use it.
- Hugs.

To conclude, we found that we have many things in common with our sisters. Overwhelmingly, we all agreed that prayer is our biggest help and support of each other for all situations. No matter what the challenge, we all have the best friend possible in God. He has always been there to help and always will be.

Ladies, let's keep the phones ringing, the e-mail typing, and the pens flowing!

See you next year!

*Your sister in Christ,
Carrie Geier*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLORADO REUNION

The Church of Christ, Orchard Mesa Local, 5233 B 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, will host the annual Colorado Reunion on **June 12, 13, and 14, 1998.**

We have thoroughly enjoyed the use of our new dining room this past year. We thank our Heavenly Father for this blessing, and extend our thanks to the brothers and sisters who helped make this a reality for us.

Please let us know if you are coming by contacting one of our committee to inquire about lodging with our local members, or motel accommodations.

John E. Bell

572 34 Road
Clifton, CO 81520
(970) 434-7100

Russell E. Bell

PO Box 1137
Palisade, CO 81526
(970) 464-4624

Marvin B. Carroll

2991 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
(970) 243-8567

We look forward to greeting all who come in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

ARIZONA CAMP for ALL AGES

- **WHEN**—July 3-5, 1998
- **WHERE**—Walnut Ranch, Heber, Arizona
- **HOW TO GET THERE**—One hour north of Payson, Arizona, on Highway 260. Turn west after mile post 299
Map available upon request.

Come join with us as we worship the Lord and study His word in the world's largest Ponderosa Pine forest. Cool nights, good company, and activities are planned for everyone. All are welcome to attend.

■ **CONTACT:**

Andy Brown
2916 E. Rockwood Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 569-9745

Aaron Moser
18829 N. 29th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 569-2414
Email: ace517@juno.com

1998 PHOENIX REUNION

The 1998 Phoenix Reunion will be held Friday, November 27th, through Sunday, November 29th, 1998. We invite everyone to come and worship the Lord with us.

■ **ANYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND OR WANTING INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Pastor Apostle Joel Yates
2924 E. Rockwood Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 569-9296

Asst. Pastor Apostle Brian McIndoo
18824 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
(602) 569-1900

1998 NEW YORK REUNION

- Hogansburg, New York
- **July 10th~July 12th, 1998**

Your Brothers and Sisters of the Akwesasne New York Local of the Church of Christ welcome all of our Brothers and Sisters in Canada and the United States to come fellowship and worship with them starting on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. July 10th thru Sunday afternoon July 12, 1998.

In order that the proper preparation may be made we would appreciate it if you would call or write the following:

■ **IN CANADA:**

Wayne and Susan Miller
868 Tollgate Rd.
Cornwall, Ontario
Canada K6H5R6
Phone (613) 953-5469

■ **IN THE UNITED STATES:**

Paul and Debbie Grant
Box 2 A. B.
Fort Covington, NY 12937
Phone: (518) 358-9409

Dale and Terri Waldruff
187 State Hwy. 37C
Massena, NY 13622
Phone: (315) 764-9571

Eli and Gretchen Tarbell
Box 21, Rt. 37
Hogansburg, NY 13655
Phone: (518) 358-2911

MICHIGAN REUNION

GREETINGS:

This year the Michigan Reunion will be held at the Bradley Local. We are happy to invite ALL to come.

- **DATE**—July 18th and 19th (note new month)
- **PLACE**—129th Ave., Bradley, Michigan

We have plenty of room for campers of any size.

CONTACT:

Bernie Ritsema
4889 Chief Noon Day Rd.
Hastings, MI 49058
Phone—(616) 945-5173

HOUSING AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING:

Elder Adam Porter
9 Market St.
Middleville, MI 49333
Phone—(616) 795-2694

or

Duane Lee
2054 Fawn Ave.
Middleville, MI 49333
Phone—(616) 795-7420

We look forward to many spiritual meetings and fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

Elder LaVerne Lussenden, Pastor
Elder Adam Porter, Assistant Pastor

MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 1998 Missouri Reunion, which will be held **August 7th, 8th and 9th, 1998**. All meetings will be held at the Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Roland Sarratt
15910 E. 36th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-6605

Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse
5713 Logan Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64136
(816) 356-9214

MISSOURI CAMP for ALL AGES

Greetings, Young, Old and In-Between,
The Missouri 1998 Camp for ALL Ages will be **September 26 and 27**, Saturday and Sunday. (Some will be going Friday.)

Please mark your calendar and enjoy a relaxing weekend full of family activities on Saturday. Gather with us Saturday evening around the bonfire as we share God's blessings and feel His mighty love.

Sunday we join together for an outdoor service still charged up from the night before, eager to receive more.

We have tentatively planned to camp at Talley Bend, about 30 minutes north of Collins, Missouri, on Hwy 13. We will update you as we get closer to the event.

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Fred Campbell at (816) 358-1575, or
Pat Fisher at (816) 358-5682.

Hope to see you there.
Fred Campbell

TRI-STATE REUNION

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior:

The Bemidji local would like to invite all our brothers and sisters to the 1998 Tri-State Reunion at Whitewater State Park, St. Charles, Minnesota, **Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7**. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship and spiritual feasting. Hope to see you there.

■ **ACCOMMODATIONS:** There are cabins available for our use. Please provide sleeping bags or bedding for your own use. Also, the weather in Minnesota can be chilly in September, so please plan accordingly.

■ **FEES:** A nominal fee is charged at the camp office.
Maps are available upon request.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Elder Peter P. Gould
4060 Islandview Dr., NE
Bemidji, MN
(218) 586-2774

Elder Samuel or Linda Gould
4060 Islandview Dr. NE
Bemidji, MN
(218) 586-2646

NEWS

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

My lilac bush was covered with beautiful lilacs this spring. You could smell their sweet perfume all around the yard. Soon the honeysuckle will be in bloom. These nice fragrances make mowing the lawn a little more pleasant. You know, if you look around real close you'll find that God nearly always provides us with some nice little "things" to improve our work-a-day lives. You just have to breathe in and—"smell the roses"!

Our prayer list seems to grow longer and longer, but with it has come news of many blessings that thrills my soul. I'm not very smart about the use of the computer, but I do have a great appreciation for the e-mail that keeps us in touch with so many of our church family, their needs, and their blessings.

The death of our Brother and Apostle Marvin Ely has saddened our hearts, and yet we are assured that his reward is sure and his rest is sweet. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to his wife Bernice and family. He set a wonderful example and was busy with the Father's work right up to the last. We will miss him so very much.

Easter Sunrise Services were again hosted by our friends at the Christian Church. We were amazed at the good attendance for such an early hour,

6:30 A.M.! We all enjoyed a nice breakfast together after the service and then attended services at our own church and enjoyed a great volunteer program at our regular meeting time of 10:00 A.M. We also had a very good attendance for services that day and with it a good spirit of love for one another. We would sure be happy to see all these folks on a regular basis. There is so much I'm sure we could share with each other, given the chance.

We have held our annual election of officers. Brother Allen Kauffman remains our pastor and Brother Jack Martin our assistant pastor. Brother Roma Harrison is our Sunday School superintendent and Brother Curtis Klotz is our assistant.

In closing, I will leave you with a few thoughts from my sermon notes.

- ◆ *A peculiar person in this day and age is a person who forgives!*
- ◆ *Don't set your beliefs in concrete, but in the word of God.*
- ◆ *Renew your faith, your knowledge, right-living, and above all—renew your love.*
- ◆ *Which one of you understood yesterday what you understand today?*
- ◆ *You can deceive the ministry, but not God. You have the choice to serve God or not.*
- ◆ *Choices have consequences.*
- ◆ *I'll recognize His voice—if I'm His sheep.*

- ◆ *Every time God deals with us, we become more mature.*
- ◆ *The whole duty of man is to serve God.*

Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

OBITUARY

In Memory of Harold H. Polack

~May 21, 1914 to January 13, 1998~

In the spring of the year 1914, near Maple City, the blossoms of the cherry orchards were ready to bloom, giving a hope of the expected harvest the famed fruit of the north-western Michigan area. It was this year on the 21st of May that Otto Polack and his wife Amanda became the proud parents of a boy, whom they named Harold. Thus began a sojourn of a life that was to affect many people with whom he came into contact. First there were his boyhood friends, school chums, and fellow comrades during World War II. Later, there were his coworkers at Parsons Corp. in Traverse City, Michigan, where Harold worked in propeller manufacturing and then those Harold worked with in Flint's Chevrolet plants until his retirement.

He entered the waters of baptism on the 22nd day of June 1952. By the 7th day of July of that year he was called to the office of a Teacher and ordained by Clarence Wheaton and Don Housknecht. On the 7th of June 1953 he was called and ordained a Priest by Peter Price and Don Housknecht. Then on October 7th, 1962, he was called and ordained to the office of an Elder by Don Housknecht and Otto Polack. Harold held this office until departing this life on the 13th day of January 1998, leaving family and

friends to mourn his departure. Among these are:

—His wife: Junella, whom he married on December 4th, 1980.

—His sons: John Polack, Ron Dutcher, and Carl Polack.

—His daughters: Amanda Felfe, Kip Polack, and Marjorie Polack (Marjorie preceded Harold in death in July of 1997).

—His brother Otto, of Michigan.

Harold served as Pastor of the Flint Local (1802 Utah Street; Flint, Michigan) until his retirement. Having arthritis quite severely, he decided to go to Phoenix hoping for relief from the disease, which was aggravated by the cold and damp of Michigan's weather. The move and change to a warm, dry climate helped ease these burdens significantly, and during this time he became active in promoting the Gospel, helping wherever and however he was able.

Harold's love for the Gospel never diminished, but as years went by, with his eyesight failing, he was obliged to let others do what he loved best, presenting the message of the Scriptures. His concern for his family and their spiritual welfare was always uppermost in his mind, second only to his love for the Gospel. The Book of Mormon was always dear to him, especially for such passages as Alma 9:41: "Therefore this life became a probationary state; a time

to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state, which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead."

He also took pleasure in Alma 3:100: "For the names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life; and unto them will I grant an inheritance at my right hand."

Music was important to Harold, but gospel songs—dear. Some of his favorites were: #148 *Scatter Good Seed* and #146 *Lord of Light*.

Life dealt him sorrows as well as joys, but disappointments never got him down. Some have said he would give the shirt off his back. He entered the door to the straight and narrow way on the 22nd day of June, 1952, committing himself to the Gospel and teaching its message to any that would listen. This zeal never diminished, carrying it with him to meet his God. Family and friends surely miss him, but we may all find solace in the gospel message of Malachi 3:16: "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."

We all say farewell for now dear brother, until we shall meet before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah.

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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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