

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*
1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 75

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NUMBER 9

WHAT IS LOVE?

Is love a moment suspended in time,
Filled with passion, wonder and awe?
Or is love a lifetime to be lived
Based on God's holy law?

Is love a dream upon which to build
According to one's desires?
Or is love a reality that is lived
With all experiences to inspire?

Is love a face you wistfully watch
As it goes fleetingly by?
Or is love the face you see each day
Through all changes as time does fly?

Is love a command to be obeyed
By those within our realm?
Or is love a giving of the heart,
A caring, sharing, with God at the helm?

Is love the ego from within,
All personal feelings to satisfy?
Or is love unselfishly given,
Our God to glorify?

If love is of the carnal man,
Then love can come and go.
But love as in God's wonderful plan
Is for the living; not for show.

Sr. Margret E. Gill

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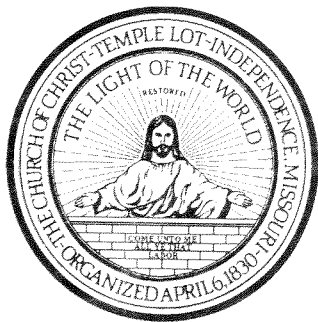
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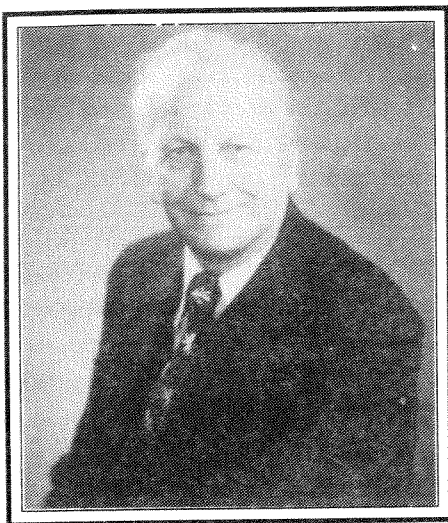
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
 To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

The Gathering

A Principle of God



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

(All scriptural emphasis mine.)

Part III

Having given an overview of prospects for the gathering of Israel (the twelve tribes), of our relative relationship, presumably being of Israel by blood (if not so, being Israel by adoption, if so be that we have been validly baptized into Christ), let us look at the gathering principle as applied to latter day saints, or those of the Restoration movement.

In retrospect, a gathering of the saints has been a dismal failure. It has not been because the commandment of God was

lacking, but because of failure of the people to truly obey the gospel of Christ.

“And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father’s kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay”
RLDS D&C 83:8.

(Some will arbitrarily reject this, simply because it is found in a book which does con-

tain obvious deviations from the truth as found in our accepted scriptures; but we need to look at matters objectively in the Spirit of truth, lest we be found to fight against the word of God. The D&C is readily available for examination.)

In the same vein, the children of Israel under Moses wandered in the wilderness for forty years, and it was not until that first generation had passed away, including Moses and Aaron (all except Joshua and Caleb) that their children were permitted to enter the promised land of Canaan. They had been a stiff-necked, disobedient generation who were constantly chastised of God, notwithstanding His marvelous provision for them throughout their travels. Please note that Moses and Aaron were not faultless before the Lord.

Lehi and his followers were brought to their promised land, and were blessed exceedingly until through pride, and a turning from righteousness, the fol-

lowers of Nephi were almost continually subjected to warfare from their brethren the Lamanites, who had previously turned to wickedness, and were used of God to chastise the Nephites. Of course, the Nephites were finally destroyed as a nation.

In like manner, the Church under Joseph Smith was directed to gather to the borders of the Lamanites, to western Missouri, where a temple is to be built in Independence, Missouri in honor to the God of Israel. Here is to be the center place of Zion, where the New Jerusalem is to be located, and where the saints of God are to be gathered in expectation of the second advent of Christ.

Unfortunately, the vision of Zion has been dimmed because of human interjections, the introduction of revelations inconsistent with the revealed word of God as found in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and because of the manifest unbelief or disobedience of many of our spiritual forbears, even from the top to the bottom, so to speak; and the spirit of unbelief continues. The frailties of man does not invalidate the word of God! Where do you stand in all this??

We might lamentably but profitably go into the various aspects of past failures, but such is not our purpose here. Suffice it to say that we too have wandered in a wilderness of confusion and division. The saints are not yet gathered into one. Zion languishes and the New

Jerusalem cannot be built except by the righteousness and unity of the saints.

The gathering of the saints is inextricably tied to the establishment of Zion, the building of the New Jerusalem and the holy temple of the Lord; and Zion can only be a reality through the operation of the principle of all things common as it was had by the saints of old.

The gathering of the saints is inextricably tied to the establishment of Zion, the building of the New Jerusalem and the holy temple of the Lord; and Zion can only be a reality through the operation of the principle of all things common as it was had by the saints of old. So, what will it take to bring a people to that holy condition? Must history continually repeat itself and there be a great travailing process in order that God may get the attention of the nations, and especially of His people Israel? Of the Church of Christ? Apparently this is so; yet there is hope.

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child (this is Zion; see also Rev. 12:5/w.a.s.). Who hath heard such a thing?

Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for **as soon as Zion travailed**, she brought forth her children.... For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river.... And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the **hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies**” Isa. 66:7, 8, 12, 14.

Thus far, the disposition of the latter day saint people to gather into one body has been blunted by the doctrines and ambitions of men. Each group of Restoration believers feels it is right, yet the proliferation of these is amazing—but sad. There continues to be a tenacious clinging to man-made offices such as a first presidency and of high priests and of patriarchs; a stubborn adherence to doctrinal innovations such as baptism for the dead, celestial marriage (even polygamy), exaltation of man to become gods (not simply sons of God), etc., etc.

When reduced to an examination of underlying principles and motives, these things reveal a trust in man rather than God; a placement of carnal idols above the worship of the invisible God; of disobedience to His word which cannot deviate from the basic precepts as found in the scriptures He has given. These are provided for our guidance by the insight and confir-

matory witness of the Holy Ghost. He has said:

"...Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath (naked tree/marginal reference, w.a.s.) in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh..." Jer. 17:5, 6.

This is true whether we speak of Joseph Smith or any other man. Yet a word of caution: Many are prone to one extreme or the other on doctrinal issues. The safest course is perhaps a middle ground, and to prove all things by our standards of faith, i.e., the Bible and Book of Mormon; but we should also be willing to give a proper respect to teachings of the divinely called servants of Christ, proving all things by that which is written. They could **possibly** have more light than ones self! Should we not, then, be teachable? But here enters in the matter of self-will, or stubbornness of heart. We should be valiant in testimony, and diligent students of the scriptures, but at the same time be as little children (easily taught), the lack of which will bar the entrance into Zion! Such will not be gathered as the saints of God.

Spiritual idols, idolization of men, and carnal or temporal idols such as the acquisition of money and "things," and the hoarding of them (all of which is "Babylon" or the "world") will be brought to naught (see Rev. 18); this also includes the engagement in worldly pleasures

at the expense of a consistent worship of God. These things must **FALL** in order that the kingdom of God, the Zion of God, may triumph by the gathering of the saints and the exaltation of Christ as King.

We are not saying what **should become a reality**, but what **WILL BE!** How? At what expense? The time will come, evidently through divine correction and chastisement, that—

"Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols?..." Hos. 14:8.

Is it not time for a voluntary correction of carelessness and indifference, a humbling of self in earnest prayer and change of course, conforming to the teachings of Christ? I suggest the following steps in an exit from Babylon toward Zion:

1 Rule out of the mind a belief that other churches are equally acceptable to God as the Church of Christ; that all churches claiming a belief in Christ are in fact His church. Joseph Smith was instructed by the Lord to join none of them, for their creeds were an abomination in His sight.

"...Those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity, and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I the Lord am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually..." Bk. of Com. 1: 5.

2 If the choice is ours, then refuse to break the Christian sabbath, which is the Lord's day (or Sunday), by indulgence in labors and activities which will not produce rest to the body and mind, nor be acceptable as the worship of God. Do not thine own pleasure on His holy day.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, Then shall thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth...for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" Isa. 58:13-14.

3 Do not engage in social activities or pleasures of any sort which, as matters of personal preference and frequent occurrence, separate us from the body of Christ and breaks the bond of fellowship and service to each other.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised); And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" Heb. 10: 23-25.

4 Shun association on a basis with those who have little or no moral direction in their lives, as judged by the gospel of Christ, except as it may assist them to come up higher.

"Nevertheless the children of God were commanded that they should gather together oft, and join in fasting and mighty prayer, in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who knew not God" Alma 4: 6.

5 Refuse to watch or permit our children to watch suggestive programming of sex on the TV and movies; programs of loose moral and marital standards; programs which foster use of alcohol and drugs as acceptable stimulants; programs devoted to violence and bloodshed, even in so-called cartoons. In a word: being quite restricted in the viewing of the TV, etc. Many today are not sensitive to loose standards.

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. I hate the work of them that turn aside: it shall not cleave to me" Psalm 101: 3.

6 Restriction in literature or music which is immoral or suggestive toward sex, drugs, or the gratification of other carnal desires.

"Remember, to be carnally minded is death, and to be spiritually minded, is life eternal" 2 Nephi 6: 74.

7 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain

words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" Ephesians 5: 3-6.

8 Let fighting by physical or mental force, or by the tongue, as a means of conquest, be put away. Put away a spirit of contention.

"And there shall be no disputations among you.... For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, which is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another" 3 Nephi 5: 29-30.

9 Narrowing of financial credit obligations to only essential needs, with the purpose of ultimate elimination.

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

10 If possible, do not trust in stocks, bonds, the interest system in any way, or economic means other than that produced through honest labor of body and mind to sustain your livelihood; and this only with the mental reservation that our real trust must be in God.

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ...He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved" Psalm 15: 1, 5.

11 Do not yield to gambling in any form: slot machines, public bingo games, horse/dog racing, with playing cards, roulette wheels, and the current national craze of lottery.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" 1 Tim. 6: 6-10.

12 Use no tobacco, alcohol or drugs aside from a medically approved need; and only so where faith in God does not suffice.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" 1 Cor. 3: 16-17.

13 Avoid connection with any secret societies, for their hidden works are darkness rather than light.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret" Eph. 5: 11, 12.

PATHLIGHTS

“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom”

If you're older (not too many are!) and wiser (many are!) than I am, you might be saddened to know how many years I wasted spiritual strength worrying about this scripture. It began to apply to my life about forty years ago, but I didn't understand it until the year of our Lord—1997. My thoughts went round and round and round, something like this: “Why does He want us to be afraid of Him? Why doesn't He want us, instead, to surrender our lives to Him because we love Him? That's what I would want!”

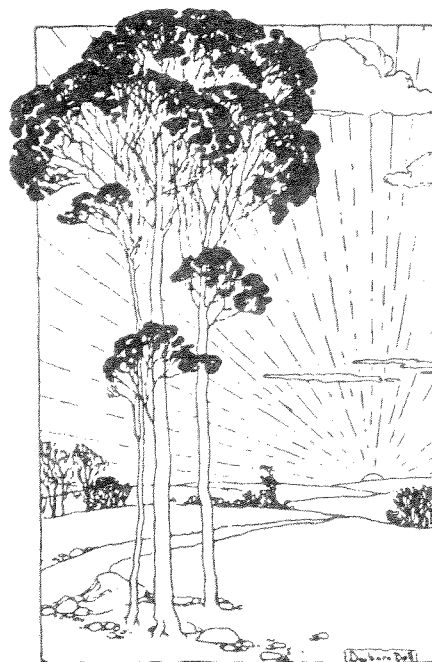
After all the years of wondering, recognition came quite swiftly, bringing such joy!

Here's the way it happened.

After World War II we came back to Arizona where my folks, Ruth and Don Willard, had started building a small motel and suggested that we put our six bits and strong young backs into the business with them. Done.

The new partnership built a service station which would keep Joe very busy for several years. I worked with my mother in operating the motel and an ambitious (but not too

successful) gift and curio store. My time in the store was confining but definitely not busy. In desperation I accepted the sec-



ond hand typewriter my dad had replaced and took on a personal project. I had accepted what my mother told me; now I became fascinated by the history and doctrine of the Church of Christ, which I had joined as a child but (never living where there was a local) pretty much forgotten.

I made copies of several documents my grandfather and uncle, James and Leon Yates,

had given me. And I read and read and read: scriptures, regular and varied Latter Day Saint history, archeology, anthropology, etc. Finally I came to a somewhat reluctant conclusion. My mother was right; the God she told of was real. The problem was that I was stunned by His inconceivable power. And He was—somewhere—far, far away. He couldn't possibly be interested in the human speck that was Donna. My childlike faith that He cared had been studied away.

Then one night I went to bed alone in our little house. Young Don was asleep; Joe was working late at the station. I felt like the only person alive in that dark, dark night. And I felt fear, such as I had never known!

Then I slowly came to a sharp awareness; I was not alone in the room. There was a Person with me, close and intimate, the very essence of Love. I seemed to be in the arms of Someone who cherished me. This embrace wrapped me for a wonderful moment.

Fear was gone; wisdom had begun.

Donna Moser

PATHLIGHTS

My Testimony

For many years I have been a strong believer, if imperfect in practice, of the "Word of wisdom." It therefore gives me great joy to share with you the following testimony.

Last Thanksgiving I flew to California to visit my sister and family. I was there one day and went into the hospital with a heart attack. The next morning they started running tests and could find no permanent damage to my heart. Many of you prayed for me and I am grateful for that. When I returned a few wanted to hear my testimony but it was too soon. I now feel I have one.

When I returned to work I nearly passed out twice on the job from weakness and shortness of breath. I couldn't sleep lying down because there was too much fluid in my lungs. I slept several nights sitting up in a chair. I started to make my health a matter of intense prayer.

With the exception of my shortness of breath, this has all been corrected. I am as strong now as I was before. I still have a slight shortness of breath, but this is more an annoyance than serious. And I might add that it goes on diminishing. I have stopped my medication.

The centerpiece of my attack on this problem has been to pray to God and listen for his

answers. I have been impressed to change my eating habits, sleeping habits and in general my lifestyle, diet and attitude. By attitude I mean I have been shown where the stress occurs in me and how to deal with it. And last I have been shown what vitamins to take. My recovery has been slow and difficult.

I would like to say that in listening to the Lord I never missed Him, but that would not be true. I would like to say that I always complied perfectly with what I was given, but that would be just as false. I can say that God has been merciful in all of this.

A testimony like this can't compete with the sensationalism of a miraculous healing, but having lived through it I consider it a great blessing. To have this kind of experience I had to stay close to the Lord in prayer and listen to His instructions carefully, and none of this would have happened if I had been healed instantly. It has been the means of much spiritual growth in me. When you rely on medicine you get the things that medicine can give. When you rely upon the Lord you get the things He can give. I much prefer the latter.

Jim Gordon

Two Kinds Of People

There are two kinds of people on this earth today;
Just two kinds of people and no more,
I say;

Not the sinner nor the saint, for tis well understood
That the good are part bad, and the bad are part good;

Not the rich nor the poor, for to count a man's wealth
You must first know the state of his conscience, his health;

Not the humble nor proud, for in life's little span
He who puts on vain airs is not counted a man;

Not the happy nor sad, for the swift flying years
Bring each man his laughter, and each man his tears.

Now the two kinds of people on the earth that I mean
Are the people who lift, and the people who lean.

Wherever you go you will find the world's masses
Are always divided in just these two classes;

And oddly enough you will find two, I mean,
That there's only one lifter to twenty that lean.

On which side are you? Are you easing the load
Of some over-taxed lifter, who toils down the road,

Or are you a leaner who lets others bear
Your portion of worry, of labor, of care?

Selected

1998 Michigan Reunion Report

62nd Reunion

Saturday, July 18th, was a beautiful morning as we opened our 62nd Reunion at the Bradley Local Church of Christ at 9 a.m. There were smiling faces and embraces as we greeted each other into the House of the Lord. Elder Adam Porter welcomed us.

We opened with song and Bro. Adam gave the opening prayer, after which he introduced Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse from Independence, Missouri, as our preacher of the hour for our opening sermon.

Brother Buzz spoke of Ecclesiastics 3 where it tells us a time for everything is appointed. This is our time to Praise the Lord and to prepare to meet God. In Rev. 20 we are told we will all stand before God and be judged. Romans 12 tells us not to be conformed to the world. Acts 2 tells us our cornerstone is Jesus Christ. It is from the cornerstone that all things are measured. God commands that Christ be our cornerstone, so we must diligently seek Him. We have a responsibility to use whatever gift the Holy Spirit has given us—daily. We have to be spiritually in tuned with God, making correc-

tions and adjustments to put Him first in our lives. Psalms 100 tells us to serve the Lord with gladness. Keep His commandments and He will bless you. We are in a spiritual warfare. We must stand strong against the wiles of the devil. We must gird our loins with the truth. Romans 5 tells us to glory in tribulations also—for they work patience; and patience, experience; and experience builds hope and a joy in knowing that God is in charge.

We closed with song and prayer.

Our second sermon of the reunion was given by Priest Emery Pinder after an opening song and prayer.

Brother Emery spoke of Psalms 111 where it tells us the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We should be afraid of offending God. Remember the Creator in the days of our youth, for they will come to pass. Cast your bread upon the water and some day they'll return unto you. Brother Emery asked the young people to read about Lehi's dream to gain insight into the Church of Christ. In 1 Nephi it refers to Columbus and people who were led to this land seeking religious freedom. He told us if we do not hold onto God we will not retain this land,

as the Indians before us lost it. Isaiah 14 speaks of how Satan will confuse things. In James it tells us to ask for wisdom. Bro. Emery said it is not the wind, but the set of the sail that determines the course. All souls are taken home to the God that gave them life. The righteous will be taken to paradise; the wicked will be cast down into outer darkness. Don't allow the teachings of man to lead us away. A lot of the gospel is not taught in the churches of today. The world is busy removing even Christ's words from scripture. Take time to search out the gospel of Christ, it is the time and our purpose for being here.

We closed with song and a prayer. We then enjoyed a wonderful meal provided for us and we fellowshiped with our loved ones.

At 1:30 p.m. we gathered in for a Song Service, with Elder LaVern Lussendon in charge. Many beautiful voices and musical instruments were heard making a joyful noise in praise unto our Lord.

At 2 p.m. our afternoon preaching service was opened with song and a prayer. Elder Gerry Case, from Ohio, was introduced as our preacher for the next sermon.

Brother Gerry asked a special prayer for our young people. He explained that the things the Lord brings into our lives prepares us for tomorrow. He asked us what our relationship with the Cornerstone is. He told us that our lives are very important, even more important if we are in the Lord's service. He reminded us of the story of Joseph who was sold into slavery in Egypt. He became a man of power over his brothers, yet had an attitude of wisdom (Gen. 45). Brother Gerry testified about how God took him from a job and moved him to Ohio for a reason. Now he has a group of people worshipping and learning there. God knows what is coming; we don't! He is preparing us. There are beginnings happening all over. The trials and sufferings are preparing us and conforming us to the image of Christ. Be obedient, go and offer to support those in need. Everyone in the body of Christ is to serve in some way.

We closed with song and prayer. After a short break we again assembled for another preaching service. Elder Merlin Eddy from Minnesota was introduced as our preacher for the hour.

Brother Merlin told us that we must take every opportunity to help others, other things will wait. We only have a limited amount of time; we must use it right. We will be judged on our choices. He spoke of II Nephi where it tells us that sin is the willful choosing of wrong when we know right. He admonished

us to look to the Lord for the answers to life's problems and for rest. In II Nephi 5:90-92 it tells us to look to the Lord for comfort. We must realize that suffering is quite often the consequence of our actions. In Alma 4:1-6, it tells us we should pray for each other as well as ourselves. In Proverbs 2:1-15, it tells us to apply our heart, for wisdom and understanding come from God. Brother Merlin told us that this is our probationary state. Everyone has a different time line and no one knows where they are at in it. Do not procrastinate. In Helaman 2:73, it tells us He sent His angels to declare the tidings of the conditions of repentance. If we are built upon that Rock, we cannot fail. Bro. Merlin admonished us to read chapters 3 and 4 in Helaman.

We closed with song and prayer. We enjoyed another fine meal provided by the Bradley Local and fellowship with our church family. At 6:15 p.m., we gathered in once again. We opened with song and a prayer and Elder Conley Addington was introduced as our preacher of the hour.

Brother Conley greeted us and then spoke about the experience that his family went through just the week before when his son-in-law nearly died after having a seizure while swimming. In the First Epistle of John, we are told the light is manifest, we receive it and we bear witness to it. We bear fellowship with God and His son and each other. The Spirit was

here today and it will be here tomorrow. Our joy is in Him; we must walk in His light, fellowship with Him and with each other. We must walk in truth and confess our sins and ask for forgiveness for them. We must know His commandments and keep them. It's so sad; there are people who believe there is no devil and no hell; they will learn, for upon their death they'll know. We're told, "Love not the world nor the things that are in the world. For if any man loveth the world then the Father is not in him, for all that is in the world is not of the Father..." He that does the will of God will abide forever. Listen for the Spirit of God to whisper in your ear, that still small voice that speaks to your heart. The devil also whispers in your ear giving you ideas that lead you to no good; you need to try the Spirit. God knows what is in our hearts. He knows the truth and you know also if you have His truth in you. God has to be first in our lives, even before ourselves. We must please Him first! God called all of us out of the world to live this life and belong to this church. We must listen for His direction, discern His Spirit, and assist each other any way that we can. God knows everything about you and me. With the help of God we can do anything! Our loving God works in mysterious ways. Let's remember everything that we heard today. God did not call us out of the world to be part of the world. He called us out to feed His sheep, let His light

Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." In James it tells us that faith without works is dead. III Nephi 13:1-6 tells us that out of the books in which all things are written shall we be judged. Therefore what manner of man had ye ought to be? "Whatsoever things ye shall ask the Father, in my name, it shall be given unto you; therefore ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you;

for he that asketh, receiveth, and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." How often do we knock? We must open that door. We must be very careful that we don't try to do it all ourselves; we must rely on the Lord; it's from Him that all blessings flow. Obedience is not walking our own way. In closing, Elder Aaron Heath read Tim. 4:1-3 to sum up the reunion. He gave his thanks for such

a wonderful reunion; we were truly blessed.

We closed with a song and prayer. Deserts were served as we said our good-byes to our brothers and sisters.

*In Loving Bonds,
Your reporter,
Sister Deb Brantner*



Ordination of Placido Koyoc Yam to the office of apostle on August 9, 1998, at the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, by Apostles Don McIndoo and Jay Moser.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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 85050
(602) 569-9296

Asst. Pastor Apostle Brian McIndoo
18824 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-1900

We hope to see you there!

NEWS

PHOENIX NEWS

Greetings from sweltering Phoenix! Looking back over this quarter, it has been a time of great losses and great blessings. This spring we lost the fellowship of Dewayne and Margaret Owen who moved to Alaska. We miss them so much that Bill and Karin Malone have already been up to visit. Apostles Brian McIndoo and Joel Yates are planning their first missionary trip to Alaska and the other north-western states in the near future. Chuck and Amy Pinder and daughters Kelley and Amanda have returned to their home state of Michigan. Our loss is Michigan's gain. We know they will be a blessing to the Flint local where they are attending.

A loss none of us were prepared for was the death of our brother Mike Malone. His funeral was filled with many tributes to his generosity and kindness. After Mike's funeral we sadly said goodbye to his wife Verda, daughter Leigh Anne, and three precious grandchildren. There's lots of empty arms missing those babies.

We're thankful to have the sunny smile of Rebecca Owen still with us. Rebecca had been planning to defect to Missouri this summer but we get to keep her after all. And we're thrilled to welcome aboard Cody Hedrick, the first child of Bob and Liza Hedrick, and McKenna Yates, the third for Joel and Jennifer Yates.

We've been blessed with five baptisms since spring. Amy Pinder, daughters Kelley and Amanda, Andy and Debbie Brown, sons Andrew and Nathan, and Joel Yates with kids Aimee and Zachary got together at Bruce and Sylvia Harvey's for ball and barbeque. The following day we met at Wheatfields Lake where Bruce and Sylvia were baptized. Mary Chee, her daughter Kathy Begay, and Kathy's children Missy, Adrian and Dubin attended the serv-

ice. Mary's son Leonard Peterson, Tammy Kee and their daughter Angel also joined us.

A week or so later little Angel was blessed in a beautiful service in Fort Defiance.

At the Arizona camp for all ages Bruce Jr. and LaTasha, Bruce and Sylvia Harvey's two eldest children were baptized. The dark sky that day threatened to get more than the candidates for baptism wet, but during the confirmation the sun's rays broke through the clouds to light up our little spot in the woods.

And our most recent baptism is Pat McCollum. Pat is the wife of Mark McCollum, mother of Kim Scher and Grandma of Shandra Vega and Nikki and Abbie Scher. We're sure glad this is a family affair!

Please remember all the new members in prayer. Right now they are all isolated members who face difficult obstacles.

We've had two fun outings at Wheatfield lake this summer. One weekend we visited with Randy and Cornelia Nez of Albuquerque and their extended families. A few weeks later the Oars, the Andy Brown family, Marvin Carroll from Colorado, Mary Chee, Kathy Begay and kids, and the Bruce Harvey family all got together for food, fishing and fellowship.

Bruce Harvey Jr., Samantha Upshaw, and Missy Peterson traveled with us from the Navajo nation to the Missouri Youth camp. Missy's cousin D.J. (Danielle) Mike from Mesa came too. Nikki Scher from Phoenix rode shotgun most of the way and kept the driver awake.

We're continuing to visit D.J.'s family, the Sloans to do lessons with the kids.

We've been blessed with a continuing series of special studies to fortify our faith. Don McIndoo and Bob Hedrick have done presentations on answering

criticisms of the Book of Mormon. Don McIndoo has given us archeological evidences of the Book of Mormon. Brian McIndoo did a presentation on The Mark of the Beast and Gordon McCann and Don McIndoo did a study on Fasting and Prayer.

One of the greatest blessings of the summer were the visits of Placido Koyoc Yam and his son Placido Koyoc Matu of Yucatan, Mexico. Placido Sr. shared with us the testimony of his calling. Placido Jr. asked for our prayers. He said he has faith that God will give him a witness of his calling.

Before returning to Mexico Placido Senior gave us a powerful sermon on the importance of fasting and prayer. He told us the testimonies of two young men whose families fought against their commitment to the gospel. One young man would remain after church was over to pray for his family. Another took a day off work each week to fast and pray for his loved ones. In Mexico the loss of a day's pay is a great sacrifice. Through fasting and prayer the families of both these men are coming around.

Don McIndoo, Ken Oar and Marvin Carroll manned the booth at the Navajo fair this year. They had better luck with the kids than the adults. Only a few people signed up for visits from the ministry but the kids picked up lots of coloring books and sample Sunday school lessons.

Until next time, God bless you all. In closing, here are a few sermon quotes:

- *You would not grow if everything was comfortable. Your character would remain stagnant.*
- *If one person turns to God because of something you did or said, that's the joy that lasts forever.*
- *The whole ordeal of waiting for*

whatever it might be in our lives, is to make us perfect.

- *We strive for perfection and that's our ultimate goal but along the way we make progress.*

- *People are going to arise and even enter God's church in an effort to deceive people.*

- *Does what you speak effectively promote Christ; does it promote unity*

in the body?

- *If you don't practice the Christian disciplines of prayer and study and fasting, you're going to fail.*

COLLINS, MISSOURI

The summer has rushed in with its heat and high humidity, then settled back with some wonderful rains and a few days of cooler weather. I'm already seeing quite a few falling leaves, but then again, it is August. It's almost time for school to start too. Everyone is busy buying school supplies and new clothes to send their kids back to school. This year, Sheala, my four-year-old red-headed grand-daughter, who lives next door, gets to go to pre-school. She's really looking forward to going. There's so much to learn. I can hardly believe it's time for her to get down from my lap and get on a school bus. How can the time have gone by so quickly? Remember to pray for the children.

Our young brother of 32 years, Craig Yates, passed from this life in his sleep early Sunday morning, July 5th, 1998. Craig is the son of Wallace and Geraldine Yates of Preston, Missouri, and the brother of Beth and Janelle. Craig was a kind and gentle young man who never complained even though the disease that afflicted him left him unable to walk or care for himself in any way.

Craig's Funeral service was conducted by Brother Allen Kauffman. Roma Harrison was asked to read the obituary and Craig's sister, Janelle, read a poem she had written for and about Craig. Both Roma and Janelle shared stories with everyone about Craig and the kind of person he was. Geraldine stood and thanked all the many who came for their love and support. The service was touched by a

sweet spirit, giving us an assurance that God knows and cares. Wallace was able to come to the funeral home awhile before the service and see the peace on Craig's face, then returned to the nursing home in Camdenton.

Also gone from our midst is our dear Sister Francis Yates, widow to Apostle E. Leon Yates. Francis died Saturday morning, August 1st, 1998, at the nursing home in Bolivar, where she had been a resident for some time.

I don't know or understand "why" our good people have to suffer as they do, but I believe and trust in God's wisdom. Now our sister has her rest. May we have peace in that.

Funeral services (at this writing) will be held here at the Collins Local with Brother and Apostle Don McIndoo in charge. She will be buried beside her husband at the Little Niangua Cemetery near Preston, Missouri.

Francis was a good person. Leon used to tell "funnies" on her, to which she always laughed along with too. Leon and Francis loved each other very much and they loved the gospel of Jesus Christ and spent many years sharing and teaching it to all who would listen. I thank God that I was privileged to know these wonderful people.

Our brother and sister, Jack and Betty Martin, have taken a leave of absence from us and gone on a trip to the northern parts of the U.S. to visit Mackinaw Island and various places. I'm very happy for them to be able to go and hope they enjoy themselves tremendously, but—it sure isn't the same here without them. And no,

I don't know just when they'll be back, but I already miss them and they only left two days ago!

Our brother, Roma Harrison has been having trouble with his throat and had a procedure done to open up "something" in there that will allow him to swallow easier. The procedure only took nine minutes and he came through it all wonderfully well. He was, as you might imagine, administered to prior to this and so was not apprehensive at all. God knows our needs and provides for us.

I'll leave you now with a few sermon quotes to consider.

- *Would we be among the "more righteous"?*
- *Our mind has to be in tune with God. How? By reading the scriptures and prayer.*
- *Consider the things we do everyday—and what we do to glorify God.*
- *Worry is like a rocking chair—it gives you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere!*
- *I want to lead by following-Jesus Christ.*
- *Prayer is our first choice-not our last chance.*
- *"Endeavor to perservere."*
- *Just your "appearance" at church will not make you righteous.*
- *Let us not be weary in well doing. . . .*

Your reporter, Czerna Kauffman

TEMPLE LOT NEWS

With September came changes in the weather, changes in the colors around us, and changes in the lives of many of our local. In May, six of our young people finished up their high school years. Three of them have recently traveled to colleges. Aubrey Case, daughter of Don and Bonnie, is attending Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Stacy Hill, daughter of Mark and Lana, began studies at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri. Justin Stancil, son of Jane Ann, (who is a member of the East Local but visits the Temple Lot) is now attending Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Three young men are continuing to work before beginning their studies: Oliver Housknecht, son of Gary and Neva; Ben Smith, son of Danny and Marilyn; and Luke Wiley, son of Clete and Nancy.

Tabitha Sheldon, daughter of Randy and Becky, who attended two years at a nearby community college, is now finishing her education at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. Meghann Welch, Gary and Janice's daughter, has also moved to continue her studies on the campus of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri. It is an exciting time for all of them, and we pray for their success. We are thankful, though, that most of them are still able to come to the local for services. Aubrey is far away, but is in our prayers and e-mail.

Moves were also made by families. Scott and Marie Hale are back in the Midwest after being stationed with the U.S. Navy in Sicily. Scott is temporarily stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, and they are living in Lansing, Kansas. We are thrilled to have Scott and Marie and their children, Annie, Becky and Sean, at our weekly services. Marie is the daughter of Marvin and Edith Case.

Marvin and Edith's son Johnny was

also relocated before school started. Johnny and his wife Barb are members of the local, but have lived away from the area for years because of his job. They moved to Loveland, Colorado, and have three college age sons, Gabe, Matt and Toby. There were spiritual new beginnings also. On Sunday morning, June 16, our young brother, Bryan Case, son of Benny and Patsy, was baptized by his grandfather, Elder and Evangelist Marvin Case. Bryan's father and his Uncle Johnny Case joined Marvin for the laying on of hands for the Holy Ghost. Bryan lives with his family at Round Rock, Texas.

That evening, two of our young sisters, Courtney and Lindsey Rudd, were baptized at the East Local by their grandfather Apostle Frank Fann. Elder Larry Beem joined Apostle Fann to administer the laying on of hands. Courtney and Lindsey are the daughters of David and Becky, and granddaughters of Virgil and Grace Rudd. Erica Olson, daughter of Rick and Becky of the East Local, was also baptized at that time. The girls are a joy to both locals.

On August 11, following Missouri Reunion, Aubrey Case was baptized by her grandfather, Elder and Bishop Leslie Case. The laying on of hands was administered by Apostle Don McIndoo and Brother Leslie. Aubrey stood the following night and shared her testimony of the great joy she felt after her baptism. A few days afterwards, she left for college in Ohio. We were thankful that she would not be alone. She would have a Comforter with her.

The changes continued. Two deaths this summer touched the lives of many of our members. Brother Floyd Denham died June 1st. Brother Denham and his wife Betty had a large family in this area. His daughters Angelita Sprague and Barbara Denham attend at the Temple Lot, along with many of his extended family. Brother Denham had been a member of the church since 1945.

On July 16, a young sister, Nicole

Housknecht died. She was the daughter of Victor and Jody Housknecht. Her grandparents, Dick and Velma Wheaton, and several aunts and uncles who are members of the local, kept us informed during her courageous fight against cancer. Those of us who were unacquainted with Nicole in the beginning of her illness came to love her through our prayers and concern.

Anniversary wishes were extended to our brother and sister Nicholas and Dorothy Denham on their 65th wedding anniversary, on July 15. Their commitment to their marriage and to God has been an inspiration to us. Our sister Bertha Case celebrated her 98th birthday on September 15. Sister Bertha still attends on Sunday mornings when she can.

Local and Sunday school business meetings were held in September. Elder and Bishop Alvin Harris was voted in as pastor. Elder Gary Housknecht will assist him. Brother Steven Gill was elected for Sunday School superintendent and will be assisted by Brother Steven Kimball.

The following Sunday, previous superintendent Brother Don Case had a promotion service for the children. The classes came up one by one, receiving certificates and gifts, and having their pictures taken. It was a time of great joy for us. The classes were large, ranging in size from 5 to 28 pupils. There were 4 year olds through 18 year olds, and there was hope. There was the hope for the life of the local, vibrant and full of youth. As family, friends, teachers and ministry watched, we felt the challenge to keep a watch over them. They would need our guidance, prayers and encouragement. We would need their strength and enthusiasm. It is the commitment of the local to their youth to shore them up and to support and encourage the families.

*God bless you all,
Debbie Vogel*

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