

Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

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A NATIONAL PRAYER

Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and, in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

—Thomas Jefferson



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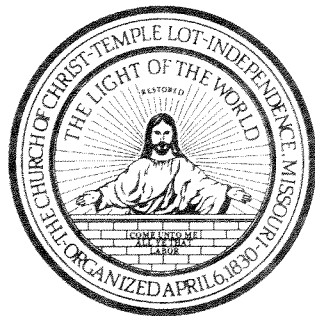
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To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

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CONTENTIONS

By the late
Apostle Thomas E. Barton, Sr.

Contentions are those acts of strife or words that usually mark the dispositions of individuals who will condescend or stoop to indulge in its vain glory and its ruthless satanic accomplishments.

As a young man, the writer studied the art of debate and all those things that would be of help to be successful in debate. When he was placed in a position of responsibility he thought it proper and his duty to defend what he thought was right. Regardless, and in quite a measure, he was somewhat successful. But now I know I must have been a complete failure in the eyes of the Lord, because I had disregarded that divine commandment of the Master in Third Book of Nephi, chapter 5, verses 29-31, when He said:

“And there shall be no disputations among you, as there has hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my

doctrine, as there has hitherto been; For verily, verily I say unto you, **He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil**, who is the father of contention and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another; Behold this is not my doctrine to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; But this is my doctrine that such things should be done away.”

This question (subject, TEB, Jr.) was so important that the Master spoke of it twice afterwards to the Nephites, once in connection with non-members attending meetings. He said in Third Book of Nephi, chapter 8, verses 67-68:

“And I give you these commandments, because of the disputations which have been among you. And blessed are ye if ye have no disputations among you.”

The other one was in connection of the name of the Church in verse 17:

Contention is contrary to the whole philosophy of the gospel of Christ.

“And the Lord said unto them, verily, verily I say unto you, why is it that the people should murmur and dispute because of this thing?”

Contention is contrary to the whole philosophy of the gospel of Christ. By contention one seeks to force his views upon others, whereas the Master commanded:

“...Ye shall not resist evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn the other to him also, And if any man shall sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.”

Contentions are absolutely foreign to the spirit of the above. I sometimes think that possibly contentions and vengeance are related. It is human nature to retaliate and seek vengeance.

But the Master said: "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." And when contentions are heaped upon you and that human within stirs you to retaliate, say to yourself, hold your tongue, then bow your head and silently pray: "Lord forgive them, and let not this evil be perpetrated upon Thy people," and I am quite sure that the Lord will take care of it the same as he does vengeance. There can be no accomplishment in the Gospel without faith. Let us use a little.

I came into the Church of Christ in 1925, and knowing the ups and downs, the successes and failures since, as I do, I believe that if we could have had no contentions, from then until now, that our membership would be greater than all the other factions of the restoration put together.

Contentions cause discouragement, weaken faith, slacken zeal and cause the weak to drop by the way. It causes division and schism. King Benjamin realized this and he warned his people in the Book of Mosiah, chapter 1, verses 73-74:

"But O my people, beware lest ye list to obey the evil spirit, which was spoken of by my father Mosiah. For there is a wo pronounced upon him who listeth to obey that spirit: for if he listeth to obey him and remain and dieth in his sins, the same drinketh damnation to his own soul."

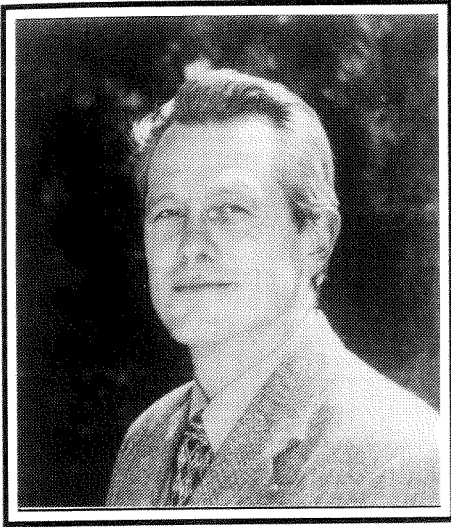
The Master in the 24th chapter of Matthew spoke of the very conditions that are in the church today, and it should be a solemn warning:

Contentions cause discouragement, weaken faith, slacken zeal and cause the weak to drop by the way. It causes division and schism.

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made him ruler over his household to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find him so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants and to eat and drink with the drunken, The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" Matthew 24:45-51.

(The preceding was written by the late Apostle Thomas E. Barton Sr. in his own handwriting, and was typed and corrected by TEB, Jr. It is not known whether or not that was the intended ending, but to me it was adequate. TEB, Jr.)

\$PYRAMIDS\$ IN AMERICA



By Apostle Alvin J. Moser

I apologize for any offense that results from this article. It is an attempt to provide an outside voice to those who find themselves immersed in the common practice of seeking riches or "financial freedom" as its termed today. It comes with a prayer and hope for the wellbeing of all concerned. Words or sentences found within quotation marks are as I heard them and wrote them down on my note pad.

TAPE ONE:

"Go for the Gold" is what he said. That translates "seek

ye first the things of the world and righteousness and the kingdom of heaven shall be added unto you."

Recently I received two tapes from a friend. Motivation was their purpose. The authors of these tapes were really working hard to inspire me to seek their goals. If I disagreed with them I'm a "loser." Oh well, so I'm a loser.

Signing up seems to be very important to the speakers. "Make a commitment" they yelled. I think it was equivalent to initiation or baptism. I certainly felt like I was listening to a revival meeting. Clichés like "never quit" or "this is your chance" were repeated over and over again. "Go for your dream" and "there's just two kinds of people, winners and losers" are other phrases that are used to entice us into the "I'm somebody" club.

Perhaps by now you know that I'm talking about the well-known American money pyramid. Lots of people get into them and some make a large amount of money. All you need to do is enter and it's all for the taking. However, you will need

to become the financial pastor for a group under you (at least two dozen couples). You are nobody going nowhere if you don't. These groups are not only spiritually blind but they distract good people from the pursuit of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and they operate on the fringe of legal-illegal all the time.

"You got to build your life with who comes and forget everybody else." The "who comes" are the souls that are seeking to become somebody like you. Selling their goods and or services will provide us with something better than the average mortal will receive from this life. "Believe in you, you have the only vote that counts." "Don't let others write your directions for you," they say. As a point of interest they go so far as to say that you should sever ties in the world that would discourage you from your "going for the gold." That statement is the most telling of all. It is the same type of hype used by any dangerous cult around. Separate from others that would dissuade you from the "goal." They say "we believe in you,"

and "so many people believe in you." This is a real carrot to dangle in front of the face of someone whose relationship with Jesus Christ needs strengthening. Sufficiency is of Christ and in Christ and not in the ways of man that will perish when we leave this life.

"You're going to eat our smoke," they said of all those who nay-say their program. We are going to be "bigger and richer" than those who "give the same stupid answers" and have the "same stupid looks." These words were in reference to those who advocate working hard the old fashioned way. "Some day you're going to want to be my maid, or pack up my scraps," was the revenge attitude preached during this revival (convention).

Carnal appeals: touch it, feel it, wear it, buy it, drive it and live in it are supposed to be your goals. "Praying for success" is urged by some of the evangelists (speakers) of this well-known marketing group. The success prayed for is mostly egocentric in nature. It was even advocated that you farm out the children for four or five days while you go to your pep sales revival, even if it's hard on others. You must remember the goal "success or the pits," "stretch or die" and "struggle, struggle, fight, fight."

They evoke the name God often. They say He knows what you want and He wants you to be happy and wants you to go for the gold. Perhaps this is what makes them feel that this pur-

suit of riches and glory is sanctioned by heaven. You are taught that you will be able to do what is important to you if you will only make the sacrifices now. The speaker said he was hanging by a thread until his preacher (pastor of sales) saved him. "We are the truth...everything else is fantasy." That statement is absolutely an abomination. Jesus said, "I am the truth." He was not talking about networking.

What are those things and activities that will be sacrificed? You've got to stay till the end and be the last one to leave (the convention or sales meeting). "I didn't mind missing the life style we were in at the time," he said. That includes church attendance. "Your personal dreams are the most important," to the exclusion of all else. The only thing that is anything is "this business," he said with great confidence. Don't work for anyone else but you was not the teaching of Christ or His disciples, but to them it is the ultimate goal. The goal: "you want so many things...buying, looking good." You've got to get people on the right track (your sales track). Why is that? He says, "I want my wife to have the best."

Self-esteem or self-image is given as a reason for making their company your choice, by the way "the only choice." The path to a better self-image is through clothing, and I heard the word "car" mentioned repeatedly. "Charter planes, jets, limos, 12 cars in the driveway,

two homes," are the kinds of things that will give you a better self-image. Self-esteem means rob the poor. That spells selfish, self-important and self-involved.

2 Nephi 12:15: "They rob the poor, because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor, because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek, and the poor in heart; because in their pride, they are puffed up."

God has spoken in simple words.

3 Nephi 9:103: "Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and *thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands.*"

Warnings from old say God will remove idols of the heart. To these people self-image is worldly success rather than a meek and lowly heart in the image of Christ.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.

Name-dropping, "You can meet successful people." "Don't allow yourself anything but success." "Sell, sell, sell, struggling, struggling." All you need to be with famous name people is sell their product and go to their conventions. The use of famous people is supposed to somehow sanctify the

organization and its methods. About this time the statement is thrown in "We believe in God almighty." That is heavy name dropping. Then the clincher comes, "I have sold myself out to this business...more and more committed everyday." Interesting choice of words, "sold myself out."

They advocate prayer and a type of worship. "Live by real faith...your personal dreams." "Pray in your faith...thousands are praying with you." "Confess your beliefs." We are a "family gathering of believers," referring to the revival meeting (convention). "We believe in God's creation, us." "Confess...share your private things (desires)." "Get rid of your pride (resistance to their methods)." "It's your future, it's your life." "Believe in you." They give testimonies, "I was a nobody going nowhere." "God help us, we're messes." They admonish you to higher planes, "Every man should help his wife get the desires of her heart, every woman should help her husband get the desires of his heart." They make commitments to the family, "If you want it I'll get it." They admonish you to study to shew thyself approved, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, "You got more books, tapes and helps than any of us had."

Intimidation is also their tactic. They say they want "success oriented" people. Therefore, if you don't want their

product or to sell you product you belong to the lower class. Few people are able to accept this kind of faultfinding. "If you don't like (company name) you're stupid." You are encouraged to look down on those who don't share your goals because remember, "Believe in you, the only vote that counts."

All in all the first tape was a religious experience. I took six pages of notes, which I have shared with you. The second tape was a little more reasonable and less offensive but also more revealing. I only needed to take three pages of notes for the second speaker.

TAPE TWO:

The man was a former famous athlete and very personable. His approach was pleasant. The message was clear. "We are going to tell you what to do." He said that you are going to "hear contradictory" statements from your co-workers and sponsors. You are going to be "calling up your sponsor for help." Again I find this pastoral relationship being presented to the parishioners of sales and services. The very objectionable advice given that you must "separate from others" who tell you you're doing the wrong thing. He stated that even in their organization there are "nonbelievers in the system." We should be aware that the only reason the "system" is legal rests on the fact that product and service are provided. Otherwise it would be illegal.

Education is discouraged

because it gets in the way of success. "Forsake pursuit of education...forsake pursuit of other things." It will take away your time from being dedicated to the "system."

The speaker spent most of his time telling us why he liked the "system." He said, "Most of the input comes from me." Again the idea of self-employment is projected. In reality there is nothing wrong with self-employment. In this case it comes combined with other things that are wrong. This speaker was not different from the first in that he fed the self-image and egocentric aspect of personal gain. Security and a monthly check for the rest of your life were the golden carrots placed before your eyes. He said, "If you are excited it's working." That is, the "system" is working for you. That is how we are to measure the goodness of the "system."

The speaker points out an interesting fact: "that 30% of the people coming in (the system) are coming for the second time." The name of this type of system is "Networking." The selling points are presented as quality, convenience, able to purchase everything from soap to cars and they have satellite capability through the internet. Apparently it is more convenient to get soap via satellite. My immediate response is what a benefit to my brothers and sisters in Uayalceh, Yucatan and Zamorano, Honduras. Many of these things are not for the third world, even though they

say that they are in places like Puerto Rico. The system is still reserved for people who are Americanized. We know many people who buy a small amount of soap only for the day that it is needed and nothing additional. To sell to them would be grinding upon the face of the poor so we could be rich.

They use the lead-in that is hard for many people to resist. "What would you like to do?" If you answer, they have a road into your life because they know it takes money. They say, "You are thinking will this work for me?" The curiosity approach is taught. Get your prospective client to be curious and you can lead him where you want him.

Now we have a short quiz. It will be fill-in-the-blank and only one question is asked. Here it is. Curiosity killed the _____. Take as much time as you would like to answer. If you feel the need to ask for assistance ask several people to put in their answers.

The second tape told us why people get into this networking system. There is a common thread he said. There is a cross section of America that gets into this and they all do it for some type of greater control of their lives and their time. They are hungry for something.

The reasons are as follows:

- "Discontentment"
- "Want Money"
- "More Choices"
- "Want to work for themselves"
- "Want Time"

- "Want Recognition"
- "Want Glory"
- "Want Acceptance"
- "Want Self Esteem"
- "Want a Higher Purpose in Life"

Although some of these things may appear to be good the avenue toward them is apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ and does in very deed separate you from the Body of Christ. People in Christ are not discontented. They are content with what they have if it supplies life, shelter, clothing and food. They know that some of their choices are limited because they walk the narrow way. They know they are working for God in whatever situation they find themselves, even slavery. They know that time is limited in this life. They know that God will give them recognition in the next life and blessing in this life for good they do. They know God will share His Glory, or rather, permit us to live within it in the future. They know that their Savior accepts them and that His vote is the final vote. They have come unto Christ and felt His presence in the Holy Ghost that supersedes any need for self oriented esteem. They know the higher purpose of life is, "to persuade all men unto repentance."

The speaker again brings up those disturbing elements of their faith. "Humble yourself to these principles." "What ever they say I got to do, I'm going to do!" "Make the information you receive pure by submitting." "Stop reading

anything that would discourage you from your goals. Unplug yourself from them." "The most power source you have is your emotional source. Get in control of your emotions." "Get the book (title of book concerning success)."

Brothers and sisters, my notes end there. I have at various times seen anti-pyramid literature in the library or in the bookstore. It is of course right next to books and pamphlets that promote pyramids. The choice is yours. I hope that the financial priests will not tell you to cease association with those of us who do not try to climb the money pyramid. That is not my goal.

Prior to the last conference as the Council of Apostles met to discuss and prepare for the conference, we set aside a day of fasting and prayer for many different things. One of those was the temporal problem envisioned by many in the future. During our prayers one of the members present was given a scripture Matthew 6:33. He was not given the words to this verse and had to look them up. He was deeply moved by his experience and we whom were present testify the Spirit was present. The scripture is simple and plain to the understanding.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Testimony of Sr. Ruby Bryant

"And the poor have the gospel preached unto them."

This wonderful statement of fact added by the Master following His accounting of His other acts of loving kindness by which He made the lame to walk, the deaf to hear and the blind to see has been the comfort and the confidence of all of His people through the ages.

The gospel of Christ, our Savior, is the unlimited power and the love of God, unto the salvation of every man who believes. Every man, in return, is required to yield strict obedience unto every law of God.

When a man breaks a law of God, God in his infinite love and mercy, makes known unto that man wherein he has sinned, that he may repent and find mercy in God's holy sight.

The covenants of God made to man are true and everlasting. Likewise God requires of man that he be true to his word, and that he shall keep any promise that he makes unto God.

By the Lord's own words he preached the gospel unto the poor. There are the poor in spirit among

men, and there are the poor in this world's goods.

Being poor in this world's goods, as to the providing the real necessities of life for a man's family, tends to humble a man and his family, which condition is pleasing in the sight of God. Also it gives that man's wife a great desire to be of more help.

Consequently, this being the condition in our home, considering the heavy indebtedness carried on our farm and our inadequate income, I, Ray's wife, asked Ray's permission that I might raise sheep. Sheep look small beside cattle so I thought I could take care of them without his help. Ray was overworked already, teaching rural schools, farming and raising other livestock.

Ray did not approve, since cattle dislike grazing with sheep. But reasoning that my sheep project would be quite small, therefore would not create a grazing problem, I purchased from Ray's brother four old ewes he was shipping to market because they were "broken mouthed," and were too old to be of any use as breeding stock. I paid him \$2.50 for this lot, which was the amount he ex-

pected to receive on the Kansas City market.

I learned from a neighbor that "broken mouthed" meant "no teeth," and that my sheep could eat only hay leaves. Also, that to revive a newborn lamb I should give him lemon extract.

Knowing well that my quality of breeding stock was the very poorest, this coupled with my complete ignorance and lacking ability, I knew my only hope of success had to be in the Lord. I thought my purpose was righteous, so I asked the Lord to bless my sheep, and that I in return would give Him the very best lamb in the lot.

My four ewes grazed happily in a little pasture until the snows and bitter cold weather came, then I put them in a chicken brooder house, provided with hay leaves and water.

I did not know when to expect my lambs so I watched closely by day and every night at midnight I arose, dressed in the cold, lighted my lantern, and went out to see if I had any lambs. I continued my vigil week after week.

Then came a cold bitter night, in which my dread of en-

during another snowy trek overcame my better judgment, and I decided to forego going out that night. Surely the lambs would not come tonight.

I lay there, feeling guilty and cowardly. Then I became very sick, so sick I had to get up. I dressed to get warm, and opened the stove. After a while I felt much better so I went out to look about my sheep.

When my lantern light passed the brooder house windows unusual noises came from within. I went inside and found lambs all over the floor.

I began picking them up and carrying them into the house in the bushel hay baskets. They were so tall and strong, I could hardly keep them in the baskets. (I think they would have been fine left with their mothers, but I did not know that, but I thought they would chill like baby chickens). They were so noisy they awakened the whole household.

We were all so excited and happy. We had two sets of triplets, one set of twins, and one huge

single lamb. Nine lambs in all. We raised one lamb from each set of triplets by hand. Every lamb thrived and was beautiful. But this single lamb which was a ewe lamb, outgrew them all. She was superb.

I remembered my promise to the Lord, that I would give Him the best lamb of the lot. But, I reasoned, the beautiful ewe lamb would have to be sold for money and I could sell two male lambs and give the Lord the equivalent of the amount of money the ewe lamb would bring. Then I could keep the fine ewe lamb in my herd. So I settled the matter, watching the lambs grow.

We carried water from a well quite a distance from the house, across a pasture where we kept the sheep and other stock.

One very hot day in summer, as I was coming up the hill with my buckets of water, I left the path to rest a little in the shade of a hog house, as I often had done. The stock often sought that shade also.

As I set my buckets down,

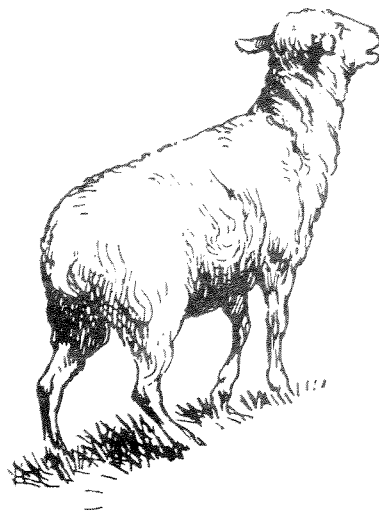
there before me was a shocking sight, a thing I could hardly believe. My beautiful ewe lamb, "the best of the lot," lay dead.

Then I remembered my Lord and the promise I had altered. My heart sank, filled with remorse, shame and regret. I realized then that the Lord had not cared for the money that I might give, but for my soul He cared.

That I might not harbor an unfaithful heart, and that I would never again handle carelessly, or alter in any way, any promise or covenant I might make, the Lord had in His mercy shown me my sin.

This incident in our lives happened many years ago. We learned from Him a truth never to be forgotten. The Lord hears and answers our prayers, but he requires us to be good and faithful servants, in nothing wavering.

Written and sent to Louise Grzincic by my request in the early 1970's.



FOURTH of JULY

Freedom is Never Free

The Aftermath of July 4, 1776

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters.

He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered simi-

lar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution.

These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War.

We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

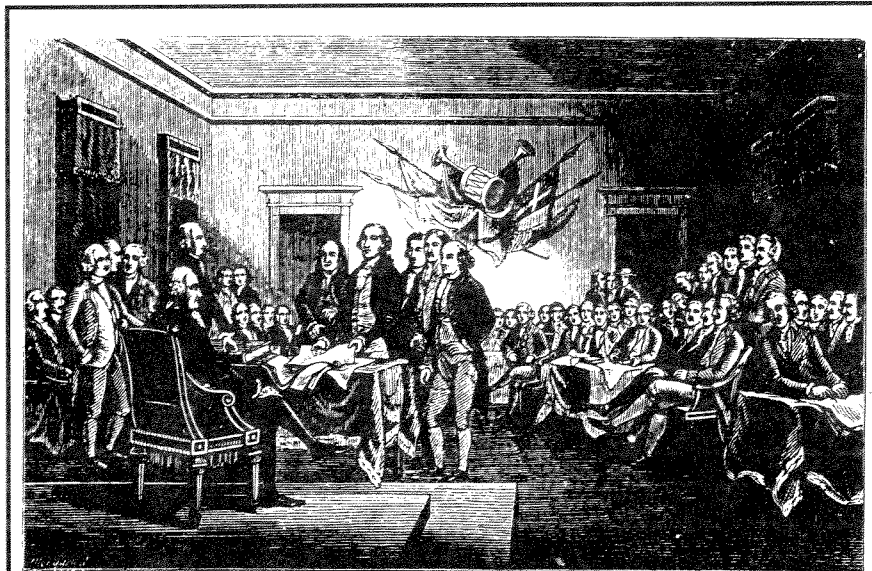
Some of us take these liberties so much for granted.... We shouldn't.

So, take a couple of minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid....

LET'S ALL REMEMBER THAT FREEDOM IS "NEVER FREE!!!!"

Author unknown.

—Submitted by Alvin & Joyce Harris to Church of Christ e-mail Group.



SIGNING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Marriage Begins with Optimism

Nathan and Stacey Case apologized as they made their way to the seats beside me on American Airlines Flight 1614 to Dallas.

The couple didn't talk much initially but fell asleep in each other's arms after the jet became airborne. They missed the small bag of pretzels and the soft drinks the flight attendants gave the rest of us.

But the blissful way the couple's heads rested together throughout the smooth and bumpy parts of the flight told me that no refreshments could touch the joy they got from each other. I let them sleep as I journeyed this month to the University of Arizona in Tucson, where I served for a week on the faculty of the Maynard Institute Editing Program fellowship.

Yet curiosity drove me to quiz the Cases when they awakened about the peaceful passion that burned brightly in them. They are students at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg.

Nathan Case, 21, of Higginsville, Mo., is a biology student, and Stacey Case, 19, of Oak Grove, is a dietetic major. The clean-cut couple waited until school had ended for the summer before getting married June 5 at Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Independence.

They had known each other for 10 years through the church but had dated for only the last four years. I met the Cases the day after their wedding. They were on their way to Hawaii for their honeymoon.

I told the newlyweds that a trip to Hawaii would be a dream vacation for my wife, Valerie, and me. They were getting to do what we have never done.

The Cases spoke of the mountains, volcanoes, ocean and other scenery they hoped to enjoy with the flame of each other's love on the islands of paradise. They hoped to even snorkel a bit.

They had never been to Hawaii before. By chance, the opportunity to go had only made itself available the day before. "We're excited," Stacey Case said.

That eagerness and enthusiasm showed along with something else.

Each possessed the clear faces of optimism, idealism and youth, and neither was disturbed by some unsettling trends of our modern times. Marriage isn't what it was in the '40s, '50s, '60s and earlier.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in the early 1980s that half of all marriages would end in divorce. The divorce rate has declined.

Still, four in 10 marriages are ex-

pected to end in divorce. But the Cases say their love will endure beyond the others because its foundation is in the bedrock of faith and hope.

Both virtues are deeply rooted in their church.

"Without it, I wouldn't have a life," said Stacey Case, whose face was radiant with the heavenly light of the clouds just outside her window. "It got me to where I am today."

Their faith connects their family and friends, and it's on that foundation that their marriage will grow and flourish, Nathan Case said. His parents have been together for 25 years, and hers for 22 to 23 years.

The Cases have had good role models. I shared with them that in October, Valerie and I will have been married 22 years.

Marriages aren't supposed to end, Nathan Case said. He said theirs will go on "forever in a life together."

Stacey Case said that eventually they hoped to buy a home, have children and live the American dream. "We're optimistic," she said.

I am, too.

—Reprinted from the Kansas City Star, Commentary by Lewis W. Diuguid, Tuesday, June 22, 1999

"LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN" MATTHEW 5:16.

BIRTHDAY

A Beloved Centenarian

Sister Nellie Ann Raleigh lives in the Pleasant Manor Nursing Home in Ashdown, Arkansas. She will be one hundred and one years old on July 8, 1999. She is one of the oldest if not the oldest member in the Church of Christ today. She has outlived her six children; her grandson, Lawrence Raleigh,

looks after her regularly.

Sister Raleigh was baptized by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton at Dalby Springs, Texas, August 13, 1931. She has been a scattered member of the church since her baptism. Only a few members have had the privilege to meet her.

If you would like to send

her a card or write her a letter her address is:

Mrs. Nellie Ann Raleigh
Pleasant Manor Nursing Home
950 Homestead
Ashdown, AR 71822

Phone: 870-898-5001



BREAKFAST

KIDD'S BREAKFAST

For several years a little gathering of folks have met at various local restaurants in Independence, Missouri, on Thursday mornings for breakfast. The one responsible for this effort of mid-week socializing is Brother Sam Kidd. Typical of his character, Brother Sam has increased the good will among brothers and sisters of common faith by getting a few of us gray headed "kids" together for fellowship. Younger people are welcome but they usually have to go to work that time of day.

May 20th was a special event for our gathering. Brother Don Hitt from Pineville, Missouri, was in town getting a little better acquainted with us northern folks and had breakfast with us. He has recently retired and wishes to do some missionary work in the church. Please welcome him to your locals and homes. His lovely wife, Barbara, hopes to be free to travel with him soon.

If you plan to be in town on Thursday give Brother Sam a call at 816-353-4362 and he will give you the place and time of our gathering.

*Be seeing you then,
Roland Sarratt*



CHURCH OF CHRIST E-MAIL GROUP

Church of Christ E-mail Group

The nearly three-year old CCEG (Church of Christ E-mail Group) is thriving nicely. It is entirely made up of Church of Christ members who have voluntarily added their names and e-mail addresses to a common listing administered by an Elder of the church. The group has no official or formal connection with the church, but does have 9 of the 12 apostles and a total of over 50 Church of Christ ministry as active members. Also involved are members of the Bishopric, the Board of Publications, the church Recorder, the General Church Secretary, Editor of *Zion's Advocate* and several pastors. The total number of members/families in the CCEG as of July 8, 1999, is 172. This represents about 500 church members and their families.

The group's e-mailing activities are not monitored or moderated in any way except



LOGO JOINTLY CREATED BY
IAN SMITH, BARBARA KIMBALL AND GARY HOUSKNECHT.

through mutual cooperation and common courtesy. The primary purpose of the group is to provide a cheap and convenient way for our members to regularly communicate with one another as the family of Christ. It creates an "electronic neighborhood" of the saints, sharing prayer needs and blessings with church members in places like Central America to Canada, Alaska to Mississippi and New York to California. It is literally a "tie that binds."

Please consider adding

your name to the group and further enrich us all. You will not regret doing so. There are no fees to pay and details of how it all works and about other group benefits not mentioned here will be sent to you upon joining, including a list of all other participants. All you need is a home computer. There are no toll charges for e-mail.

Once you get e-mail on your computer up and running, send a simple message from your own computer to Gary Housknecht at this e-mail address: **gah@kc.net** — simply state that you'd like to join the group. The rest is automatic. If you need help getting set up, either contact a local friend or church member who is "computer literate" or you may telephone Bro. Housknecht at (816) 737-3240 or Bro. Dan Lawrence at (816) 524-8420 for assistance.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EAST INDEPENDENCE,
MISSOURI**

Greetings from the East Independence Local! We have had an eventful few months.

Kelli Longwell and **Jason Brickhouse** were married on Saturday, the 10th of April, after which they took a two-month honeymoon! **Jane Ann Stancil** and **Craig Carmichael** were married on Saturday, the 15th of May. We're happy to have Craig attending with us regularly. And **Annie Sparks** and **Jason Oldham** were married on Saturday, the 17th of July.

On Sunday, June 6th, we were privileged to witness the double baptism of **Rose** and **Gerald Cox**, and we welcome them into our congregation!

Not long ago, Gerald Cox and Jennifer Oldham started the East Local Choir. The choir has performed specials for our services, and we look forward to many more! The choir also visited the Independence Manor for a short service Sunday afternoon on the

30th of May, and was well received by the residents. This is a new avenue of outreach available to us now that we have a local choir.

On Sunday, the 13th of June, the East Local met to discuss various ways of making an outreach as a local. Many excellent suggestions were made. One of these, suggested by **Michelle Fisher**, has already been implemented. Michelle has started an East Local food pantry of non-perishable food items to be ready at any time for those in need. Prior to this, we only collected food for our Thanksgiving and Christmas families, but we realize needs aren't always seasonal.

Vacation Bible School at the East Local was held July 12-17. It was a week of constant activity as the little ones grew closer to Jesus and developed a greater love for His gospel. What a wonder this is!

We have also been blessed with many wonderful and uplifting sermons. Here are a few of the thoughts I gleaned from these sermons:

- *We need to continually turn to the scriptures for direction in our lives. Nothing will happen to us that we can't find the answer in the scriptures.*
- *Our doctrine is the same today as it was when Jesus was here—repent and be baptized in His name.*
- *We are facing the power of the adversary more than we ever have.*
- *Church is our proving ground to work out our problems. We should be able to go to one another.*
- *Are we ready? Zion is the pure in heart. Have we prepared ourselves by eliminating what God wouldn't like?*

Brothers and sisters, our prayers are for you, and please pray for us that we may all be counted worthy and endure to the end.

*God Bless You,
Melissa Seibel
East Local Reporter*

ARIZONA REUNION

The Church of Christ, Phoenix Local, will be hosting our annual reunion. **Services will begin on Friday morning, November 26th, and will continue through Sunday evening, November 28th, 1999.**

Those who plan to attend or requiring more information please contact the following people:

Pastor Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(601) 569-2341

Asst. Pastor Priest Bob Hedrick
2908 E. Rockwood
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliz@juno.com

Asst. Pastor Priest Glenn Orsted
1327 E. Wescott Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050-2393
(602) 780-8764
borsted@ix.netcom.com

We invite everyone to come and share the Thanksgiving holiday and worship the Lord with us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 17th and 18th

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
(616) 945-5173

Housing available by contacting:

Elder Adam Porter

9 Market St.
Middleville, MI 49333
(616) 795-2694

Duane Lee

2054 Fawn Ave.
Middleville, MI 49333
(616) 795-7420

We are looking forward to many spiritual meetings, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

Elder Adam Porter

MISSOURI REUNION

The Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 1999 Missouri Reunion, which will be held August 6th, 7th and 8th, 1999. All meetings will be held at the Church of Christ headquarters building, located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

For information please contact:

Apostle Roland Sarratt

15910 E. 37th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 373-6605

Apostle Mike McGhee

18907 E. 6th St. North
Independence, MO 64056
(816) 796-6255

TRI-STATE REUNION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
The Minnesota locals of the Church of Christ would like to invite all to the 20th annual Tri-State Reunion. The reunion will be held in the Indoor Group Camp at Whitewater State Park. Whitewater Park is located about seven miles north of St. Charles. The Group Camp has cabins for sleeping accommodations. The dates for the reunion are **September 4th and 5th**. The camp opens Friday at 3:00 p.m. and closes 11:00 a.m. Monday. If you can, please join us as we worship and praise our Lord and Savior.

For more information, contact Merlin Eddy at (651) 463-2218 or spikeeddy@aol.com.

ARIZONA CAMP FOR ALL AGES

WHEN: September 4-6, 1999

WHERE: Walnut Ranch, Heber, Arizona ~ One hour north of Payson, Arizona, on Highway 260, turn west after milepost 299. (Maps 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 planned for everyone. All are welcome to attend.

Contact:

Priest Bob Hedrick

2908 E. Rockwood
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliza@juno.com

Aaron Moser

18829 N. 29th Pl.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-2414

*Respectfully,
Arizona Camp For All Ages*

OBITUARY

Arlo Bryan Gould

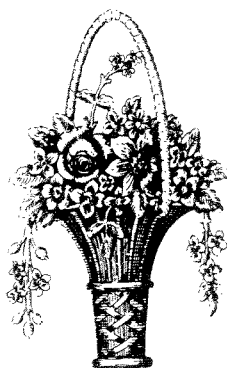
December 1, 1909 ~ March 13, 1999

Born: December 1, 1909, Bemidji, Minnesota. Died: March 13, 1999, Bemidji, Minnesota. Service: Cease Family Funeral Home, Bemidji, Minnesota, 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 1999. Officiating: Elder Samuel Gould. Interment: Evergreen Cemetery, Northern Township, Minnesota.

Elder Arlo Bryan Gould lived a long life on this world (89 years). As his father, Apostle Leon A. Gould, he held the Holy Priesthood. Sharing the hope of many others he traveled during the period of 1929-1930 to Independence, Missouri, to work on the excavation for the Temple of the Lord.

In 1944 he married Sister Lillian Winegar, daughter of Elder Benjamin A. Winegar and his wife Ethel (Brother Winegar was one of the seven General Bishops). To that union were born a daughter and two sons, of whom Larry passed away at the age of 17.

Brother Arlo was a very devoted husband and father. He built and wired the house by himself that became a home for his family in a timber tract bordered by a beautiful lake, dug a well by hand for water, installed



a hand pump and cleared a large area of timber for a garden and a huge berry patch. He also built a shelter and raised chickens and rabbits, all for his family's use and for neighboring needy friends. He "cut down," "shortened," and added a second transmission to a 1928 Model A Ford that should have been buried three decades before, but it ran like a charm in towing and tugging fallen trees in the forest up to the house for firewood with which to cook and heat.

Arlo served in the army during World War II. At one time he was ordered to travel by air to another location. On the scheduled day of flight at the loading ladder he stopped all of a sudden and told the pilot standing there that he couldn't get on the plane. The pilot asked him "Why?", whereupon Arlo said, "Last night I dreamed

that this plane crashed." The pilot said, "That's good enough for me," then took Arlo's name off the passenger list, and went in to the control desk and asked that his (the pilot's) name also be deleted from the flight. The Holy Spirit closely followed Arlo all through his life.

He worked for the Minnesota State Highway Department for many years. Late one afternoon he was riding back to the office and garage area in a large truck. In the lane of travel lay a medium-sized cardboard box. All of a sudden Arlo hollered to the driver to not hit the box. The large truck veered around the box. All of the men looked back and saw a small boy stand up in the box.

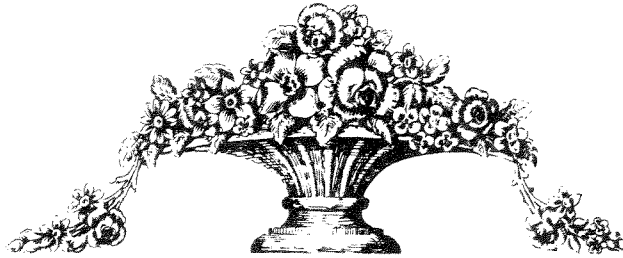
Brother Arlo Gould stood head and shoulders both physically and spiritually above most men. He served as pastor of the Bemidji, Minnesota, local of the Church of Christ (TL) for many years. His authoritative and kindly teaching and guidance to the membership will always be remembered!

—As known by Apostle Robert H. Jensen, brother-in-law.

OBITUARY

Louise Marie McIndoo

March 6, 1909 - June 19, 1999



Louise Marie McIndoo, age 90, passed away June 19, 1999 at the Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix, Arizona. Louise was born March 6, 1909 in Silver Springs, New York to Louis and Lena Danforth. She is a descendant of Pilgrim forefathers who emigrated from England in 1634. How fitting that this family who came to America with the express concept that "God was calling them to a new Jerusalem, to build His temple anew", one of whom was a "protector" of the Indian people, should bring forth children who were to commit their lives to the principles of the Restored Gospel of Christ.

Louise was nine years old when she made her commitment to the Lord and was baptized into the RLDS church in Silver Springs, New York on August 11, 1918. Shortly after this the Danforth family moved to Grandview, Missouri where Louise attended school. Here

she was to meet a boy, Nicholas Denham, who would become a life-long friend in the bonds of the Gospel. When Louise was sixteen the family moved to Phoenix, Arizona. While attending the RLDS church in Phoenix, Louise met Ed McIndoo. The young couple married on October 28, 1928. From this union two children were born, Don and Patty.

Louise and Ed transferred their membership to the Church of Christ in 1931. Here they served the Lord faithfully until the end of their lives. For many years they were an indispensable part of the Phoenix local congregation. Toward the end of the 1950's a number of members of this congregation became interested in purchasing land in Missouri and formed a cooperative to do so. In the early part of the 1960's Ed retired from the Phoenix Fire Department and he and Louise moved to the Niangua Coop,

near Preston, Missouri, where they built their new home. They were joined by their daughter Patty and her husband, Larry Shaw and Oren and Esther Caviness. Leon and Francis Yates had already built their home nearby.

These stalwart members of the Phoenix congregation of the Church of Christ now established their membership in the Collins local, where they made a new set of loving bonds in the Gospel of Christ that would endure a lifetime. Living in Missouri they now became more involved in the labors and activities of the General Church.

Twenty years later Louise and Ed once again returned to the Phoenix area to be near their son and his family. Louise remained an active, participating member of the Phoenix Local until the end of her life.

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Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 2000 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 & April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 1999 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9, 10 and 11, at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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†Cost of mailing will be added.

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- Baptism for the Dead?—A Fallacy
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- Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The
- Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
- Cost of Salvation, The
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
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- Great Plan of Redemption, The
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- Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The
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- Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
- What about the Book of Mormon
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
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*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

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AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

SLIDE PROGRAMS WITH TAPED NARRATION

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes)—Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

LIGHT AT EVENING (27 minutes)—Story of the bringing forth of the book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

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HOLY SCRIPTURES ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set for the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

SERMONS ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for Sunday School materials to Darl Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

Bible Stories to Grow By—52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7

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Who Am I?—Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals.