

Zion's Advocate

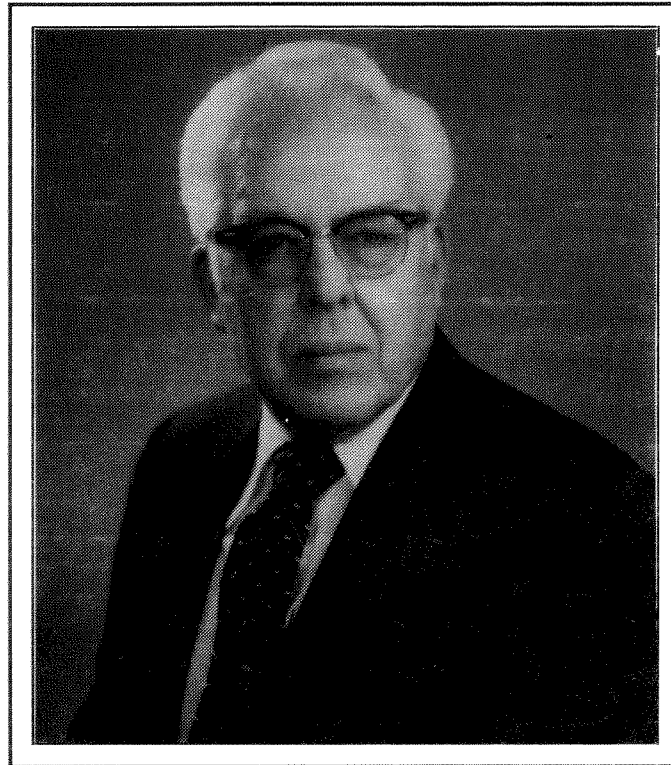
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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APOSTLE ROBERT HENRY JENSEN

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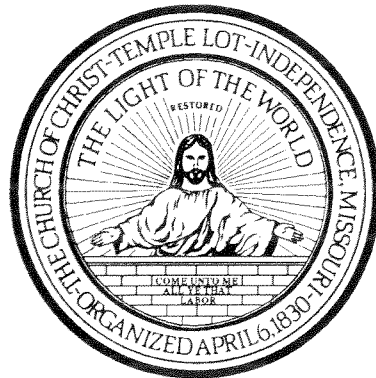
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Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on IBM or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a big help to our process.

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

PART 1

As you begin reading this article please answer the following questions:

What does the title of this article mean to you? Who is the watchman? Why was the question asked? Do we have any reason to be concerned about "the night?"

The question, "Watchman, what of the night?" is asked in Isaiah 21:11. It has been used by many ministers pointing to

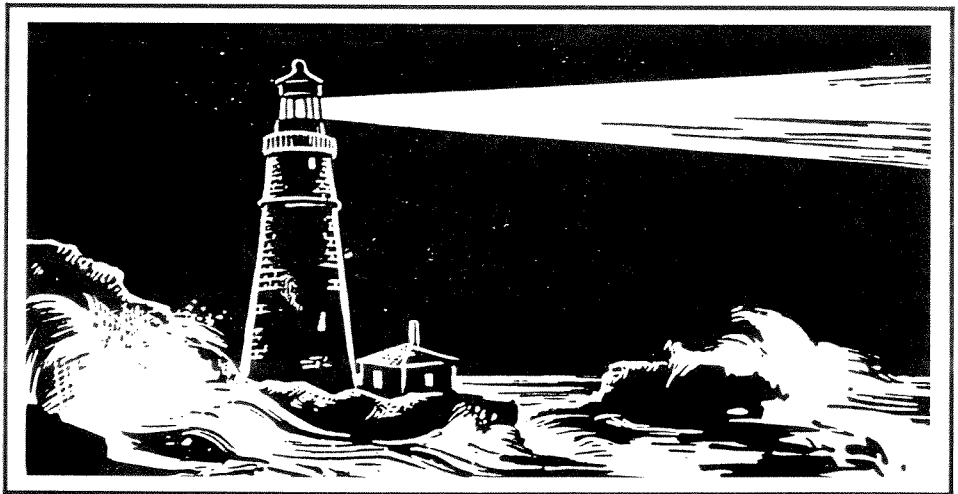
the last days, the time in which we live. The watchman is a servant of God appointed to watch for the signs of the time. It is imperative that the Lord warns His people through His servants, the prophets. Surely this scripture, along with many others, are important to us. Why? Because the Lord wants us to be prepared for "the night" which is near at hand.

There are many prophecies pointing to the time in which we are living. Some of them are given rather dramatically, showing the consequence of neglecting the warnings contained in them. The hope of escaping

It is imperative that the Lord warns His people through His servants, the prophets.

destruction and being saved by the hand of God is of paramount importance. Continual prayer and watching for the signs of our time in preparing ourselves is our only real hope of spiritual and physical salvation.

The writings of the prophets of old are somewhat difficult to understand, and sometimes it



is hard to make a determination as to what period of time a certain scripture applies. What may seem to apply to an ancient era may also apply to the latter days. We have to remember "...that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" 2 Peter 3:8. All time is the same with the Lord.

The twenty-first chapter of Isaiah (verses 1-10) seems to fit our day and has appropriate counsel. In the past some have quoted parts of this prophecy and applied it to the latter days. I don't want to pretend that I understand all of it but I hope to share the inspirations I do have.

"The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land. A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease" Isaiah 21:1, 2.

Whirlwinds passing through the desert of the sea could be describing our present day hurricanes, but as we continue to read we find immediately a complete change of focus: a grievous vision with treacherous dealings and spoilings. This would appear as a sudden, destructive invasion of robbing and pillaging by a people from a desert land of the south who betrayed those who

trusted them. Elam and Media were ancient nations situated in what is known today as the Persian Gulf area.

The hope of escaping destruction and being saved by the hand of God is of paramount importance.

"Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it. My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me" verses 3 & 4.

The prophet speaks in first person as he describes his witnessing of this, and it causes him much distress of pain, much like childbirth. It appears the invasion comes suddenly, without much warning, and it takes away his usual comfort and rest in the nighttime.

"Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield. For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth" verses 5 & 6.

To prepare the table and

eat and drink would indicate the taking of the sacrament (flesh and blood of Christ) which would be necessary to be spiritually prepared to watch for the signs of our time. Anointing the shield would be preparing in a defensive way. But what does the watchmen see?

"And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed: And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights: And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground" verses 7-9.

The chariot with horsemen verifies the thought of an invasion, and the chariot of asses and the chariot of camels indicate the invasion coming from more than one place. The hearkening diligently and continual watching exemplifies the faithful servant who heeds the commandment in Luke 21:36:

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

The most important aspect of this invasion is the lion which

is a beast of prey. The shepherd boy, David, killed a lion to protect his flock. As to this time Jesus has warned us that his people will come among the Gentiles as a lion among sheep (3 Nephi 9:99). Surely we need to prepare that we be accounted worthy to escape that destruction.

At that time something significant is to happen: Babylon is to fall! Babylon of ancient times was a heathen nation that worshipped graven images. In modern times Babylon is the heathen element among the nations which is seeking to establish world control. Just as the watchman declared the fall of Babylon, so are we to be forewarned of its imminent fall. The graven images, the idols, on which people have placed their hearts, will be destroyed as well.

"O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you" verse 10.

Threshing is the separating of grain from the chaff. This is used elsewhere in the scriptures to illustrate the separating of the righteous from the wicked (Matt. 3:12). The Lord is expressing concern for His people, the corn, in their need to separate themselves from Babylon. The prophet has done his work by declaring the word of the Lord in warning his people.

"The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir. Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of

the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come" verses 11 & 12.

Continual prayer and watching for the signs of our time in preparing ourselves is our only real hope of spiritual and physical salvation.

The watchman is urgently asked what the night will bring; the question is emphasized by repeating it. The watchman simply answers by saying that as surely as the morning comes so will the night, and he refers them to a higher power much like James did: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). His added advice is to return or come to the Lord.

The Lord has promised his people a place of safety in these last days. That place is Zion. Zion is not only a place, but also a condition. Only the righteous will dwell in Zion. The Lord has commanded his people to establish the cause of Zion, which is the preparing of a holy people. Without a holy people Zion cannot be. Unfortunately the people called to that potential Zion state are immersed in latter day Babylon. Zechariah 2:7 & 8 describes the situation:

"Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon. For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye."

The heathen influence of Babylon is rubbing off onto the people called to establish the cause of Zion who are favored of the Lord: the apple of his eye. The touching indicates involved or intimate relationships. The urgent commandment to us today is, Deliver thyself, O Zion!

We now go to a New Testament prophecy which most definitely points to the latter days (Revelations 14:6-12):

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" verses 6 & 7.

We know this scripture as the announcement of the return of the fullness of the gospel of Christ to the earth, that occurred around one hundred and sixty-nine years ago. It came to the Gentiles with the opportunity of accepting or rejecting it. To accept it meant blessings and

added responsibility of taking the "good news" to the ancient covenant people of the Lord, the House of Israel. To reject it meant the consequence of losing what truth they had and being swept off the promised land. This scripture declares that this is the time of God's judgment. We must worship Him as the Creator of heaven and earth or suffer the dire consequences.

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" verse 8.

This is an unfulfilled prophecy; Babylon as yet has not fallen. But surely her power of influence is at work to cause all nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. The worldwide effort to bring all nations under her power is now taking place. It may not be obvious to most people, but by being watchful we can see the fulfillment of the prophecies today.

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the

Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night,

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who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" verses 9-12.

To be found to have received the mark of the beast in one's forehead and hand is a thing of dread. This is surely a grave warning to all who have read the Bible down through the ages even until this very day. The saints who patiently keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus have hope to receive the much coveted reward of eternal salvation by enduring whatever persecutions and trials to which they are subjected in this life.

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is be-

come the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" Revelation 18:1-3.

Again the proclamation is made that Babylon is fallen and that all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Fornication has been known as an immoral and illegal act among God fearing people down through the ages. Such an intimate relationship between the nations of the earth today with Babylon, a heathen power of influence, can only mean that the commerce by which they are connected has made them dependent upon that central control which warrants the wrath of God.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double" Revelation 18:4-6.

The message to serious-minded Christians today is to come out of Babylon by separating themselves from the godless and apostate influences of the various societies throughout the world. It is clearly stated that the sins of Babylon are a great offense unto God. Her reward is going to be worse than that which she has given.

The remainder of Revelation 18 tells the effects of the fall of Babylon among the kings and merchants of the nations. It will be a worldwide calamity for all those who depend upon Babylon for their earthly riches. To the righteous, however, there will be great rejoicing:

“Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her” verse 20.

The story of ancient Israel being led out of Egypt by God's servant, Moses, has valuable lessons for us today. None of the happenings came about by accident as the Lord planned to impress His people with His power to save their lives as well as their souls. Joseph being sold into Egypt by his brothers resulted in the whole family of Jacob (Israel) moving to Egypt for the preservation of their lives. Over a period of time the Israelites became enslaved to the Egyptians and Moses was raised up to free them.

The Pharaoh resisted the petitions and even the various plagues until the great event known throughout the ages as

the passover occurred. On this occasion an angel of the Lord was to pass over the land of Egypt and slay all the firstborn

The message to serious-minded Christians today is to come out of Babylon by separating themselves from the godless and apostate influences of the various societies throughout the world.

of every house. The exception would be that the Israelites were to take a lamb without blemish and kill it. With its blood they were to strike the lintel and side posts of the doors of their houses. The angel of the Lord would see the blood and pass over their houses without slaying their firstborn.

The remarkable truth is that all six hundred thousand Israelites obeyed the Lord and not one of their firstborn was slain, while in every house of the Egyptians the firstborn was slain. The scripture simply says: “And the children of Israel went away, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they” Exodus 12:28.

Their obedience to God's command that night rewarded

them their freedom from Egypt, for the Pharaoh wasted no time in telling them to leave and take all their flocks and herds with them. By heeding the Lord's instructions the Israelites were ready and they hastily departed out of the land of Egypt.

The Lord led them by a cloud to the shore of the Red Sea and there they camped. Having a change of heart Pharaoh gathered his army with six hundred chariots and pursued the Israelites. As Pharaoh's army drew near the Israelites began to fear thinking they were going to be slain there in the wilderness.

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace” Exodus 14:13, 14.

“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his

chariots, and his horsemen” verses 21-23.

The Lord delayed the army of Pharaoh until the Israelites arrived safely on the other side of the sea and the Lord commanded Moses to stretch forth his hand again and close the waters of the sea upon the pursuing army. The next day the Israelites saw the dead Egyptian soldiers on the seashore.

The literal obedience of the Lord's people to His commands is just as important today as it was in ancient times. No matter how unusual it might have been for the Israelites to mark their houses with blood in the manner that they did, they did so in obedience to the Lord. But the human element of doubt arose when the pursuing army came into sight. In our own time we may very well experience the command to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord if we are worthy to be counted among the Lord's people. We have every reason to believe that the Lord will show forth His hand in preserving His people at this time as well as in ancient times. Prophecy so indicates such miraculous events will occur in the future.

“And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his

people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt” Isaiah 11:15, 16.

We have every reason to believe that the Lord will show forth His hand in preserving His people at this time as well as in ancient times.

This is yet to happen when the Lord gathers the remnant of His people to their homelands. There are certain requirements to travel this highway.

“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” Isaiah 35:8-10.

This highway is a way of holiness where the redeemed and the ransomed shall travel as

they come to Zion. There will be no danger there, no lion nor beast of prey. This typifies what will take place when the Lord gathers His people to Zion. The Lord's people will be protected.

To be continued.

He Does All Things Well

By Elder Don Hitt

What shall we do when we pray for someone that is sick and they die? We have prayed with all our heart, and we were very sure they would get well but they didn't make it. They were even administered to by the elders but that didn't help. Doesn't the Bible say to call for the elders when you're sick? James 5:14-15:

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Perhaps you prayed for a child that was going on a trip. You felt confident that everything was going to be okay, but they never made it back. Now you don't know if you will ever pray for anyone again. These and many other such things have happened and they never worked out like we wanted them to. What are we to do? One thing we might consider is

that God is not so concerned with our illness as He is with our reaction to it.

I think our problem is that we tend to look at the here and now. We can't see the "big picture" as the Lord sees. We may think that our prayer is the right and best thing for the situation. It may satisfy our desires at the time. However; only God knows what is best. We forget that the trying of our faith is very precious. 1 Peter 1:3-7:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations (trials and tests) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the ap-

We may think that our prayer is the right and best thing for the situation. It may satisfy our desires at the time. However; only God knows what is best.

pearing of Jesus Christ...."

Can you see that perhaps you weren't thinking about some of those things during your temptations (trials and tests)? What about Rom. 8:28?

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Perhaps now that you have given your trial enough time you can see that it was for your best good. Paul asked for something three times and he didn't get it. God knew what was best and told him that His grace was sufficient. I bet Paul didn't like that any more than you didn't like the way things turned out for you.

You must be on guard so that no matter what happens, whether your prayers work out or not, you still have your peace with God. Rom. 14:17:

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

You must maintain your peace. It is part of the Kingdom within you.

Let's talk about keeping your peace when things don't work out the way you think they should. I believe you have had your confidence in the wrong thing and it let you down. Even though you had your confidence in "the word" you have to also remember that God still sees the big picture and that He has everything under control. Once you give it to Him in prayer, and leave it there, it is up to Him. All you have to do is to have faith and patience.

This article is not intended to give you a formula to follow when someone is sick. We all pray, and do the best we know for each situation, and each situation is somehow different and we can't use a formula. We are asking the Lord to help us all along the way, and hoping everything will turn out for our deliverance. What I would like to show is that we can put our trust in Him. Not everyone is going to die. We may have to go through what we didn't want to go through, like chemotherapy, a full body cast, antibiotics, operations, or all kinds of medicine, but know this: "It is still God that heals you."

Let me show how we can put our confidence in the wrong thing and not believe that it is God that heals you every time, no matter what measures you

take. Let's say you are sick. You take the vitamins, you drink the extra water, you get the extra rest you need, and you

Once you give it to Him in prayer, and leave it there, it is up to Him. All you have to do is to have faith and patience.

pray, pray, pray. But it's not working. So you go to plan "B" and see the doctor. He gives you the pills, you take them, and you're getting better right away. Sure enough, you get well soon. It is still the Lord that healed you. However; the next time you get sick your confidence is in the pills you took the last time, and not so much in the Lord. I don't care how many pills you took, how many doctors you saw, how many vitamins you took—it is still the Lord that healed you. So don't feel like it is because of a lack of faith that you went to the doctor, or had to take the pills; it is still the Lord that healeth thee. I think we should give Him thanks and praise no matter how we got well, because our confidence and trust was in Him all the time no matter what we did to get well.

Let me say a few things about putting our confidence in the Lord. In Alma 5:16 it says "...that the Lord God hath power to do all things which are according to his word." 1 John

5:14: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, (I believe that His word is His will) he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." Our confidence should not be in our desire or our hope that others or ourselves will get well; but rather, in His word, because it says "call for the elders." His word says "They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover." His word says "by His stripes we are healed," and our confidence should be in these words.

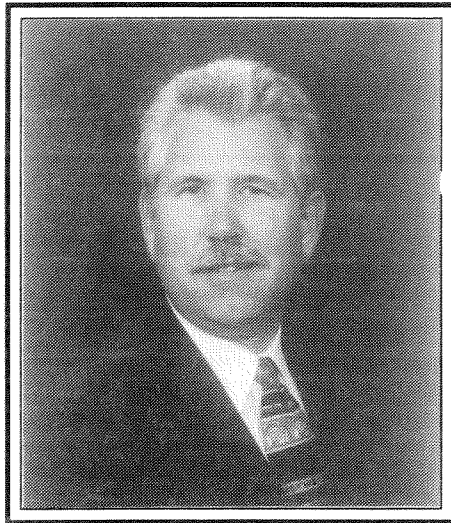
Brothers and sisters, I believe that God has everything under control. I don't understand it all but I know that He will not be making excuses for His actions at the last day. Then we will know that His marvelous, loving kindness was at work in all His deeds. Deut. 33:3:

"Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words."

There must be a time when we will sit down at his feet with our families and He will explain the reasons for everything that happened in our lives together while we were here, and when He is done we will all agree that He did all things well.

SERIES: PART 2 OF 4

THE LIFE OF PAUL the APOSTLE and the Cost of His Conversion



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

Part 2 of 4: *Paul's Persecution Against Christianity*

Paul considered himself an Orthodox Jew. He was zealous and committed to eradicating apostasy in the church. He went further than his peers and became a Pharisee in doctrine and belief. Paul describes in his own writings of his adherence to the law as dictated by the Torah.

Gal. 1:13,14: *"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers."*

In retrospect to the Law of the Torah, Paul stood blameless, or in other words, he kept to the letter of the Law, as would any conscientious Pharisee.

"My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee"
Acts 26:4,5.

It is reasonable to say that Paul was an enemy of Christianity, one who was taking the lead in doing anything possible to

It is reasonable to say that Paul was an enemy of Christianity, one who was taking the lead in doing anything possible to stop the spread of Christianity and destroy believers of this new gospel.

stop the spread of Christianity and destroy believers of this new gospel. We are told Paul headed to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Paul tells of his activities:

Acts 8:3: *"As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."*

The reason is not clear why he took it upon himself to persecute the Christians, but it would

seem he had a particular dislike for the Christians of Damascus. We read these testimonies:

"And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished" Acts 22:4,5.

"I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests..." Acts 26:9-12.

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he

found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem" Acts 9:1,2.

Those of Damascus, although Jews, seemed to have discontinued adhering to the Torah Observances, not out of a casual neglect, but rather, as a matter of principle. Being Christians, they were converting Gentiles to Christianity, but did not subject Gentile converts to the Law of the Torah and circumcision. This doctrine was considered "the traditions of the forefathers" which Paul so zealously enforced as law. One must understand at these early stages of the church, Christianity was still apart of Judaism, and considered a different sect. Possibly it was for this reason that Paul took a special interest in persecuting the Jews in Damascus.

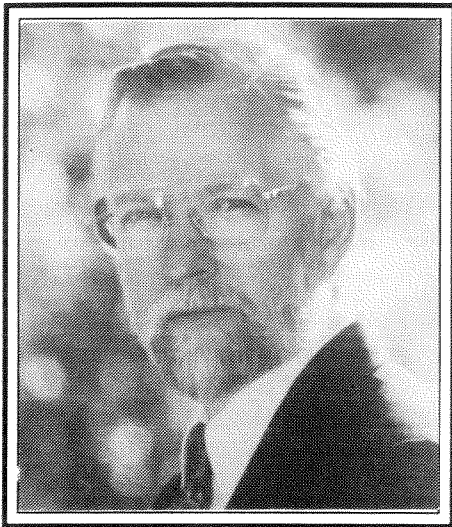
There is a distance of 130 miles between Damascus and Jerusalem, and it takes a caravan six days to travel between the two cities. Damascus is believed to be the oldest city in the world. According to Josephus, Damascus flourished before the days of Abraham. Isaiah refers to it in his writings as "the head of Syria." At the time of the Acts of the Apostles, it was the highest populated and one of the most beautiful cities in the world. One of the reasons for Damascus' prosperity was the abundant water from the streams flowing from the sides of Mt. Lebanon to the city. Because of the distance and mode

of travel in Paul's day we can understand this venture to go to Damascus and return with prisoners was not a simple one. Paul was committed to his beliefs in The Torah Law, and his desire to eradicate apostasy in the church made him willing and ready to go.

To be continued.

PROSPERITY

and One's Livelihood



By Harvey E. Seibel

The charge is, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The command is, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not de-

stroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:10).

The promise is, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10).

The admonition is, "But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted" (Jacob 2:23-24).

All this presupposes that some effort must be made on our part to provide for ourselves and our loved ones, and in so doing the Lord, who is the Master of all, will bless and prosper us. But this blessing is contingent on



our obedience to His commandments. "For the Lord God hath said, That inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land" (2 Nephi 3:8). "And behold, all that he requires of you, is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments, ye should prosper in the land" (Mosiah 1:55). "...Yea, we can see that the Lord in his great infinite goodness, doth bless and prosper those who put their trust in him" (Helaman 4:48). From the Bible we read, "Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandment.... Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever" (Psalm

112:1, 3). "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.... But his delight is in the law of the Lord... whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1, 2, 3).

But if we fail in this then the word of the Lord is, "I will not succor my people in the day of their transgression; but I will hedge up their ways, that they prosper not; and their doings shall be as a stumbling block before them" (Mosiah 4:58).

Prayer is necessary: "Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase" (Alma 16:220).

Then we need to step out in faith: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good" (Ecclesiastes 11:6).

Wealth is a gift of God: "Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 5:18).

When from the Lord it is good: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22).

Money answers all things: "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things" (Ecclesiastes 10:19).

There are some warnings: "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase" (Proverbs 13:11). "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him" (Proverbs 28:22). "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isaiah 55:2). From 2 Nephi 6:100 we read, "Wherefore, do not spend money for that which is of no worth, nor your labor for that which can not satisfy." "For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted" (Mormon 4:50). We are told elsewhere that the love of money (not money in itself) is the root of all evil, and so it is plainly evident today.

TEMPORAL NEED IS NOT THE PRIMARY GOAL: "Therefore I say unto you, Take

no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:25-26). This is in agreement with the previously quoted scripture that one should seek first the kingdom of God, and if sought, all these things should be added unto them.

The real purpose of wealth: "But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted" (Jacob 2:23-24).

The purpose for wealth is to further the work of the gospel. It is not so that we may consume it on our own lusts. Having sufficient in food and clothing, etc., we should therewith be content.

Making a living in ancient times:

There are many ways of providing a living. In the beginning men raised flocks and herds and lived off the land. Others became servants or slaves of

those who were wealthy. In the Bible we have wonderful examples of wealth represented by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, David, and Solomon. In the Book of Mormon the servants and saints of God supported themselves through the work of their own hands.

Making a living today

Today, money is made through investments, in the future's market or in the stock market. Some enter into the professional market, and become doctors, dentists, lawyers, architects, accountants, etc. A few strike it rich in gold or oil. Others make a living as writers, artists, and musicians. Some make money by holding public office or being appointed to high government positions.

In the 1950's, a new form of business appeared known as a franchise. Initially there was great concern about this form of business, and some declared it was a scam and illegal. However, the courts justifiably ruled otherwise, and it became a viable, though very expensive, form of business, and today there are those who provide for themselves in this way.

The vast majority of people, however, find themselves learning a trade or working for someone else at a job, either in private industry or for the government.

Increasingly, many are turning to various types of home based businesses, from

Internet related businesses to the more traditional network marketing opportunities. The first multi-level marketing company (MLM, also known as network marketing) appeared in the 1940's, and was the precursor to later companies using similar marketing processes. There are literally hundreds of networking companies today, many of which are major corporations. This system of marketing is being taught in some major universities.

Illegal Network Marketing Systems

As in every endeavor, whether it be in the traditional job market or elsewhere, there are those who try to turn the system to their own advantage at the expense of others. Network marketing is no exception to this rule. Unscrupulous companies have abused the system, operating outside the legal framework established by the attorney generals. Other companies have started up for the sole purpose of turning a quick profit, and then shut down after having done so. Some of these companies require a buy in, known as front end loading, or offer nothing at all by way of either a product or a service. These types of operations are not sanctioned by the attorney generals and are obviously illegal.

Legal Network Marketing Systems

However, there are many reputable companies which offer a legitimate opportunity of providing an extra income, and market anything from household products to services. *These are not get rich quick schemes.* As with any self-run business, they require much hard work, time and effort, and success, as with a franchise or other means of self-employment, is not guaranteed. For those who, through much perseverance, do succeed, the rewards can be great.

One way in which legal network marketing systems differ from traditional job situations is the philosophy in network marketing that you succeed *only by helping others succeed.* Your success is based upon the success of others you help. If they don't prosper, you don't prosper.

Whether one works for someone else, or for himself, whether it be in a franchise, network marketing or other home-based business, there is nothing to be ashamed of, as long as it is honest work.

Kinds of Pyramids

Most enterprises, whether network marketing or not, are a form of pyra-

mid. Every major corporation in America is a pyramid. At the top is the president, owner, or CEO, followed by vice presidents, then district managers, and so on, until one reaches the rank and file of the work force. State and federal governments are also pyramids in structure. Who makes the most money in these pyramids? Those at the top, of course. Without these men and women of initiative at the top, there might not be a functional enterprise; yet it's the people at the bottom who do the majority of the work. These are those who make the least—regardless of how hard or how much they work. In fact, the wages that the majority of people earn aren't sufficient to meet the basic requirements of a household, such as house and car payments, insurance, taxes, food and other necessary expenses. The result? Most families are required by necessity to have both spouses employed in order to make ends meet.

Network marketing and other home-based businesses offer people an opportunity to see diligent effort rewarded proportionately. Instead of constantly striving to maintain a debt-free existence, or, as is more likely, instead of trying to get out of debt, one is able to meet the financial responsibilities and demands of life. In a word, financial freedom stops being an unheard of possibility and becomes a viable option. Ordinary people suddenly have the opportunity to provide better financial stability for themselves and their family than could ever be possible in an ordinary job.

However, not all who are self-employed succeed. Opening a franchise requires sizable capital. Failure results in a great financial loss. Involvement in network marketing requires a nominal investment and failure is not nearly as devastating.

Statistics show that the average job income in the United States is around \$26,000 per annum, while those engaged in home businesses average in excess of \$50,000.

We are commanded to "Owe no man any thing" (Romans 13:8). In today's economy this is practically impossible for most people. Network marketing and other home-based business opportunities offer the possibility of getting out from under a mountain of debt and other financial worries.

The network marketing concept, while simple, is not necessarily for everyone however. Home based businesses require a great investment of time, effort, commitment and discipline.

Choosing a Profession

When one pursues a living through the traditional job market, one usually chooses a company that will likely meet their needs. Besides considering the possible income one may receive from a particular profession, one should also consider the products or services being offered. Our choices

of a job are also dependent upon our talents and skills. A Christian would not seek employment at a bar, night club, liquor store or other establishment whose products or services run contrary to the will of the Lord. The same thing should hold true when one considers a home based business. There are many kinds of marketing plans, and many kinds of products and services. Some are good; some are not so good. Regardless of whether it be in the job market or in the field of network marketing, one must be selective.

Traditional Job Limitations

Traditional jobs have severe limitations. Incomes derived from the majority of typical jobs are barely sufficient to keep the average household going from month to month. Most people who work at ordinary jobs for a living are in debt with little or no hope of ever getting free. Add to this the three modern destroyers of wealth: inflation, taxes, and interest, and you have a combination which is hard to overcome.

Traditional companies generally put a ceiling on the possible income one can generate. In home-based businesses, one's income is dependent upon one's efforts.

Traditional companies also provide the greatest income to those at the top; in network marketing, anyone can generate, through his own industry, an income as large or larger than those above him.

The Purpose of Wealth

As mentioned, running one's own business requires a larger amount of self-discipline and commitment than merely showing up for work at a traditional job. Many motivational resources in use by those in business for themselves capitalize on material possessions as incentive, such as fancy cars, luxury homes, and expensive vacations. Naturally, one can just as easily use as motivation the support of the poor and needy, the need for greater financial resources to support the missionary effort, and other ways of benefiting others. Having sufficient food, shelter, clothing, etc., we should be content. *To be of service to others is the only legitimate purpose of acquiring wealth, and the only scriptural reason for seeking riches.*

Many motivational resources also use as one of their catch phrases the statement that whatsoever a man can conceive and believe he can achieve. We know, however, that we are dependent upon our Heavenly Father for all the blessings we enjoy. As Christians, we must ask in faith to receive.

Vision

The Book of Mormon tells that after we have obtained a hope in Christ we will obtain riches if we seek for them, and that we will seek them. Is it

possible to seek riches through traditional jobs? Occasionally one is able to generate an income sufficient for one's own needs; rarely is one able to ac-

To be of service to others is the only legitimate purpose of acquiring wealth, and the only scriptural reason for seeking riches.

quire riches. But in network marketing and other self-employment opportunities, a greater financial freedom can be achieved. Millionaires have been created from the seeds of a business begun in a garage or basement. These are not "get rich quick" schemes; years of diligent effort and much hard work are required. And isn't that what free enterprise is all about?

Unfortunately, the wealth of the world today appears to be mainly in the hands of those who are not interested in furthering the gospel of Christ. Contrast this to ancient times, wherein the righteous prospered exceedingly. As mentioned, we have wonderful examples of wealth represented by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, David, and Solomon, righteous men who were abundantly blessed, temporally, by God.

In both temporal and spiritual things, the ultimate glory goes to God. The injunction to us is: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy

might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Whether at a traditional job, or in a home-based business, this should be our attitude.

For many, sharing with others the network marketing concept has brought blessing, deliverance from financial bondage, a greater freedom of time and lasting friendships. And they've done it by helping others to do the same.

Proverbs 29:10 tells us that "Where there is no vision, the people perish." For those with vision, home-based businesses can be the key to financial freedom. If nothing else, home-based businesses are an alternative for those otherwise unlikely to escape the burden of mounting debt; even if they fail to make "riches," they may make enough to satisfy their needs. Unfortunate though it may be, the scripture is true which says: "...Money answereth all things" (Ecclesiastes 10:19). Without time and money, there is no real freedom. With both, we can be of great service to the Lord.

A Letter to Our **Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

From the Missionaries in charge of Missouri, Apostles Michael McGhee & Roland Sarratt

Dear Brothers and Sisters: For those of you who attended the recent Missouri Reunion we wish to thank you for coming and we hope that you enjoyed yourself. It was one of the largest gatherings that we have had in recent years. It was so good to see so many of our loved ones, some of whom we haven't had the opportunity to see for some time. Unfortunately, time and circumstances did not permit us to greet each one, so we desire to use this means to let you know how much we appreciate your attendance. We also wish to thank all those who volunteered their labor and talents to make this reunion a success, and those who responded to the call to preach and take charge of the services.

A very important part of a reunion is the greeting of friends and loved ones. We all desire to have a few moments to visit and share our love one to another during this time. As the arrangements can be made, we who are in charge wish to allow as much time for socializing as we think should be done,

but we also have to consider another very important part of our gathering, that being our church services. Many of us come hungering and thirsting for a spiritual revival, and it is our hope that our needs are all provided. For this to happen we must ready ourselves with an appropriate attitude and modest dress as we enter into each service. When a body of people come together in the Spirit of the Lord the reward is great. This is our primary purpose and we don't want any concern of a temporal nature to interfere. That is why we try to make arrangements for our physical needs beforehand.

The arrangements of the Teen Challenge Youth Camp, the Missouri Reunion and the August Ministers' Conference following each other have been convenient for making vacation plans, travel arrangements, etc. We hope to continue this arrangement. This is a rather busy time for those of us who have the care of the camp, the reunion, the conference, etc., especially the apostles who are involved in these activities, who also follow up with two days of council meetings.

Because of the diversities of responsibilities and the press of

time, we who are in charge are apt to fail to anticipate and care for all the needs of the people. For that reason we feel the need to make some suggestions to help us govern ourselves during this busy time. The gathering of a much larger number of people in one area than we usually have in our local churches requires special efforts to maintain proper behavior, although generally everyone does so willingly. However, we are human, and some events can get out of hand.

With the young people returning from camp and reuniting with their parents, the process often demands prior arrangements. Although the camp staff maintains adequate control over the young people until they arrive at the church, normal parental control needs to be reestablished immediately to avoid misbehavior and accidents (see Mosiah 1:33). This is not a time to turn your children loose; but rather, they should be with you in church during the services. In the event that someone other than a parent is to take charge of a camper they should do so with the understanding that they have full responsibility for that young person.

The YPCL activities during the reunion are well chaperoned with adequate adult supervision. Plans are made to have food and games for an all-around good time. At the end of the planned activity the young people should return to their parents or the place where they are to reside for the night.

We wish to discourage any spontaneous or unplanned activity without proper supervision. There should be no gathering of young people at any residence or any place without their parents' or adults' invitation and supervision. The parents or responsible adults should be present and watchful during all activities that the young people are engaged in so that no misconduct takes place.

Proper behavior is especially important in the church building, the house of the Lord. We are apt to become quite candid in our visiting and socializ-


ing between services, but our actions often are mimicked by the young. If we are not engaged in special duties elsewhere in the building we should attend the church services.

The front foyer should only be occupied when the auditorium is full. Then it is permissible to set up chairs and open the doors so that those in the foyer can be a part of the meeting. When the doors are closed there should be no continued visiting and socializing in the foyer. The same is true in the downstairs area. Greetings and necessary conversations are acceptable during services, but we feel that continued socializing in the building during services is not a good example to our young people or to the visitors. We should maintain respect for the primary purpose of our gathering, that being the worshiping of God.

If there is a need for a meet-

ing of a group to discuss important matters, or if someone is in need of counseling or exchanging information, arrangements can be made to obtain the use of one of the rooms downstairs. Such needs can be cared for at any time, but it is best if it can be done between services.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you our general concerns for the well being of each of us. It is not our desire to make any hard and fast rules that have to be broken at some point. Most of us know what is right and we know how to conduct ourselves. We have a big responsibility to do what is right and be the example the Lord has asked us to be. May the Lord bless each of us in our endeavor to follow His example.



NOTICE

churchofchrist-tl.org

The Board of Publications would like to advise that a web page has been completed and approved by the Board of Publications. The address of the web page is "churchofchrist-tl.org."

The web page offers explanations of "Basic Beliefs," "ESPAÑOL," "History," "Book of Mormon," "Latter Day


Saints," "Mission to Israel" and "Native Americans." There are names for interested parties to contact, and a "Guest Book" for interested parties to offer their names and e-mail address if they have an interest.

The address for the church headquarters is also shown for those interested.

Please take the time to visit

this page and familiarize yourselves with the information it contains.

*The Board of Publications,
Church of Christ*



NOTICE

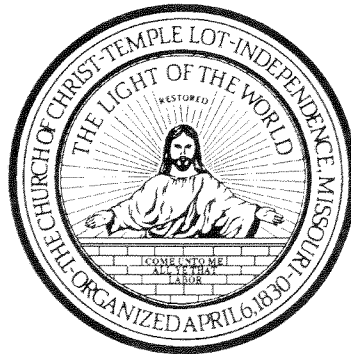
Clarification of the use of the Church Seal

The ministers conference of April 1998 passed a motion asking the Board of Publications to make a statement of clarification on questions raised on this original motion, following:

“In as much as this Church of Christ has an accepted church seal to signify authorized and approved printings, documents, stationery etc., and in as much as confusion can ensue from the use of unauthorized and non-accepted seals, and in as much as the accepted, authorized and approved seal has been restored to its original clarity by our brother Rick Olson.

“Therefore, be it resolved that we reaffirm our commitment to exclusively use the official church seal, as it has been restored, on all our new printings of documents, stationery, books, etc., that stand as official church publications.”

First, a little history, but not exhaustive, might be in order to give some background to the subject brought forth. For some years before 1938 it was thought it would be desirable to have a seal to use on various church papers and documents as a means of identification from other churches using the same or nearly the same name as Church of Christ. So in 1938 the committee of A. M. Smith & C. L. Wheaton presented their selection from the various designs submitted to them to the Twelve for their decision, and the pre-



OFFICIAL CHURCH SEAL

sent seal was unanimously approved by that quorum. The custodian of this seal was the secretary of the apostles for some time, and then later was given to the Board of Publications to be custodians of its use, care and keeping. In 1966, as recorded in conference minutes, there was a motion passed asking the general bishopric to have the seal registered or copyrighted for its protection. Over years of use the seal had become blurred and somewhat hard to read, so before the printing of our 1990 Independence edition of the Book of Mormon, the seal was restored to its original clarity and readability. This is the seal that is now printed on the church's supply of official documents, books, tracts, stationery, forms and periodicals.

The reason for the motion quoted above is that other versions of this seal had been made. Although they were very professional they do differ enough to raise the question “Which one is the right seal?” and possibly jeopardize or annul our claim to the seal accepted by the church in 1938.

As to the questions raised on the

conference floor, the board sees no reason to change the practices in use at this time, except to reaffirm that no private publication should carry the seal.

The Church Seal is designed to signify the approved and official nature of documents representing the official activities and the approved statements, business and outreach of the Church. Its use in print or in electronic media is limited to the following:

1 Approved periodicals of the Church published under the guidance of an editor and his staff currently elected by the Church conference.

2 Items approved by the conference elected Board of Publications as directed by a majority vote of that board.

3 Official letters and documents necessary to the business manager, elected by the Church conference.

4 Official letters and documents prepared by the secretary of the council of Apostles, secretary of the general Bishopric, general Church secretary and general Church recorder.

5 Business cards by ministry under Church appointment.

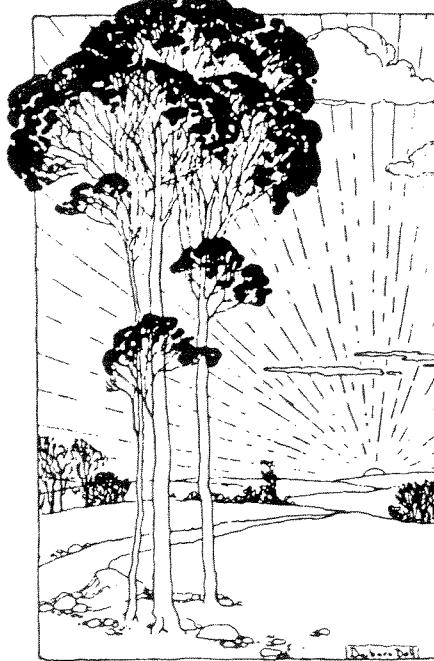
Signed: Board of Publications

CHOICES for the CHURCH

In April of 1998, I was working, driving the truck 13 to 15 hours a day. I had been fasting. The Holy Spirit came over me and I was given information concerning the Church of Christ and its future.

The Church is traveling along a pathway. There is a fork in the road. One fork goes up and the other fork goes down. The upward path is the church's spiritual growth. The downward path is the world.

It was made known to me that the people who are fence straddlers and involved in worldly activities are following the downward path. There is no force or violence involved. They don't even see the upward path.



PATHLIGHTS

sage is that we have to make righteous decisions now. It will be too late at the fork. I was reminded of the child's song, *Don't Step There*.

Love in Gospel Bonds,
Norman Warfield

Those who are trying to eliminate worldly activities, and trying to perfect themselves, will go with the church in the upward path to spiritual growth; they see the choice.

My first impression was that this was a warning for me and that I should share it with the Church of Christ. The weight of the mes-

Amanda's Baptism

What a Spirit filled and Spirit led reunion! Could any present deny the working of the Holy Ghost throughout?

What a fitting time for a brand new soul to be added to the Lamb's Book of Life, a time when the air was charged with the power and love of the Holy Ghost. Saturday afternoon my daughter Amanda went down into the waters of baptism, openly professing to dedicate the remainder of her life to Christ. Her father, Priest Martin Addie, performed this sacred ordinance, but not one could deny the Spirit's presence there.

Following, she was given the gift of the Holy Ghost (that baptism by fire). Before the confirmation, Apostle Joel Yates offered a mighty prayer beseeching the Holy Ghost to come down and baptize His new child with fire. Indeed, the Holy Ghost was present and administered through His faithful and humble servant Elder Ricky Olson. A mighty prayer of confirmation was offered as the Holy Ghost spoke through our brother and His servant.

Following these sacred ordinances, Amanda was offered the Hand of Fellowship and was welcomed into the body of Christ by all present.

The following day a sacrament service was held and Amanda par-

took for the first time. In the testimony service which followed she offered up a testimony relating to her baptism. At this time she read a poem I had written her concerning my feelings on her baptism.

A Birthday Blessing

Fourteen years ago I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl.

You were the apple of your father's and my eyes.

Yet even as I held you close in my arms,

I knew that you weren't really mine.

I knew that you were just on loan to me from the Father above,

That there were lessons and examples your earthly father and I had to teach you;

And that someday the Father would call you to be His child once more. He has called: You have heeded.

The day has come that you stop being my child.

For as you enter into the waters this day,

You openly profess to the Father above that you are His.

You give up your earthly ways, give your life to Him: Become His child.

Today your earthly father and I give you back to your true Father.

Does this mean we love you less?

No, my dear, today we love you even more.

For today you are born again and join the family of God.

I have anticipated this day,
Not knowing when God would call
and you would heed, but knowing
the day would come.
I cry this day, my child,
Because you have answered His call.

No, these are not tears of sorrow,
But tears of great joy.
I cry because today, my child, you are
no longer mine.
For today at the heeding of His call
you become His.

—Dedicated to my daughter
Amanda and her rebirth. Baptized
8/7/00

—Janeen Addie

This poem was inspired and written the night before her baptism as we prepared to attend reunion. It is my testimony to God and Amanda of the greater depth of love I now feel for her, and my willingness to turn her over to the Father's care.

Many times, when at services, upon feeling the power and love of the Holy Spirit, I begin to cry. Amanda often questioned why. You should be happy Mom, not sad, she'd say, and when I'd explain they were happy tears she found it hard to understand. She's able to understand now, and has even shed some happy tears of her own.

Janeen Addie
Springfield, Missouri

REUNION REPORT

COLORADO REUNION

Friday, June 11

The reunion began with a 9:00 a.m. prayer service. Pastor Jim Shaw greeted the congregation and the meeting was opened with two songs and a prayer. He then made note of the promises to the remnant of Jacob and those Gentiles who repent. He reminded us of the Lord's pattern for His Church and the promises that are made to the Church. This was followed by a season of prayer and many testimonies and songs. Lunch was served by the ladies of the Grand Junction Local.

The speaker for the afternoon preaching service was Brother Allen Kauffman. A special number was sung, *The Old Rugged Cross*, by Bob Oldham, Kim Yates and Chris Moser. Allen used this as the starting point of his sermon, noting that Christ's sacrifice on the cross indebted us to God. He spoke of our responsibilities, the reasons for those responsibilities, and the hope those responsibilities provide. He offered Matthew 22:36-40 as a text to illustrate our duty to love God and serve our fellow men. He also touched on the common themes of working out our own salvation, self-discipline, teaching our children discipline, supporting the church and repentance. He concluded with the admonition to "set your affection on

things above" and the promise from Malachi that the righteous "shall grow up as calves of the stall."

The evening began with a song service. A special, *Stretch Out Your Hand*, was sung by Verda Malone and Ken Shaw. The evening speaker was Brother Bob Oldham. Before he began there was a special, *Gentle Healer*, sung by Martha and Rodger Bruner and Czerna and Allen Kauffman. One of Bob's early references was Matthew 4:17, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." He drew the point from this that we are promised eternity but the location where we spend eternity depends on us. We are reminded that the method by which we gain eternal life with Christ is by overcoming temptation and repentance. He reminded us that the plan of God cannot be frustrated, and that we are only servants. He illustrated this by telling the story of Samson and Delilah. As Samson, in defiance of their law, took a wife of the Philistines, he suffered in life and in death. The Lord's purpose for him was still completed. He also spoke of Christ's temptation by Satan. We were urged to remember that Christ overcame, not by human strength, but by the written word of God. He used Mosiah 1:119-120 in summary to show that we can overcome our natural state of being an enemy of God.

Saturday, June 12

The day again began with a prayer service at 9:00 a.m. In his opening remarks, Brother Bob Hedrick stated that we had come to love, worship and praise God. We again heard many fine testimonies and songs.

The afternoon speaker was Brother Leslie Case. Before he began there was a special, *I'll Be There*, that was sung by Czerna Kauffman and Martha Bruner. Czerna related how she had been moved to write this song for a member of their congregation. He had been instructed to prepare his life and Czerna supposed that the song was to be sung at his ordination. He died unexpectedly and she found herself singing it at his funeral. Looking back, she saw that the song was, in fact, for that occasion.

Leslie's first text was from the third chapter of the Revelation, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me." He contrasted the world, which has abandoned the recognition of God, to the Church. He spoke of the value of our souls. He said that he saw his soul as the "me" that would stand before God.

We were given a text from the

16th chapter of Matthew, reminding us that the sacrifice that is required is a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

His conclusion reminded us that the Laodiceans were rich in worldly goods but poor spiritually. Once again he reminded us that we are all important to God.

The evening again began with a song service. The speaker for the evening was Brother Brian Melndoo. A group from the Grand Junction local sang Great Is Thy Faithfulness. Brian's opening text was Psalms 115:4-8. In this scripture we are told that idols have no power and those that make and trust in them are like unto them. He said that it is not common in our culture for people to acknowledge a belief in idols, yet Americans show that belief through their actions. He detailed the practices of idol worship that were common among the Greeks, the Egyptians, and other early cultures, and showed how these practices still exist. The pagan gods he mentioned included Baal, whose worshippers believed that life rose from decay; Molek, a god of pleasure who demanded the sacrifice of children, and Mammon, the god of wealth. The Greek gods he spoke of included Aphrodite, the goddess of sex, Narcissus, the god of self worship, and Mars, the god of war. The philosophers he mentioned included the Stoics, who promoted depriving oneself of emotion, and the Epicureans, who did not believe in an immortal soul. One of his references included 2nd Nephi 6:83, "And whoso knocketh, to him, will he open." Once

again we were reminded of the value of our soul.

Sunday, June 13

Our sacrament service was held Sunday morning. In his opening remarks Brother Frank Fann spoke of our duty to serve God and to keep this ordinance. One text that he used was Mosiah 2:13-17. "Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things.... And now, if you believe all these things, see that you do them." Following the serving of the sacrament there was a season of prayer and testimonies and songs.

At 6:00 p.m. we had a song service. At 7:00 p.m. we had preaching by Brother Alvin Harris. There was a special number by Kim Yates, Kathy Ely, Debbie Brown and Chris Moser, Oh The Joyful Reapers. Alvin began with a short summary of the other speakers' topics. God is in charge. If we aren't doing his work, someone will. We all have burdens, and we must take them to the Lord. We must choose good or evil and cannot try to ride the fence. We must recognize the existence of idols. Then he set up a chalk board and drew a time line from the creation to the present. He used it to illustrate the inclination of human progress to separate from the basics of God's teachings. He used the scripture 2nd Timothy 3:6-7 "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." He warned against the popular teaching that all Christians serve the same God, reminding us that serving God re-

quired keeping His commandments. He spoke of the occasion in the 19th chapter of Acts when the devil recognized Christ and His servant Paul, but did not respect exorcists attempting to exercise power through Christ's name. He spoke of the necessity of supporting and ministering to those who have entered the gospel. He reminded us that each decision has consequences, and of the commandment to avoid the appearance of evil. He closed with the complete text of the 14th chapter of 3rd Nephi: "...And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, which are of the house of Israel."

There were numerous other special numbers that I didn't get notes on and I apologize to those that performed them. We had one of the largest reunions in recent years. We enjoyed the time we spent in conversation and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. As one of our ministers said in his testimony on Sunday morning, "If you hadn't come, it wouldn't have been a reunion. It would only have been a series of meetings."

Sister Karen Bell

PURYEAR REUNION

**This report comes to you
courtesy of Bonnie E. Case.**

Greetings Everyone—

“Precious Memories, unseen angels, sent from somewhere to my soul; How they linger ever near me, and the sacred past unfold.”

“Precious memories, how they linger,

How they ever flood my soul,
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious memories, sacred scenes unfold.”

Yes! the weekend of July 4th was filled to overflowing with Precious Memories, all nine to ten of us that drove to Tennessee, plus the two members there, were so richly blessed by GOD. We received many precious memories, like paint drops falling on our heads from the people painting above us, and the miracles that happened, and the burdens that were lifted.

Leslie Case and Bob Eddy drove down the weekend of June 26th, when the first miracle happened. The weather report was for rain for the whole week, and it only rained on Monday, the day they couldn't do any work, because legal matters had to be dealt with. Leslie

and Bob, along with Robin Cox, worked on the church getting it ready to be painted on Saturday. Kenneth Carroll was welcomed with open arms on Thursday evening; Robin expressed on Saturday that it was a wonderful blessing that Kenny drove up when he did, because it made all the difference in the world whether we painted on Saturday or not. Friday evening Bob Oldham brought Allen Kauffman and Scott Adams, and late Friday night Jim & Bonnie Case brought Shaughn Sprague and Elizabeth Warfield. Saturday brought a big disappointment, but GOD knew what He was doing. Kenny was saddened by the fact that the sprayer he brought refused to work, but like Leslie Case said “everyone picked up a paint brush and bucket and soon the church building was looking like a jewel in the sun.” Another miracle happened that morning. Leslie had left his briefcase (with lots of money inside) on the bumper of his truck and drove off. The briefcase was picked up off the side of the road by Elizabeth Paschall's niece, who called her mother, and then James Grooms, so within a few minutes Leslie had his briefcase back all intact. While we painted we shared with each other God's blessings in our lives. We also had lots of fun teasing each other,

and laughing at things we did or stories that were told. Oh! The volumes that could be written about that, but I won't take up your time on that, just ask any of us and we'll tell of the fun we had gladly.

When the sprayer didn't work several of us expressed “we wondered why we felt so lead to be there.” God knew! And He also knew that we needed these precious memories that we made that weekend for future use. We now know beyond any doubt that God had a plan for us and that was to work our fingers to the bone together to enrich our spiritual lives.

The carpenters, Shaughn and Scott, built the most elegant outside restroom facilities anywhere, at least that is what Robin Cox declared.

She said that if anything happened to her house she now knew where she could move to and she'd have all the comforts of home there. Robin was really in awe of the out-house and all the work that was being done for their little church. The idea was born when money was received for Brother Leon Thompson's funeral, and that pot grew and people felt lead to help. Sunday evening Robin was aware that the time was coming for everyone to leave, and she tried to put it out of her mind then, but Monday

morning at breakfast there was no stopping it. She told us through her tears "that she was sorry but she was not a sponge, she was a water fall." We all cried with her and felt deeply for her and James, and we pray for brighter days there.

On Sunday morning we got up early to start church (8:30 AM) so we could eat early and get back to the painting and building earlier. We hoped that this qualified as having your "oxen in the ditch." We all expressed that we needed to be home by Monday evening, so working on Sunday was necessary.

We all felt that God blessed us in our efforts, because with 11 people present we had a little over two hour sacrament service, followed by a full hour sermon. Bob Oldham took charge of the sacrament service and Allen Kauffman preached the sermon.

We got back to our work by early afternoon and finished everything up by 5 PM. Around then was when another visible miracle happened. Leslie had lost his wedding ring on Saturday. While I was cleaning up my paint brush I just happened to look at the ground, and there it was where Leslie had looked and people had been walking, etc. I said to Leslie "would you like something that

is round and made out of gold?" He rushed over to pick it up and gave me a sweaty hug. We were so surprised at how fast everything went, but then we shouldn't have been, because God was working with us all the way.

We then had a barbecue in front of the church, followed by singing to guitar music. As we sang and the dusk fell, we told of more testimonies and miracles, and of testimonies from others that meant a lot to us. What a peaceful and spiritually filling time we spent together.

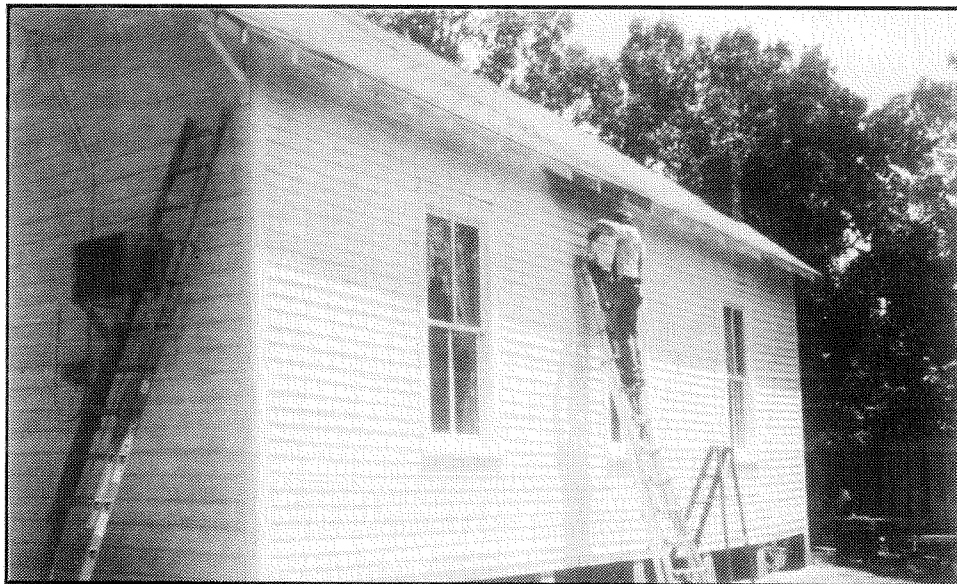
Scott Adams told me later that "sometime on Sunday I became aware that the darkness and sorrow that had engulfed me had been lifted off my chest." He also said that "even though I didn't do anything special or extraordinary, in the service of others I found some peace and comfort from our compassionate and loving God." Scott, we saw your burden being lifted and it filled our hearts with joy at the goodness and greatness of our all knowing God.

Last but not least was the won-

derful food. Robin made special arrangements with the restaurant in Puryear (Spankies) to feed ALL of us the whole time we were there; everyone there was so friendly (even letting us sit with them when we couldn't all fit at one table), and putting up with our kidding, laughing, and genuine fun we had there. One example was, Monday morning at breakfast Bob Oldham requested oatmeal and toast. Robin's sister Janie (who is a waitress there), brought him a cup that they normally put butter in, filled with oatmeal and tiny triangles of toast on a pie plate. Everyone in the restaurant, at the time, had a big laugh over that, including Bob (a photo opportunity I missed).

I'm sorry this is long but I could see no way to shorten this, because of the blessings, laughter, and peacefulness felt by all there. We wanted to share our experiences with you, so all of you could feel our Heavenly Father's blessings to us. Like Scott Adams said, we didn't feel like we did anything special, but the peace

and comfort from our compassionate and loving God filled us to overflowing because we made the effort.



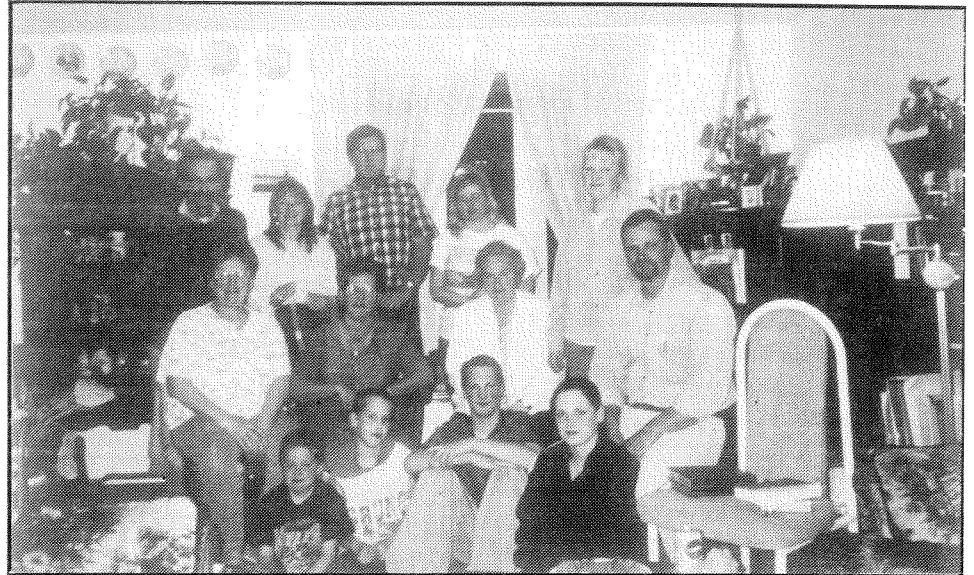
Ontario Local

Pictured, the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Canada. This was taken after a Wednesday night service with Brother Ken Oar present.

The picture with the kids depicts our Sunday School lesson on the Armor of God (Ephesians 6-11).

We now have a place to meet every Sunday starting September 5, 1999. It is at Bethel Community Center on Bethel Road, Burford, Ontario, Canada. Everyone Welcome.

*Sister Norn Vureen
Church of Christ
(Temple Lot)
Canada*



► This is part of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Canada.
L-R Front Row: Chris & Shane Gillen, Jake & Adriene Bevaart
L-R Second Row: Marn Vieveen, Edie Mountjoy, Joan Linington, Mike Bevaart
L-R Third Row: Bill Vieveen, Judy Daly, Ken Oar, Kim Gillen, Deb Bevaart
Not Present: Bill Linington, Joanne Smith, Lil Delville



► Chris & Shane Gillen, sons of David and Kim Gillen. This is one of our Sunday School Sessions. They are dressed up to represent the full armor of God.

NEWS

AVA, MISSOURI

The Ava bunch has had a busy summer and it's not even August yet! Some of the visiting ministry come down once a month and meet with those who want to in the RLDS church building in the afternoon that Sunday. Donald Gill tries to come over from Houston on the third or fourth Sunday of each month. Besides those meetings, the group has gotten together for carry-in dinners at Burgins and have also met for breakfast on certain Saturdays. Because of the distances involved and various other schedules, these meetings have been a challenge as well as a pleasure.

Dolly Brech was baptized on May 23rd by Donald Gill. Because of her dad's trucking schedule and Donald's school responsibilities, she was baptized at Houston. The confirmation was by David Keeney, and a short Sacrament service followed.

The next week Dolly went to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for basic training with the Army Reserves.

Dallas Brech is with the Ava swim team and has kept his mother busy chauffeuring him to practice sessions and competitions in the towns around Ava.

As with all congregations lately, we have been concerned about the health and well-being of certain ones of our group. Pam Stotts (Arkansas) suffered

a problem with her heart this spring and summer. Pam very seldom slows down and it seems her heart has decided to follow her example. Pam's sister and her husband, Cathy and Vince Latona (Springfield), and her parents, Les and Barbara Burgin, have visited her several times, and she seems to be doing all right with the current medication.

Jack Bell (Iowa) was in ICU in Iowa City with pneumonia and congestive heart failure. His sisters went up to see him in July, and he seems to be doing all right, and is even off the oxygen at this time.

Estella Davis had to have a series of tests in Springfield. Her sister-in-law, Sandy Smith, would have closed her business for the day and taken her up there, but Dee Smith (Raymondville) volunteered for the trip. It was a day of companionship for three long-time friends and became a time of celebration as each test proved negative. Prayers were asked throughout the church for these people and the Lord granted our requests.

There has been a small epidemic of babies here this summer. Quinton Allen Augusta Kelly was born June 21st. His parents, Jeremy and Shana Kelly, are planning to move to Phoenix the first of August. Shana's brother, Shane Riley and his wife, already live there, and have found an apartment for the Kellys in the same building as their own.

Chloe Elizabeth McKee was born

May 30th, and her cousin, Bailey Alexander Smith, was born June 11th. They are the grandchildren of Verl and Sandy Smith and the great-grandchildren and namesakes of Alex and (Elizabeth) Darleen Smith.

May was also graduation time. Shana Kelly graduated from high school. Jamie Smith and Jason Smith both graduated from college with honors.

For their wedding, Jason and Jennifer (Smith & Smith) chose one of the prettiest sites in the county. The dark mouth of Honey Branch Cave and the gray rocks of the bluff provided a dramatic background for the bright colors of the wedding party. Tall trees surrounded the crowd of family and friends without walling them in. White paths were bordered with gray rocks and boulders. Hosta and Impatiens and other blooming things lined the paths and were planted on every ledge wide enough to hold them. A covered footbridge crossed the stream and the sound of trickling water mingled with the wedding music. The new Smith family will be moving to Columbia where Jason has a position as an assistant teacher in geology at MU while he finishes his Masters degree.

Reported by Ella Engle

REFERENDUM COMMITTEE REPORT

The referendum committee has reported that they met on August 22, 1999, and that the referendum vote was 285 Yes and 23 No votes.

NEWS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Greetings from Phoenix! Spring has been a time of sad good-byes and new beginnings. In a very special song service, Brothers Bob Hedrick, Andy Brown and Keith Hoare were called to the office of elder, and Brother Duane Ely to the office of priest. Wednesday evening song service usually draws a much smaller crowd than the Sunday service. It was a reminder to all of us that the Lord works when He will. There were many witnesses to the calls. Bob Hedrick, Andy Brown and Duane Ely were ordained on May 30th. Keith Hoare was ordained October 3rd.

Soon after the callings we said so long for awhile to Mike, Val and C. J. Kelley. The Kelleys have embarked on the adventure of a new life in Idaho. At a song service shortly before their departure, the Joyful Noise Choir sang good-bye to their friend C. J. We said our good-byes to the whole family soon after at a farewell party after church. We know you'll be happy in Idaho but don't forget us, Kelleys!

A very short time after losing the Kelleys we also said farewell to our dear sister Louise McIndoo. Louise has gone home to her Heavenly Father. There were so many moving tributes at her memorial service that the service ended with many memories left unspoken. Don McIndoo spoke about how several church women had written to say that his mother had been a spiritual mentor to them. I, too, looked on Louise as a spiritual mentor. Her beautiful example, kindness, enthusiasm and inspired counsel were a great strength to me. It's going to take some time to get used to looking across the aisle at church and not seeing her there. I am grateful for the time in this life that I was blessed with her friendship.

On a lighter note we commemorated the local Moms on their day with dinner cooked by the men and a program of skits and songs. On Father's Day, the Dads spilled the beans (oops!) I mean shared memories of their kids.

Several of the kids from the Baby Boom of 1980/81 graduated this year. Holly McIndoo, Erica Moser and Alesha Yates sang a beautiful song about their enduring friendship in Christ. Not too many dry eyes that night! We'll be losing Erica to the state of Missouri in August. She will be attending college there. We know she will be a blessing there as she has been to us.

We had several Navajo visitors to our Vacation Church School this year. Linda Sloan and daughter D. J. did a great job helping with crafts. We were also happy to have Linda's other daughters, Zsa Zsa, Jordan, Sunshine and Chubs (the only names we know them by!) and Bruce, Latasha, and Lateresa Harvey.

Congratulations to Jim and Wanda Yates on their 50th wedding anniversary! It is a great testimony to all of us to see an enduring love that has been blessed by the Lord.

We've enjoyed the company of Crystal and Amos Ferrier and the Jim Shaw family this summer. Jim blessed us with a sermon while here.

We're also happy to welcome Mark and Pat McCollum and Shandra, Danny and Anna Vega as permanent residents of the neighborhood!

It's official! Apostle Brian McIndoo has retired to devote full time to his ministry. Brian was blessed with the company of his wife Becky for part of his last missionary trip in the Northwest. He was later joined by Rodger and Martha Bruner.

Apostles Don McIndoo and Jay Moser made a brief trip to Honduras in the spring. They returned home with many beautiful testimonies.

The families of Andy Brown, Joel Yates and Bob Hedrick took an extended missionary vacation through the Northwest. Their trip was full of blessings and breakdowns (vehicle that is!).

Brothers Ken Oar and Jay Moser traveled to Yucatan for a few weeks. When Ken returned home to visit our brothers and sisters in New York, Jay was joined by a very happy Don McIndoo. We were all relieved to

learn that Don's extended respiratory problems were caused by that old Arizona standby, Valley Fever.

We're also very grateful that the Lord has blessed our Brother Bill Malone through several heart surgeries. He and Karin have been busy visiting church folks all over the country.

Brothers Andy Brown and Jim Yates, Jr. continue to hold services in Payson and Showlow. Brothers Ken Oar, Andy Brown and Hubert and Jim Yates, Sr. have made visits to the Navajo Nation and the Sloan family in Mesa this summer. In closing, some thoughts from sermons:

- *Our primary goal in this life is striving for salvation, but it shouldn't be drudgery. Following God and His commandments is a happy way of life.*
- *If our heart pricks us, thank God for loving us enough to help us understand the truth.*
- *Have you ever asked yourself: Why do I grow so slowly? Why are you unable to glorify the name of God as you desired to do? Because you have neglected prayer.*
- *When does the gospel of Christ really begin to grow? In times of duress, in times of persecution, in times of poverty.*
- *Everyone is going to have to make some really tough decisions. I hope your faith is strong enough and that you're working a little bit harder each day to draw close to God.*
- *One poor choice does not condemn us if we make the right choice afterwards.*
- *If we're going to accept the commandments of Christ and live by them we can't just externally do it. We have to do it down deep in the heart.*
- *The Lord's not going to put you outside your comfort zone without giving you the strength, the power, the resources to do what He has for you to do.*
- *We've got to kill the giants in our lives.*

Marlene Oar

OBITUARY

Robert Henry Jensen

July 15, 1921 ~ September 13, 1999

We celebrate the life of Apostle Robert Henry Jensen, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He loved God, his family and the church with all his heart.

Robert was born July 15, 1921, in his grandmother's house in Council Bluffs, Iowa. His parents were Henry and Opal Mae Jensen. He has a younger sister, Helen Marie Dewaele, of Council Bluffs.

Robert entered into his rest September 13, 1999, at Papillion, Nebraska, being 78 years, 1 month and 29 days in age, and survived by his wife, Doris, and son David, of the home.

The funeral service was held Thursday, September 16, 1999, at 10:00 A.M. at the Bellevue Memorial Funeral Chapel, Bellevue, Nebraska.

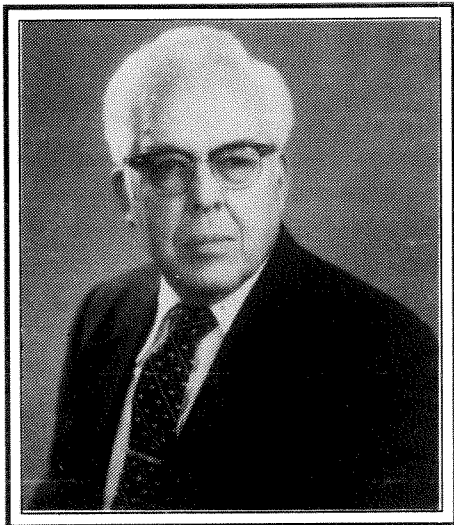
Officiating were Apostle Frank Fann and Elder Charles W. Brantner.

Music and songs by Sisters Martha Bruner and Margret Gill.

Casket bearers were sons in-law and grandsons.

One summer after he had graduated from high school and business school, he went to Bemidji, Minnesota, to visit his two aunts. It was there that he met Doris Emily Winegar. They met while picking blueberries together, fell in love and married 55 years ago this month (September).

They were married while Robert was serving in World War II, shortly before he was sent to Italy. After his return from the war they set up housekeeping in Benson and started a family. They were blessed



with three children, Marilyn, Kathleen and David.

Robert has two sons in-law, Victor Ostermiller and Ralph Clark, seven grandchildren, Douglas and Jeffrey Ostermiller and Jerry, Lisa, Jacob, Paul Clark, Cindy and Tim Flemke; also two great-grandchildren—Crystal and Shawn. Two nephews, Raymond and Robert Dewaele, plus innumerable church family and friends.

Robert liked to talk about his father as being a carpenter—the same profession as our Lord. Robert worked at Fort Omaha in medical records, then transferred to the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base where he was a comptroller. He retired in 1972. He had a special relationship with the automobile. He admired Henry Ford's Model T. Although he owned more than 30 cars—only one of them did he buy new, which he lovingly referred to as his green machine. And for the past four decades he always drove a Cadillac.

As first an elder and then as an apostle for 36 years, totaling 43 years in the ministry of the Church of Christ, headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri, Robert spent untold hours and traveled countless miles in the mission field and at home preaching the gospel, studying the scriptures, visiting and counseling the members and writing letters of spiritual guidance. He served for some years as the church historian.

Although he had a severe heart attack in 1986, he recovered and was able to continue his ministry and enjoy life to the fullest. He had the great enjoyment of performing his granddaughter Cindy's wedding just a short time ago.

He particularly loved to sing the hymns of the church. Two of his favorites were "The Old, Old Path" and "Beyond the Sunset," and often he would relate what history was known about the author and song.

Among his many favorite scriptures: "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" Psalms 24:1.

"Surely the Lord will do nothing but (except) he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" Amos 3:7.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is staid on thee because he trusteth in thee" Isaiah 26:3.

A quiet, dignified man, a man of great strength and commitment, meticulous in detail, causing endearment to all who have known him.

OBITUARY

Blanche Fern Martin

July 25, 1906 ~ July 13, 1999

Blanche Fern Martin was born five miles west of Collins, Missouri, on July 25, 1906, and left this earth to be with her Master on July 13, 1999, just twelve days before her 93rd birthday. She was the sixth of ten children born to Tom and Elizabeth Chapman.

On February 11, 1928, Blanche and Ray Melvin Martin were married. Although she had never lived away from home, Blanche, as a young bride, traveled with her husband to Oregon where Ray worked as a logger. Blanche was very homesick during her first few months in Oregon. In time, their first child, Helen, was born. This gave Blanche a new interest and she came to be happy and content in their new home.

They returned to Missouri in 1931 and settled two miles south of Collins, Missouri, in what was known as Martin Valley. This was depression time and farming was hard. Three other little ones were added to the family. First, Marjorie, then Donald, and finally Elizabeth May (Betty). They rented a house and acreage from Ray's father, Sam Martin. Later, they purchased part of the homeplace. This was their home for the rest of their lives. Even though she was afraid to live alone, God granted her the courage to live in her beloved home more than thirty years after Ray's death in 1964. Thereafter, she lived with her children until she moved to the Country Villa Nursing Home in Humansville, Missouri, where she resided for the last fourteen months of her earthly life.

She was introduced to the restored



gospel by her husband. He read the Book of Mormon to her as she recuperated from the birth of one of their children.

Blanche was baptized into the Church of Christ in 1935 by Apostle Arthur M. Smith. The arrival of visiting ministry was always a special occasion. She prepared the visiting minister's favorite food. After dinner, the adults talked the gospel while the children listened.

She had the compassion of a nurse in caring for her mother, husband, and brothers before their passing. A person who thought of others first, her house was always open to those in need.

She will be remembered by her family as the best cook around. Her cinnamon rolls were out of this world. Many people prolonged their illness when they heard that Blanche was coming with some hot fresh baked cinnamon rolls. When she cooked for church dinners, she always wanted us to be sure to get a piece of her angel food cake. She questioned us later

as to its excellence.

She and her husband worked hand-in-hand in establishing their farm and teaching their children the true values of life. A loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, she always expressed love towards all, especially little children.

She leaves to mourn her passing her daughters, Helen Kidd of Raytown, Missouri, Marjorie Routh of Humansville, Missouri, Betty Dunning of Deepwater, Missouri, a son, Donald Martin of Appleton City, Missouri, eleven grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She is also survived by a brother, Ted Chapman, and a sister, Clara Pershing of Clatskanie, Oregon, and a host of friends.

The vacancy that she left in her family circle will be strongly felt, but never will she lose the place she established in their hearts.

The funeral was held at the Church of Christ local in Collins, Missouri. Officiating were her grandson-in-law, Apostle Joel Yates, assisted by her grandson, Bruce Kidd. Music was by Czerna and Alan Kauffman. One of the songs sung was "Near the Cross" which was Blanche's theme song the last two years of her life. She hummed or sang this song every day.

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