

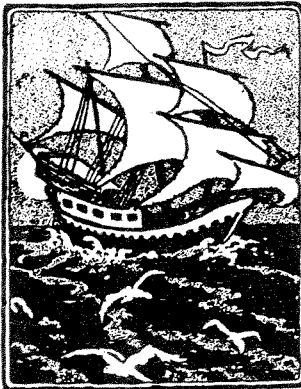
# Zion's Advocate

*"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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*O give thanks unto the Lord;  
for he is good:  
for his mercy endureth for ever.*  
*Psalm 136:1*



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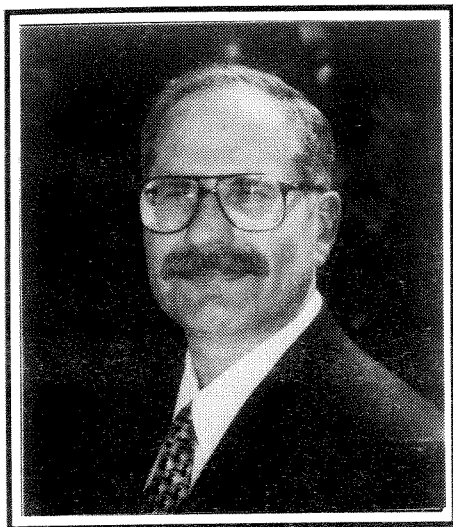
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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

# PLACING AN EDGE ON PRAYER THROUGH FASTING



By Apostle Michael McGhee

In the article following this editorial you will find "Fasting and Prayer," by the late Apostle Don W. Housknecht. In this article he asks a sobering question, "When was the last time that you fasted, either on your own or at the request of your pastors and ministers?" This week, last month, sometime during this year or within recent memory?

*"And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,*

*Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.*

*And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.*

*Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.*

*And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*

*Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?*

*And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall*

*be impossible unto you.*

*Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" Matt. 17:14-21.*

There are several points I would like to touch on before looking at fasting and prayer, and then asking that you read the article "Fasting and Prayer" prayerfully.

*"O faithless and perverse generation..."*

Jesus, here, was not addressing the disciples directly, but was certainly talking plain to the scribes, the Pharisees, all those who came for the amusement and spectacle. These were driven, or at the very least used by Satan, because of their lack of faith and pure desire for the truth. The disciples were weak in their faith, as evidenced in the statement made by the lunatic's father, "...And they could not cure him." But they had faith and were growing, being nurtured of the Master; they were not a part of the faithless and perverse generation.

*"And he said, I will hide*

*my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith" Deut. 32:20.*

The definition of *froward* is not easily controlled; stubbornly willful; contrary; unruly. The generation Christ addressed is not much different than the one we live in today.

Froward, Perverse and Faithless!

*"How long shall I be with you?"*

Jesus Christ knew His mission, knew that His time in the flesh would be cut short by faithless men, and that the choices of men and women would determine their eternal domain.

*"And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness" Acts 13:18.*

Christ has suffered almost 2000 years with mankind in the wilderness since He atoned for the sins of all mankind. Our manners as a whole have not improved, but are ripening in iniquity, and only a very few are watchful and waiting for the return of our King.

*"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" Matt. 24:22.*

*"...Bring him hither to me."*

Christ, in spite of a faithless generation, in spite of a perverse generation, because of the faith of His disciples (weak in faith but striving to grow strong in faith), because of the faith of those who would follow believing in the words of the apostles—once weak but now made strong (those who would follow—that's you and I)—in spite of and because of, Jesus Christ said, "bring him hither to me."

The disciples were quick to ask the Master why it was they were unable to accomplish a healing. Christ responded, "...Because of your unbelief." They had faith, but when faith falls short of due strength, vigour and activity, something else takes its place; Christ identified that as their unbelief. Some might say that *doubt* better describes, but that is an opposite; the disciples were learning and growing each day, and that faith was becoming, as Jesus had hoped, but was not perfected as was Christ's faith in strength, vigour and activity. Christ taught that if their faith was even as the mustard seed they would accomplish much. Something so small, and yet true to its faith of growing, to become large enough to benefit others with shelter and shade; then to bear fruit that there might be continuance.

Within the Body of Christ there is a need—no, a duty—to God and each other, to nurture our faith through fasting and prayer. Fasting is able to sharpen prayer, placing an edge on prayer.

By fasting we are able to mortify corrupt habits. This corruptible body depends on food to exist, and yet we do not need food constantly to live, meal to meal or day to day. Yet for each meal and day we are allowed to live we must give thanks to God, and for each day and meal that we fast and pray, we are able to move closer to God, depending not on what is in the world to live on, but on God who is the giver of life.

As we sanctify the body to serve the soul, the flesh and everything that is corruptible is made subject to the soul with our will turned over to God. This is the edge that fasting brings to prayer.

As we witness the failing sickness of a loved one, a total stranger or ourselves we become discouraged. As we are made aware of a destructive weakness within ourselves, a loved one or a stranger, we may begin to doubt. As we witness the untiring efforts and extraordinary power of Satan we become faint. Our faith must awaken and be quickened, our intensity and earnestness in prayer must be sharpened by fasting; the edge Christ has taught.

*"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."*

# Fasting and Prayer

**I**t is our hope that this message will help to broaden your understanding as to your duty before God and the values of fasting with prayer.

We will try to limit comment and rather make citations to scripture and experiences that prove the values of fasting.

The 5th chapter of Luke is interesting, and we cite verses 27 through 35. The story of the leper, a miraculous healing, the draught of fishes, are all events after Jesus had fasted and prayed, and had faced down this devil.

Almost without fail we find Jesus had prayed before meeting the taunts and reviling against Him, and they could not understand the humility He exhibited in spite of the miraculous power and authority He possessed. No greater example did He give us of humility short of the cross.

This we point out in regard to our attitude in fasting and prayer. The Pharisees were rebuked for their lack of humility in fasting, as we well know. This, then, tells us the importance of humility before and during our fast and prayers. "After the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and

**Fasting and prayer is not necessarily an 'ordinance,' but it is a commandment of no less importance than the six principles of the gospel....**

then shall they fast in those days." Well, the bridegroom was taken away, so we are "in those days," and are now of the household of faith, even the very same church that Christ set up and restored out of the darkness.

Moroni, the 6th chapter, tells of the ordinances of baptism following faith, and of the bearing of fruit of repentance and humility, showing an evidence of determination to serve Him to the end, and also that "the church, did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls...and to partake of the bread and the wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus."

Fasting and prayer is not necessarily an 'ordinance,' but it is a commandment of no less

importance than the six principles of the gospel, i. e., Heb. 6:1.

The principles of the gospel are important to us all the days of our lives, remembering that through faith we are able to abide in Him, recalling our baptism and the covenant we made before God at that event, and the partaking, again and again of the body and blood of Christ, and again and again approaching God in fasting and prayer that we might remember Him continually. Jesus said, "...If ye continue in my word then are ye my disciples indeed."

When was the last time that you fasted, either on your own or at the request of your pastors and ministers? It is important that you remember this question!

Turn now to Exodus 34:27-28. Moses was directed to go to the sacred mountain where he was to receive directions and commandments. Moses fasted and prayed forty days and nights during the time he was with the Lord. "And the Lord said unto Moses, write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel." (Remember we have been adopted into Israel.)

In order for Moses to stand

in the presence of God "he did neither eat, nor drink water," during the forty days and nights. (We will dwell more

**We must remember that each act of His life was an example of which we may very well have to meet to some degree before we are ourselves successful in Christian endeavor.**

before him and prepared food for him and told him to eat for he had a great journey to make into Mt. Horeb, where he would meet God and be given great tasks to perform. Elijah fasted forty days and nights to prepare himself spiritually for his ordeal.

Now we turn to the greatest of all, the Christ, the Son of God. The story is told in Matthew 4. Jesus has just been baptized of John, after which He fasted and prayed for forty days and nights, and then to be tested and tempted of Satan.

Jesus withstood all that Satan offered, and He came down from the mount and met each ordeal victoriously, ending the final ordeal of death on the cross. One might ask: could not Jesus have accomplished this without having to fast and pray?

We must remember that each act of His life was **an example of which we may very well have to meet to some degree** before we are ourselves successful in Christian endeavor.

Jesus knew of the things that he would have to meet, how He would be rejected, reviled against, would stand against those who would make God's house a den of thieves, would have to isolate himself in the garden and groan in agony while making the decision that God's will be done and not His own, knowing how His example would affect the lives of millions of people yet unborn.

Strength and wisdom came to Him and to those great men

before Him; otherwise, this story of hope of eternal life with God and Christ could never have been told.

**Do we not know that a day is shortly to come when we will be put to a test of faith?**

Do we not know that a day is shortly to come when we will be put to a test of faith? Are we able to say that our understanding is complete regarding our strength to endure similar experiences yet before us?

We have not proven our faith before God that we can say in all honesty, "I shall not fail, I shall not deny him." Therefore, Spiritual directives move your writer to refer to the particular shortcoming among God's people today, including very much the preachers of the World, wherein we have left off our fastings, not reasoning spiritually the Lord's coming soon, so very soon. Fasting and prayer is not meant to be used only two or three times in a lifetime under extreme pressure or extraordinary circumstances, and because it has been considered as such (if considered at all). We have many sickly among us and the "many spirits that are abroad in the world" have driven many into strange doctrines, being unfamiliar with the workings of God's Spirit.

We hope, therefore, that all

fully on this further on.)

This fast was not only for strength to stand in God's presence, but to later stand strong before God's people and guide them through hardship, and to continue in touch with God for guidance.

Another well known leader of God's people was Elijah, and we refer you to 1 Kings 19:1-8. Elijah had challenged the priests of Baal, had defeated them and driven them down to the ground. It made Jezebel, the queen, very, very angry at him, and she rebelled against this act and declared she would have his life in like manner as he had dealt with the priests of Baal. Elijah fled into Beersheba of Judah where he left his servant and then fled into the wilderness where he prayed for God to take his life because he had acted as he did in running away. But an angel appeared

who receive this message will ponder it deeply, for it holds out so great a lively hope of salvation for those who believe and

**Fasting and prayer is not meant to be used only two or three times in a lifetime under extreme pressure or extraordinary circumstances....**

practice it; and for such as continue to take it lightly, we fear they will become lost in the maelstrom and chaos of world strife.

If our forefathers found it necessary to fast from the worldly seasoned things and be thus humbled by soul afflictions: who are we that we have no such need? Are we better than Christ, Elijah, Moses, Paul and others whose strength came through fasting and humble submission of spirit before God? Revelations 13:11-18 is a prophecy of a time and condition that shall be in evidence sooner than one might think it to be.

Herein is described the former and latter power of Rome, and we are concerned with the latter power (present day—or soon) which will have such power that it will control rights to buy or sell food and clothing, and in order for us to purchase or sell for our sustenance and well being, that we neither go

hungry or unclothed, we will be required to bow down to this power and receive a mark in our forehead or our hands, or go without, or possibly die for want of food.

This is the mark of the beast like unto the mark that Catholics receive each Ash Wednesday, which is on both the **forehead** and the back of the **hand**.

Sufficient to say, it will be a trying ordeal for the faithful followers and true believers in deliverance through Christ.

Preparation is the watchword, and fasting and prayer TODAY (not waiting 'til the last moment) should be the uppermost thought in our hearts and minds. We fear for those who scoff at such an admonition.

When Saul (Paul) was struck down and made blind by the power of God, he realized the source of this power and said, "Who art thou Lord?" The answer given made Saul humble before God, and he went for three days without food and drink that he might understand God when and if He should reveal His will.

These instances of great men using the medium of fasting and prayer to reach unto God should be evidence to us that it was a sure means of receiving the revelation of God, and we shall now bring evidence that it was taught as a principle of Christian worship by Jesus during His ministry, and likewise Paul and others.

By Christ—Matthew 6:16-18,

Luke 5:35, 3 Nephi 5:108-109 (Book of Mormon)

By Paul—1 Corinthians 7:3-5, 2 Corinthians 6:10

**If our forefathers found it necessary to fast from the worldly seasoned things and be thus humbled by soul afflictions: who are we that we have no such need?**

By Amaleki (B of M)—Omni 1:46-47

By Alma (B of M)—Alma 4:6, Alma 12:4-5

It is wisdom that we point out further **the purpose of fasting**, and we cite here the reasons that others have had in the past and compare them with ourselves by asking, "Is it any different now, have we any less reason to fast?" For example—Ezra 8:21-23—Ezra, a priest of God's house and scribe, was the one chosen of the King Artaxerxes to lead a people through the ranks of the enemy who opposed the rebuilding of the temple, and Ezra called a fast, "that we might **afflict ourselves** before our God, to **seek a right way for us.**"

Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 20:1-18: "Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, there cometh a great

multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side of Syria; and Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah." 9th verse, "If, when evil cometh, upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand in this house, and in thy presence—and cry unto thee in our affliction, then wilt thou hear and help." (This for protection.)

Joel: Joel 1:14-20/2:15-17, "Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of God?"—"The beasts of the field cry also unto thee; for the rivers of water are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness" 2:15. "Blow the trumpet of Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly." (This, **to stand at the last day.**)

Matthew 15:32,—**A great multitude hungering for the Word of God** fasted three days that they might hear Jesus speak words for the soul.

The Nephites—Alma 21:1-2—were exceedingly rejoiced, because the Lord had delivered them out of the hands of their enemies; therefore, they gave thanks unto the Lord their God: yes, they did fast and pray much...." (This was **for past blessings.**)

During the reign of the judges in Zarahemla and the regions of the Nephites, about forty years before the appearance of Christ, on this continent, the Church had been living in peace until about the

fifty-first year of the reign of the Judges, when pride began to enter into some who professed to belong to the Church, and they

**When we approach God in the proper attitude of fasting, the power of God is assured and He reveals Himself in such a way that no one is left in doubt, and we lose thought of earthly needs: physical or material.**

began to persecute "many of the brethren." This evil caused the "more humble part of the people to suffer persecutions, and to wade through much affliction; nevertheless, they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling of their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and sanctification of their hearts unto God" Helaman 2:31. (This time to survive persecutions.)

Now that it should be quite clear as to the need of fasting, a proper question might be, **how to fast:** is it simply doing without food and drink?

After the church was restored in 1829-30, God gave instructions, and commandments were given with instructions on how to abide by them, and a

commandment was given in August of 1831 to the restored church particularly regarding the sacraments or sacred ordinances. We reference the Book of Commandments, page 111, Chapter 60, vs 16, "and that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer—and on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy **food be prepared** with singleness of heart, that thy fasting may be perfect—Verily this is fasting and prayer; or in other words, rejoicing and prayer." We find that food can be partaken of, but sparingly, with reservations. Paul likewise gave instructions to the people at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:34) when they came together to eat of the Lord's Supper, and as was the custom, they came fasting, but as you read the whole story he ends the subject by saying, "and if any man hunger, let him eat at home...."

There are some whose physical deficiencies are such that partaking of a small amount of food alleviates the actions of the disorder and the mind can be more fully on the Spiritual aspect of the service. Any disturbing element can distract the mind from being centered on the purpose of a fast.

When we approach God in the proper attitude of fasting, the power of God is assured and He reveals Himself in such a way that no one is left in doubt, and we lose thought of earthly needs: physical or material. We lose knowledge of all things that



would prevent a clear channel through to God. We should not on a day or time of approaching the fast, or during the fast, turn on the radio or television, read the newspapers, or laugh or joke, for certainly that which is of these things are not of the divine nature of God and Christ, and are not conducive to the allowing of the full indwelling of the Spirit and will of God in our hearts and minds.

The prophet Isaiah, in chapter 58, identifies two kinds of fasting. One is a hypocritical fast (for show); the other, quite accepted, and we quote in part, "Wherefore have we fasted, they say, and thou seest not? Wherefore have we afflicted our souls and thou takest no knowledge?" The answer— "...Behold in the day of your fast ye find pleasure and exact all your labors. Behold ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness; ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast as I have chosen? **A day for man to afflict his soul.** Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

What is the result of such a fast? What promise does this affliction of the soul bring? The answer follows as we quote more of Isaiah 58, thus— "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before

thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He

**We should not on a day or time of approaching the fast, or during the fast, turn on the radio or television, read the newspapers, or laugh or joke, for certainly that which is of these things are not of the divine nature of God and Christ, and are not conducive to the allowing of the full indwelling of the Spirit and will of God in our hearts and minds.**

shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth the finger and speaking vanity; if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the

old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in."

There is an old saying— "You have made your bed, now lay in it." But we don't want to do that, do we? "For the bed is too short that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than he can wrap himself in it" Isa. 28:20.

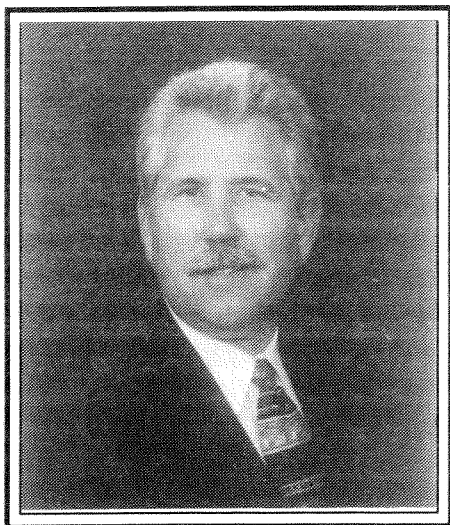
There is no comfort in a bed too short, for we arise having had no rest—the cover is so narrow that we leave ourselves exposed, which is exactly the picture of our Christian endeavor: satisfied to live on the glories of the past, which are nice to remember, but we are uncomfortable spiritually, and we have tried too long to cover ourselves with only a part of all that God has promised us.

Are we satisfied to let our children and youthful ones go on with a too short bed of past glories that grandpa or an aged missionary tells them about, not tasting firsthand the real, soul stirring restful and warming bed of experiences that God wants us to reach out for, which we will find waiting for us, perhaps through a dedicated, humble, frequent approach toward Him—**IN FASTING and PRAYER?**

*Sincerely, your brother and  
Apostle of Jesus Christ, Don W.  
Housknecht*

SERIES: CONCLUSION

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



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

*Part 4 of 4 - Five  
Previous Beliefs and  
Attitudes had to be  
reconciled in Paul.*

**P**aul's conversion was not without consequence: it cost him his theological beliefs and way of thinking. Becoming a Christian did not mean bringing with you your previous ideas, customs and practices. Paul's commitment

to the Pharisees and adherence to the Torah Laws came to an abrupt halt. Since Judaism and Christianity were not yet separate religions, it would be correct to say Saul changed from Pharisaic to Christian Judaism. However, because of this change, Paul had to reconsider his strong beliefs he had as a Pharisee.

**1** Paul would now have to minister to and work with converted Jews of Damascus; therefore, he must break the former attitude or prejudices against this group of people. *Acts 9:19: "And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus."* Paul joined himself to the ongoing missionary enterprises of Damascus. Here he would also receive instruction on Christianity; consequently, this is the same group he

**Becoming a  
Christian [does] not  
mean bringing with  
you your previous  
ideas, customs and  
practices.**

was enroute to persecute. These *certain days*, we will find, were an extensive missionary trip that lasted for possibly as much as four years. Thus we see he had to overcome any pride, prejudices or dislike for these people, and accept them as brothers and sisters.

**2** The next question Paul must answer was, What way would new converts from paganism become partakers of the covenant?

Paul previously believed as observance of the Mosaic Torah that Gentile con-

verts would have to be circumcised to come into Judaism. This was the practice those in Damascus had abandoned and caused Paul to take exception to and believe them to be in apostasy. We find Paul found the answer in Damascus.

**a** From Luke's account: Acts 9:18: "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."

**b** Saul's account of the event: Acts 22:13-16: "...Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

**c** Saul writes to the Galatians the process of partaking of the covenant. Gal 3:27-29: "For as many of you as have been baptized into

*Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free,*

**After his conversion to Christianity, [Paul taught] that righteousness comes by faith, not works.**

*there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Paul had reconciled himself to the understanding that baptism was the process of joining the church and partaking of the covenant, not circumcision.

### **3** He had to change his thoughts about righteousness.

A fundamental concept which the Pharisees, and Paul, were zealous about protecting is a strict adherence to the Law. Righteousness came by man's works, obtaining the hope of eternal salvation based entirely on the individual's sufficient Torah observance.

Paul describes his new thought on the subject of

righteousness in two writings.

Gal 2:15-19: "We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God."

Phil 3:7-9: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith...."

After his conversion to

Christianity, he now teaches that righteousness comes by faith, not works. Converting from such a strict and stringent idea of righteousness by works may account for his strong teaching otherwise, in an attempt to rectify the false idea he previously adhered to. Paul's understanding and teaching are true, and everyone should understand righteousness by works is not sufficient to save one's soul; however, this does not negate the need to keep commandments as James said. James 2:17-26: *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye*

*see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot*

**Contrary to prior beliefs, after his conversion Paul understood Christ provided the way for the Gentile Christians to become partakers of the prior promise God made with Abraham, not of the Mosaic covenant.**

*justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*

I have every reason to believe that Paul would agree with James, and never intended for people to think there is no need or benefit in keeping the commandments because that would be dead works. Paul told the Ephesians, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath be-*

*fore ordained that we should walk in them"* Eph 2:8-10.

**4** Another thing Saul had to consider, in his conversion: **What impact did Christ's gospel have on the law**, to which he had been so zealous?

The Law summarized the prohibitions and prescriptions of the scriptures, often disregarding love as the common denominator as prescribed therein. Lev 19:18: *"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord."* We can see this new thought about the law by referring to his letter to the Corinthians.

*"Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant"* 1 Corinthians 7:19-22.

*"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And*

*unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the*

**We are commissioned to take the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, to include other nations, cultures, religions, and churches in and outside the Restoration. Many of these will have customs, traditions, practices, and strong beliefs.**

*law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law” 1 Corinthians 9:19-21.*

Paul called his new concept “the Law of Christ.”

**5** Since Gentiles, (heathen by definition), **do not partake of the Mosaic Covenant, then there must be a special act of God to extend salvation to them.**

Contrary to prior beliefs, after his conversion Paul

understood Christ provided the way for the Gentile Christians to become partakers of the prior promise God made with Abraham, not of the Mosaic covenant. Genesis 15:5-6: *“And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”* As believers in Christ, they become, *“Sons of Abraham,”* eliminating the earthly distinction of Jew and Gentile. See Galatians 3:6-18, Romans 4:1-25.

We are commissioned to take the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, to include other nations, cultures, religions, and churches in and outside the Restoration. Many of these will have customs, traditions, practices, and strong beliefs. Is conversion simply an add on? Can people bring their baggage with them? No, conversion is change, even as Paul had to change. To truly convert to the truth of Jesus Christ, one has to be willing to surrender past practices, traditions, rituals, and sometimes strong beliefs which are contrary to Christ’s gospel and the Plan of Salvation. Paul is a good illustration of converting from the world to Christ. As the definition for conversion states, one must be adapted to a new or different purpose, transformed from one function to another. Paul puts it eloquently in his writings to the Romans, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may*

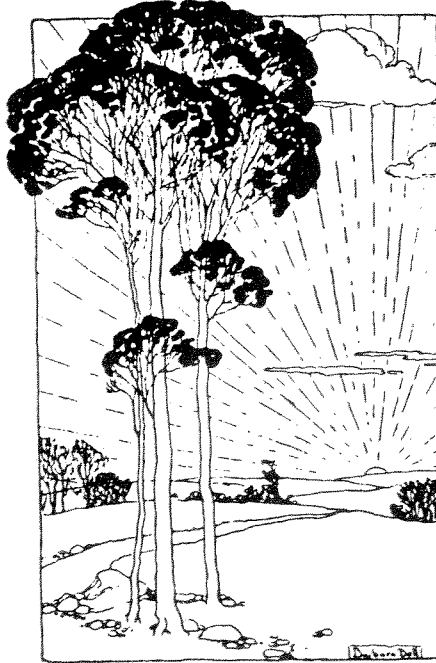
*prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Romans 12:2.*

**To truly convert to the truth of Jesus Christ, one has to be willing to surrender past practices, traditions, rituals, and sometimes strong beliefs which are contrary to Christ’s gospel and the Plan of Salvation.**

# Testimony of Love

I would like to share with all our brothers and sisters a testimony we have received concerning the compassion and love of our brothers and sisters in Yucatan. While Brother Frank Fann, Dennis and Betsy Trudgen and I were in Cancun, we wished to purchase some Sunday School materials for the local congregation. We went into a new Walmart Supercenter there to purchase these materials. While in the store, someone was able to open the trunk of our vehicle, and all our belongings inside were stolen. We lost all our books, cameras and other valuables, including aid money from the General Church and our own personal money.

It was a lost feeling to walk into the Cancun church a few moments later with only the clothes on our backs. Cameras, flashlights, watches can all be replaced, but the loss of our books, all our sermons, studies and notes in well-used Bibles was like losing a most personal portion of your life. None of



## PATHLIGHTS

us could ever remember going to church with nothing in our hands. I had to borrow a Bible and Book of Mormon to preach that night, but I felt the help of the Holy Spirit with me.

Two nights later we were in Yobain for another service. At the conclusion of the service there was an announcement made in Maya, which none of us could understand. The poor people of that congregation

came up and placed money in a basket on the pulpit. Then the pastor brought the basket to us and said it was to help us replace our losses. With tears in our eyes we thanked these humble, caring people for their love and consideration.

Upon counting the money, it proved to be \$123.00, a staggering amount for such poor people to raise on the spur of the moment. We could only think to use it to help replace the General Church money which had been stolen.

We are always happy to be able to share with these poor people the tithing and donations that provide this aid, but this night will always be indelibly printed in our memories when we were on the receiving end of their generosity and concern.

*Don McIndoo,  
Phoenix, Arizona*

# A Day of Fasting and Prayer

**T**he Council of Apostles is setting aside Wednesday, January 26, as a day of fasting and prayer for the need of additional ministry in the church. We would like to invite the whole church to join with us in fasting for this need.

We read in the new testament portion of the Book of Mormon that the church often set aside time to fast and pray together concerning their needs. We know, too, that the Lord delights in our giving of ourselves to Him in prayer, and when we are united in that prayer the Lord has always responded powerfully to our requests.

The church in Mexico and Honduras, as well as several places in the United States and Canada, have a great need for ministry, just to have someone locally to feed them God's word. The church also stands in need of more evangelists, elders and the vacancy within the Council of Apostles, that the word of God might be spread to others.

We hope that as many as can will join us in this endeavor to seek the Lord. Pastors and Locals are encouraged to open their church doors at times throughout the day that those who are able may meet together. Who knows what good things the Lord has in store for us if we but seek Him together.

*In Gospel Bonds,  
Apostle Michael McGhee  
For the Counsel of Apostles*

VETERAN'S DAY



# What is a Veteran?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg, or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's alloy forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking....

What is a vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the bar room loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She or he is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another—or didn't come back at all.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat—but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-ac-

count rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parading Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket—palsied now and aggravatingly slow—who helped liberate a Nazi death camp, and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being—a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing less than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say, "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot,

"THANK YOU."

Remember Veterans Day, November 11th:

"It is the soldier, not the reporter,  
 Who has given us freedom of the press.  
 It is the soldier, not the poet,  
 Who has given us freedom of speech.  
 It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
 Who has given us the freedom to  
 demonstrate.  
 It is the soldier,  
 Who salutes the flag,  
 Who serves beneath the flag,  
 And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
 Who allows the protester to bum the  
 flag."

—Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC (Submitted to Church of Christ e-mail by Mark Hill)



## REPORT

Report from  
**YUCATAN**

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share with you a brief report of our recent trip to visit the churches of Yucatan and Quintana Roo. Brother Frank Fann and I arrived in Merida, Yucatan, late at night on the 5th of October. We were met at the airport by Brothers Placido Koyoc Yam and Placido Koyoc Matu. This was the beginning of a busy round of visits and services that would fill the next four weeks. During this time we would drive over 4,000 miles to visit all our church family, which is widely scattered over these two states of the Yucatan Peninsula. Dennis, Betsy and Amanda Trudgen had arrived earlier that day and spent the next two weeks traveling with us to the various locals. Betsy had a wealth of Sunday School materials with her to share with the teachers here. The people enjoyed hearing their testimonies also.

On October 10th we were blessed by the gathering of about 200 people at our church reunion in Merida. It was a day filled with music, fellowship and good studies about the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Nine of our church locals were represented at this reunion. The three annual reunions we hold each year are about the only opportunity most of the church people have to

fellowship with one another, so many of them like to stay and visit after the reunion. During the afternoon services two women were baptized by Brother Fann. The conversion of these two sisters is the result of fasting and prayer by the members of their respective locals. Several of the young women, together with Betsy, held special classes with the children during the adults' study sessions. It made things more interesting for the children.

During the month we visited each of the thirteen local congregations and one new mission that holds a lot of promise. We were able to visit in a number of homes of people interested in the Gospel, as well as with many of our members. It was a blessing to find new people in attendance in almost all the locals and enthusiastic about the Gospel. In addition to the all-day reunion, we enjoyed and participated in five prayer and testimony meetings, preached 23 sermons, had one all-day meeting in fasting and prayer with people from a number of different locals, and held a four-hour priesthood meeting with the local ministry. Sundays are our busiest days, often with as many as three or four services during the day in several locals.

Our brother, Evangelist Vicente Poot, is still unable to travel due to

several illnesses. We would ask you to continue in prayers for him.

A couple of young mothers interested in the Gospel have asked an interest in your prayers, that the Lord would touch the hearts of their husbands so that a united family might come to the Lord in Gospel bonds. Their names are Elda and Dora. A great need we have is for the calling of more ministry. Please remember these needs in your prayers.

On the 19th of October, Brother Ken Oar arrived to assist in the work here, and early the next morning Brother Fann had to leave to fulfill obligations in his field of labor in the States. The church members are very appreciative of the visits of these two brothers and enjoyed the sermons they presented. They are also appreciative of the financial aid we are able to share with them because of the generosity and tithing of the members of the Church of Christ. They all send loving greetings to the Church in the United States.

*Your brother in Gospel bonds,  
 Don McIndoo  
 Phoenix, Arizona  
 mailto: [mcindood@juno.com](mailto:mcindood@juno.com)*

## REPORT

Report from

## HONDURAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Smith Brickhouse and myself are presently in Guatemala City at the Trudgen's home. We spent the last three weeks in Honduras with the church there. We want to report a few of the good things which happened during our visit.

- 1. We had a series of baptism classes at which several people attended. Three of those attended each service. On the day that we left we attended a baptism service by the local river for those three sisters. Their names are Dulce Maria Carbal-Ferrera, Maria Magdalena Palma-Sevilla and Lilian Damaris Ardon-Aguilera. The laying on of hands took place at the river's edge. We think the membership is now twenty three.
- 2. Arrangements were made to buy a plot of land nearly three manzanas in size. This land is to be used for the building of a local church building. It is located near where most of our members live. The brothers planned to put the land in the names of three local men of the congregation who were elected by the congregation: Jenaro Garcia, Jose Antonio Carbajal and Luis Sevilla. On the day that we had the baptism and left for the capital city they were planning to pay for the land and have a lawyer draw up the necessary papers. People in the church made donations toward this end. These were all used as well as some from the Phoenix Local Yucatan-Central America Fund. If you desire to help with the construction of the

church building feel free to send donations to the Phoenix Local Yucatan-Central America Fund, or to Don McIndoo or myself. You can earmark them for that purpose if you like.

- 3. We made many visits to homes to administer to the sick and pray for the home. Many opportunities were enjoyed to witness to new people and neighbors.
- 4. We visited people of several different towns in their homes; each time we pray for the home before we leave, asking that the Lord bless them with spiritual knowledge, jobs and life's necessities. Services were held in the towns of Chirinas, Congo, Jutiapa and Villa Rica. This is in addition to the services done at the local in Zamorano.
- 5. Placido Koyoc Matu joined us for two weeks. His visit was greatly appreciated by all there. He speaks Spanish as if he had spoken it all his life. In Mexico we are often asked to preach or baptize instead of the local ministry. When Placido goes to Honduras he is not a local and so gets asked to do the teaching, preaching and baptizing. He is a foreign visitor there. We get to rest a few times.
- 6. A new visitor to the church there had a dream or vision the night after we visited with him about the gospel. We want you to keep Javier and his family: wife and five daughters, in your prayers, because he has been asking about baptism and wants to make some changes in his life. It is very common in Latin America for people to have dreams and visions about the gospel. In this case a messenger came to him in a vision and told him several things to give comfort about his life and left him afterward calling him "brother," and saying

that he needed to go to others when he left his home. He was encouraged to be patient and wait for his blessings.

- 7. Placido and John went to the coastal city of San Pedro to see a member of the church there named Gustavo. They had a nice visit with him and returned after a three-day absence.
- 8. We asked three brothers to begin teaching four pamphlets to the young peoples' class. These pamphlets are the work of Brother Placido Koyoc Matu and teach our beliefs about salvation, redemption and a few of our other beliefs. They agreed to this and two of them are going to begin.
- 9. It is our plan, if the Lord permits, to help these three make a trip to see the church in Mexico. They will obtain their passports and visas after the church in Mexico sends an invitation to them. We hope to help their families during their absence and help with the traveling expenses. The trip could possibly take place next year. They would spend two weeks living with people and traveling with a minister and experience how the church functions.
- 10. There are several serious problems there. Local politics, poverty, illness are all things to be concerned over. Please keep the Gills, John and Nana, in all your prayers.
- 11. We hope that you will keep all these things in your prayers. By the way, all have sent their greetings to you in the States.

*Yours truly,*

*Alvin Moser*

mailto: [ajmchico@hotmail.com](mailto:ajmchico@hotmail.com)

# 1999 MISSOURI REUNION

The 1999 Missouri Reunion met in the Independence Temple Lot Church on August 6, 7, 8. It is again my pleasure to report on the reunion services and activities.

Elders Rodger Bruner and Loren Bryant were in charge of the beginning prayer service on Friday at 9:00 a.m. Loren read from Matthew 26:41, reminding us that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Brother Bryant also read the 12th chapter of Romans, which calls us as the body of Christ to not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds and learn to overcome evil with good. Before our season of prayer Brother Bruner commented that it is a privilege to pray for our brothers and sisters even though our list is long.

During the testimonies Sister Betsy Trudgen, from Guatemala, told us how she thought she would be unable to come to the reunion this year, but won two plane tickets to the USA which made it possible. John Bell stated how important it is for us as believers to find good in others and ourselves. It is an attitude we need to carry with us always. Leslie Case shared the many blessings they had on their missionary trip to paint the church in Puryear, Tennessee. Ron Temple shared the blessing his mother has received; she is now cancer free.

Elder Nicholas Denham was the 11:00 a.m. speaker. Sisters Neva Housknecht and Daryl Temple sang a special, "Be Strong in the Lord," accompanied by Sister Martha Bruner. Brother Denham stated that message, being strong in the Lord, had been a burden on his mind for a long time. He asked the question, "How do we become strong in the Lord?" His answer was by being obedient to the commandments. Nicholas read 3 Nephi 5:63-66. He said

our challenge as Christians is to let Christ's light shine through us. Everyone has troubles and trials. How are we handling ours? He said Satan wants to trip us up while others are watching. Brother Denham then read from Matthew 5:43-46. He stated that none of this was new, but we need to be reminded and encouraged daily. It is through faith and obedience that blessings come into our lives. In 1831 a revelation stated the world was ripening in iniquity. This nation is in jeopardy. Compare the ideals of your great grandparents to today's standards. The coming of Christ could be very close and we must ask ourselves, "Do we have oil in our lamps, or is the spirit of God with us?" He asked us if we are being obedient. Are we paying our tithing? We have been blessed with the Book of Mormon, but are we witnessing to the fullness of the gospel? He admonished us to pass judgment only upon ourselves.

The afternoon song service was directed by Neva Housknecht. Bob and Jennifer Oldham sang, "It Is No Secret What God Can Do." Many favorite songs were requested and sung by the entire group. The pianist was Daryl Temple.

The afternoon preaching service was officiated by Apostle Frank Fann with Elder Bob Oldham as our speaker. A special duet, "Just A Whispered Prayer," was sung by Linda and Beth Gould. At the beginning of his sermon Brother Bob had the congregation sing with him, "Pass It On." He asked us to really think about the words of the song as we sang them. Our commission, he said, is to declare the Gospel from the mountain tops as expressed in the song. We are workers for Jesus Christ. Brother Oldham read from the Book of Mormon, Alma 19. Alma is taking his son to task for neglecting his duties as a young minister and reminding him that he was

called to do a work. We have that same calling today. We are to declare the glad tidings of salvation. He read in Mosiah 1:119,120 how the only way to overcome our natural man is through the atonement of Christ. We must become His obedient children. Elder Oldham stated how we are saved by grace, but as it states in Revelation 20:12 that we will be judged by our works. He defined grace as a favor given us by a superior. Atonement is all part of that mercy or clemency and forgiveness. We are told in Alma 16:208 that Christ's atonement was all part of God's great plan of salvation, but was given to us only through Christ's obedience. Brother Oldham reminded us that he is a servant, not a judge, and it is his job to uplift and support the cause of Christ. Isaiah 53:5,6 tells us how Christ was wounded for our transgressions and our iniquities. He bore our sins and we are healed by his stripes. As a perfect example of grace and mercy Elder Oldham retold the story of Joseph who was sold into Egypt by his brothers. Joseph completely forgave them and told them that God had meant it for good. Joseph was now God's instrument to save the house of Israel. Brother Oldham closed by reading the 4th chapter from the Book of Commandments, which states Christ's Church was to be restored as of old. It is our duty to declare the truth and the plan of salvation. What a loving gift we have been given, and Brother Bob hopes we will appreciate it.

The 7 p.m. song service was directed by Sister Manon Lawrence, with Martha Bruner as pianist. There was a special duet sung by Kelli Greenwood and Mandy Grimm. The congregation always enjoys the half hour of calling for and singing their favorite hymns.

Friday's evening service was officiated by Apostle Don McIndoo with our

speaker Apostle Placido K. Matu. The camp choir sang a special, a Spanish song which Brother Placido taught them last year. Brother Matu sent us greetings from all the Church members in Yobain, Yucatan. He also asked us to remember Brother Vicente, who has been very ill. Before Placido began his sermon he asked us to stand and pray. Apostle Matu announced the title of his sermon, "How to Resist Evil." He stated there are two things we must do. First, we must study the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Secondly we need to pray. These are the tools of resistance and we need to use them daily. If we follow Christ we will have struggles, but we know how to be victorious. The devil is our enemy. He read from Genesis 6:6-9 and used Noah as our example on how to be a just and perfect person. Noah lived in an evil time, but he walked with God. Next he read from Romans 1:18. Brother Placido reminded us to hold to the truth, and if we rebel we destroy ourselves. Obeying God is our challenge. We need to remain firm and dedicated just as Noah was. Hebrews 11:7 tells us Noah built the ark by faith. We must be faithful also, working at overcoming our difficulties and resisting the devil if we want to be the light of this world. Placido also read from 3 Nephi 4:42, 43, 48, 51. These are his favorite scriptures because of their simplicity and gift is to all. He shared how in Yucatan they have made June the month of the youth with special activities just for them. He recalled how physically tired they all were with their youth camp, and yet they were blessed with God's love and peace. These are spiritual gifts they can't buy or get in any other place. He concluded that our desire to reflect Christ's light can only be done by using the tools of study and prayer. We need to continue to resist evil and be obedient so that others can see that our relationship with God is serious. We must remain firm examples. May God bless us in our efforts.

Elders Jeff Oldham and Rick Olson were in charge of the Saturday morning prayer service.

Brother Oldham read from Moroni 7:3, 4. This is a message to believers and states that we should be peaceable and known by our good works. He also read from Joshua 24:14, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth..." After a season of prayer we enjoyed many fine testimonies. Apostle Don McIndoo thanked every one for their prayers and concern during his recent health issue. The final lung diagnosis was Valley Fever rather than some worse illnesses his doctors were suggesting. He asked us to remember the members in Yucatan, especially Brother Vicente and Sister Dulce. Apostle Jay Moser shared a dream he had while in Mexico. He saw a dark Mayan hut, when out of its darkness came a hand. He felt very insecure and cautious about this hand. Don, also cautious, reached out and took hold of the hand. Apostle Moser felt this help was the right thing to do. Jay observed that we live in a rapidly changing world, but we must approach others in their differences, by being as wise as serpents but as peaceable as doves. Brother Bill Malone shared how the scriptures had given him peace for his recent open heart surgery. He stated he had not been sleeping well. He felt the spirit prompted him to read Psalms 27:14. The still small voice had him read it three times. "Wait on the Lord. He will strengthen your heart." The assurance from those words allowed him to then rest and remain calm.

Elder Jerry Case officiated at the 11:00 a.m. service with Elder Scott Harris as our speaker. Before the sermon we enjoyed two specials: Czerna Kauffman and Martha Bruner sang "God Had A Plan." Kathy Harris accompanied herself on the guitar and sang "Where Your Treasure Is." Brother Scott asked us to each think about what we might have in our treasure box. What are the treasures in our lives? He stated that Jesus Christ should be the main treasure in our box. Elder Harris also asked us to think about where the Kingdom of Heaven is. Yes, it is in the next life, but it also needs to be demonstrated by our actions right now in

the way we love and treat each other. Brother Scott shared his three year spiritual battle. He stated Christ finally spoke to him and assured him he was acceptable, and he came out from under that depressed time. He appealed to the young, who so often have down times, to be assured that Jesus is their friend and to call upon Him for help. He encouraged our youth to make their commitment and be baptized. Brother Scott feels there are many in the Church who are in emotional and spiritual pain. As members of Christ's church we need to listen to those who are hurting and help. Scott concluded by stating that the Kingdom is in our hearts and that is where our treasure box resides. Be sure you put Jesus Christ in that box and make use of the power of prayer. Brother Scott ended by stating that Jesus Christ should be our first love!

In the afternoon our young sister Amanda Addie was baptized by her father, Martin Addie. Sister Amanda was confirmed by Elder Rick Olsen, assisted by Apostle Joel Yates. A full church gave Amanda the hand of fellowship. There was a very sweet and joyful spirit present.

The afternoon song service was directed by Manon Lawrence with Martha Bruner as pianist. As always the congregation chose their favorite songs. Many of our children join in by calling for their favorite hymns also.

The afternoon preaching service had Elder Bob Hedrick in charge and Elder Don Gill as our minister. The music special was "Amazing Grace." The song was dedicated to Sister Lois Harris and performed by her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Elder Gill, a grandson, began his sermon by thanking his grandmother for all the love, peace and direction that had come to him while in her home during his growing-up years. Brother Don read Matthew 22:37-39. Christ tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God and our neighbors as we love ourselves. Brother Don wanted us to ponder that sometimes we are unable to really love others well if we don't love or accept our-

selves. He stated we need to work on ourselves because we will answer for our actions. In Phillipians we are told to workout our salvation in fear and trembling. If we want to become a brighter light for Christ we need to perhaps make sacrifices and give up some things in our lives in order to draw closer to God. Christ is our example. He sacrificed for us. Can we sacrifice our worries if it would bring us closer to God? Could we sacrifice our thoughts to only the true, the honest, and the pure as suggested in Romans 12? Can we do what it tells us in that chapter? We are told to make ourselves a living sacrifice. We are instructed to overcome evil with good. We are admonished to be hospitable. Brother Gill stated that to be true followers of Christ we must grow into a higher level of love. This love is charity, or the purer love of Christ in our hearts for God and all mankind. Brother Don ended by challenging us with the question, "Can we do that?" He stated he is not worried, because with God's help we can have greater charity and become a better people.

After our beloved song service, Merlin Eddy officiated for our speaker, Elder Randy Sheldon, at the evening preaching service. Tabitha Sheldon and Kelli Greenwood sang "On Eagles Wings," accompanied by Manon Lawrence at the piano. Brother Randy told us that we have a Biblical mandate to fight the devil. In the Garden of Eden God asked Adam and Eve, "Where art thou?" We are now asked the same question as members of this Church of Christ. Where are we in our relationship to God? Do we want to hide as a result of sin in our lives? He read from Romans 8:1, 9, 11, 13, 14 which states if we are walking in the spirit and Christ is in us then there is no condemnation. Brother Sheldon asked us to measure our own lives and repent of those things which do not glorify Christ or edify our lives. Do we need to eliminate destructive things from our lives, and then add spiritually productive things? Have you made room for Jesus Christ? God asks us to test him and prove him. Are we fighting the good fight and

holding on to the rod of iron? How do you keep from falling in your battle with Satan? Randy stated that God wants a few good men and women. He reminded us of the heroes in the Book of Mormon. Are we as dedicated as they were? Are we the people of God? We have a mission. That mission is to be a healing in our culture and be committed to one another. We are called to be good stewards of our time and talents, and called to be good examples in the army of the Lord. Our need is to be united and show how God reigns in the hearts of this Church of Christ.

A thunderstorm in the evening forced the ice cream social to move inside, and canceled the miniature golf outing for the YPCL.

The sanctuary was burgeoning for the Sunday morning Sacrament service. Elders Steve McGhee and Alvin Harris were in charge of the Sacrament service. Alvin read from 3 Nephi 8th and 9th chapters. He also read from 1st Corinthians 10:14. Sacrament was served, followed by a season of prayer. Our new sister in Christ, Amanda Addie, read a poem her mother had written for her baptism. Ryann Tarbell shared a testimony concerning an experience she had while living in Brazil this past year. She and some of her friends were attending a local tourist attraction, a pagan religious service, when she began to feel a very oppressive spirit. While she was praying for God's direction and protection she became aware of a beautiful golden shield that separated her and her friends from the activities. She said she felt God had answered her prayers and was protecting her. Gretchen Tarbell told how they had to leave the youth camp because of their son's emergency surgery. He is fine now, and she was blessed to be able to return to the reunion. She stated her desire and concern that our children stay in Christ's path and not stray. She asked us to remember their group in New York as they need ministry. John Gill told us of administering to a small child in Honduras with a terrible rash from her waist down. She was completely healed. There were several

administrations during the service, and then many testimonies of receiving a healing blessing after being administered to. The many hymns which we sang throughout the service were just a continuation of the praise and thanksgiving we heard from the testimonies.

The afternoon song service was conducted by Manon Lawrence. This service has special musical offerings from the various locals. First the Phoenix male quartet: Daniel Malone, Bob Hedrick, Aaron Moser and Adam Yates, sang "Standing on Holy Ground." Next, a women's sextet: Kim Yates, Annette Whitehead, Becky Olson, Chris Moser, Becky Rudd and Carrie Gier, sang "Jesus Lover of my Soul." Four young ladies, Jennifer McCann, Darl Warfield, Rachel Smith and Erin Larson, sang a hymn. "There is a Hiding Place Where God is Near," was sung by a choir from the youth camp. Tabitha Sheldon sang a solo in Spanish, "Let Me Stand." Joel Yates, Bob Hedrick, Don Gill and Jeff Oldham sang a quartet arrangement of "Faith of our Fathers." Another choir made up of young people from camp performed. A solo was sung by Laura Gill, "I Come to the Garden Alone." Luke Sheldon, Paul Case, Jessie Lawrence, and Milo Housknecht closed the service with a quartet rendition of "Jubilee."

Apostle Joel Yates was the speaker for the last service of the reunion. Elder Adam Porter officiated. The East Local Choir under the direction of Brother Gerald Cox sang "God's Grace." Brother Joel read from 3 Nephi 8:47. He reminded us that there is a battle going on and Satan wants to sift us as wheat and toss us to the wind as chaff. Apostle Yates read from Alma 16:219, instructing us to "cry out against the wiles of the devil" in our prayers. He said to recall how many of David's psalms are crying out against his enemies and seeking God's refuge and strength. Alma 20 was read, telling of Moroni and his army and how their armor deterred the Lamanites who wore no armor. Moroni was also inspired by a better cause. Moroni sought God's direction so he could make a plan or

a strategy. When the army needed to be encouraged Moroni tore his coat and made a banner, or a title of liberty, upon which he put what they were fighting for: their freedom, their families, and their religion. Brother Joel said our daily battles are just as important as Moroni's, and we must pray and have a plan and be willing to carry the cause of Christ. How are your defenses in your home? Are you protecting your children from the world? Joel asked, "Are you strengthening your marriages?" He stated it is the father's responsibility to protect and defend his family. What do you watch, what do you read, or what do you listen to? If what you partake of has bad language, violence, perverse or sexual content, get rid of it! Your homes should be in order and have Godly rules. The Church's seal states "Light of the World, Restored." Are we that light? Is your light dim? Look at where you are and deal with it. Apostle Yates quoted 1 Thessalonians, "prove and hold fast to that which is good." He said that in our culture we are seekers of pleasure. In Mexico the church members do not partake of movies, etc. Joel read from a revelation given to us in 1971 concerning this very subject—of seeking our own desires on His Holy Day. He suggested that the next time we go to plan our pleasures that we plan our service to God instead. He shared a man's dream of finding a room with file cabinets full of index cards. The man's actions were written upon them and signed by him. He was ashamed of most of these activities. Finally, Christ came in and was looking through these files which brought the man even more shame, until he realized that Christ was covering his signature, on each card, with His own and it was written in blood. Brother Yates asked us what is written on our cards and what do we intend to do about it? Christ gave his life that He might save us from our sins. Are we willing to risk our children's future because there is no preparation in our homes? May God bless us all in that endeavor of preparing.

The theme which connected these sermons together was that if we intend to

be a light for Christ then we need to first be obedient and perfect our personal lives. As members of the restored Church of Christ there is much to do to prepare ourselves to carry the banner of love and salvation. There were many fine testimonies given in each of the discourses, but for the sake of brevity I've tried to report only each minister's basic tenets. I would like to suggest, particularly if you were not able to attend the reunion, that you order the cassette tapes of the services which are available by requesting them from Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136.

There was no report done for the 1998 reunion. I was not able to attend due to my mother's death and I failed to ask someone to cover for me. Please accept my apology. Roland Sarratt has graciously provided the following details from the Sunday services of the 1998 Reunion.

Apostle Mike McGhee was in charge of the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Sacrament service, assisted by Apostle Roland Sarratt. After the opening of the service Apostles Alvin Moser and Donald McIndoo came forward to officiate in the ordination of Placido Koyoc Yam to be an apostle. After a scripture reading and some comments were given, Brother Placido gave his testimony of his calling while Brother McIndoo interpreted for him. The following is a summary of his testimony: "On July 11, 1998, at 11:20 a.m. I was alone studying the word of God for the Young Peoples' Camp. I was looking at my notes for the study class. I had written Romans 1:5, 6, when suddenly in my mind came the knowledge, I have put much confidence in God, and as if someone spoke to me in my mind: 'For this reason you have been called to the work.' It was soft and far away. I was invaded by my tears and not able to contain them. I knelt to pray to my God that He would give me His strength to do this work, and that there would not be found doubts among my companion ministers of our church. The influence of the Holy Spirit was upon me for more than half an hour." Apostles Moser and McIndoo then laid their hands upon Brother Placido Koyoc

Yam and ordained him to the office of apostle.

The blessing of the infant daughter of J. Paul and Debbie O'Haro was cared for by Elders Darin Crull and Gerry Case. A number of names were given who stood in need of prayer and the congregation knelt in a season of prayer. After the season of prayer Apostle Roland Sarratt stood and under the Spirit of God gave the calls of Jeffery Oldham, Rickey Olson and Donald Gill to be elders. We were called to another season of prayer, after which several witnesses were given to the validity of the calls. A number of testimonies were offered also throughout the remainder of the service. At the close of the service the congregation was given the opportunity to offer the hand of fellowship to Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam.

An hour of special offerings was given at the 3:00 p.m. service, and at 4:00 p.m. there was a preaching service by Apostle Brian McIndoo, which was the final service of the reunion.

There are also tapes available from the 1998 reunion if you want to request them. The schedule also included:

Friday, 9:00 a.m. prayer service conducted by Elders Charles Brantner & Leslie Case, 11:00 a.m. preaching by Elder Loren Bryant, 3:00 p.m. preaching by Elder Joseph Smith and 7:00 p.m. preaching by Priest Steven McGhee.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. prayer service conducted by Apostle Frank Fann & Elder Larry Beem, 11:00 a.m. preaching by Elder Aaron Heath, 3:00 p.m. preaching by Elder Gary Housknecht, 4:00 p.m. Junior Young People's Activity and 7:00 p.m. Preaching by Evangelist Placido Koyoc Yam.

*Respectfully submitted,  
L. Marlene Cobb*

## NEWS

## RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

## NEWS FROM THE NORTH

The beautiful autumn leaves are nearly all off the trees and have been raked up and disposed of. The only ones remaining are those pesky oak leaves that seem to hang on indefinitely, coming down in the spring as the new ones come on and push the old ones off. Even though it's still quite pleasant here in Michigan, the temperatures continue to go down, and it's obvious that winter is on its way. We are grateful to our Heavenly Father for the wonderful summer and fall He has blessed us with this year.

In addition to the always uplifting sermons from our two local ministers, Elder Aaron Heath and Max Spencer, we were delighted to have with us for a couple of Sundays Elder Charles Brant-

ner and wife Sister Jeanne Brantner. Brother Brantner delivered the sermon on October 10 and spoke on faith, repentance, baptism, and enduring to the end. He quoted from both the Bible and Book of Mormon, pointing out the parallels between the two books.

On October 31, we were treated to a "chili buffet," prepared by our Sister Sue Heath. She had prepared three different kinds of chili—traditional, white, and fat free—and, of course, we had to sample all three. They were all so good it was impossible to make a decision as to which was the best. After lunch, we had a wonderful hour or so of beautiful gospel music, with participation by most everyone. Hopefully we can have more programs like this in the future.

Our numbers have decreased some recently, with "snow birds" head-

ing south, newlyweds going on belated honeymoons to Phoenix (our loss, their gain), etc. We are looking forward to a holiday get-together with the Bradley Local in late November, which will probably be history by the time this article appears in the Advocate. We are still struggling with the book of Isaiah in our Sunday School class, but it's interesting to get everyone's views on what the prophecies mean. Brother Lowell Scott has taken on the awesome responsibility of teaching the class and is doing a good job with a difficult subject.

Until next time, may God bless and watch over each and every one of you.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
June Haines,  
Reporter, Ravenna Local*

## CARDS & LETTERS

The wife of the late Apostle Robert Jensen is a permanent resident of John Knox Care Center. She is physically unable to attend services with the Saints, but does enjoy receiving mail according to her daughter Kathy. A physical visit from each of you: she might not recognize your face or remember past relationships, but a card or letter she is able to review over and over and appreciate your effort and you.

Editor

Doris Jensen  
John Knox Care Center  
B Wing, Room 206  
600 NW Pryor Road  
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

## NEWS

## ONTARIO

On the weekend of October 2nd and 3rd, 1999, several families met in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, for the ordination of Keith Hoare to the office of an elder.

On Saturday the 2nd we enjoyed a cookout at Bill and Marn Vieveen's. At 7:30 that evening we met at the church the Brantford mission rents for services. After a short song service Shane and Chris Gillen, the 10 and 8 year old sons of Kim Gillen, gave a presentation on the armor of God. They dressed in costumes made by their grandmother, Mam Viveen, and as Shane read from Ephesians Chris demonstrated each part of the armor.

The message was given by Elder Adam Porter from Bradley, Michigan, encouraging us to live a more righteous and faith filled life. After the service we went to various homes for the night.

Sunday we again met at the church. At the ordination service Marn and Chris sang a special together and Shane sang a solo. After a brief message by Elder Ken Oar emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of the priesthood, a show of support for brother Keith's ministry was given by those present. Brother Adam Porter then offered a mighty prayer seeking God's blessing on the ordination. Our brother Keith Hoare was then ordained to the office of an elder by Elder Ken Oar, assisted by Elder Adam Porter.

After the hand of fellowship for Keith, Brother Porter took charge of a sacrament service. Our new Elder assisted in four administrations, and then gave the opening remarks. Several prayers were offered and testimonies given.

After the service we partook of a potluck feast. After the meal several pictures were taken, and then many of us

had to leave for our different destinations. Those of us who traveled many miles to attend were very grateful for the hospitality of the local congregation. There are plans to have a rally in Ontario again next fall.

Local members and non members in attendance were: Bill and Marn Vieveen, Mike, Deb, Adrienne and Jake Bevaart, Joan Linington, Kim Gillen and her sons Shane and Chris, Lily Delville, Ardith Marsters, Judy Daly and her daughter Sarah. In attendance from New York were Eli and Gretchen Tarbell, Brandon and Tara Tar-

bell and their children, Rhoades and Mya'lee. From Michigan were Elder Adam and Sue Porter and their daughters Heidi and Emily. From Nova Scotia were Elder Keith and Leona Hoare, and from Phoenix, Elder Ken Oar.

*Sister Marn Vieveen*

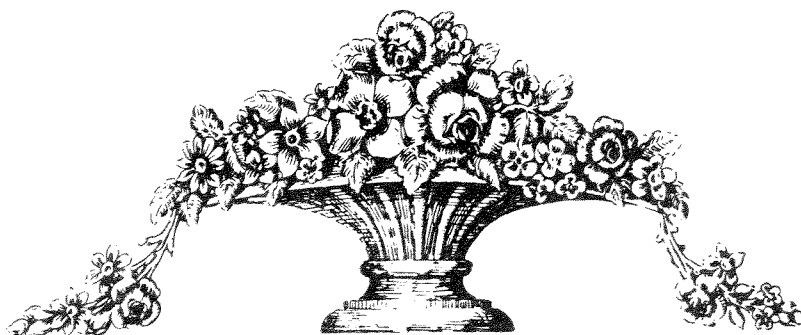




In Honor of and a Tribute to

# Irene Maley

February 3, 1921 ~ September 22, 1999



**M**innie Irene Yates Maley was born February 3, 1921, the seventh child of Amos Arthur and Willie Grace Yates, in Independence, Missouri, and passed from this life September 22, 1999, in Lexington, Missouri, at the Santa Fe Trails Health Care Center.

Irene grew up in Independence and attended Bryant Elementary School. She was a graduate of William Chrisman High School, and also a graduate of the Kansas City Business School. She worked as a secretary in Kansas City before she was married. She was baptized into the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, in August of 1929, and remained a faithful member of the Church of Christ in Independence, Missouri.

She was united in marriage to Forest E. Maley on October 6, 1947, at Independence, Missouri.

This union lasted over 51 years. She was the loving mother of five children: David Lee Maley, Kansas City; Rebecca Susan Maley, Grand Junction, Colorado; Bonnie Gayle Case, Higginsville, Missouri; Julie Ann Tansey, Waterloo Iowa; and Mark Dean Maley, Independence, Missouri.

Together Irene and Forest left Independence, Missouri, to follow employment in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Fridley, Minnesota, making many friends. They then returned to Independence to set up their retirement home amid friends and family and to be close to their church family once more.

To anyone over 30 years old that knew Irene, they will remember her wonderful stories told at Bible school year after year. Irene was an avid letter writer throughout her life until her handwriting failed.

She valued the written word as an avenue to her friends' hearts and thoughts. She was a talented calligrapher and recorded many of her favorite thoughts, poems and stories of family history in journals. Those of us that possess one of these thoughtful gifts have only to open the pages to be blessed with her sweet spirit and sense of humor once again. One of Irene's grandchildren was given a school assignment of writing about a favorite possession and wrote:

"Of all the possessions I have, I hold a treasure. It is more precious to me than any gem or jewel. It is a book, a small book with a turquoise flowered cover. It was given to me by a woman I admire more than anyone else, my grandmother. Her elegant writing fills the pages of this book with the lives of my ancestors. Their poems, stories, letters and

pictures reflect their brilliant spirits and talents. Grandmother's love of beauty is exemplified in the pressed flowers framing her words. Accounts of 'boy wonder' (my uncle) and his run-in with a bull at the sale barn, and my mother's story of Butterball the hamster, rescue me from the drabness of reality. Poems and quotes of favorite authors spark the ignition of thought. The religion deeply instilled in my heritage also becomes self-evident through writing of my great grandfather. The need for humor, and my family's gift of this sense is also presented. Whimsical recollections of daily life liven the book as the old worn pages curl with laughter. Grandmother also included pictures, adding faces

and a sense of reality to those seemingly larger-than-life characters. The accomplishments recorded in this book inspire me to reach for my goals, for as it is written in this book, 'If you reach for the stars you might not get one, but you're not likely to come up with a handful of mud either.'"

Irene collected friends with the same passion that she would collect choice flower specimens, not picking them for perfection, but appreciating them for their individuality. She preserved these friendships and pressed them close to her heart in the same fashion that she collected and pressed choice flowers. Even when her hand became faulty and her speech failed she did not let her

afflictions overcome her. Mustering all her strength and courage she would sit with dignity in her wheelchair, facing her fate with unparalleled bravery and declaring that there were others so much worse off than she. Her life speaks for her. She was still a loving, giving person, selfless in every sense. She has indeed left a rich heritage and example for those who loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and two brothers. She leaves behind her loving husband Forest, five children, seven grandchildren, one great grandchild, one brother, many relatives, friends and pen pals.

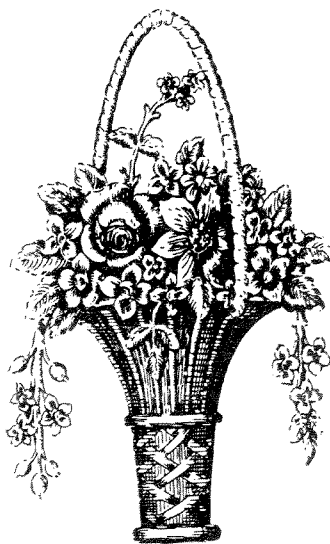
**OBITUARY**

# Thomas Stanley Maley

December 14, 1909 ~ October 17, 1999

**T**homas Stanley Maley was the eldest of six children born of Levi William Maley and Frances Lauretta Tullis. He came into this life December 14, 1909, at Fargo, North Dakota, and departed at his home in Richfield, Minnesota, October 17, 1999, at the age of 89 years, 10 months, and 3 days.

Tom and Sister Madeline moved with their parents to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they lived a few years until they moved



to Perry, Iowa, where Katherine Rose and Forest Eugene were born. Returning to Minneapolis, James Douglas was born, shortly after which they moved to Lamoni, Iowa, where the last child, Robert Lee, was born one month before Madeline passed away.

Tom received his public schooling in Lamoni, where he graduated in June, 1928. Following graduation he attended Graceland College for two years before returning to Minneapolis to apprentice as

a maker of artificial limbs. His tutor was his Grandfather Amos Tullis. Tom followed this craft for many years, and although the World War II years forced him to work in the war industries, he still managed to faithfully serve old clients. From the 1940's until retirement he was employed by Electric Machinery Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis, much of that time as a night foreman.

As a young lad, Tom was baptized into Christ through the RLDS Church. As a young man, his searching mind and dedication to the truth led him, with his Mother and sister Katherine, to the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, in Independence, Missouri. He was ordained an elder in the ministry for Christ in 1932, and served as pastor of the Minneapolis Local until his death. He had an abiding faith born of the holy scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Sunday School became a principal interest of his. He loved to teach all the children using study materials and aids, many of which he designed. All who had conversations with him knew his belief in God and scripture to be a major part of his life, and had to be prepared to listen.

On March 5, 1938, Tom was married to Elizabeth Waddington Spargo, who had two sons of a previous marriage, both of whom preceded him in death. Having no children of their own, Tom and Tissie took joy in opening their home in Minneapolis to weekly cottage meetings with church family, and extending their famous hospitality. In June, 1983, Tissie passed on to

her reward.

On January 14, 1984, Tom married Ruth Esther Gill, a longtime family friend and church member. Tom was always proud to call her six children by a previous marriage, "My Kids," and Ruth, "The love of my life."

Tom leaves behind his wife, Ruth, brothers Bob, of Lafayette, Louisiana, and Forest, of Higginsville, Missouri, and a sister, Katherine of Independence, Missouri. He is also survived by "his kids," Phyllis and Everett Swanson of Rosemount, Minnesota; Glenn and Margaret Gill of North Kansas City, Missouri; John and Nana Gill of Honduras, Central America; Harold and Carol Gill of Mesa, Arizona; Bonnie and Jim Case of Lone Jack, Missouri; Charles and Jan Gill of Kenyon, Minnesota; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tom had a way with words. As he once summed up his life in a writing presented at his 50th high school class reunion: "I must confess to a common ailment; I have a problem. Serious too, in trying to make perennial and prolonged dabbling look like matters of material accomplishment fit for relation to ones erstwhile peers. There is a moment of truth for each of us, and I suppose this is mine." But that moment of truth shows to us remaining a life devoted to God in both material accomplishments and spiritual endurance.

A memorial of Thomas Stanley Maley would be incomplete if failing to mention his lifelong love of music. He played tuba through high school, sang in school and

church choruses, and entertained Ruth and visitors many hours playing his home organ. He loved hymns of faith. With his love of the gospel, the two loves combined to produce many devotional hymns including "Resurrection" and "Remembrance" which have struck a common chord in the hearts of members of church congregations across the country, and are printed in our hymnals.

Funeral services were held at the Burnsville Funeral Home, Burnsville, Minnesota, with Elder Merlin Eddy presiding. Elder James Case gave the sermon. The music presented was in keeping with Tom's beliefs. Donald Gill sang, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." Glenn, Margaret and Lisa Gill sang, "Remembrance," being joined by the congregation on the last two verses. Glenn and his granddaughters, Jennifer and Cassie Gill, sang, "Resurrection," also being joined by the congregation on the last two verses.

Tom was laid to rest in Pleasant View Memorial Gardens, Burnsville, Minnesota, with Elder Samuel Gould officiating at the graveside. Bro. Gould's parting words were to remind each of us to go forth in "Remembrance" of our risen Lord, and live to look forward to the "Resurrection." "What a shout! What a sound! When the Saints gathered round, sing a great song of praise to the Lamb! And the ransomed shall be thru' the great Eternity, In the fold of the Father, 'I am'!"

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

The 2000 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 7, 8 and 9, at Independence, Missouri.

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- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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