

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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My son, be faithful in Christ; and may not the things which I have written, grieve thee, to weigh thee down unto death, but may Christ lift thee up, and may his sufferings and death, and the shewing his body unto our fathers, and his mercy and long suffering, and the hope of his glory, and of

eternal life, rest in your mind for ever. And may the grace of God the Father, whose throne is high in the heavens, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who sitteth on the right hand of his power, until all things shall become subject unto him, be, and abide with you for ever. Amen.

—Moroni 9:27-28

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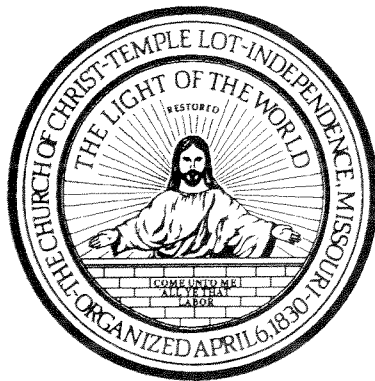
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Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for Pathlights, submissions to other regular monthly *Zion's Advocate* features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of submitted material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of

underlining, ALL-CAPS and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

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.

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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.

AN EYE SINGLE



By Harvey E. Seibel

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:22-24).

"Be ye therefore perfect,

even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). And, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). For, "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Galatians 5:24). Therefore, "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:14). Again, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

These are all admonitions and commandments of our Lord, yet because we inhabit a tabernacle of clay we often find ourselves being double minded; our eye is not always single to the glory of God and His righteousness. So we, like Paul, must die to sin daily in order to retain a remission of sins. We must endure unto the end of our lives, struggling against the natural proclivity of our flesh to sin, for it is the flesh which gives Satan power over us if we are not careful. And so the Lord

warns us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, and to take heed when we think we stand lest we fall. Even Paul wrote, *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"* (1 Corinthians 9:27). In speaking of his flesh he wrote, *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* (Romans 7:24). We can never relax our vigilance, for the adversary is ever present to take advantage of our fleshly weaknesses, or the sin nature which we have all inherited from Adam and Eve. And though we have buried the old man in the likeness of the death and burial of Christ through baptism, yet we must be constantly on guard not to resurrect the old man, for that man is an enemy to God and ever will be. Christ is our propitiation for sin and also our advocate with the Father.

If we do not walk in the Spirit, we shall find ourselves filled with the spirit of fear, and such are in transgression, and if not repented of, shall be numbered among those (the fearful)

who will have their place in the lake of fire. But, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Paul often made mention of this struggle between the flesh and the spirit, and thus his statement above about his own wretchedness and deliverance from his body of death. Listen to the words of Nephi, a man who was highly favored of God and who walked in righteousness. One would suppose he was relatively free of the sins and temptations which plagued his rebellious brothers. Says he,

"...O wretched man that I am; yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh. My soul grieveth because of mine iniquities. I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which doth so easily beset me. And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted. My God hath been my support; he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep. He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh. He hath confounded mine enemies, unto the causing of them to quake before me. Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the night time.

And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me. And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceeding high mountains. And mine eyes have beheld great things; yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them. O then, if I have seen so great things; if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men, hath visited me in so much mercy, why should my heart weep, and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and my flesh waste away, and my strength slacken, because of mine afflictions? And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart, to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy? Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin. Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul" (2 Ne 3:31-47).

"Do not anger again, because of mine enemies. Do not slacken my strength, because of mine afflictions. Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say, O Lord, I will praise thee for ever; yea, my soul will rejoice in thee, my God, and

*the rock of my salvation. O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul? Wilt thou deliver me out of the hands of mine enemies? **Wilt thou make me that I may shake at the appearance of sin?** May the gates of hell be shut continually before me, because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite? O Lord, wilt thou not shut the gates of thy righteousness before me, that I may walk in the path of the low valley, that I may be strict in the plain road? O Lord, wilt thou encircle me around in the robe of thy righteousness? O Lord, wilt thou make a way for mine escape before mine enemies? Wilt thou make my path straight before me? Wilt thou not place a stumbling block in my way? But that thou wouldst clear my way before me, and hedge not up my way, but the ways of mine enemy. O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee for ever" (2 Nephi 3:48-61).*

It seems we have the tendency to go along with society and often make compromises, being caught up in various activities which may not always be edifying to the soul, but more gratifying to the flesh. I think of Alma and Ammon whose whole lives, after their conversion, were dedicated to the saving of souls. Their whole focus was that none should suffer the pangs of hell, but that all should experience the joy which they

had experienced in Christ. They had no time for lesser things. And this should be our focus today, especially now that time is so short. It is difficult to maintain an eye single to the glory of God in the face of television, movies, magazines, sports, the Internet, computer games, music, fashion, etc., etc. These things draw our focus away from the righteousness of Christ and fixes our attention on the things of the world. These pleasures appeal to the flesh and unless we are exceedingly careful we are in danger of becoming lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. And what effect do these influences have on our children, the upcoming generation? Further, what are our desires on awakening in the morning? What is foremost in our thoughts for the new day that the Lord has granted unto us? Are our minds set on worldly cares and desires, or do we think more on the things of the kingdom of heaven? It is a difficult thing, because we always have the world before us, but the things of the kingdom are seen only with our spiritual eyes. Which has the greatest impact on us, or which becomes our driving motivation in life? What do we seek for the most?

I have come to the realization, more so than ever before, of the importance of prayer. Without daily prayer we cannot hope to stand before the onslaughts of the adversary. It is no wonder that Satan tells us we must not pray, for he knows that

if we neglect prayer, his task is so much the easier. But there is another matter. We must keep the commandments of the Lord. In fact, prayer and the keeping of the commandments are tied in together. This was the very point that Nephi made to his wayward brothers.

“And I said unto them, Have ye inquired of the Lord? And they said unto me, We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us. Behold, I said unto them, How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish because of the hardness of your hearts? Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said, If ye will not harden your hearts, and ask me in faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely, these things shall be made known unto you?” (1 Nephi 4:9-13).

If we do not or are not keeping the commandments of the Lord, our prayers will be an abomination to Him. We must be careful that our minds are not more on the things of the world than they are on the things of God, or else our prayers will not be very much availing. Our hearts will be lacking in that strong sincere desire we would otherwise have. Enos did not seek the Lord halfheartedly when he prayed all day and into the night for a remission of his

sins. *“For he that diligently seeketh shall find”* (1 Nephi 3:29).

“But behold I say unto you, that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul” (2 Nephi 14:12).

“Wherefore ye must bow down before him, and worship him with all your might, mind and strength, and your whole soul, and if ye do this, ye shall in no wise be cast out” (2 Nephi 11:56).

“Wherefore, I, Nephi, did strive to keep the commandments of the Lord, and I did exhort my brethren to faithfulness and diligence” (1 Nephi 5:83).

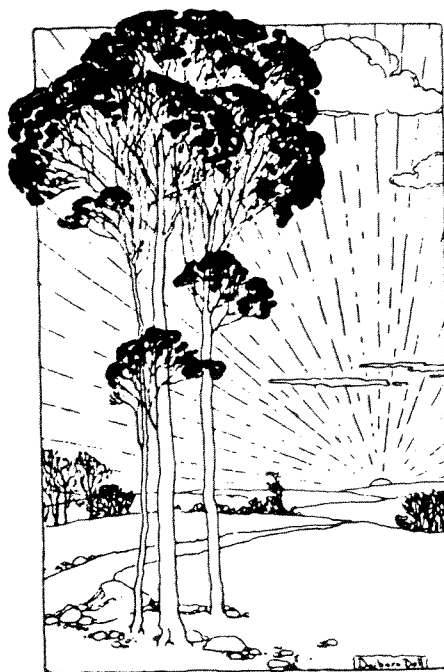
“And Alma said unto him again, Will ye keep my commandments? And he said, Yea, I will keep thy commandments with all my heart” (Alma 21:6).

Finally, *“If there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God”* (Moroni 10:20).

Reuban Santiago

I take this opportunity to update you on the condition of Reuban. Just yesterday, we made the return trip to Knoxville, Tennessee, to the hospital where Reuban received his first care and operation for the broken back. After a complete set of x-rays and consultation with the doctor that did the operation, Reuban was told that everything looked good in his back; the steel plate was secure; the healing was almost totally complete. He was told that he could discontinue wearing his external back brace at the end of February (Reuban had been required to wear this external brace anytime he was sitting up) and to come back in mid-March for another evaluation. Reuban was asked if he was getting any return of feeling, to which he responded, "None in the legs, but some in the stomach area." The doctor seemed to take this as a very good sign, and thought his progress was going very well.

As I was typing this message, I could hear a news report in the background from the other room. I heard a report of an NFL player, from the KC Chiefs, who had been in a car accident several days ago, who was paralyzed from his chest area down (similar to Reuban's); the report continued that this man, Derrick Thomas, had an operation to repair the damage, and things looked good for a couple of days, when suddenly he died. This brought to my mind of how thankful we all must be for Reuban. HE DID NOT DIE!! The Lord DID answer prayers in his behalf in those first few hours after the accident, and He can and will continue to answer the



PATHLIGHTS

prayers of the faithful; but we must ask!!

Please continue to remember Reuban. He stands in need of prayers, not only for his physical needs and return of feeling and movement, but also for spiritual and moral strength over things relating to the trials and temptations of any and all youth of the present age we live in.

A little background or history of Reuban might help you know him a little better. He has an older and younger sister. Amanda has been at Youth Camp three times, so some of you will remember her. Hannah will be coming in another year when she is old enough. They do not know where their father is; he left the family about 14 years ago.

Their mother was killed in a car accident about six years ago. Since that time Reuban is being raised by his widowed, maternal grandmother, Inez Wolfe. Amanda and Hannah were taken in and are being raised by their maternal Aunt Vicki. All three children are church members.

I ask for prayers for Inez (Granny) also, and will tell you a little about her to help you understand the need for prayers. Inez is "Granny" to every Cherokee attending our local, except for Sallie Bradley, who is probably the one most responsible for bringing Inez into the Church about 20 years ago. Inez has seven children: two are members, two are deceased. She has 21 grandchildren: six are members, three have been blessed, one is deceased; and she has 11 great grandchildren, 4 of whom have been blessed. Here comes the rub: Granny has legal custody of three grandchildren, one of whom is Reuban, now a paraplegic; the others are ages eight and six. She also provides home and shelter for about six others, children and grandchildren, on a nearly constant basis. That is about ten people most of the time, in a small three-bedroom house. By the way, as a closing thought: Sister Inez will be 65 this month, works full time as a cook in a child care center, has no plans for retirement, and carries this load with dignity and grace.

Please remember the family in your prayers.

Gale Brantner

Across the Miles

If I sit very still and close my eyes, I
can see them standing there.
Is it "Living for Jesus," that I can
hear so well?
Do they know I am singing with them
and very softly as I hum,
I can hear the clear, sweet harmony of
their voices raised in song?
Now I can see them kneeling and
beseeching God above.
They are asking Him to guide them
and heal the ones they love.
With thankful hearts, they seek His
ear. I can feel His presence
there.
Do they know that I am praying, as I
kneel along with them?

Then I listen even closer, as I close
my eyes once more.
Someone God has chosen is speaking
to them now.
He tells that Gospel story that was
meant for all of us.
Christ is our Redeemer. He died that
we might live.
Through God's Holy Spirit, he tells
the way to walk,
The way to live in righteousness, that
we might live with Him.
I hear his voice so clearly as he tells
them of God's love.
Do they know that I am listening and
I can hear him too?

I can hear them from far across the
miles. I wonder if they know,

How truly beautiful they are to me,
these people I hold so dear.
I can see the familiar faces; I cherish
the sound of them,
The gentle sounds of the people I
love, as they devote this hour to
Him.
They came to praise the Master and
fill His house with song.
I sense the power of Gospel love that
abides within their hearts.
I can hear them as if I was there with
them and though they may not
know,
I am holding them in a loving
embrace and thinking of them
today.

They are where I cannot be and I pray
that I were there.
My heart is swelled with longing, as I
imagine that I am.
Although they do not know it, they
are filling me with hope,
Because I know they have gathered
there, on this His holy day.
I ask You, God, to guide them and
hold them in Your hand,
Please, fill their hearts with peace and
joy until they come again.
Some day, I pray, I will be there too
and worship along with them.
Thank You God for Your presence
there, as they praise Your name
today.

—Barbara Kimball

ANNOUNCEMENT

Resolution for the 2000 Solemn Assembly

The Council of Apostles recommends for adoption the following:

Be it resolved that a Solemn Assembly be held the two days preceding the April Ministers' Conference, on March 31st and April 1st, 2000, and the following statements will comprise our purpose:

Whereas, By numerous prophecies we know that the day of the Lord is nigh at hand, and

Whereas, We know that great tribulation shall come upon the earth before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and

Whereas, We have the example of the church as found in Moroni 6:6: "*And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls:...*"

Therefore, Resolved, That the whole membership of the Church of Christ, from the youngest child to the oldest member, be called to a solemn assembly, that a period of fasting may be sanctified unto our God.

Resolved, that this period of fasting and prayer be held on the Temple Lot,

Resolved, That we seek to lay hold on the promise recorded in Joel 2:32, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.*"

Resolved, that all members of this Church of Christ, who are hindered by circumstances beyond their control from assembling on the Temple Lot, will dedicate the same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or in their homes, that the whole church be united in one heart and one mind, that the direction of the Lord be revealed to us, that the power of the Holy Ghost cover us as the waters cover the sea, that the servants of the Lord might go forth in boldness and power, preaching the word with authority unto the uttermost ends of the earth.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

Smith N. Brickhouse, Secy.

Council of Apostles

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Ministers' Conference 2000

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference, be advised that the 2000 April Ministers' Conference will begin on Monday, April 3, 2000, "Conference Sunday," beginning Sunday, April 2, 2000. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 3, 2000, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

According to action taken during the 1999 April Ministers' Conference, Solemn Assembly will be held Friday, March 31st and Saturday, April 1st, 2000,

at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All committee reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that any business desiring to be placed before the 2000 April Ministers' Conference should be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

Mailing address for the above requested information is:

Elder R. W. Oldham
April Ministers' Conference
Secretary
5709 Logan Rd
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

Your Brother In Gospel Bonds,
Elder R. W. Oldham
2000 April Ministers'
Conference Secretary
Church of Christ

ATTENTION—

TEEN CHALLENGE

2000

THE 2000 CAMP TEEN CHALLENGE WILL BE HELD JULY 30 THRU AUGUST 4, 2000.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND! CAMP IS FOR ALL YOUTH, AGES 12 THROUGH 18, AND WILL BE HELD AT CAMP FAR WESTA

NEAR CAMERON, MISSOURI. LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ZION'S ADVOCATE. NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR PLANS! FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUE & BUZZ BRICKHOUSE
5713 LOGAN ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64136
(816) 356-9214

Young People!



QUESTIONS! CONTACT RICK OLSON AT (816) 358-8530

QUESTIONS! CONTACT ANDY BROWN AT (602) 569-9745

YOUTH FORUM 2000

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2000 EAST LOCAL, 4-6:30 P.M.

NEWS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Greetings from Phoenix! We saw in the year 2000 at church with food, games, looking at old slides of when we were all a little younger and a lot skinnier, songs and a prayer service. Elections have been held and Gordon McCann remains our Pastor, with Priest Glen Orsted and Elder Bob Hedrick elected to serve as Assistant Pastors. Bob and his wife Liza are the proud parents of Phoenix's first Millennium baby, Travis James Hedrick, born January 11.

In September of this year Apostle Joel Yates and Elder Bob Hedrick made a missionary trip to Oregon. They met with some of our regular members there and some young people who have been studying the gospel. At the end of October and early November Apostle Yates was accompanied by Priest Dwayne Ely to Palmer, Alaska. They held services there with the "Old Saints" group, a group composed of Church of Christ members and people from other groups of the Restoration who are searching. Apostles Joel Yates and Brian McIndoo also made a short trip to Grand Junction, Colorado. While ministering to the people there they were blessed with the joy of ordaining David Larsen to the office of elder.

On September 12th Elder Ken Oar began the first leg of his fall missionary trip with a stop over in Missouri to baptize Heather Palmer. Heather was confirmed by her grandfather, Elder Warren Johnson. Elder Oar continued on to Brantford, Ontario, and Hogansburg, New York. Then people from Hogansburg, Bradley, Michigan and Kitchener and Brantford, Ontario gathered in Brantford for a joyous event: the ordination of Brother Keith Hoare to the

office of Elder. Elder Adam Porter assisted in the ordination. Everyone there enjoyed the fellowship so much that they decided it might be a good idea for this to grow into a yearly tradition, the Ontario Reunion. During the rest of his trip Elder Oar was also able to visit brothers and sisters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rochester, New York and Bradley, Michigan. Elder Oar also traveled with his wife to Missouri on December 26th to assist in the baptism of Rachele Bruner. Rachele was baptized by Elder Gerry Case and confirmed by Brother Oar.

Apostle Brian McIndoo and Elder Rodger Bruner were on the missionary road from September 29th through November 1st. Their first stop was the Treasure Valley Local in Idaho. They ministered to the regular congregation and met with a couple who were interested in learning about the church. We are very grateful here in Phoenix to have been able to contribute \$1,660 toward a new church home for the Treasure Valley local. From Treasure Valley the brothers went on to minister to and share fellowship with brothers and sisters in Toppenish, Washington; Cataldo, Idaho; Columbia Falls, Montana; Dillon, Montana; and Assinaboai, Moose Jaw, and Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Then it was home to Independence, Missouri, for Elder Bruner. Apostle McIndoo was met by his wife Becky, who traveled with him to Grand Junction, Colorado, for services before returning to Phoenix.

After being home only a short while, Apostle Brian McIndoo accompanied his father Apostle Don McIndoo back to Saskatchewan to administer to our sister Rita Stalker, who has been di-

agnosed with terminal liver cancer. We have much special prayer for our sister here in Phoenix. Although most of us have never met Rita, she has become very important to us.

Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Ken Oar also made a short trip to the Navajo Nation to minister to our brothers and sisters there. They were somewhat encouraged by the trip.

Priest Jim Yates Jr. and his wife Kim and family were blessed with the opportunity to turn a fall family vacation into a missionary trip. The Yates' visited church brothers and sisters throughout the Pacific northwest, often arriving just before or just after brothers McIndoo and Bruner. Double fellowship and double blessings for everyone.

On October 5th, Apostles Don McIndoo and Frank Fann traveled to Mexico. On October 10th a Yucatan Reunion was held. Two hundred people from nine different locals attended, with two new sisters being baptized by Brother Fann: Marcelina Briceno of Mayapan and Alberta Ucan of Uayalceh. Dennis and Betsy Trudgen also joined to help with the work this trip. Betsy assisted in a children's study class. Brother Fann got the royal traveler's welcome this year when their car was looted in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Two nights later, in Yobain, this devastating experience became an opportunity for God's blessing. At the close of church, an announcement was made in Maya, which none of the U. S. visitors understand. The congregation filed forward and dropped money into a basket. The basket was presented to our brothers to help recover their losses. In the words of Brother McIndoo: "With

tears in our eyes we thanked these humble, caring people for their love and consideration...this night will always be indelibly printed in our memories when we were on the receiving end of their generosity and concern." With these unforgettable memories in his mind, Brother Fann returned home and Brother Ken Oar joined Brother McIndoo for the remainder of the trip.

On October 7th, Apostles Smith Brickhouse, Placido K. Matu and Jay Moser arrived in Honduras. We are very happy to report that they returned with the news that our brothers and sisters there have made the decision to construct a church building. Plans were made to purchase and clear a three acre plot of land near the church community. We also rejoice in the addition of three new sisters to the family of Christ. On October 26th, Dulce Maria Carbajal, Maria Magdalena Palma Sevilla, and Lilian Damaris Ardon Aguilera entered the waters of baptism. Life for Hondurans is still filled with hardship and sometimes even danger. Our brothers and sisters there need the Lord's blessing in the gospel work. The returning missionaries asked that we remember the work there in special prayer.

Also in October the MIO Homeschool group presented, "In the House of My Friends" a WWII story about God's eternal promises to Israel. We lightened up a few weeks later at our UnHalloween-Halloween get together...The UnTalent Show. Our talented untalents did skits, tongue twisters, readings, and memorable songs like, "Where has my hairbrush gone?" and, "God is bigger than the bogeyman."

In November Elder Hubert Yates traveled to New York to perform the funeral service for Irene Ransom. She was

a beloved elder sister and adopted grandma to some of the New York folks.

We opened Reunion this year with a funny and inspiring skit about Noah's Ark. Some of our youngest members contributed as part of Noah's entourage. With his new beard, Apostle Brian McIndoo was quite convincing as Noah. Reunion came to a close with the baptism of five new brothers and sisters into the family of Christ. This was a family affair all the way. Bobby Riley entered the waters of baptism, along with his sons, Shawn and Cody, and his daughter and son-in-law, Shanna and Jeremy Kelley. Elder Hubert Yates performed the baptisms with he and Apostle Smith Brickhouse confirming the new members.

This fall Apostle Don McIndoo did an interesting two part study entitled "Ancient Travels In A New Land." He took us through the journeys of the peoples of this land with scriptures and maps. It brought to life the history behind the places we hear about in Central America. We're very thankful for God's blessing of healing to Don after his recent surgery.

Some of the ladies here have gotten together to form a women's group which meets the first Thursday of every month. "Sisters in Service" gets together for everything from baking cookies, making crafts, and fund raising, to visiting other members.

Our Primary and Jr. Young People's group have gotten together several times for activities that combine fun and fellowship with learning about the scripture. They had a "Get To Know You" meeting, an Armor of God activity at Reunion and a Christmas party.

Priest Jim Yates Jr., Elder Andy Brown, Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Ken Oar continue to minister to our brothers and sisters in Payson and Showlow. Brother Oar still studies with the Sloans,

a Navajo family in Mesa. The ministers have been able to be blessed with the company of their wives on some of the trips.

As the missionary effort expands throughout the Church of Christ, the sphere of our church world grows smaller. When we hear the needs and testimonies of brothers and sisters throughout the world, though sometimes thousands of miles away, we feel very close to them. God bless you all through the coming year and may we all grow in His service.

*Your sister in Christ,
Marlene Oar*

MOGOLLON, ARIZONA

Change is in the air. As the churches elect their new pastors and assistants, we wish them each God Speed, and that they will be able with joy to accomplish their duties, and that they each will be strengthened and blessed by the Holy Spirit of God.

As each new year dawns, we are closer to His return, closer to prophecies being fulfilled, to major change. To have care of the locals is a big responsibility; your love for us doth abound in good works, and we so appreciate your years of service as you continually edify us and prepare us.

Andy Brown will be our pastor this year, with Jim Yates, Jr. assisting. They both have dedicated so much time to us, and do still show their love towards God and us.

Recent visitors have been Ken and Marlene Oar, Bob Hedrick, Jay and Chris Moser, Bob Oldham and Gordon Mccann. There have been so many good

sermons and discussions. Jay brought up a very interesting point about why Peter began to sink in the water: it was because he did not obey the Lord when He told him to "Come." It was a simple command, but a command nonetheless.

I have something I would like to share with you. It is in the front of a Gideons Bible. It is what they and we believe, and should be read to our children and practiced by all. "THE BIBLE contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven

opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. CHRIST is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

If we could convey this message to the world, and O, that they would receive it!

In this new year may ears be opened and hearts restored. Remember: you and Christ make the majority.

Sister Kathy Cloyd

TREASURE VALLEY, IDAHO

Greetings from the Treasure Valley Local Church of Christ.

Stan and Phyllis Wilks offered their RV campgrounds on the beautiful Coure de Lane River surrounded by timbered mountains in northern Idaho for our first Idaho Reunion.

We have dreamed of having an Idaho Reunion for years, and the Lord poured out His blessings upon us.

We arrived a day early to set up camp and it poured rain all that day. We prayed that the Lord would stop the rain for our reunion, and our prayers were answered. That evening Stan and Phyllis

had all of us up for chili and corn bread. After that, on Friday evening, twenty five of us gathered around the campfire and sang Gospel songs and the Lord's Spirit was with us.

Saturday morning our reunion began with a prayer and testimony service with thirty five in attendance. Elders Andy Brown and Roger Bruner were in charge. There were many beautiful testimonies and prayers for the sick and our isolated members. Phyllis Wilks gave a testimony on how she and her husband had searched for the true church for 15 years! Eleven year old Amber Howell tes-

tified that "This is the only church that taught me God loves me." After a beautiful period of fellowship, we broke for lunch.

Apostle Joel Yates led Brother and Sister Stan and Phyllis Wilks into the waters of baptism. Amy Yates, the young daughter of Joel and Jenny Yates, sang a beautiful solo "Make Me A Servant." Elder Roger Bruner read a scripture in the Book of Mormon: II Nephi 13:19. Elder Andy Brown offered the closing prayer. Then the hand of fellowship was offered to Stan and Phyllis and we rejoiced in having them enter in to our

church family.

A sermon by Elder Roy Coon counseled us to hold on to the "Rod of Iron." Elder Roger Bruner's sermon told us how God changes our behavior.

Saturday evening we enjoyed dinner and fellowship with one another.

Sunday morning was a sacrament service with prayers and testimonies; Elders Andy Brown and Roy Coon were in charge. The service was filled with many beautiful prayers and testimonies. Apostle Joel Yates testified regarding Marvin Ely and the Great Commission, and how God's work is going forward according to His plan.

Elder Andy Brown testified as to how the conference changed his life, and how much he wanted to work for the

Lord. Elder Roy Coon's testimony was how the Lord had spared his life in order for him to work for Him. Valerie Kelley's testimony was about their move to Idaho. Laverne Walker gave her testimony on being an isolated member. Margaret Smith gave her testimony on her move to Missouri and asked for prayers.

Apostle Joel Yates gave us our final sermon, with Elder Roger Bruner in charge. Brother Joel's thoughts were about the decisions we make in our lives. What are we going to do with Christ in our lives? If we do 'this' thing, how will it affect others? What will this "decision" have on my association with Jesus Christ? He left us with this thought found in I Cor. 10:31-33: "...Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God...."

What a blessing we had from the Lord in being able to meet with our brothers and sisters in such a beautiful setting! Thank you again, Stan and Phyllis, for granting us this wonderful opportunity!

We plan to have the Idaho Reunion again next year at the same campground, thanks to Stan and Phyllis. It will be held on the 15th and 16th of July in the year 2000. You are all invited to be a part of this.

*Your Sister in Christ,
Mary Coon
Emmett, Idaho*

AVA, MISSOURI

Many came from out of town for Earl Darlington's funeral. All of Earl's and Myrle's children live in the vicinity, and all of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren came back home. Earl's sister and her husband were there, most of Myrle's brothers and sisters and some nieces and nephews. Georgia Smith, Lorraine Welton, Alexander and Carole Smith, Jim and Sharon Smith, Arthur and Ruth Smith, Pam and Chris Stotts, Cathy and Vince Latona, and Joe and Sue Smith visited around at the cemetery and then went to various homes to continue their visit until the next day.

The remainder of November and into December saw many of the "Over the river and through the woods" type of visits as children and grandchildren came to celebrate the holidays, and grandparents returned the visits whenever they could. Dolly Brech came to visit

her parents and brother at Christmas. Matt Jones came to visit his mother and Vince Latona and grandparents, Les and Barbara Burgin. The Jason Smith and Morrie McKee families and Bucky Davis visited parents, grandparents and great-grandmother.

Marvin and Edith Case were down in November, and Mike and Pat McGhee in December. In his remarks, Bro. Marvin stressed the other side of repentance—our forgiveness of others.

When Donald Gill was getting ready to come down on the second Sunday in January, he prepared references for a possible lesson or discussion. "Nothing comes by chance," an Ava pastor preached 60 or more years ago. So on this Sunday in the year 2000, the question raised by those attending was the very one Bro. Donald had already prepared for, the question of anger: "Be ye angry and sin not."

God knows we're going to get angry; it's how we handle it that makes the difference.

Alice Ice visited with the group on dinner Saturday in November. Kimberly Davis, with Brian and Leah and a friend, joined in on dinner Saturday in January.

We were glad to hear of the baptisms of Bobby Riley and his sons, Shane and Cody, and his daughter and son-in-law, Shana and Jeremy Kelly, and are pleased to welcome Bobby and Cody into the Ava congregation.

Both Sandy Smith and Darleen Smith had surgery during January. Both are doing fine, and Sandy is back at her shop working full time.

On Friday, January 14th, Jessica Likens, the young lady who lives with Dorothy Brech, had a bad wreck. She had started to school just a little ahead of Dorothy. As a general rule, Dorothy uses her driving time to review her plans for

the upcoming day, but that morning she was impressed to pray. She did pray as she thought she should. A few miles down the highway she saw the wreck. Jessica's car was upside down in the ditch. A fence and a tree had stopped it from tumbling even farther down the steep hill. There were two men working

nearby who saw the accident. Before they could get to the car, Jessica got out by herself and walked over to their vehicle. Her car was totaled. Jessica is still doing well. Muscle relaxers have been prescribed for a bruised spine, and people are trying to get her to take it easy, but she feels fine.

Ye, though I drive down the hill into the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. We join Dorothy and Jessica in giving thanks.

Reported by Ella Engle

COLLINS, MISSOURI

Greetings to everyone in this new year 2000. It's a beautiful day here atop the hill in Collins where Allen and I have our new home. We've had about four inches of snow to gaze out at and enjoy from our new "out-look!" It's not the farm I grew up on, but it's time for someone else to get to swing on that front porch and enjoy the evening sounds of the birds coming in for the night. Our daughter Shawna and her husband Dale have bought our farm and will take over the duties and pleasures of the home place. I pray for them the happiness, contentment, and refuge I always found there—and for Allen and me? I pray we'll be good neighbors to the folks here in our special little community. So, when you're in the area, stop by and see us—we're right next to 54 highway—where all the trucks gear down in grand fashion as they roll down the hill and prepare to screech to a halt at the intersection!

We enjoyed another Community Christmas Program with our neighbors and friends. As I looked at their faces that evening I wondered some about the year 2000 and what it would bring to all of us. We had all gathered in to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and yet many consider that time is short before Christ will come again in His great glory to gather His own to Him. I just wonder what we'll be doing

when that happens. Could we be so fortunate as to be in a wonderful service where our hearts are united in love? Or might we be at work or school or in the middle of an argument??? I was just wondering. "Watch and pray always...."

A regional ministry meeting was held today (1-29-00) at the Collins Local with ministry from Pineville, Springfield, Clinton, and Independence attending. The snow that I mentioned earlier kept some from attending because of slick roads and such. Even at that, there were nine or ten who arrived safely and were able to participate in the meeting. The snow ended by early afternoon and all returned to their homes safely.

Myles and Lynda Yates have a new granddaughter! Her name is Kyndle Rayne Ullum, daughter to Brook and Chuch Ullum of Louisburg, Missouri. She arrived January 16th. She has a beautiful "big sister," Kelsey Skye, who is 6 (?) and loves to fuss over this new member of the family. Little Kyndle is such a blessing. Before she was born she was not in the right position and through prayer God caused her to turn so she could be born normally. And now, here she is—a perfect creation, sent from heaven for all to love. Our thanks is to God, for He truly hears and sends forth His blessings.

Some thoughts I have gleaned from

sermons and such for you to consider:

- *Whenever each of us has come to the end of our way—Christ HAS come.*
- *John 3:16—We tend to take for granted how much God loved us to give his Son for us, so we wouldn't "perish."*
- *God already knows you—you need to get to know Him!*
- *If we waste this hour—it can never be brought back.*
- *We are in the "end of time." My time of probation is NOW. My time of service is NOW.*
- *He is the Lord OF all—or He isn't your Lord AT all!*
- *It's not a problem of knowing what to do, but it is a problem of DOING what we know to do!*
- *Baptism won't make you perfect, but it will lead you to perfection.*

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman*

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