

# Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 77

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NUMBER 12



*Wise Men Still Seek Him*

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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.

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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.

# KENYA



**Apostle Smith Brickhouse**

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,**

**The just shall live by faith” Rom. 1:16-17.**

**P**aul a servant of Jesus Christ stated strongly that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the “power of God unto salvation”

Recently Bro. Brian McIndoo and I were blessed with the opportunity to return to Kenya for six weeks. We arrived in the capital city of Nairobi on September 7 and returned home on October 19. The Lord blessed us with His protection, direction and watch care.

When we left Kenya last May we were concerned that the work there would continue to prosper and grow. At that time there wasn't a member of the priesthood living in Kenya; therefore, the members of the Church voted to have a committee of nine members continue to go out to the villages teaching the

**As we traveled about preaching and teaching we became strongly convicted of Paul's words and the need to not be ashamed of the gospel.**

points of the gospel that Bro. McIndoo and I had taught while we visited their homes and congregations. These men and women were diligent in their desire and efforts to serve the Lord. They went forth not only to the congregations which we had visited, but to many others at personal hardship and sacrifice to be able to bring the gospel message to those that had a desire to hear. They were not “ashamed” of what

they had been taught, and recognized it as the word of God, and the Lord richly blessed them in their efforts.

**We taught classes, held services and preached in 22 different congregations. One hundred and thirty-three souls entered the waters of baptism. Many were administered to and approximately 15 babies were blessed.**

When Bro. McIndoo and I arrived we found that our schedule was indeed full. Outreaches had been made to twenty-two different villages and they all wanted to hear the missionaries. Travel in Kenya is at best difficult and unpredictable so we knew that we were going to have a very busy trip. An answer to many prayers from many people.

As we traveled about preaching and teaching we became strongly convicted of Paul's words and the need to not be ashamed of the gospel. Time and again the Lord directed us. We were protected

from harm, directed in our studies and classes, and blessed with discernment in handling situations. I was reminded of the song "Great and Marvelous" (page 189 in the Zion's Hymnal). Once again it was nothing done by Bro. McIndoo or myself, but only through the almighty God.

We taught classes, held services and preached in 22 different congregations. One hundred and thirty-three souls entered the waters of baptism. Many were administered to and approximately 15 babies were blessed.

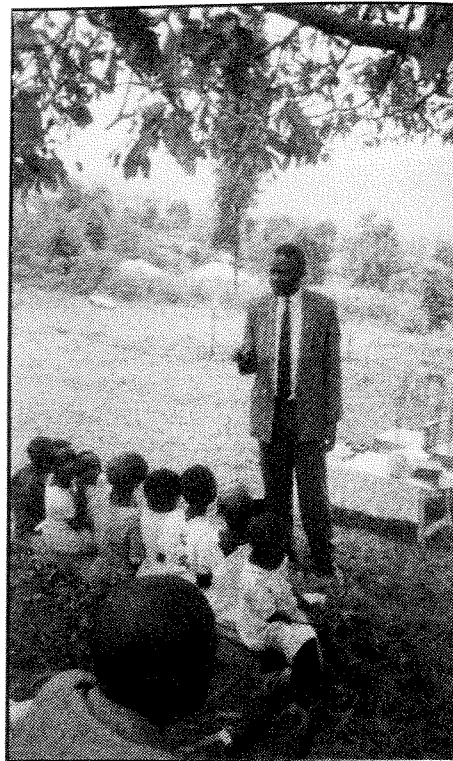
Brother Moses Ohuru was called and later ordained as an elder, and a local congregation was organized in the village of Nyaernda. Moses was elected as their pastor while others were elected as treasurer and secretary.

Many had prayed that the Lord would provide ministry for His children of Kenya.

**F**ollowing is the testimony of Elder Moses Ohuru.

"I was born in a family where both parents were Roman Catholic. Although both were Roman Catholic there was a behavior of unbelieving. Due to that it was not easy for me to believe in the Lord Jesus

Christ. When I was twelve years old I joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church (S.D.A.) because it was the



nearest church to my home. Even though I was attending that church I didn't know the meaning of being saved and the reason why to come to Christ. One day I attended one of the open air meetings which was organized by the Liberty Baptist Church in 1986 and I was touched with the message which was preached and I became a member of that church. It reached a time when we met with Margaret Moraa and she invited me to a meeting they usually had which was called a Bible Study Meeting. In the meeting they



gave a brief history and the doctrine of the Church of Christ. They introduced the Book of Mormon to us as the second witness of Christ. I could not believe the book for the first time because in our college we were told we should not read or believe the Book of Mormon because it was inspired and it was a demonic book. But still I was interested to read and see what was written in that book. Since we were told that the missionaries were to come I waited to hear what they were preaching. In May 2000 two brothers came from America as missionaries to Africa and I was surprised to hear them preaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ, contrary to what most people here in Kenya say concerning the Book of Mormon. After the first service we had at Kababe we were invited to a seminar in Kisii town. We had the chance to ask questions and we were answered.

"Even though I had been baptized and been appointed a preacher I found out that these were not done according to God's will. Therefore I was baptized on May 26, 2000, by one having authority from God, Apostle Brian McIndoo, and also received the laying on of hands by Apostle Smith Brickhouse. From that time my heart has been full of joy and hap-

piness and my burden has been rolled away.

"I personally believe that the Bible and Book of Mormon are the inspired word of God, written by the moving of the Holy Spirit. From the first time I desired to go and tell many concerning the good tidings I have received but I had no authority. On August 8, 2000, at night I saw a revelation from God. God showed me that I was standing at a flat area where there were no mountains and I was wakened up because the place that I saw I hadn't seen before and thought that it was a mere dream. Therefore I prayed and I told my wife what I saw and I then slept again. That same night I again saw the same revelation but this time I saw a mountain coming up from the ground and I was watching and to my surprise I found myself standing on the top of the mountain on the edge. But I could not fall. I was so afraid but when I looked forward I saw a multitude of people whom I had never seen and a few that I had seen before standing before me. I had nothing to tell them but when I looked behind me I saw Brothers Brian McIndoo and Smith Brickhouse sitting on the other side of the mountain, and Margaret Moraa was sitting in the middle and I asked a question loudly. "What can I tell these peo-

ple?" I saw Brother Brian talking to Brother Smith and Margaret but I could not hear what they were saying. Sister Margaret answered "Tell them." Then my dream came to an end. When I woke up to pray my wife asked me why I shouted loudly and yet I was still asleep. I explained to her how I had seen a revelation and what has happened. She then told me that perhaps God is teaching you something in my life.

"I had forgotten this experience until the missionaries returned to Kenya and we were at Nyansakia Village. At Sunday worship service there the revelation came to me again and I remembered everything. I thank God that when we gathered in Kisii for the Lord's Supper that he had already revealed to my Brother Brian that I should be an elder in the Church of Christ.

"When Apostle Brian McIndoo stood up to say what the Lord had revealed to him, many could not understand but I myself knew that it was the fulfillment of the dreams I had before. After the service before I had told my wife anything she told me that when Apostle Brian stood to speak she had heard an unusual sound and realized that it was God who talked to him.

"Looking back I can see

how the Lord has been preparing me for this great work. A verse that has been a favorite of mine is I Timothy 1: 12-16. I have learned that to be a servant of the Lord one must not look at the world and its riches, nor listen to man's ridicule and criticism. Unless one remains silent to the taunts around him one can not carry the cross to follow Him. These two hands are to do His work daily to fulfill His will. How I praise God to know that when God wanted to train His servant, it is not a simple matter. God has His timetable, His method, and His will. Wonderful, wonderful is my God, my Father.

"I'm asking for prayers that God may help and use me in a mighty way to perform His duties in my daily life. I have given myself to reach those lost souls so that they may come to Christ here in Kenya and all over the world.

*Yours in Christ,  
Elder Moses Ohuru*

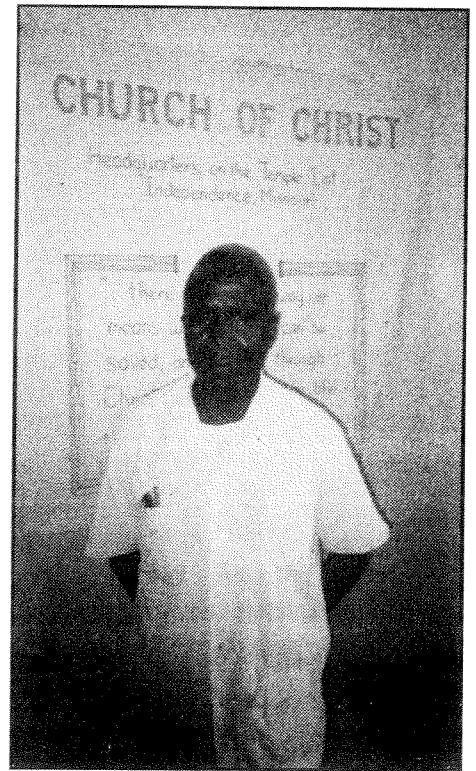
Bro. Moses will need our continued prayers as he has the responsibility to not only minister to his own congregation of fifteen members, but also as the only elder in Kenya he needs to minister to each of the members there that are scattered throughout the Kisii district. Please

pray for Bro. Moses and his wife Nora and their two young daughters, ages one and three. Nora is a member of the Church and a strong supporter of Moses' ministry and will need strength to continue in that support and provide for the family as Moses ministers to others.

**I**n our absence from Kenya the committee met each week to fast and pray for the work. The Lord truly blessed them. They divided the Kisii area into several zones and went out to contacts that they had made to teach them of the restored gospel and the Book of Mormon. We were extremely pleased in being able to witness the fruit of their labors and prayers of not only them but all their brothers and sisters in the Church. As we visited groups that were meeting several times a week the young would come forth and recite Book of Mormon verses in English. It was a blessing to see and hear of their love and belief in the Book of Mormon.

**T**he following is a portion of a report given to Apostles Smith Brickhouse and Brian McIndoo from Brother Patrick Magara. Patrick and his wife Alice are members of the Church of Christ and are two

of the nine members of the coordinating committee overseeing the work in Kenya. Patrick has taken on the responsibility for the area around his village as they have made outreaches to various communities. The dedication and labors of the members of the committee enabled the work to continue to progress. Please remember to continue to pray for their efforts and for Elder Moses Ohuru that each will be lead by the Holy Spirit in these efforts.



**M**essage from Brother Patrick Magara to Brother Smith Brickhouse:

"I am glad to inform you

that the Sengera Zone has eleven congregations, which are located in different community areas in our district. These congregations have spiritual and physical leadership standing firm in collaboration on building and edifying the Church of Christ's body in continuing study of both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Both of these books teach the same Gospel of Salvation and are the words of life having been received and inspired by God's spirit and recorded by men of God. Each of our congregations have leadership of laymen and an elected committee that hold spiritual services, maintain and practice the Church of Christ doctrine, faith and the Book of Mormon which gives the full light of the Holy Scriptures (Bible).

"I wish to close with these words from Alma 10:28-30:

*"But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord; Having a hope that ye shall receive eter-*

*nal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at the last day, and enter into his rest; And may the Lord grant unto you repentance, that ye may not bring down his wrath upon you, that ye may not be bound down by the chains of hell, that ye may not suffer the second death."*

**B**rother Patrick and the group in Sengera (as have other groups) also support a local private school. The headmaster and one of the teachers were recently baptized. They are currently using the Book of Mormon and other church literature as the reading material for the school. Brian and I visited the school one day. They have about 150 students in seven classes and have minimal texts and teaching aids. Sunday school material and supplies along with basic reading, writing, arithmetic text books and teaching aids and supplies are in real need.

**W**hile in Kababe the first Sunday of this trip we had a groundbreaking ceremony for a future church building that is to be built on land donated to the church by Margaret's grandfather. Currently the proposed plan is that with the aid of the

members of the Church outside of Kenya a church building will be constructed and will be used as the headquarters and reunion facility for all the members in Kenya. Work will begin if or when we have received legal title to the land and the church is officially registered in Kenya. We have hired an "Advocate" to obtain these items for us. In the meantime a cistern will be constructed in anticipation of the title being completed and the Church being legally registered in Kenya.

Registration is required by all churches and societies in Kenya. One day Sister Margaret was called to the District Commissioner's office and we were told that we were meeting illegally and that we must first have the Church registered. It appeared that we were going to have to stop our meetings; however, Margaret's husband arrived and told the official that he was the Church's lawyer and was in the process of researching what was required to register the church and the registration process would be completed shortly. I had felt that we were being subjected to some form of harassment; however, when Samwel (Margaret's husband) explained that he was our Advocate, the official backed off and told us that we could continue to

meet together. We had retained Samwel to represent us just two days before this. This is just another example

...When we are teaching what the scriptures teach, we never need to "be ashamed of the gospel" for it is true and witnesses of itself.

of how the Lord was protecting and preparing the way before us.

**W**e witnessed many blessings and the Lord's spirit moving upon these people. Several had wonderful testimonies of how the Lord had directed them to the Church of Christ and of their strong belief in the gospel of Christ. Brother McIndoo and I were uplifted and strengthened in our own ministry and witnessed to the fact that when we are teaching what the scriptures teach, we never need to "be ashamed of the gospel" for it is true and witnesses of itself.

**S**ister Margaret Moraa is the lady that made the first contact with the Church. She traveled each day with us and has sacrificed much time and effort for the work of the gospel. She has been elected the coordinator of the administrative needs for the church in Kenya and is also the secretary for the committee and the Bishop's Agent for Kenya. Margaret travels each day with us watching over us in love as only a mother can. She asked that I include this note from her in this article.

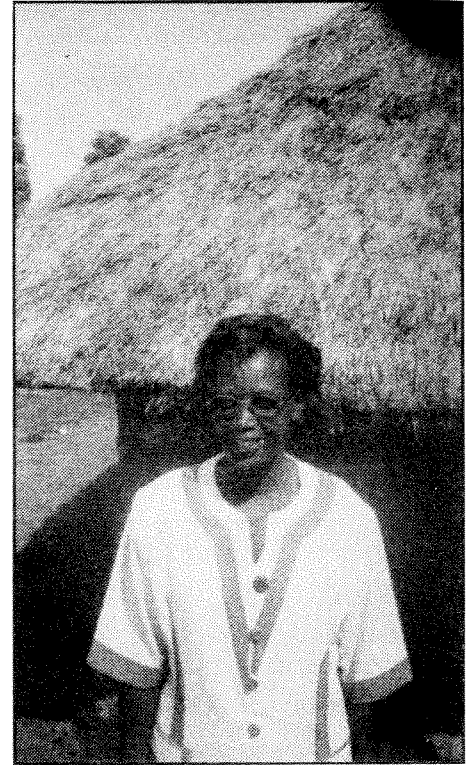
"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"I would like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ because of the Gospel preached to us through the Apostles of the Church of Christ. Indeed we have seen the experiences manifested unto us from the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The coming of the Apostles Smith Brickhouse and Brian McIndoo was timely to Kenya. God sent them to preach, teach the doctrine of Christ and uproot the teachings of men. Many souls have come to the knowledge of Salvation of Christ and to the understanding of the Book of Mormon.

"It has been a sacrifice to come to the realization of the achievement of establishing the Church in the

land of Kenya. The Apostles have met many challenges from the Christian community and govern-



ment officials and individuals. But Christ has been the hope of glory.

"In behalf of the entire Church of Christ (Kenya) I would wish to extend our deep appreciation for your support both spiritually and financially and physically. Our dear Bros. Smith Brickhouse and Brian McIndoo have related to us the support you have given towards the establishment of the work in Kenya. Your prayers are much felt in our hearts. Together we long for the Zion of our Lord. It has come true to reality because of the finances that



have been provided for the construction work at Kababe for a church building. Our two brothers witnessed and participated in the groundbreaking ceremony at Kababe.

"Our villages are far apart with rough and rocky roads but we have witnessed their patience to travel and baptize the members.

"I am grateful to have had known the Church of Christ. The world is perishing for want of the Gospel. There is a famine of the word of God, yet there are a few who preach and teach the word unmixed with human traditions. We are aware we have a little time to prepare for eternity. So it is wonderful that we have been instructed through the Church of Christ to work with our dear Lord.

"We are happy to inform you, our brothers and sisters, that we have an Elder in the Church of Christ, which came through revelation through his servant Apostle Brian McIndoo. We are thankful to God for his appointment to the Church of Christ.

"To Bros. Brian and Smith thank you for doing your best while in Kenya to make this Church of Christ a warm and attractive community where sinners, sinners who come with many battle scars and who have not done particularly well

and who have seen themselves as successful can feel accepted and loved. I am sure that this is how Christ would want His Church to look like.

"We will be waiting on the Lord for the continued support and encouragement for the onward progress of the Gospel in Kenya.

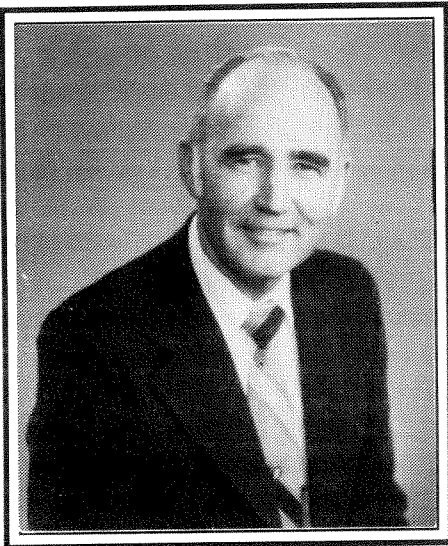
*In Gospel Bonds,  
Sister Margaret Moraa*

**B**rother Brian and I expect to return to Kenya in January of next year. There is much to do; the work there is great, and the needs are many. We continue to ask for your prayers and support for this ministry. We hope to be able to purchase a car this next trip and would like your prayers that we might be lead to one that the Lord would want us to have and that it would be pleasing to the work in Kenya. Sunday school lessons and school supplies are in great demand in each of the communities. We will attempt to develop a plan on how to supply these items. Due to the logistics involved we need to purchase most of the items in Kenya. However if any have Sunday school lesson or regular school lessons that could be used please contact one of us.

We thank each of you for

your tithes that support this and all the missionary endeavors of the church. We also thank you for the offerings that have been given to the "African Fund" administered by the Phoenix local. Your support and prayers have richly blessed this outreach.

# A Book of Mormon CRITIQUE



By **Apostle Don McIndoo**

Oh, book of eternal and simple truths  
Containing verities announced  
by prophets,  
Thou art inspiration of the  
learned and poets;  
Enlightening the world through  
the ages.

—Renan Chuc

“THOU ART INSPIRATION  
OF THE LEARNED AND POETS.” The Old Testament of the Bible is a book filled with

## Part 6

poetic writings. One scholar, David Freedman<sup>1</sup>, explained in his text that in ancient times in Asia Minor, poetry was the traditional manner of expressing one’s religious experiences. Many times the poetic forms of the Bible are not recognized because the poetic style of the Hebrews is different from that of other peoples. Hebraic poetry doesn’t have the type of rhyme to which we are accustomed. It has a rhyme of thoughts, not words.

A scholar of Hebrew poetry, Angela Crowell<sup>2</sup>, wrote a treatise comparing the poetry of the Bible and that of the

Hebraic poetry doesn’t have the type of rhyme to which we are accustomed. It has a rhyme of thoughts, not words.

Book of Mormon. In her article she described more than twenty-five poetic forms found in the Holy Bible which appear also in the Book of Mormon. Many of these forms had not been identified until after the Book of Mormon had been translated. Neither Joseph Smith, nor any other person of that day, knew about these ancient poetic styles. So how did such forms appear in the Book of

Mormon? There is only one plausible answer to this query: It is because the Book of Mormon is an ancient book written by Hebrew people who understood such poetic styles.

We shall use Angela Crowell's study to demonstrate a few of these ancient poetic styles. The first form is called Synonymous Parallelism. This type of parallelism occurs when the second part of the couplet repeats the first line, but uses different words.

From the Old Testament (Psalms 34:3)

"O *magnify* the Lord with me,  
And let us *exalt* his name together."

From the Book of Mormon (1 Nephi 1:14)

"For his *soul* did rejoice,  
and his whole *heart* was filled."

Another type of parallelism is called Antithetic Parallelism. This type of parallelism occurs when the second part of a verse contrasts with the first portion.

From the Old Testament (Psalms 1:6)

"For the Lord knoweth the way of the *righteous*,  
But the way of the *ungodly* shall perish."

From the Book of Mormon (1 Nephi 5:144)

"Ye are *swift* to do iniquity,  
*slow* to remember the Lord your God."

Another poetic form used by the Hebrews was the Simile. A simile is a comparison which uses the words, "like" or "as." This poetic form was often used to introduce or to close a discourse.

From the Old Testament (Isaiah 1:8)

"And the daughter of Zion is left  
*as* a cottage in a vineyard,  
*as* a lodge in a garden of cucumbers,  
*as* a besieged city."

From the Book of Mormon (1 Nephi 6:25-26)

"O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments;  
Then had thy peace been *as* a river,  
And thy righteousness *as* the waves of the sea,  
Thy seed also had been *as* the sand;  
The offering of thy bowels *like* the gravel thereof."

Another poetic form of the ancient Hebrews is called the "chiasm." This literary style is not common, nor easy to use, but it was used a great deal by the ancient Jews. A noted authority on this ancient style of writing, John Welch, stated, "*Chiasmus remained a common literary form in the Hebrew world until the first century after Christ, when it and most Jewish institutions were destroyed.*"<sup>3</sup> This poetic form was not even recognized in the time when the Book of Mormon was revealed and translated; nevertheless, there are many beautiful examples of chiasmus found in the Book of Mormon. Everyone, including critics of the Book of Mormon, recognizes that young Joseph Smith did not invent this very difficult form of writing. It is another evidence that the Book of Mormon was an ancient book written by skilled writers of the house of Israel.

This poetic form of writing contains a sequence of words or thoughts. Arriving at some central point, the same words or ideas are repeated, but in reverse order.

From the Old Testament (Exodus 9:31)

A "And the *flax*  
B and the *barley* were smitten;  
B<sub>1</sub> for the *barley* was in the ear,  
A<sub>1</sub> and the *flax* was in bud."

From the New Testament (Matthew 19:30)

A "but many that are *first*  
B shall be *last*,  
B<sub>1</sub> and the *last*  
A<sub>1</sub> shall be *first*."

From the Book of Mormon (1 Nephi 7:3-4)

- A Behold, they were made manifest unto the *prophet*,
- B by the voice of the *Spirit*:
- B<sub>1</sub> For by the *Spirit*
- A<sub>1</sub> are all things made known unto the *prophets*,"

The Book of Mormon is full of this ancient poetic form. This causes me to greatly enjoy the introduction to The Companion Bible. The editors of this work discuss these poetic forms which their Bible beautifully displays. They write that these forms are "...seen to be one of the most important evidences of the Divine Inspiration of its words. For these Structures constitute a remarkable phenomenon peculiar to Divine Revelation; and are not found outside it in any other form of known literature."<sup>4</sup> Believers in the Book of Mormon wholeheartedly welcome this endorsement of its inclusion in the "Divine Revelation" of the Lord.

Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon often has many parts, showing us the artistic skill of these ancient writers. The Hebrews used such forms of poetry to help them memorize the scripture. A good example of a complex chiasm is found in the Third Book of Nephi. This chiasm is not a sequence of words, but of large concepts.

- A the Gentiles shall be trodden under foot (3 Nephi 7:40)
- B Isaiah 52 and Zion (7:42)
- C the sick restored (8:4-26)
- D the communion (8:28-43)
- E prayer (8:47-57)
- F baptism (8:62)
- G the ascension of Jesus (8:73-75)
- F<sub>1</sub> baptism (9:4-16)
- E<sub>1</sub> prayer (9:17-39)
- D<sub>1</sub> the communion (9:40-45)
- C<sub>1</sub> the restoration of Israel (9:46-69)
- B<sub>1</sub> Isaiah 52 and Zion (9:70-73)
- A<sub>1</sub> the Gentiles shall be trodden down (9:99-106)

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# ORDINARY?

**N**azareth was such an ordinary town; its citizens were just as ordinary. The town carpenter Joseph was a fine man, and his wife Mary a sweet and gentle creature, but they were really not extraordinary. Some believed that there was something a little out of the ordinary, perhaps even miraculous, about the birth of their first son Jesus. The less credulous were not so kind in describing the situation.

This first child grew to be a normal-seeming-adult, as did his later siblings; there was nothing remarkable for his neighbors to exclaim over. His sandals made dusty tracks on the floor for his mother to sweep up, just like everybody else's.

But these were the prints of no ordinary man! Nor were they the earthly evidences of the passage of an angel. He was a mortal man—for a time—but, don't make a dangerous mistake, my friend. His very conception was supernatural and He was **THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH!**

He gave up His place in Heaven (with a throne next to that of His Father), as Co-Ruler of all space for all time. Those two knew that only by the Son's consenting to become temporarily mortal could restitution be made for the sins and weaknesses of all of mankind. Through this staggering sacrifice (not just in the dying—but in the living as a mere human)

the straining, striving masses became eligible for the great gift. That gift is—living forever and ever as part of the family in a place so glorious that finite—ordinary—minds can't even picture it. More! The Comforter is here—and now—ready to carry “peace that passeth understanding” into the hearts of all who choose to meet the requirements.

—Donna Moser

## PATHLIGHTS

# The Miracle Baby

Dear Church Family, I've had occasion lately to contemplate the wonderful blessings the Lord has given me throughout my life. There is one in particular I would like to share with all of you. Many of you already know of this because you prayed fervently for Dan and me, that we might have a child. A few weeks ago, as I was conversing with a young lady in the church, it was brought to my attention that a generation of young adults haven't heard of this blessing.

So I would like to share it with you—perhaps there is someone experiencing the same frustration and discouragement that we faced. I'd like to give you hope and assure you that God can do all things.

Dan and I had been married for about seven years and were wanting to start a family. As time went on, it became apparent that our dreams were not being fulfilled. After much prayer we decided to consult a fertility specialist.

It was determined that I had endometriosis and that the prognosis was not good for conception. The doctor informed us that without surgery there was not much of a chance, almost zero; with surgery chances were increased.

Although I longed for a family, (and I have nothing against seeking medical help for health problems) we decided that since it was not a life threatening condition, perhaps we would not pursue a surgical remedy. I felt that if the Lord wanted me to have a child, He would give me this

special gift. We left the situation in His hands. I'd like to tell you that I had perfect peace of mind as we made this decision, but I can't. I was really



## PATHLIGHTS

distraught and grieved.

It happened that all of this occurred just before the April Minister's Conference in 1982. I was administered to by Elder Oren Caviness and Elder Bill Morris. I remember specifically the prayer that was offered. It mentioned that the blessing I sought was one that only God could provide.

At that moment I felt great peace with the decision we had made to not seek any more medical intervention for this problem. Nine months later in January, Jesse was born. We called him our miracle

baby, for I was truly blessed during that administration. During his delivery we found out just how blessed we had been.

This miracle was amplified at the time of his birth. An emergency C-section was necessary because they detected that Jesse was suffering fetal distress. It had not been anticipated, but a neonatologist "just happened" to be in the operating room as they wheeled me in. Jesse's apgar rating was only 2 (out of 10) when he was born. In five minutes it was normal.

Another wonderful blessing: I was later told that the abnormal endometrial tissue that usually disappears during pregnancy was still evident during the C-section. With that problem still existing, it just shouldn't have been possible to successfully conceive. What a wonderful God we have. He can do anything and everything! If there are those of you who have a similar situation, I would like to encourage you that God will lead you and direct you to the solution He would have for you. It may not be the same solution He prompted us to pursue. But whatever it is, have faith that He can and will direct your thoughts and His tender mercies will sustain you.

*Love in Gospel Bonds,  
Manon Lawrence  
Kansas City, MO*

—Posted on the CCEG

# The Small Stuff

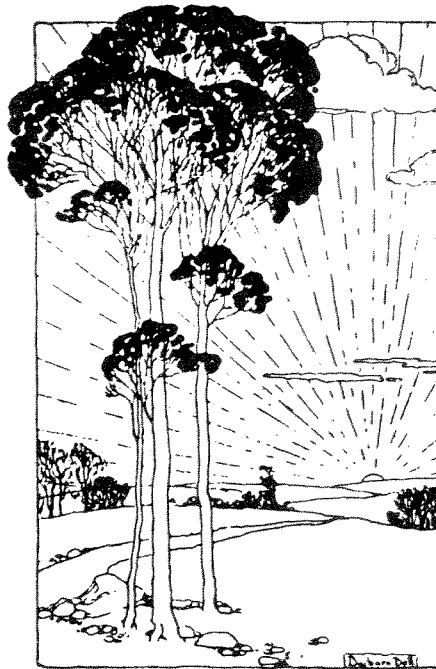
A couple of weeks ago I attended a seminar on Multiple Sclerosis which really opened my eyes. The importance of 'not sweating the small stuff' was stressed, but the need of saving what little strength I have for the important stuff. I had to sit back and re-evaluate my life and how it was going, which is not smoothly.

In my need not to give in to the Multiple Sclerosis, I had turned my small Avon business into the important stuff and my spiritual well-being, marriage, family and home into the small stuff. Something was wrong here!

What little strength I had was being given to my business, not to what should be most important in my life. To feed my self-esteem I was putting everything I had into getting my orders out and then not having the energy to take care of the things in life that make me the happiest. I can say I have made 'Presidents Club' (a great achievement for an Avon lady) each of the full years I have sold Avon, but can I say that I had the energy needed to drive to Church on Sunday morning? I didn't. It was time to make some changes and I decided I could not put it off any longer. My eyes were opened but what was I going to do?

For five years I have built up my business as an Avon Lady, priding myself on customer service. What would my customers do without me? Some of them are so lonely and just need someone to talk to, someone who cares. How could I let them down? It was such a hard decision but I knew I couldn't keep selling Avon when it was doing me so much damage. My husband and I discussed it and he was for me stopping, but was concerned with what I would do

instead. The answer was easy. I am going to take care of him and myself. I am going to work on getting me to where I need to be spiritually on a daily basis



## PATHLIGHTS

not just when I have the strength, which I never do. I am going to get my home in order. I am going to try to get my life under control. I am going to spend time with those I love. I will have plenty to do.

We both decided it would be for the best. It will hurt financially but spiritually it can only improve, and with that I know blessings will come and we will be fine.

The following day I attended services at the Grand Junction Local of The Church of Christ. It was Sacrament. I was not going to stand up. I just needed to feel the closeness and the bond among

these people. I felt the bond so strongly that I found myself standing up and sharing my decision and concerns with these people who mean so much to me. I asked for prayers that this move be an easy transition, not knowing that prayers were being answered the moment I was led to stand and bear my testimony.

As I was leaving the Church, two of my sisters approached. Margie Downs wanted me to know how much she loved me and my family. Kathy Larsen approached because she and her daughters, Sarah and Erin, wanted to buy my Avon business. What a blessing! What a relief! I could not sell her my business but I sold her my overstock and samples. I gave her a list of my customers and she has already started meeting and taking care of "her customers." Everything has gone so smoothly. I have kept my family members and a couple of really good friends as my customers and will remain somewhat active without all the stress caused by doing more than I am capable of doing. If I find that I am not concentrating on what is important in my life then I will give them up also. I feel good! I have made a positive step!

I know the Lord watches over us! The last prayer request I sent was for strength enough to get my deliveries made that week. I did not receive the strength. I had problems getting out the orders. The Lord answers prayers in His own way—not ours. Thank you Jesus!!!

*Rita O'Dell*

—Posted on the CCEG

# PALESTINE

Blest land of Judea! Thrice hallowed of song  
Where the holiest of memories pilgrim-like throng;  
In the shade of thy palms, by the shores of thy sea,  
On the hills of thy beauty, my heart is with thee.

With the eye of a spirit I look on that shore,  
Where the pilgrim and prophet have linger'd before;  
With the glide of a spirit I traverse the sod  
Made bright by the steps of the angels of God.

Blue sea of the hills!—in my spirit I hear  
Thy waters, Genesaret, chime on my ear:  
Where the Lowly and Just with the people sat down,  
And thy spray on the dust of His sandals was thrown.

Beyond are Bethulia's mountains of green,  
And the desolate hills of the wild Gadarene;  
And I pause on the goat-crag of Tabor to see  
The gleam of thy waters, O dark Galilee!

Hark, a sound in the valley! Where, swollen and  
strong,  
Thy river, O Kishon, is sweeping along;  
Where the Canaanite strove with Jehovah in vain,  
And thy torrent grew dark with the blood of the slain.

There, down from his mountains stern Zebulon came,  
And Naphtali's stag, with his eyeballs of flame,  
And the chariots of Jabin roll'd harmlessly on,  
For the arm of the Lord was Abinoam's son!

There sleep the rocks and the caverns which rang  
To the song which the beautiful prophetess sang,  
When the princess of Issachar stood by her side,  
And the shout of a host in its triumph, replied.

Lo, Bethlehem's hill-site before me is seen,  
With the mountains around, and the valleys between;  
There rested the shepherds of Judah, and there  
The song of the angels rose sweet on the air.

And Bethany's palm trees in beauty still throw  
Their shadows at noon on the ruins below;  
But where are the sisters who hasten'd to greet  
The lowly Redeemer, and sit at His feet?

I tread where the twelve in their wayfaring trod;  
I stand where they stood with the chosen of God;  
Where His blessing was heard and His lessons were  
taught,  
Where the blind were restored and the healing was  
wrought.

Oh, here with His flock the sad Wanderer came—  
These hills He toiled over in grief, are the same—  
The founts where He drank by the wayside still flow,  
And the same airs are blowing which breathed on His  
brow!

And throned on her hills sits Jerusalem yet,  
But the dust on her forehead, and chains on her feet;  
For the crown of her pride to the mocker hath gone,  
And the holy Shechinah is dark where it shown.

But wherefore this dream of the earthly abode  
Of Humanity clothed in the brightness of God?  
Were my spirit but turned from the outward and dim,  
It could gaze, even now, on the presence of Him!

Not in clouds and in terrors, but gentle as when,  
In love and in meekness, He moved among men;  
And the voice which breathed peace to the waves of  
the sea,  
In the hush of my spirit would whisper to me!

And what if my feet may not tread where He stood,  
Nor my ears hear the dashing of Galilee's flood,  
Nor my eyes see the cross which He bow'd him to bear,  
Nor my knees press Gethsemane's garden of prayer.

Yet, loved of the Father, Thy Spirit is near  
To the meek, and the lowly, and penitent here;  
And the voice of Thy love is the same, even now,  
As at Bethany's tomb, or on Olivet's brow.

Oh, the outward hath gone!—but, in glory and power,  
The Spirit surviveth the things of an hour;  
Unchanged, undecaying, its Pentecost flame  
On the heart's secret altar is burning the same.

—John G. Whittier



# ONTARIO RETREAT

October 7 and 8, 2000

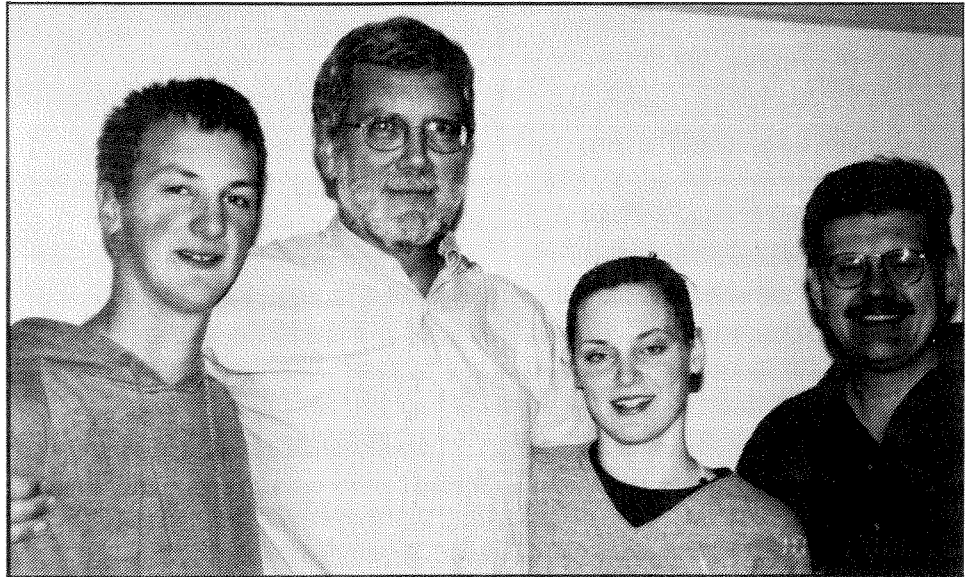
The weekend services began Saturday evening with the baptism of Adrienne and Jake Bevaart by Elder Ken Oar. This was followed by the confirmation service at the home of Adrienne and Jake's parents, Mike and Deb. After a few remarks by brother Oar, Adrienne and Jake were confirmed by Elders Ken Oar and Adam Porter. We then welcomed our new brother and sister by extending the hug of fellowship and the evening was concluded with a buffet dinner prepared by our sister Deb Bevaart.

Sunday morning we met for services with brother Adam Porter delivering the message. He spoke about making decisions by the leading of the Holy Spirit and the importance of having the Spirit in our lives. The preaching service was followed by a sacrament service in which we enjoyed an abundance of the Spirit with many prayers and testimonies offered. The service was followed by a dinner prepared by the local sisters.

In addition to the local congregation we were blessed by the attendance of Eli and Gretchen Tarbell and their two grandchildren, Rhoades and Myalee, from Hogansburg, New York, Dennis and Betsy Trudgen from Mexico, Tony Jones, Adam, Sue, Heidi and Emily Porter from Michigan, and Ken and Marlene Oar from Arizona.

This was the second annual retreat and again this year we were blessed by a wonderful Spirit. A remark was made that last year we had an ordination and this year two baptisms—what are we going to do next year? We thank each who attended and made it a very successful weekend. Our prayers will be that the Lord will continue to bless His people.

*Marn Vievien*



## REUNION REPORT

## MISSOURI REUNION

The 2000 Missouri Reunion met in the Independence Temple Lot Church on August 4, 5, 6.

## FRIDAY

Elders Charles Brantner and Gale Brantner were in charge of the opening prayer service on Friday at 9:00 a.m. To settle our minds upon our purpose, John 16:21-27 and 3 Nephi 8:47-49 were read. In these scriptures Christ states that He is the light of the world. He has set an example, and He has overcome the world.

Apostle Roland Sarratt welcomed those present and stated how much the youth camp and the Minister's Conference have grown and continue to be successful. Brother Roland stated that he feels the Lord is working with us and patiently guiding us toward His will. He urged us to continue to seek the Lord's will and His guidance in our missionary outreach.

Sister Enid Bell shared how the prayers for her children were answered. Last winter one of their daughters on her way home from work one night had car trouble. The temperature was 30 degrees below. A friend she works with had accidentally gone the wrong way, came upon her vehicle, and got her home safely.

Allen and Czerna Kauffman shared how their little granddaughter had asked to be administered to when she had an earache, and then how her brother Aaron shared the story of administrations with his cousin. Allen also told how he had accidentally gotten some gasoline in his ear while working under his car. He put some consecrated oil in his ear and it stopped the pain and irritation. He stated that it is important that children learn early that God is

real, able, and interested in us.

Velma Wheaton shared her joy that her recently broken and operated on ankle is healing beautifully. She asked us to remember their Indian friends, Tommy and Ruby, who desire to be married in the Church on the Temple Lot.

Sam Gould shared some childhood memories of the power of God. He recalled there was a fire in the woods where they lived. His blind father became aware of the impending danger. He knelt on the ground and prayed for their cabin to be spared. The winds immediately changed and went the other way.

Elder Richard Wheaton was the speaker for the 11:00 service. Elder Rodger Bruner assisted. Sister Darl Temple accompanied Brother Gerald Cox who sang a special, "Follow Close To Me."

Brother Wheaton recalled that his first sermon had been at the Bimidji Reunion in Minnesota 62 years ago when he was 16. He thanked the choristers who always are able to pick songs that fit the sermons, today as well as when he gave that first sermon. The theme then and now, "Shout the Tidings of Salvation." Isaiah 52:1, 2, 3 reminds us to put on our garments of righteousness. Brother Dick admonished us not to get involved in the world—for possessions do nothing for our salvation. Elder Wheaton recalled how many of our bygone missionary warriors were men of God and dedicated to the Lord's work. His own father, Clarence Wheaton, left their home with his backpack to walk to St. Louis. Before leaving he turned his pockets wrong side out and had the sum total of five cents, which he then distributed to his children, one cent a piece. He got rides

and many people bought him meals along the way. He even rode the rails and lived in Hobo camps where he preached to all who would listen. In one of the camps he found a gold watch that he later hocked to buy food for his family. Brother James E. Yates was on a missionary trip and prayed that the Lord would provide him with a needed meal. He first came upon a freshly killed chicken in the road and then later a loaf of bread, which had fallen from a bread truck. We remember these determined missionary men—Brother Flint, Brother Gould, and Brother Smith. Many of their families are here today and remember them and their great sacrifices. Elder Wheaton stated that being a missionary is not an easy road except the Lord be with you. God has not forgotten us; we all have testimonies of miracles that preserve us daily. God is sure, certain, and perfect.

Brother Dick stated he feels the Church has been in a phase, afraid to step into or through the doors of differing cultures, but we must stand up and cry the alarm to all who will come. It will be multi-ethnic and we must accept and be ready for them in this church. We have to be the watchmen in the tower. No man knows the hour of Christ's return, but it is our duty to be ready. We now have members in Africa, Mexico, and Honduras, and we must accept them and welcome them into the Church. Trust in the Lord and be joyful in this as the Lord fulfills His promises.

After lunch there was a song service at 2:30 p.m. Manon Lawrence was our leader and the pianist was Martha Bruner. As usual we raised our hands to request our favorite hymns.

The three o'clock speaker was Apostle

Roland Sarratt with Apostle Frank Fann officiating. We enjoyed a special, "Oh Master Let Me Walk With Thee" sung by Sister Darla Warfield.

Apostle Sarratt began by asking us the question, "What is the Church of Christ Worth?" "What is its value?" He stated that in the eyes of the world the Church, except for the property it sits on, is of no value. We are the bride of Christ. What is that worth? Brother Sarratt stated that Christ's blood paid for it and nothing can equal what Christ has given to man.

Brother Roland continued to warn us that we are going to have to take a stand and be qualified with righteousness to withstand the coming persecution. Christianity is under attack and the morality of the day wants to get rid of Bible teachings and authority.

First, we need to stop forming the Church to ourselves and our desires, but conform ourselves to the Church—Christ's Church. "I have a conviction of this gospel and I know this is Christ's Church." As small as we are we can not afford to lose good members or the young who have the potential to become members. What can we do to refocus our priorities? We need to teach true principles and fundamentals so our young will be able to give adequate answers to teachings that are contrary.

In Luke 21:34 Christ warns us of the things that can consume us, and we will not be prepared for His coming. He speaks of surfeiting, which is not only excess of food, but being obsessed with things of this world. The cares of this life can be a snare, so we are advised to watch and pray. The things of the world can put us in such a state of mind that we are unresponsive to the spirit of God. We must become worthy of escape.

We know that the whole world is now dependent economically on each other. Our rising gas prices are a good example of this. Sudden inflation could cause our

buying power to decrease. We are all dependent upon money. We will only escape by the power of God, if we are worthy. To be worthy we must be righteous. Our conscience must say, "I will not sin, but I will obey." How do we do this? We know the scriptures and their teachings. We have to be an example and a good influence on each other. When we see our loved ones doing wrong—get more involved with each other. Speak the truth in kindness and strengthen them.

Apostle Sarratt read from Matt 24:9, stating we will be delivered to be afflicted for Christ's name sake. He also read from Luke 21:15 and Matt 5:10, stating we will be persecuted for righteousness sake. Brother Roland read in Amos 5:14,15 where we are told to seek good and hate evil. We are going to have to take a stand. When we see things that are wrong we need to be quick to establish "Judgment at the gate."

Jeremiah 6:10, 14, 15, 16 was read, telling how the Israelites were not ashamed of their wrong doings. They were in a hardened condition; their consciences were seared, and they told the prophet they would not walk in the old paths. We must now also make a decision to remain in the old paths. We have been called to be the light and the salt of the earth. Apostle Sarratt stated that—Yes, we are small but God does not require anything we cannot do. IF we will conform to God's will—we will be effective. 1 Tim 1:5 reminds us that charity comes out of a pure heart and a good conscience.

Brother Sarratt reviewed how Christ was perfect and yet he suffered death and did it patiently. He read 1 Peter 3:7, telling us to be willing to serve, willing to completely be like Christ. How will we react when we undergo trials and persecution? He also read the assurances in Psalm 91:1-4 of deliverance. His truth shall be our shield and buckler. "Buy the truth and sell it not."

Apostle Sarratt ended by asking us if we want to be like Christ? He stated that that has to be our desire. He declared the Church is of great value—far beyond our estimation, because it is our direct connection to saving and preserving eternal souls.

After dinner there was a song service from 6:30 to 7:00 conducted by our song leader Sister Manon Lawrence with pianist Sister Martha Bruner.

The 7:00 p.m. speaker was Apostle Don McIndoo assisted by Priest Dwayne Ely. Harvey L. Seibel, Melissa Seibel, Jacob Seibel and Roland Sarratt presented a special, singing "Over Jordan" a cappella.

Our speaker commented that the fellowship at Reunion comes from sea to sea in the United States and from Canada to the North and Mexico to the South.

Apostle Don McIndoo began by reading Alma 3:1. He told us that we each are called of God and we need to follow the voice of the Good Shepherd. In Romans 8:28 it says we are called according to His purpose. In 1 Peter 2:9 it says we are a chosen generation, a holy nation, and that our purpose is to bring praises out of darkness into light. Brother Don shared two testimonies of conversion written by young men who are now members of the Church in Yucatan. One told how the spirit convicted him and touched his heart with joy while listening to Brother Randy's sermon, and how he has repented of his former worldly life and finds great joy in the gospel. The other young man told of a dream he had where he saw a congregation sing, and as he looked closer it was the Church of Christ. There he saw them holding a book that was a scroll and it was revealed to him that it held the truth. He also gave up his old life and was baptized into the Church.

Apostle McIndoo stated that we have also been called just as these men, and regardless of how long ago we accepted Christ, that calling is a process and we need to each be seeking a higher plane of service.

2 Timothy 2:21 was the theme for the youth camp in Yucatan this year and they wore it on T shirts just as our youth do. "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Brother Don wanted us to examine the word "meet" in that verse. It means to be equal to, to be of value, to be worthy. It calls us to be perfect for the Master's use and a vessel unto honor.

Apostle McIndoo showed us a small block of wood, a piece of bass wood for carving. He compared it to a carved humming bird on a branch which he had carved out of a piece of wood the same size as the block. He told us that it takes lot of work to whittle that little bird out of such a piece of wood. He compared us to that piece of wood and how the Lord is the artist and when He cuts away the deadwood in our lives it can be a painful process, but when the Lord has finished polishing us and refining us we then can be useful to the Master.

Brother Don retold us the story of the four sons of Mosiah and how they heard the call and felt the purpose of God. Their desire became to carry the Good News to their enemies. They became instruments in God's hands, but their lives were not easy and they became depressed and discouraged, deciding to go home. However, God sent an Angel and told them, "Be ye comforted." Brother McIndoo stated that it is no different in our day. We must call upon the Lord and follow God's purpose. We have to be strong and endure to the end.

Apostle McIndoo reviewed 1 Nephi 3:219-229, the prophesy which reveals all that has happened to the Americas and how the gospel was to be restored. We now live in the latter days and the gospel is going to go to the poor as prophesied in the parable of the olive tree in the book of Jacob. The Lord is calling us where He has prepared the hearts of the receptive in

Africa just as he did in Yucatan over fifty years ago.

Brother Don concluded by reading 1 Nephi 3:230-231. He said even though we are few in number—if we obey—the power of the Lamb of God will be with us. Apostle McIndoo charged each of us to make ourselves a useful instrument for the Lord. We are called of God to His purposes.

## SATURDAY

The 9:00 Saturday morning prayer service was officiated by Apostles Alvin Moser and Placido Koyoc Yam. Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam made the opening remarks. He greeted us in behalf of all his family and Church members in Mexico. Next he stated that we have a battle against a powerful enemy. Therefore we need help from God to defeat this enemy. We can do this through being united in prayer to our Lord. 3 Nephi 6:19-23 tells us we have a great opportunity to ask for His help. We all have many problems, but we can ask and we will receive. He says knock and He will open. If we seek, we will find. Whatever the problem God is there to help. Apostle Koyoc also read 3 Nephi 8:47-52, admonishing us to watch and to pray. When we are tempted we must pray in Christ's name. Remember, the adversary is walking behind us to discourage and take us off the pathway. We must be firm and constant. It is always necessary to pray. Pray at your work, in your home, as you travel and in your families. It is the only way to defeat the enemy. We also need to testify of the blessings we receive.

After a season of prayer many testified of their blessings. Brother Albert Layton-Floyd stated he was thankful for the scriptures and the missionaries who stop and visit them. As the gospel begins to expand into the world we mustn't neglect it here. He was appreciative that his grandchildren were able to attend the youth camp.

Sister Chris Moser shared an experience

she had when she was very depressed. She was resting one Sunday afternoon and at the foot of her bed a most attractive young man appeared who immediately turned into a cat-like creature with yellow eyes and began stalking her. It said, "I will destroy you." Chris prayed for deliverance and believes that depression can be a tool of Satan. Sister Moser stated you can get victory over depression. Many little victories help us fight the big giants in our lives, and we can only do this through Christ.

Melissa McGhee shared how through a recent trial, the shattering of her knee cap, she received so many blessings of love. She felt the spirit of love so strong from so many caring people. God provided her every need. When she would get discouraged there would come a phone call or a card from loving members everywhere. She wants to share the kind of love she received.

Sister Delores Smith expressed how God has always been with her in her trials, and she is so thankful for her friends in this "old, old path."

Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam responded to Sister Moser's testimony of how the devil can transform beauty to evil. He said the devil can present himself as an angel of light, but is a deceiver. We must pray and fast against this enemy. Our enemy has great power, but the Lord has ALL power and will help us fight. These are the last days and the devil is warring—warring in disguise. Discouragement is an evil that fights against the Yucatan Church as well as here. Remember to pray for the families in Yucatan. We need to pray and fast.

Erica Moser shared an experience from her baptism when she was 11 years old. She saw a light from above coming around her and a dove with a leaf in its mouth appeared. She felt filled with the Holy Spirit. She hopes she and other young people through their prayers and struggles will be able to take their place in the Church. She desires the Lord to prepare



them.

Sister Susan Eccleston, who lives in Texas, shared how she went back to college and got her first teaching job in Texas. It was difficult. But God was there with her; she feels she will be a light in her school because of conflicting philosophies.

Apostle Joel Yates shared that the Iowa Reunion had been a success and 50 people attended. A new job opened up for him, but it brought him a lot of grief and made it difficult for him to keep a good spiritual mind. He was persecuted for praying over his food. The men's conversations were bad. He was reluctant to declare who he really was, a minister. One man shared his problems with him and he told him he was a minister. They have visited about the gospel and they have spent hours discussing serious questions. He began proving God and preparing the way. Joel said in declaring himself he was afraid he would slip and fail while all were watching him. His revealing he was a minister has actually benefited him. God has helped him work it out. Don't be afraid to declare who you are.

Brother John Gill stated that even in Honduras it is not always easy to declare yourself, but God is in the work and it is opening up more all the time. Darin was asked to speak to another church's congregation recently.

Sister Laura Gill said we need to be careful for what we pray. Recently she has had some hard lessons and has had to learn patience. Only when we see and acknowledge our weaknesses can God help us to become what He wants.

Sister Sue Porter went to the youth camp and really enjoyed it. She thanked all the adults who give their time to our youth. The experience has encouraged their whole family.

As always there were many songs called for during the service which just add emphasis and verification to the many testimonies and prayers.

After lunch at 2:00 p.m. Ian Smith was baptized by his grandfather, Elder Dick Wheaton. He was confirmed by Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam. Ian was welcomed into the Church of Christ as each member extended him the "hand of fellowship."

The Saturday afternoon speaker was Elder Jeff Oldham with Apostle Joel Yates officiating. Manon Lawrence directed the singing with Margaret Gill at the piano and Martha Bruner at the organ.

Elder Jeff Oldham began by telling us we have an opportunity—the opportunity to strive to do and be better. In life we have many choices. God has given us our free will to choose between right and wrong, but that choice is influenced by our perceptions.

Brother Jeff recalled how when people are shown a glass half full of water some people will see the glass as half full and others see it as half empty. Our attitudes play into our choices. He also shared the anecdote of the farmer who when questioned about the town he lived in responded in like kind. One stranger heard it was a bad town and another stranger heard it was a good town. He agreed with both men. When the farmer's helper asked why he had given different answers the farmer told him that each stranger would find what he was looking for.

These attitudes even have an affect in our spiritual lives. Brother Oldham stated that when he has a challenge to solve he uses the SWOT method. S stands for what are my strengths? W stands for what are my weaknesses? O stands for what are my opportunities? T stands for what are the threats? Brother Jeff then walked us through the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:3-47 and measured David's defeat of the giant Goliath with the SWOT method. David knew his strengths. He had slain a lion and a bear while protecting his flock. God gave him the victory over the wild beasts. When Saul tried to give him his own armor; David refused because

he had never proved them or fought in that manner. He saw them as a weakness for his battle. His opportunity was to prove by his bold act that there was a God in Israel who would give him the victory over Goliath. The threat from Goliath was that he would kill David.

Elder Oldham also read from Ephesians 6:10-18 where Paul admonishes us to put on the whole armor of God. Brother Jeff stated that we all are going to meet "giants" in our lives. If we are strong in the Lord we can rely on the power of His might to help us slay our giant problems. 1 Nephi 2:48-62 was read, wherein people were making their way to the tree of life so that they might partake of the fruit, the love of God. Some let go of the rod of iron, the word, and some fell away in the mist of darkness, while some became ashamed when they were mocked and had the finger pointed at them by non-believers. There are many things that can derail us and be a stumbling block to our progress as we face our personal "giants."

Brother Oldham also read from 1 Corinthians 2: which states that if we stand in the wisdom of men we will fail, but if we stand in the wisdom and power of God we will be successful. Elder Jeff reminded us that we can't do these tasks on our own. We have to rely on the power of prayer. The way of attacking our "giants" needs to become second nature to us.

Brother Jeff ended with a poem by Helen Steiner Rice which states that sometimes our problems are actually a gift of love from God in disguise. Why? Because they make us stronger. Remember, Elder Oldham stated, if we see ourselves as weak, we will be weak. Be careful how we perceive our world. God will always open the way whereby we can conquer our giants.

During the dinner hour, in the visitor center, we were able to view a ten minute multi-media production on creation. It was produced by the Faith and Action class at the youth camp.

The evening song service was conducted by Manon Lawrence. We enjoyed several specials: an a cappella duet sung by Neva and Milo Housknecht, "God is Wisdom. God is Love." Kim Yates accompanied Alisha Yates, Erica Moser, and Holly McIndoo who sang, "It Was Enough." We also enjoyed requesting our favorite hymns and hearing them sung by the congregation.

The speaker for the 7:00 evening service was Elder Andy Brown with Elder Randy Sheldon officiating. Brother Steve Burrell requested administration. The quintet of Neva Housknecht, Chris Moser, Manon Lawrence, Debby Brown and Kathy Ely, sang "Here I Am Lord," accompanied by Kate Vogel.

Elder Brown began by asking us if we can answer as the song states, Here I am Lord. Are we able to make sacrifices for the work of the Lord? Are we willing to give our days, weeks, and months as many of our missionaries do? He read Ether 5:27-29. These scriptures state that God gives us weaknesses that we might be humble and become strong through our dependence on Him. Brother Andy declared that the Lord is challenging us to move our lives to a higher ground. Next he read from 2 Corinthians 4:7-9. Elder Brown said that we live in troubled times and the adversary wishes to sift us as wheat and make us his, but we have the power of God available to us to overcome Satan.

Brother Andy read from Ephesians 6:12. He told us that he read many scriptures in his class at the youth camp and he would always ask the class, "Do you believe it?" He asks us that question also. The adversary has power even though it may not always be visible. We need to read the scriptures because the world has an affect on us, but God can give us the power to overcome. We need to activate ourselves and not say that all is well in Zion.

Elder Brown read from 1 Peter 4:1-19 where it states that as Christians we will

suffer, and that judgment will begin at the house of God. Brother Andy warned us that we need to get off our comfort level. He stated that the burden on his heart is: God is calling us to greater service. Don't be complacent. Don't get bogged down with life's duties, its pleasures or allow yourselves to be consumed by debt.

He continued by reading from 2 Peter 3:9-11 which asks, "what manner of persons ought you to be..." Brother Andy stated again—Do you believe it? Christ is coming again; and we need to call ourselves to a higher plane. We need to step up to the plate and get started and take our responsibilities. Are you a servant? Ephesians 5:26, 27 was read, which calls Christ's church glorious, holy and without spot. We need to be washed clean and sanctified.

Elder Brown shared how he used to wonder why the missionaries such as Don, Jay, Jim and Hube were willing to leave their families for months. He finally realized it was because they loved the Lord. He also became aware that God uses those who are willing to serve. Look at your life—God is calling. Step above where you are now and humble yourselves before Him. Brother Andy also read from Mosiah 1:118-120 which states that the natural man is an enemy to God. It is our problem from birth to death, but we can, through the Holy Spirit, become as a little child and be led into service of our fellow man and thereby be in service to God (Mosiah 1:49).

Elder Brown concluded by stating that we each need to examine ourselves and ask ourselves: What can I do to be of greater service? What do I need to do to totally submit to the Lord's will in my life? Am I sanctified and holy? May God bless us in these endeavors. When God calls us to His service may we be able to answer, "Here I am Lord."

At 8:00 p.m. there was an ice cream social down stairs. While we enjoyed the ice cream and cookies we also watched the

videos from Kenya, Africa. The YPCL met at the McCoy Park for their social.

## SUNDAY

Our Sunday sacrament service began at 9:00. As we were assembling for the service there was a trio from Phoenix singing the "Bread of Life." They were accompanied by Kim Yates at the piano. The church was completely full.

Gabe and Leighann Yates had their daughter April Nicole blessed.

Apostles Roland Sarratt and Mike McGhee were in charge of the service. Brother Sarratt greeted the congregation and encouraged us to share our testimonies of appreciation. Luke 22:19, 20 was read concerning what Christ said about the bread and the wine at the last supper. Brother McGhee stated we should look forward in hope and expectation. We should become that peculiar people, molded into the future body of Christ. We have to come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

During a season of prayer there were many request for the "Cause of Zion," and requests for encouragement and hope. There were prayers of thanksgiving for God's love and patience toward us.

Brother Aaron Heath told of working with men at his job and how their profanity bothered him. He has taken a Christian stand and things have improved. We have to be a peculiar people and not be ashamed of our God.

Sister Barbara Case shared how she came into the Church and felt such love from the congregation. She told how she got acquainted with a neighbor and what a good Christian family they are. She told of their mutual fears about the forest fires near their homes in Colorado. She believes their combined prayers helped keep the fires away from their homes. She expressed joy concerning her son's engagement.

Brother Trevor Wratt shared his miracu-

lous healing. He was diagnosed with a tumor behind his heart and then cancer of the esophagus. After being administered to he felt the spirit had healed him and his next tests came back negative. The doctor could find no evidence of a tumor or cancer. Our brother testified that the Lord gave him great peace and the scriptures assured him if he had faith he would be healed. He stated God deals with us according to His will and gives us the desire of our hearts.

Sister Chris Moser told that she had some medical test done. Then the doctor called and wanted to do more extensive testing. Before she had more tests she was administered to because she now had become concerned. She stated Joel gave her some scriptures to read. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee. . . ." She said those words gave her great comfort, and she realized everything was in God's hands. She admonished all wives of the ministry to prepare themselves to be helpful and embrace their responsibilities with joy and gladness.

Sister Gladys Nast shared how a heart medication she was taking caused calcium deposits in her eyes and was affecting her vision. She's off the medication and her eyes are recovering, which is miraculous. She also shared how she was always afraid of storms and so she and Bill prayed about that before he died. She says that since Bill has been gone she has never heard a storm and sleeps right through them. Her testimony is that the Lord is faithful.

Brother Roy Coons shared how the Church in Idaho miraculously found a place for their church local, and how they were able to afford it. God was responsible for it all falling into place.

Shaughn Sprague testified how he was spared when they were traveling in Mexico. They had a blow out and he got under the bus to help. A voice told him—"Shaughn stop, put a jack under." Then the air bag suspension system blew, but something

moved him out from under the bus just in time or he would have been crushed. He stated, "God saved my life."

Brother Randy Sheldon stated he had a similar experience when he was trying to get a car started and was underneath. He asked the driver to try to start it, which he did, but it was also in reverse. He should have been run over but something also moved him out from under the auto and he found himself standing next to the car instead of under it. He stated it was a miracle and God also saved his life.

Sister Ryann Tarbell shared her experiences of teaching children English in Brazil where she has been living. Walking home through a poor section of town a robber held a gun to her head and stole her purse and money.

She was terrified that the robber would come back. This fear permeated her public life, but she prayed about it. One day she did see him again and this time as he approached he was the one who looked terrified and fled. She is sure he had seen the guardian angel that watches over her.

Brother Scott Harris shared how his lawn mower got away from him on a hill. He was going down in reverse and his brakes didn't work. The mower crashed but Scott found himself standing many feet away from the disaster when moments before he had been riding it. He stated that we've had three similar testimonies and they verify each other—"God is good."

Don Martin stated how the cares of the world can come in and choke the gospel out our lives. He told how under administration, even though he felt unworthy, a warm feeling came over him and he knew others were praying for him—he felt their prayers. When he was discouraged—Hubert and Jim Yates dropped by for a visit with him—they were a blessing.

Sister Joan Hawkins told how she was caught in a small trailer on an airfield in a bad storm. The winds rolled the trailer five times. She feels she was blessed because

she sustained no head injuries.

Sister Carrie Geier, while traveling home from Colorado reunion, was in the back seat and about to fall asleep at a stop they had made. A voice said, "Don't fall asleep." She roused herself and then saw a man checking their car out. When he saw her looking at him he left. She was thankful for the Lord's warning and protection.

Brother Matt Case shared how a recent crash on his mountain bike put him in the hospital and for a while he couldn't walk or talk. The Lord blessed him and he was finally okay. He said he felt humbled and ignorant. He decided he isn't going to be as careless anymore.

Sister Amy Case told how she was driving and praying when suddenly three things came flying through the air in front of her. Miraculously they didn't hit her. They were large beams that had fallen off the truck in front of her. She praised God for keeping her safe.

Brother Vern Farrell shared how the Lord brought him out of a serious illness and assured him that He was not through with him yet. He was told to repent and follow Christ so that he might share his life and his testimony. Vern admonished us to follow the commandments.

Brother Dan Lawrence told us about some of his experiences with the young people at Bible School, camp, and reunion. He stated it is such a beautiful thing to see these precious souls turned to Christ. He said the work and the effort are all worthwhile, and the Lord rewards us for that.

Chris Morris shared an experience about the power of prayer. He was driving and saw a car at the side of the road. He felt prompted to stop. He was greeted by an elderly lady in the car and she told him, "I knew you would come." She had been praying for help. He jumped her battery and got her on her way. Chris said when that voice speaks to you—heed it.

After lunch Sunday, we enjoyed the Spe-

cial Offering Service of Music with Sister Manon Lawrence in charge.

First, the camp choir sang "Holy Man of God." The signing class from camp signed the song also. Tabitha Sheldon and Joel Yates sang a duet accompanied by a tape of "When He Speaks To Me." It was signed by Kim Yates. Next, we enjoyed a duet by Jennifer and Cassie Gill who sang, "Let us Pray for one Another" a cappella. Laura Gill sang, "Love Lifted Me" a cappella. Next, Kelly and Amanda Pinder sang a duet, "Thy Name Adore" a cappella. The male quartet of Jessie Lawrence, Milo Housknecht, Jacob Seibel and Paul Case sang, "Are You Witnessing." Then, a mixed duet was presented by Paul Case and Laura Gill, "Take My Life" a cappella. Cynthia Greenwood sang a solo accompanied by a tape of "Holy is the Lord." Finally, a men's choir consisting of Jacob Seibel, Luke Sheldon, Jeff Oldham, Jessie Lawrence, Joel Yates, Paul Case, Bob Hedrick, Milo Housknecht, and Don Gill sang, "We Have an Anchor" a cappella.

Our last preaching service was at 4:00. Elder Allen Kauffman was our speaker and Elder Bob Oldham in charge. Czerna Kauffman and Martha Bruner sang a special, "Increase my Faith."

Elder Allen Kauffman began by expressing how grateful he is for his family in Christ. He also paid tribute to his wife, Czerna, for their twenty five years together, and called her his second greatest gift. He stated his first gift is the gospel and the plan of salvation.

Brother Allen stated we need to strive for perfection and ask God, "What do you want me to do?" He said there is nothing new in his sermon; we have heard the message before. He asked us to turn to page 115 in our song books and follow the words as he read, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story." Again he stated that it's not new, but we need to continue to tell it as the song suggests—simply, slowly and repeatedly.

Elder Kauffman read Romans 8:21

which states all things work together for good to those who love the Lord. He stated that we all have trials and tragedies, but we know that scripture is true—good can come out of bad. He then read from 1 Corinthians 10:13 where it states that no temptation can overpower us because God provides our escape. Brother Allen also said we have to strive to be as good as Jesus Christ. When we enter the kingdom through the gate of baptism, we have just begun. We have to become that peculiar people. Be assured, he said, God will take care of His people and He will direct his people. Just as in marriage, we have made a lifetime commitment to Christ and his Church.

Brother Allen asked us, "Do we appreciate what God has done for us and given to us?" He stated that he sees God's hand moving among this people. We can see how God is beginning to prepare people to accept His gospel in Yucatan, Honduras, and Africa. They are hungering and thirsting for the word of God.

Elder Kauffman read Jeremiah 6:16 stating we need to stand in the old paths. He noted that the Israelites would not walk in the old paths. Allen asked, "Are we guilty of that too?" He stated we must not be complacent in our religion. Our watchmen, or our ministers, are called and are sounding the trumpet from the pulpit. This is serious business.

Brother Allen read from 2 Nephi 13:28-30. He stated we need to press forward in our love of God and all men while continuing to feed upon the words of Christ. Next, James 1:21 was read which admonishes us to be doers of the word, not just believers who sit and listen. Elder Kauffman stated this gospel is to be shared with others. We all represent the Church of Christ. What kind of a representative are you? What do people think of you in your neighborhood? Are you seen as a hypocrite?

We need to declare the Book of Mormon. Allen shared how when he was

courting Czerna he saw the Book of Mormon sitting on her end table and it was revealed to him at that time that it was the word of God.

Brother Allen concluded by stating that God has called each of us for a purpose. Find out what it is; and it will some way be connected to the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must be doers of the word!

At 5:00 p.m. there was another baptism. Evangelist Marvin Case baptized our brother Kent Hoffman of Springfield, Louisiana. He was confirmed by Apostle Smith Brickhouse.

Thus ended the 2000 Missouri Reunion. Everyone seems to enjoy the fellowship that comes with our gathering together. The church was full for every service. That sweet spirit that lifts and encourages us was present in every service. The theme or thread that wove the sermons together was first, that God is calling us to greater service. Second, we must prepare by moving to a higher level spiritually—by becoming a holy people—sanctified and righteous. Third, there will be sacrifice, there will be persecution, there will be temptations and there will be a perfecting of the saints, but with God's help we can accomplish His purposes and stand firm in the old path. I believe we all felt challenged as a church and as individuals to take the watchman's warning and be doers of God's word.

*Respectfully submitted,  
L. Marlene Cobb*



## NEWS

# COLLINS RALLY

Hello to everyone, The Collins Rally began with a prayer service at 9:00 A.M. Brothers Allen Kauffman and Jack Martin were in charge. It was good to gather together and think on the blessings God has given us. My aunt, Norma Cook, gave testimony as to how she was blessed during her recent eye surgery for cataracts. Sister Janeen Addie gave thanks for the prayers on her mother's behalf; that her mother, Thelma Wheeler, could pass from this life peacefully. Uncle Roland (Sarratt) told of his close call with an electrical wire, while doing some home repairs. God is so near to us, and is always aware of our needs.

The next two hours were shared between three speakers: Brothers Steve McGhee, David Keeney, and Jim Case. Oddly (?) enough, all the sermons seemed to go hand and glove together.

One spoke of who we are—a chosen people—a chosen individual. That we have been chosen to ACT not to re-act. He spoke of charity and how it is not a natural

element in man, but the Spirit of Christ does it—the Holy Ghost. It is a gift, not something we have earned. Also, that God has given us a straight-cut path to follow and also has supplied us with handrails to hold on to.

Another spoke of abounding in good works and that, without God's Spirit in us, we will not have the natural desire to abound in good works—to have charity. Focus is so important in our lives. He related a short story of his "focus," when he first met the lovely lady who is now his wife—with reference to focus so intently on the Lord. He said we're to be good stewards of our time and temporal things, but must set our focus on God.

The third speaker told how problems invite us to have harshness of mind—to say or do things we ought not. There's more to life than just breathing. We are born and have our day of probation then we die—this is life. Have faith, have hope, have charity—be pro-active—share them with your neighbors. Let your deeds speak

for you. Teach by action—refrain from anything evil...stay focused!

The afternoon speaker, Apostle Roland Sarratt, told of how the people of the world, generally speaking, are in an unprepared state. Everyone of us that are tempted must make a decision. What is our heritage and what would we take to sell it? A mess of pottage as Esau did?? There IS a way to walk. Obedience to the scriptures gives you a witness.

I know I haven't come even close in telling you all the good things I heard today, but I know you know what I mean—because you have heard them before. We here at Collins appreciate everyone who came, who preached, who helped with ALL the food, who listened to the sermons and sang the beautiful hymns. It was a wonderful day—only too soon over.

God Bless You All!

*Czerna Kauffman  
Collins, Missouri*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

## YUCATAN REUNION

We invite you to our reunion to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Church in Mexico.

This event will be held in the city of Merida, on the 25th of February, 2001, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be preaching services and a special music program.

Please let us know if you are coming. For more information contact:

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We're looking forward to seeing you. Please come and worship with us on this special day.

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The 2001 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 1. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 2. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 30 & 31. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 2001 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 6, 7 and 8, at Independence, Missouri.

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