

# 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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## Formula for a New Year

My days are much like grains of sand.  
Each slips on through my holding hand.  
This slipping must each day repeat  
Till forms a path beneath my feet.

I walk in sand and I am slow.  
Dissatisfied, I yearn to go!  
I add the water of real regret.  
I move a step, not swiftly yet.

So now a choice I have to make.  
Add more regret—and more—a lake  
Of quicksand where I sink from sight?  
That way lies darkness, dearth of light!

Or add cement, the power of God,  
To water, sand? This path I've trod  
Could turn into rock-hard concrete  
And I could run on steady feet.

—Donna Moser

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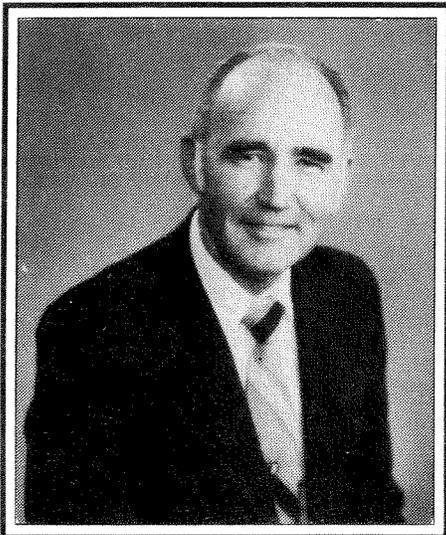
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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

# 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

## Part 7

“OH, BOOK OF ETERNAL AND SIMPLE TRUTHS.” The Book of Mormon, just as the Bible, is a book of great value, and these two books shall exist together for eternity. As we have read in the prophecy of Ezekiel, in the latter day they shall be one in the hand of the Lord. The beautiful words of the Apostle Peter explain the reason for their eternal nature:

**“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of**

**The Book of Mormon, just as the Bible, is a book of great value, and these two books shall exist together for eternity.**

**grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.”**

**—1 Peter 1:24-25**

In the words of our brother and poet, Elder Renan Chuc, the Book of Mormon contains eternal and simple truths. Our brother expresses himself as

did the first author of this ancient book:

*“But I give unto you a prophecy, according to the spirit which is in me; wherefore I shall prophesy according to the plainness which hath been with me from the time that I came out of Jerusalem with my father. For behold, my soul delighteth in plainness unto my people, that they may learn...”* (2 Nephi 11:6-7).

Both Nephi and his brother, Jacob, used the words of the Prophet Isaiah many times to teach important aspects of prophecy which related to that people and/or their descendants. However, the response they often heard was, *“What meaneth these things which ye have read?”* (1 Nephi 7:1). So each time we find a lengthy portion of the biblical prophets being read to their brethren, it is followed by a careful, yet plain and simple, explanation of the prophecy in terms that related to the lives of their listeners. A wonderful sidelight is that this explanation often relates to their future progeny as well; hence, it speaks also to our time and generation.

An evidence of the plain-

ness of Book of Mormon scriptures is borne to my mind as I am permitted to see that many of our older mem-

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bers among the Maya, people who never learned to read, are able to understand and apply these scriptures to their lives. Many of these non-readers have a simple, but powerful, testimony of the divinity of the Book of Mormon.

The Book of Mormon teaches the same doctrine of salvation that we find in the Holy Bible. Many times, due either to the authorship or possibly the translation, the words of this book are couched in simpler, more easily understood terms. There is little possibility for the variation of belief and prac-

tice one finds so commonly among the Christian denominations. As a good example, let us consider the subject of repentance, one of the fundamental teachings of the Gospel of salvation.

In the Book of Mormon we read this simple statement about the atoning grace of Jesus Christ: *“And since man had fallen, he could not merit anything of himself; but the sufferings and death of Christ atoneth for their sins, through faith and repentance...”* (Alma 13:46). It is evident that salvation can be attained only with the exercise of one's faith, coupled with repentance (an act of contrition and change).

The Biblical record also shows with certainty that Jesus taught the necessity of repentance. He began His ministry with a call to repentance (see Matthew 4:17) and He ended His earthly ministry with a commission to His disciples to teach repentance (see Luke 24:47). But often the absolute necessity of true repentance is camouflaged in the Biblical text by exhortations of His disciples as they strive to make another point, according to the needs of those addressed. Consider the following example:

The frightened heathen jailer cried out, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And*

*they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house*" (Acts 16:30, 31). This has become the basic dogma of many concerning the attainment of one's salvation—simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. A simple reading of the next verse would show that the disciples then taught all **"the word of the Lord"** to him and his household. Now the time was ripe for the apostles to explain to this man and his family the necessity of repentance, baptism, obedience, endurance of faith, etc. In the Book of Mormon passages these principles are made so clear that none could stumble.

I believe there are two scriptural explanations for the greater clarity and plainness of the Book of Mormon. Let us consider a prophecy given to Nephi that revealed many events that would come to pass. One of his notable views of the future was **"the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches..."** (1 Nephi 3:167). The next two verses demonstrate one of the primary reasons this church was identified as being abominable. **"For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many**

**parts which are plain and most precious; And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away."** This leads us to the understanding that many parts of the Holy Bible which were plain and precious (valuable for our salvation) were altered or removed as the original manuscripts passed through the hands of this abominable church. This is a statement that will offend some while others will find it difficult to believe, but many Biblical authorities substantiate the validity of it. We refer to but a few:

- a. **"Still we fail to understand our Bible of today if we do not take full account of the many passages where, in spite of all the care of the scribes—rather, should we say, occasionally because of such care?—changes did find their way into the text. For the astonishing fact is that in some cases deliberately and with full knowledge they altered the text they had received."**<sup>1</sup>
- b. **"In the late first and early second century, the oral traditions and the written word existed side by side with equal status—es-**

**pecially with respect to the material of the Gospels. Often, the text was changed by scribes attempting to conform the written message to the oral tradition.... Other scribes, however, felt free to make 'improvements' in the text—either in the interest of doctrine or harmonization or due to the influence of a competitive oral tradition."**<sup>2</sup>

How could God permit such a travesty of righteousness to take place? The Apostle Paul wrote about the coming apostasy that would be brought into existence as that "great and abominable church" grew into prominence. He stated succinctly, **"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"** (2 Thessalonians 2: 11 and 12).

This identical thought can be seen in the reply of Jesus to His disciples when asked why He taught in difficult parables. He responded, **"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have**

*closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them”* (Matthew 13:15).

In the Book of Mormon we find Jacob warning his brethren here in America of what befell the stiff-necked people of Israel in the Old World. *“For God hath taken away his plainness from them, and delivered unto them many things which they can not understand, because they desired it. And because they desired it, God hath done it, that they may stumble”* (Jacob 3:24 & 25). Jacob’s prophetic comment has a basis in God’s revealed Word found in such passages as Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 14.

So the Book of Mormon with its clear and simple doctrines and teaching, when used with the Holy Bible, has come to the world with a special purpose: *“And that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, Unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, And*

*bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; And*

**So the Book of Mormon with its clear and simple doctrines and teaching, when used with the Holy Bible, has come to the world with a special purpose....**

*also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord”* (2 Nephi 2:20-23).

Reader, the last author of this sacred book, he who hid it in the earth according to the purpose of the Lord, has included a dependable promise to you:

*“Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. And when ye*

*shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things”* (Moroni 10:3-5).

REFERENCES

1. I. M. Price, *The Ancestry of our English Bible*, p. 21.
2. Philip Comfort, *The Origin of the Bible*, 1992, pp. 184 and 185.



# “God is There”

Three years ago last June, my daughter, Aimee (then 6), son, Zachary (then 3), and I went swimming after the last day of Vacation Church School. The kids were hungry, so I put some macaroni and cheese on for dinner. I called Joel while waiting for the macaroni to finish. Aimee decided to help, so she picked up the boiling pot of noodles and water, walked it to the sink to drain it, and tipped it the wrong way. Scalding water poured over her chest and stomach, ending on her cowboy boots and the tile on the floor.

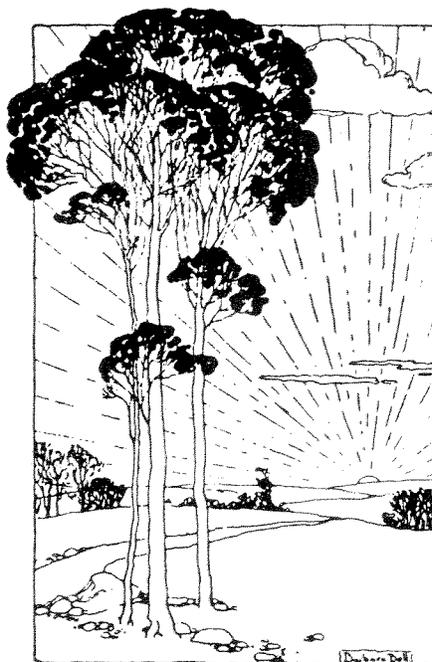
After I hung up on him to go check on Aimee, Joel called the alarm room to send a fire crew to our house to assess the damage. Aimee was burned on her chest and stomach—the paramedics thought she burned 12% of her body. She had 2nd and 3rd degree burns and she was in tremendous pain.

Apostle Jay Moser came to our house and administered to her. My mother-in-law, Louise Yates, took care of Aimee while I talked on the phone and to the firefighters. Chris Moser also came and distracted Zachary, who was all too interested in the many noises, people, and activities to be much of a help. Immediately the prayers went up in Aimee's behalf. I didn't even think about the prayer chain—and I am one of the primary callers! I was too involved in Aimee's physical needs and my own prayers to realize that the prayer wheels were turning all over the country for her that night.

The ambulance took us to County Hospital's Burn Unit. Aimee was in so much pain that we made a detour to another fire station so they could give her some morphine. She was able to rest some then, even though she was still

in pain.

When we arrived at the hospital, the doctor was very upset. “This patient could have been taken to the nearest



## PATHLIGHTS

ER. She didn't need to be taken here (to the County Burn Unit)!” The medics didn't send her to the Burn Unit because she was the daughter of a firefighter—they were sure she needed that kind of expertise. The doctor said she had burned 7% of her body—bad enough, but much better than 12% as was originally thought!

That was the first of many blessings. She was sent home that night and fell asleep on the way. If she hadn't been wearing those cowboy boots with her swimming suit, the tops of her feet would have been burned too, and she would have had to stay in the hospital. The burn reached within a small frac-

tion of an inch from areas where she would have had to have surgery to repair it, and she was shielded. She had to go through some painful treatments, but she was still up and playing a lot sooner than anyone would have thought. She had some pain, but not as much as what you would expect from such a trauma. What blessings!

The doctors told us to expect scarring on her chest and stomach until at least her mid-teens or the rest of her life. We were told to put sunscreen on the area anytime she went outside for the next year. We were good about that for a while, but then our memory slipped at times until we forgot completely a few months later. Now, Aimee has only one small scar on her stomach to remind her of the accident. Her pediatrician was surprised that she doesn't have more of a scar, but we aren't. God can do such wondrous things! I want to thank Him for keeping my family safe and giving Aimee this wonderful testimony. Even in pain and suffering, God is there, ever helping and able to ease our burdens as we need them eased.

*Jennifer Yates*

*“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” Isaiah 40:31.*

—Posted on the CCEG

# OH, MY CHILDREN

Look to me, try to know my ways,  
I sit high in the Heavens,  
But I have loved thee, even all of thy days.  
I raised you up, a seed of beauty,  
To love me freely, and not out of duty.  
What I have for you is more than you can know,  
So keep the Faith, and Believe, and let your Hope grow.  
I know you have sinned, and it breaks my heart,  
We're not pulling together, at times we drifted apart.  
You haven't called on me to break the chain,  
But put your hand back in mine,  
And what peace and blessings will be yours again.  
I know it's hard in this day, to walk the line,  
But the days are coming, you'll be glad you're mine.  
Just a little while longer, I ask you to walk,  
In the words that I gave you, which the world doth mock.  
I will soon rise up and make bare my strong arm,  
Do not doubt that I can hide you away from all harm.  
Even now the battle is on, the lines and sword have been drawn.  
So stand up for me, as I fight for you, until the new dawn.  
Soon, soon, you'll talk to me face to face, I promise you I have a place.  
Everything you've imagined will be there,  
True friends, True happiness, True riches, for all to share.  
Through many people I have made myself known.  
Daily I send my messengers from my throne.  
I am spirit, you are flesh, for now we are different, that is all.  
I'm waiting here for you, so please between us don't build a wall.  
Haven't you heard, before you can walk on high, you must learn to crawl.  
Child trust the Father who loves you and knows,  
How to give you the good, and spare you the woes.  
So how, how can I prove my love for you,  
I ask for the sincerity of your heart, my heart is true.  
I offer you a kingdom, but it is up to you.  
Always remember the decree I placed on this land,  
That all will be swept off who refuse my command.  
So hold fast, and be ready, when I make up my jewels,  
To live in a Paradise, where "God Rules."

—Kathy Cloyd, Phoenix Reunion 2000

# The Call of the Christian

Not always on the whirlwind's rush  
On Horeb's mount of fear,  
Not always as the burning bush  
To Midian's shepherd seer,  
Nor as the awful voice which came  
To Israel's prophet bards;  
Nor as the tongues of cloven flame,  
Nor gift of fearful words—

Not always thus, with outward sign  
Of fire or voice from Heaven,  
The message of a truth divine—  
The call of God is given!  
Awakening in the human heart  
Love for the true and right—  
Zeal for the Christian's "better part",  
Strength for the Christian's fight.

Nor unto manhood's heart alone  
The holy influence steals:  
Warm with a rapture not its own,  
The heart of a woman feels!  
As she who by Samaria's wall  
The Saviour's errand sought—  
As those who with the fervent Paul  
And meek Aquila wrought.

Or those meek ones whose martyrdom  
Rome's gather'd grandeur saw:  
Or those who in their Alpine home  
Braved the Crusader's war,  
When the green Vaudois, trembling, heard,  
Through all its vales of death,  
The martyr's song of triumph pour'd  
From woman's failing breath.

Oh, gently, by a thousand things,  
Which o'er our spirits pass,  
Like breezes o'er the harp's fine strings,  
Or vapors o'er a glass,  
Leaving their token strange and new  
Of music or of shade,  
The summons to the right and true  
And merciful is made.

Oh, then, if gleams of Truth and Light  
Flash o'er the waiting wind,  
Unfolding to our mental sight  
The wants of human kind;  
If, brooding over human grief,  
The earnest wish is known  
To soothe and gladden with relief  
An anguish not our own.

Though heralded with naught of fear,  
Or outward sigh, or show;  
Though only to the inward ear  
It whispers soft and low:  
Though dropping, as the manna fell,  
Unseen—yet from above—  
Holy and gentle—heed it well!  
The call to truth and love.

—John G. Whittier

# Arizona Reunion Report 2000

Friday, November 23, 2000, we opened the Phoenix Reunion with a prayer and testimony service. In the afternoon Apostle Joel Yates spoke to us about what we all need to do to maintain communication with God and about hearing the voice of God. He started his sermon by reading John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Some of his thoughts were:

- We need God's guidance and direction.
- There are many voices calling to us, and because of that we don't hear His voice.
- What are those voices you hear? What is it we're feeding on?
- We need to separate ourselves from the world.
- We need to be focused to hear His voice.
- Are we spiritual under-achievers? Are you satisfied?
- God is calling us to be achievers.
- Acknowledge transgressions and confess your sin, clear up any offenses with your brother.
- Renew your mind; the mind enables us to perform the task.
- Some of the other scriptures he read were: Rev. 3:20; John 4:24; I Cor. 2:9; Romans 8:5; Acts 2:14; Alma 3:98; Ether 1:41; Rev. 3:14; Helaman 2:160; Eph. 4:36;

Mormon 2:45; Psalm 51; Romans 12:1; II Peter 1:2; Helaman 2:29-30; Psalm 42:1; Psalm 1.

Friday evening, Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu spoke to us about our Christian life—are we satisfied? Here are excerpts:

- We must prepare our minds and hearts.
- How? Think only on the things of God.
- We have many things to do. But we need to be thirsty for the Lord.
- It's necessary to be in the house of the Lord.
- We are so busy doing other things, we forget to think on the Lord.
- Bring fruits to God—everything we have comes from God.
- Bring repentance and be a good example at home, at work, and at school. People need to know you are a Christian.
- Do many works—talk with your children. Take advantage.

Saturday morning we began our day with another prayer and testimony service. In the afternoon, Elder Glenn Gill spoke to us about being laborers. He started with reading Gal. 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

- In the old law, decisions were

made for us. Christ gave us the liberty to make decisions.

- We need to improve our time; if we don't, darkness comes and no labor can be performed (Alma 16:230).
- How do we improve? Endeavor to improve—this is labor. There is no staying the same.
- These are hard words. Don't apply them to someone else, take it into our own hearts.
- Are we measuring up? Ask yourself this. It's easy to appear holy.
- If you want to improve, you must have the Spirit of God.
- It's a matter of choice. Choose light over evil.
- Find ways to clean our 'temple.'

Saturday evening Apostle Roland Sarratt spoke to us about our responsibility to be an example, and that we are the link between unbelievers and the Gospel. He read from John 13:15-17 and 3:21 where it speaks about Jesus telling us to do as He has done and that "he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest...." This can also be found in III Nephi 13:35.

- If you do the will of God you will know the truth of the Gospel.
- Don't go places Jesus wouldn't

want you to go.

- Real belief in God means you do what He has done.
- Remain true, steadfast, unwavering, immovable, unchangeable.
- Sometimes we get a little too cocky—if we have a talent we can sometimes think we're better than others.
- When talking to friends and loved ones about the Gospel, be careful, they need encouragement. Make them aware of the consequences.
- Scriptures: John 7: 16, 17; I John 2:3-6; Alma 1:36; Alma 18:2,3; Alma 18:13-16.

The Sunday morning Sacrament and prayer service was exceptional, as the Spirit of the Lord was with us in power. After Sacrament was served and our season of prayer, one of our brothers arose with an admonition from the Lord. During the Saturday prayer service, one of our sisters testified and asked for prayers concerning an upcoming biopsy. On Sunday, we were admonished that when one of our brothers and sisters is ill that we are to carry that burden on our shoulders.

The burdens that we bear are not ours alone, but also that of our brothers and sisters in the Gospel. We are to get on our knees and pray for that person and give love and support. After the admonition, we again knelt in prayer for our sister. There were several more times that we knelt in prayer for specific

needs. I know that these prayers were effective and that the Spirit was felt by all.

On Sunday evening, Apostle Brian McIndoo spoke to us about laboring diligently and improving ourselves in this walk in life. He started with a scripture from Jacob 3:83, 84, which is about wild branches and evil fruit. Alma 3:59-61 was the next scripture, which speaks of bringing forth waves of righteousness. He used Hosea 10:12 as his text, and here are additional thoughts:

- We need to break up the fallow ground.
- Prepare to meet God.
- We are to do our part and God will do His.
- Sow righteousness and God will rain upon us that which we need (Deut. 11:13-14).
- He talked about his experiences in Africa and how they are excited about being part of the Gospel and the Church of Christ.
- Are you excited about being part of the Church of Christ?
- What do you think about your commitment to God?
- The sheep should know the voice of the shepherd. Are we doing things for God or ourselves?
- It's time to labor, time to do those things God would have us do.
- Don't be partakers of the world's sins. Don't give yourself over to them.
- What was your mind-set when you were baptized?

- Are you willing to sacrifice everything to follow God?
- We have 2 choices: 1) to be part of God's Kingdom, 2) or to be part of the world.
- The rules are the same for everyone.
- If you're not serious about your commitment to the Gospel you will be left behind.
- Support the locals, teachers, pastors and missionaries with our attendance and participation.
- We need to be excited and enthusiastic about the Gospel—not the world.
- Are we willing to go where He sends us? It requires faith!
- What we do here in this life will have eternal consequences.
- Scriptures: Jacob 3:83, 84; Alma 3:59-61, 90, 91; III Nephi 6:31-33; Jacob 3:125-128, 147; Matt. 3:10; 7:19; Deut. 11:13-14; Mark 10:17.

The Spirit of the Lord was surely with us during the entire reunion. I pray that each of us who attended will carry that Spirit throughout the year.

*Your sister in Christ,  
Rhea Housknecht*

—Posted on the CCEG

## NEWS

## PHOENIX, ARIZONA

**G**reetings from Phoenix! This fall our ministry has been blessed with the opportunity to participate in some milestones in the missionary work. On October 1, Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Ken Oar were privileged to attend the dedication of the new church building in Zamarano, Honduras. October 15 marked the organization of the Nyrenda local, the first Church of Christ local in Kenya, Africa. While in Kenya, Apostle Brian McIndoo shared with Apostle Smith Brickhouse the joy of ordaining Brother Moses Ohuru to the office of Elder. Brother McIndoo returned from his trip with the wonderful news that we now have 159 new brothers and sisters in Kenya!

Apostle Moser joined Apostle Don McIndoo and Apostle Frank Fann in Yucatan during October to participate in a Young People's Reunion. At the retreat our brothers in Yucatan discussed the dangers of drugs and gangs with the young people there. Our Phoenix brothers taught them some gospel history with a slide program on The Apostasy.

Elder Ken Oar and wife Marlene met with brothers and sisters from as far away as Mexico for the Ontario Reunion on October 7 and 8. Elder Oar participated with Elder Adam Porter of Michigan in the baptisms of two young people at the Reunion. Brother Oar was later joined in New York by his daughter Rebecca and Apostle Joel Yates and his wife Jennifer for a Youth Retreat on October 21. After a beautiful nature hike the young people participated in study/discussions on Preparing for Marriage and The Duties and Responsibilities of Marriage.

Our ministry have made several trips to the Northwest this fall. Apostle Joel Yates was joined on one trip by Elder Roy Coon of Treasure Valley, Idaho, and Brother John Owen from Phoenix. John got the bonus of visiting his parents, Dewayne and Margaret Owen, who have moved to Alaska. Brother

Coon traveled to Alaska with Brother Yates, knowing that his congregation was in good hands with Priest Jim Yates Jr. Jim's family was able to join him on this visit to Idaho. Elder Bob Hedrick and family also helped out in the Northwest during the fall, touching down in Oregon and Washington. Just before the Phoenix Reunion Elder Andy Brown ministered in Oregon as well. And following the Reunion, Apostles Jay Moser, Don McIndoo and Brian McIndoo visited brothers from Yucatan who are now living in Oregon.

Elder Andy Brown, Priest Jim Yates and Apostle Jay Moser continue to hold services in Payson and Showlow several times a month, taking their families with them when they can.

We've been blessed with some wonderful programs this fall. On October 31st, we enjoyed our annual "Untalent" show. It's always a good chance to relax and laugh before all the hectic preparations for Reunion. Happy but tired from the Thanksgiving festivities we were refreshed and uplifted by the play, *Hattie's Journey*. The play was written, narrated and acted by Kim Yates. Hattie, a young slave, never gained earthly freedom, but she was made free in Christ. In her bondage she brought others to freedom by leading them to the Lord. In the end, Hattie made the ultimate sacrifice for the mistress who had become her friend and left her earthly sorrow for Heavenly joy.

Our Reunion was very unusual this year. There were only scattered testimonies and many powerful seasons of prayer. Two people were encouraged under the spirit by the Lord. Some of the few testimonies that were given were humble requests for help. The Lord seemed to be telling us that now is the time to pray for each other for physical and spiritual healing.

On December 19th we met in fasting and prayer for our Sister Karin Malone. Karin has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Karin has testified of the great peace she has been given. This trial has brought us all

closer together and made us evaluate our lives.

David and Audra Orsted seemed to have passed their first milestones. They are off all support systems and thriving. No one looking at these healthy babies for the first time would ever dream the Lord had brought them through so much.

Christmas Eve we met at church to watch a play, *The Candlemaker*. A kindly old candlemaker made candles that shone with a divine light. The selfish young man who purchased them saw each person his light illuminated in the light of Christ. He came to realize that each truly was his brother or sister. On Christmas Day Eve we enjoyed a volunteer program with beautiful songs, readings, and stories. And on New Year's Eve we got together for food and fun. We played the Church of Christ version of "Hollywood Squares." We all got a chance to laugh at ourselves with trivia questions about our own families.

We've been holding off on the news to receive word on some further tests on our sister Karin Malone. The news is good! The cancer has not metastasized to the lymph nodes! Karin will have to undergo preventative chemotherapy but we know the Lord can strengthen her through the treatment. God has blessed her greatly both physically and spiritually. Please continue to remember her and all who need special blessings.

A closing sermon quote from Apostle Jay Moser:

God is seeking people with the heart of David who are ready to slay a giant. To stand firm so someone might say, 'Maybe I can do it too.' To stand against the power, the threats that are in this world.

In the New Year may we all remain diligent in prayer.

*Marlene Oar*

**NEWS**

**BRADLEY, MICHIGAN**

**G**reetings from the Bradley Local— On October 20, 2000, Leslie and Tom Carpenter welcomed their son Thomas Edward Carpenter III into this world. He weighed 8lbs, 1oz, and was 21" long. He joins his one-year-old sister Laura Ann, who is doing very well after her low birth-weight of 1lb, 5oz. We thank the Lord for the blessings he has bestowed on this family.

It has been a cold, snowy winter here

in Michigan. On Sunday, November 19, 2000, we drove to church on icy roads. On this day we also witnessed the baptism and confirmation of our new sister, Robin Blakely. Robin suffers from fibromyalgia, which causes many aches and pains of her joints and muscles. It was inspiring to witness Robin's desire to enter the waters of baptism despite her ailments and the weather. Robin testified that she was always warm, never felt the cold.

Before our snowbirds headed south we enjoyed a Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner and a special song service with a skit

by our youngest class. We were blessed with the company of the Ravenna local for the day, sharing their talent contributions of song specials and poems.

We extend our wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to all of you.

*In gospel bonds,  
Sue Porter*

**NEWS**

**COLLINS, MISSOURI**

**W**e, here at Collins, send our greetings to our brothers and sisters across the nation. I hope this "note" finds you doing well in this New Year. We have had some very cold weather and (for us) a considerable amount of snow, which, gratefully, is about to melt away. I asked Allen about taking the extra weight (for traction) out of the back of my car, but he said—winter has only begun! Boo, hiss! What a thought!

The snow, slick roads, and awful cold caused us to have to cancel our community Christmas program and fellowship with our two neighboring churches here in Collins. Perhaps we can have a "spring-thaw party" later on.

As many of you with e-mail know, our sweet sister, Mary Ellen Yates, passed from this life January 2nd, 2001, due to cancer. I wish I had words to describe the kind of person Mary was. She always made you welcome and had a beautiful, contagious sort of smile. She was blessed with the ability to see good in people, to share all she had, and to love you no matter what.

Whenever I got to stop and visit her, I never improved her day much, but she always improved mine.

If the size of a funeral service says anything about the kind of person you are then Mary's funeral surely spoke volumes. The chapel at Hathaway-Peterman's in Wheatland was filled with friends and relatives.

Several people were standing in the back of the room and others in the main entry hall. What a lovely tribute.

Mary had asked her son, Dennis Yates, to speak at her funeral and to remind people of the importance of forgiveness. Her daughter-in-law, Olivia Yates, wrote a beautiful song of tribute to Mary that was recorded and played during the service. Allen Kauffman brought a short message, then he and Dennis shared the graveside service and Olivia sang a verse of "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling."

I wish you could all have known Mary—she would have loved you.

Please remember our brother Curtis in your prayers. He loved his Mary Ellen so very much and will be very sad for a time. When we can't see and maybe don't understand why some things happen, just

remember—God knows.

In closing, I will share a few quotes from our October Rally sermons and others.

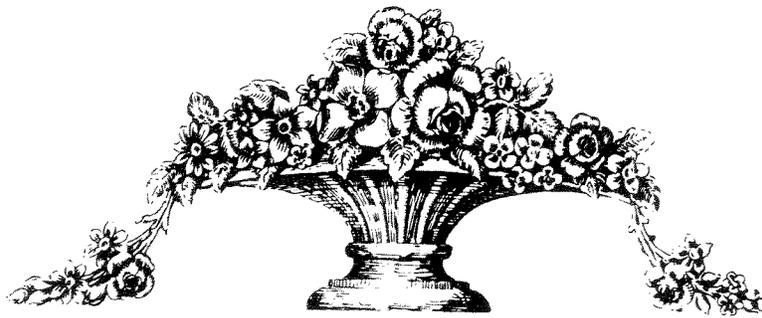
- *Keep in perspective where we are and where GOD is.*
- *Is anything more important than life eternal?*
- *Does our faith lack something?*
- *Christ has given us a straight cut path to follow and also handrails to hold onto.*
- *Problems invite us to have harshness of mind—to say or do things we ought not. Everyone of us that are tempted must make a decision.*
- *Always do right—it will gratify some and astonish others.*
- *When you surrender everything to the Lord, all your little important, planned things don't mean anything.*
- *Christianity is a never ending process—it just goes on and on and on.*

*Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman*

OBITUARY

# Beverly P. Hesse

February 10, 1930~December 27, 2000



Black River Falls, Wisconsin

**B**everly P. Hesse, 70, of Black River Falls, died Wednesday, December 27, 2000, in Black River Memorial Hospital.

The former Beverly P. Eddy was born on February 10, 1930, in Black River Falls to Charles and Edith (Scafe) Eddy. She was raised in Black River Falls and graduated from Black River Falls High School in 1948.

Beverly married Fred D. Hesse on August 14, 1948 in Black River Falls. In addition to Black River Falls, the couple also lived in Green Bay and Shawano and various other locations in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Beverly had been employed for 25 years at Black River Memorial Hospital, first in the housekeeping and later in the laundry.

She was a member of the Thompson-RedCloud VFW Post #1959 Auxiliary and the Jackson County Interfaith Caregivers. She was a member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot (scattered).

Survivors include her husband, Fred; two daughters, Bonnie (John) Brunner, of Bowler, Wisconsin, and Debra (Kevin) Gilbertson, of Black River Falls; a son, Brian (Brenda) Hesse, of Black River Falls; a daughter-in-law, Connie Hesse, of Shawano; nine grandchildren, Lori (Andy) Schmidt, Matthew, Sarah and Emily Brunner, Kris, Kayla and Jason Hesse, and Kelly and Jade Gilbertson; three great grandchildren, Ethan, Elizabeth and Eric Schmidt; and two brothers, Cecil (Delores) Eddy, of Black River Falls, and Merlin "Hook" Eddy, of Chippewa Falls.

Beverly was preceded in death by a son, Duane Hesse; a grandson, Lee Hesse; four brothers, Donald, Lyle, Lee and Arnold Eddy; and four sisters, Marjory Cain, Verna Jones, Dorothy Wilson, and Maybelle Eddy.

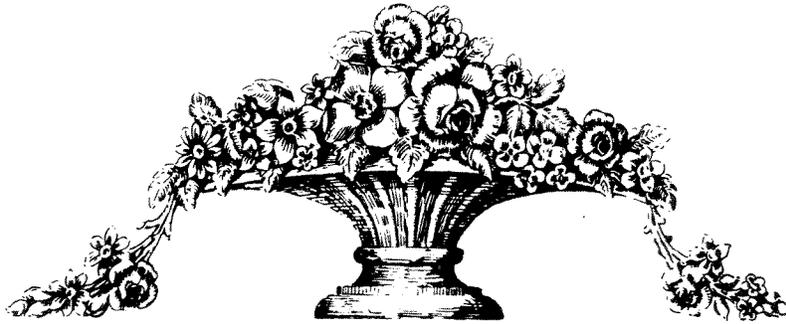
Funeral services were at 1 P.M. Saturday, December 30, 2000, from the Buswell Funeral Home, and burial was in Riverside Cemetery, both in Black River Falls. Merlin "Spike" Eddy officiated.

Honorary casket bearers were Beverly's nine grandchildren: Lori Schmidt, Matthew, Sarah and Emily Brunner, Kris, Kayla and Jason Hesse, and Kelly and Jade Gilbertson.

OBITUARY

# Mary Ellen McCubbin Yates

February 22, 1923 ~ January 2, 2001



**M**ary Ellen McCubbin Yates, 77, passed from this life on January 2, 2001. She had been battling stomach cancer since her diagnosis in March of 2000. She was a member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot, in Independence, Missouri.

Mary Ellen is survived by her loving husband, Curtis D. Yates, of the home in Preston, Missouri; their son and daughter-in-law, Waybern and Sandra Yates, of Raytown, Missouri; son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Olivia Yates, of Preston, Missouri; son, Layton Yates, of Raytown, Missouri; son, Shannon Yates, of Preston, Missouri; and daughter-

in-law, Karen Yates, of Raytown, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her youngest son, Kevin Yates, in 1989, and her great-grandson, Brady DaMitz in 1998. She leaves sixteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. She is also survived by four brothers, William Aaron "Earl" McCubbin, of Sedalia, Missouri; Joseph Milo McCubbin, of Lee's Summit, Missouri; Robert D. McCubbin, of Independence, Missouri; and Harold Chester McCubbin, of San Jose, California. One sister and four brothers also preceded her in death.

Mary Ellen was born February 22, 1923, to Joseph and Cynthia McCubbin. Both of

her parents passed during her childhood. On May 17, 1942, Mary Ellen married Curtis Yates. That union bore five children, all boys, and nearly 59 years of happiness. They lived in the Kansas City, Missouri area from approximately 1943 till 1990. They have lived in Preston, Missouri, since then. Mary Ellen retired from Mobil-Teria Catering in 1980, after 13 years of valued service. She was also a large part of the activity of a family owned business for 25 years.

In addition, she leaves behind a host of loving family and friends.

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