

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...."*

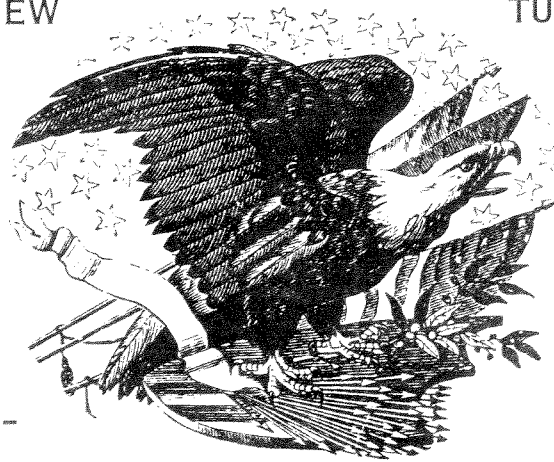
1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 78

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—JULY 2001

NUMBER 7

MY PRAYER IS THAT GOD
WILL GRANT EACH ONE
OF US TODAY A NEW
BEGINNING.
WITH ALL MY
HEART I PRAY
THAT EVERY
SINGLE ONE OF
US WILL DETER-
MINE, RIGHT NOW, IN
THIS HOUR, THAT WE WILL
STAND FIRM, THAT WE WILL



JOIN THE MIGHTY ARMY OF THE
LORD, OUTFITTED WITH SPIRI-
TUAL ARMOR, FULLY
PREPARED TO
ENGAGE IN THE
BATTLE FOR
THE SOUL OF
AMERICA. AND
TO OVERCOME THE
WORLD FOR CHRIST.

—JAMES KENNEDY

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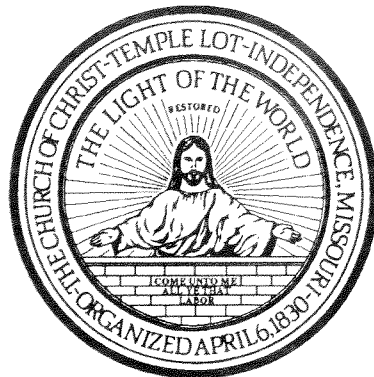
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Format of submitted material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of

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

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

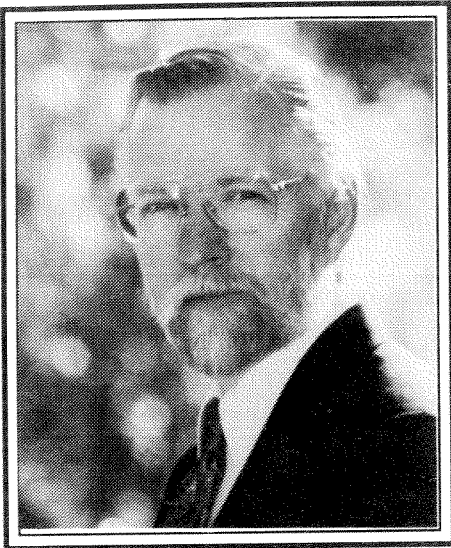
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

His Mysterious Ways

The Amazing Son of God



By Harvey E. Seibel

In the distant beginning before the creation of the heavens and the earth a singular event took place. The Father brought forth His Son. He was His only offspring. This fact is confirmed by reference to Revelation 3:14:

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, *the beginning of the creation of God.*”

Christ Himself was the beginning of the creation of God. Thus He, and He alone, was called the Only Begotten Son of God.

It was through Christ that all the rest of creation was accomplished, for the Son created the heavens and the earth and all things that in them are. Then when we, who are His offspring, take upon us His name (the name of Christ) through the waters of baptism, we are spiritually begotten of Him as His sons and daughters.

“For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters”
Mos. 3:9.

I once wondered how this could be, since Christ alone is the Only Begotten Son. Then it was that I realized that Christ *is, indeed*, the Only Begotten of the Fa-

Christ Himself was the beginning of the creation of God. Thus He, and He alone, was called the Only Begotten Son of God.

ther, but the rest are begotten through Christ who both created and saved us. Such is the mystery of Godliness.

But think of the wonder of Christ. He appeared in the plains of Mamre to Abraham along with His Father. Abraham, lifting up his eyes, looked and beheld three men standing before him. And he went and bowed himself to the ground before them. God then revealed to Abraham what he was about to do, both by way of the promised offspring to Sarah, as well as His mission to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham entertained them with food and drink, after which two of them departed for Sodom. Lot also recognized these visitors and refused to allow them to remain in the street, later offering his daughters to the men of the city in their stead. The next day the LORD called down fire from the LORD upon those wicked cities. It was the Son calling down fire from the Father. This thought is confirmed as the term *Elohim* is used, showing that the plurality of the Godhead was involved in this judgment.

Christ also appeared to Joshua as the captain of the Lord's hosts. Jacob wrestled with him all night when he was journeying to his homeland. He also appeared to Moses and wrote the ten commandments on tablets of stone with his own finger. He appeared to the Brother of Jared when the Brother of Jared was beseeching God to touch the stones to give them light. He also led the children of Israel for 40 years as he abode in the cloud.

But the most marvelous thing was yet to transpire. It was the will of His Father that He come and offer Himself up as a sacrifice for His people. What an amazing thing this was and how extraordinary. It was the very thing that caused the Jews to

look beyond the mark. The mystery of Godliness is thus hid from the wise and prudent of this world, but re-

Imagine the wonder of the God and Creator of the universe coming to this world as a mere babe in the womb of a mortal woman.

vealed to babes.

Imagine the wonder of the God and Creator of the universe coming to this world as a mere babe in the womb of a mortal woman. Can you think how Mary must have felt knowing she carried the Creator of the heavens and the earth within her own body? What a paradox that she should give birth to the very One who created her.

After His birth, brothers and sisters were also born to Mary. These were in fact half brothers and sisters to Jesus. Imagine how they must have felt when they realized that their sibling was the God of the whole earth.

The God of creation was born in humble circumstances and raised as a carpenter under His earthly

(step) father. Of course when Mary heard the words of the shepherds, she pondered them in her heart, remembering no doubt that the angel had previously told her that the Holy Ghost would come upon her and she would bring forth the Son of God. Then later in the temple Simeon came and uttered marvelous words concerning this child that caused Joseph and Mary to marvel at those things which were said. This was followed by the words of Anna. Still later when Joseph and Mary made a trip to Jerusalem, the child Jesus was left behind. Upon finding He was missing they returned to search for Him and after three days found Him in the temple astonishing the doctors with his understanding and answers. To His concerned parents He said, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" But Joseph and Mary did not understand this saying. So Jesus grew up being subject to His earthly parents until he arrived at the age of about 30. By this time John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing, telling the people of One who was to come after him whose shoe latchet he was not worthy to unloose. When the Lord came to him to be baptized, John deferred to Him saying that he was not

worthy, but rather that he should be baptized of Him. Herein is the awesome mystery of Godliness that a mere mortal man, a seed of Abraham, should be called upon to baptize his God, his Lord, and his Creator, yes, the Mighty God of the far flung universe. Christ thus humbled Himself before His Father to fulfill all righteousness, setting the example for all mankind to follow. Baptism is a simple thing that even a child can understand, but like the foolishness of preaching, the world treats it lightly at best, or else mocks it as of no worth.

When Christ entered his ministry the Pharisees and others were offended by Him, but the poor came to hear His words.

Then the day of His passion arrived. Could Judas have known the full significance of what he was doing when he gave his Lord the kiss of death?

Then as Christ stood in the judgment hall could His interrogators have known to whom they were directing their questions? Would they not have been humbled to the dust had they known He was God of the universe and the One to whom, one day, every knee should bow and confess as Lord and His judgments just?

Then those zealous ones

pressed a crown of thorns upon His brow in mockery of His kingship. They spit upon Him and mocked Him and He

Herein is the awesome mystery of Godliness that a mere mortal man, a seed of Abraham, should be called upon to baptize his God, his Lord, and his Creator, yes, the Mighty God of the far flung universe.

bore it all. And then stripes were administered as if He were a common criminal, leaving his back bloody and painful. How ashamed and mortified they will be when they come to realize that it was their God and their Creator that they had spit upon. How ashamed they will be when they remember how they whipped the God of the Universe and pressed that crown of thorns upon His brow in mockery of His claims. What a horrifying rebuke this will be to their unbelief. The Roman soldiery may have done it ignorantly. But as for the wicked Phari-

sees and others who plotted this deed, Christ Himself said they had no cloak for their sin. These will receive a just recompence from God in the day of judgment. But for the others Christ prayed, Forgive them, for they know not what they do. Yet, nevertheless, they will certainly sorrow that they had, through force of circumstance, been caught in time and place to be made unwitting participants in this great drama.

After this Christ was taken to be crucified, it having pleased the Father to bruise Him. The soldiers who drove in the nails could not have known through Whose hands they were driving them. Had they known they would have shrunk from the deed. One day they will stand before their Lord and ponder how fate could have so consigned them. So He hung on the cross for six long hours, taking upon Himself all our sins, suffering the chastisement of our sins in our stead, and this after having, a short time before, plead with God that this cup might pass from Him, in great agony sweating drops of blood, that He might not undergo that fiery trial. But He yielded to the will of His Father in all things, even to death on the cross. Had it not been so all would have been lost.

And then that trial ended, and He descended to the depths of hell. His disciples were scattered and all seemed hopeless, yet on the third day came a glorious dawning and the Lord of all came forth triumphantly and victoriously from the tomb. Death had been defeated and he became the firstborn of them that believe. To Mary he said, Touch me not for I have not yet ascended unto my Father. But her report was as wives' tales to the disciples. Nevertheless he appeared to them, ate fish with them and finally ascended into heaven, promising that as they had seen Him go so would He also return. And while the rest of the world lay in ignorance of these marvelous things, Christ went on to fulfill the remainder of His Father's commission, and over the next 3½ years visited all the rest of the house of Israel.

What of the future? We know that He is coming back to claim all that is His own. But more than this we will have fellowship with the God of our salvation, the One to whom all power in heaven and earth has been given. And then we, if we have endured unto the end, will live and reign with Him for a thousand years, and after that for an eternity on the new earth.

What a conclusion it will be for those who have endured, for a moment, the trials and tribulations of this

What a conclusion it will be for those who have endured, for a moment, the trials and tribulations of this life to inherit the glory, the joy, and the fellowship of the Lord throughout all the eternity to come.

life to inherit the glory, the joy, and the fellowship of the Lord throughout all the eternity to come. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17). In truth we cannot even imagine what the Lord has prepared for them that love Him. What a glorious prospect that lies before us.

In view of these things let us be found worthy (not wanting) of this high calling, for we are all called to be

saints. Let us therefore bring forth fruit meet for this calling.

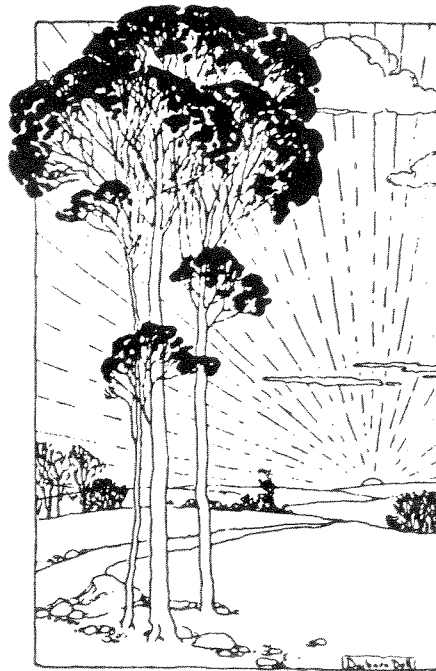
“In the Hollow of His Hand”

Early the morning of Sunday, January 28th, our eight-year-old daughter Kaitlyn woke us from a sound sleep. She was yelling out in great pain. She'd been awake for about an hour in agony and it finally got to her. I wasn't very patient with her; I told her to try to go to the bathroom (she had), to eat something (she couldn't get into the kitchen), and then I noticed where she was holding her abdomen: lower right side, just above her hip.

Jim checked Kaity out. She couldn't lay down flat; she had to be curled up, walked hunched over, was unable to raise her right leg, her abdomen was tender throughout, but the pain always referred back to her right lower quadrant (the Daddy/RN is dictating this part) and she seemed to be running a little temperature. In short, she had EVERY symptom of appendicitis! We got her ready to go; Jim got dressed and then called for the elders.

Andy Brown and Joel Yates came and administered

to Kaity. When they were done, they took our older children with them so we could go to the hospital, but a radical



PATHLIGHTS

change had come over Kaity. She was laid out flat and had no more pain except that she was hungry. Jim had seen patients with fewer symptoms than Kaity's sent to surgery, so we went ahead to the hospital.

I'm sure you know the rest. Two hours and a bunch of tests later we were sent home with a healthy, normal eight-

year-old girl. Later I tried to explain away what happened to Kaity—maybe it was gas or extreme hunger; after all, she hadn't eaten since noon the previous day. Jim and Kaity set me straight: Kaity was healed. We thank God for immediately answering the prayers of His faithful servants and worried parents. He showed us once again that we are held in the hollow of His hand.

*In Gospel Bonds,
Kim Yates
Phoenix, Arizona*

—from the CCEG

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EAST INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Greetings from the East Local, Independence, Missouri.

In the month of May the East Local had its business meeting. Our Pastor is Elder Larry Beem and Assistant Pastor is Elder Rick Olson.

We have had a couple weddings here lately: Kevin and Anna McGhee on May 19, 2001; Ryan and Cheryl Fisher on June 2, 2001. It's so hard to believe that these young people are old enough to get married.

We have some new additions in

Independence too! Dave and Dana Taylor had a beautiful baby girl, Samantha Dawn, on April 8, 2001. Matt and Elizabeth Gahner (Mike and Belinda Smith's daughter) had a handsome baby boy, Alexander Patton, on May 27, 2001.

There have been several baptisms in the past year that I would like share with you. A young married couple, Steve and Stacy McGhee were baptized. Stacy was baptized September 10, 2000, and Steve was baptized December 31, 2000. Alberthia Kearney was baptized on April 4, 2001, by Elders Bob Oldham and

Rick Olson. You may remember her testimony given at the April Conference 2001.

Services are currently being held in the annex due to some remodeling being done in the sanctuary. Next time you are in the area come by and see our new look but familiar faces.

*Pat McGhee
East Local Reporter*

ADVERTISEMENT

SermonsONLINE Update

SermonsONLINE is pleased to announce the addition of the following sermons:

Elder Nicholas Denhan, August 6, 1999

Elder Jeff Oldham, August 5, 2000

Apostle Marvin Ely, March 29, 1998

Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu, August 6, 1999

These sermons can be heard by clicking on the following URL:
<http://www.cceg.net/audio/sermonsonline.html>

I wish to thank all of you who have taken advantage of this service. As of this date, the page has received 110 hits. I encourage all of you to share the news of SermonsONLINE with anyone who would like to know more about the Church of Christ. This is an excellent missionary outreach.

*Love in Gospel Bonds,
Dan Lawrence*

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Segleg@juno.com

June 10, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the current General Sunday School Association Superintendent I made a pledge to get a lesson in each of the *Zion's Advocates*. I am kicking off that effort with a series of lessons from Deb Haines on the principles of the gospel and a word search created by myself. Each principle will be presented with a lesson in the next five *Advocates* with the first principle on the following page. It is my hope and prayer that this will be a useful tool in your walk with God.

Please contact me with any suggestions or contributions you might like to make to this effort. With everyone's help and the Spirit's leading I am positive these lessons will be a blessing to all.

In Gospel Bonds,



Steven E. Gill

“LET’S LEARN TOGETHER THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL”

In Hebrews 6:1-2, God outlines His doctrine for us so nice and neat: Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Laying on of Hands, The Resurrection, and Eternal Judgment.

Do we know what these principles are? It’s time to take them one by one and “Learn and Grow Together!”

FAITH—the First Principle

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). For example: it is like a child believing that his mother will always love him and take care of him. Another example is: a farmer believing that the seeds that he plants will take root, grow and bear fruit. We all have a faith in tomorrow, a belief that it will be.

We must hear and learn about God for *“without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is...”* (Hebrews 11:6).

God plants that seed of faith in each and every one of us, and as we learn more about Him our faith takes root and grows. We do not need a perfect knowledge of God to have faith in Him (Alma 16:149). We all see and learn, every day, of God’s works and wonders.

Question: How much faith do we need? Jesus said: *“If ye have the faith as a mustard seed, ye shall say unto the mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you”* (Matthew 17:20). ‘As’ means ‘like’ a mustard seed... a growing faith, a faith that begins small, with a tiny grain, and grows so large that nothing shall be impossible to do.

Faith is our first step on our pathway to God. His scriptures direct us to do His will and follow His commandments. He has faith in us that we can do this, even if we are not perfect. He has given us the avenue of Repentance (our next principle) for when we error. We must try and try to make ourselves as perfect as we can, not for our own glory, but for His.

A Teaching Example: Have each student plant a seed in a foam cup filled with soil. Marigolds work well and sprout quickly. Add just the right amount of water and sunshine, and by the next class our “faith” will have sprouted. As the plant grows, it gets stronger and stronger with proper care (as our spirits grow with proper nourishment of God’s Word), and will soon blossom! (as we will as we grow in the knowledge of God).

“LET’S LEARN TOGETHER
THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL”

Picture to Color:

Pansies, because they have faces, each unique just like each one of us.



"LET'S LEARN TOGETHER THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL"

G O D C A N W I L L D O E S P E R F E C T P
 W X K L V W D Z Q B C D F G H I J A K L M A
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ALMA

BAPTISM

COMMANDMENTS

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

EVIDENCE

FAITH

FRUIT

GOD

HEBREWS

HOPE

LAYING ON OF HANDS

MATTHEW

MUSTARD SEED

PERFECT

REPENTANCE

RESURRECTION

Akwesasne Reunion Report

During the weekend of October 20-22, 2000, Apostle Joel Yates and Elder Ken Oar joined us here at the Akwesasne local.

On Friday evening, we met at the church for fellowship, a potluck dinner and a preaching service offered by Joel. The title of his sermon was "Where do you belong?" Many thought provoking questions were delivered that evening. Among them were: What is God's plan for you? Your local? Your church? We were reminded that God has plans for each of us, but we have to make the choices. Also, that even though there is a plan for each of us, we will not always understand what God's plan is.

The first NY Youth Retreat was held on Saturday. This retreat was for those under 30 years old. Those in attendance on Saturday were Elder Ken Oar, Apostle Joel Yates, Jenny Yates, Rebecca Oar, Michele Grant, Shawn Jenkins, Brian and Karen Mulverhill, Debby Grant's nephew Josh, Nathan Waldruff, Jake, Adrienne and Mike Bevaart, Justin Tarbell, Marcelo Araujo, RYANNE Tarbell, Tara and Brandon Tarbell.

The young people met at the church at 8 a.m. for a prayer breakfast. Joel cooked and served scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, toast and OJ. After breakfast, a study session was held in the main room of the church. Both Ken and Joel orchestrated the discussions. The topic was marriage (those not, those engaged, and those married). The first discussion was about why we marry; using prayer as the beginning of the search for our mate. Also discussed were fornication, adultery and the commandments concerning these. Other topics included the responsibilities of husbands to their wives and wives to their husbands; the children that will become part of the family; and the duties and responsibilities of the family.

After the study session, the group piled into the vehicles and headed for the Adirondack Mountains. The day was not completely planned out, as the weather looked as if it was going to rain, but the day looked good and enthusiasm was high, so they decided to go to the Nature Center (located between Paul Smiths College and Lake Placid, New York). Since the age group included teenagers through 30 years old the group had to find something that everybody could do. The Nature Center included a Visitor's Center where maps of the trails were found. Upon exiting the main building there were some birds in cages—most likely recuperating from injuries.

Then the walk began. The goal was to walk on woody trails around the lakes to see nature and maybe a glimpse of the beaver and otters that inhabit the area. There were many things to see, including tree damage from the ice storm of 1998, beaver eaten tree stumps, trees, trees and more trees. The highlight of this extreme walk was the bridge across one of the lakes, a wooden and steel cable walkway two feet above the marsh. Other wild creatures were spotted by the group, including snakes. As often happens with groups of this size, the group doesn't always stick together. When we got back, Nathan discovered he had lost the keys to his mother's car.

Nathan and RYANNE walked back along the trail to try to find the keys. After going a ways, they sat on log and decided to offer prayer for the keys to be found. By the grace of God, the keys were at their feet.

Then we had lunch at the nearby picnic area. Sandwiches, chips, soda and cookies were provided. According to Brandon, "We had a wonderful afternoon."

The group was then going to High Falls (another scenic area nearby) but it was

closed for the season. So back to the church, and since it was dinner time the group went to Brandon and Tara's home for a barbecue, hamburgers, hot-dogs and all the fixin's.

After dinner it was decided to make a campfire down at the river. It was very cold outside that night, so a campfire was needed. Brandon and Tara brought cups of hot chocolate for the group down to the river along with lawn chairs and blankets. The campfire brought testimonies of God's love in our lives and how He has worked in our lives. It was a "very awesome time that evening to be with special people."

Brandon Tarbell: "Saturday was a great day to be able to learn, have fun and getting to build our friendships as brothers and sisters in Christ. Lots of neat conversations were had with each other."

Sunday was a sacrament service for everyone. Brother Ken offered the sermon, "Living for Jesus." We were reminded to be mindful of who we are—the body of Christ.

After the sacrament service and prayer and testimony service, we all enjoyed a potluck dinner and fellowship.

*In Gospel Bonds,
Terry Waldruff*

Palmyra Excursion

Hello from the Akwesasne local! On the weekend of April 28 -29, 2001, each family in the Akwesasne local was represented and joined by other church members to comprise a group of 29 for a trip to Palmyra, New York, to visit the site where the Restoration began. Church members from five locals attended this outing. It was an impressive group, as we were told several times. The members that attended this adventure were Michael, Marlies, Adrienne and Jacob Bevaart—Brantford, Ontario; Keith and Leona Hoare—Nova Scotia; Wayne and Susan Miller—Cornwall, Ontario; Eli, Gretchen, Justin, Christy and Ryanne Tarbell—Hogansburg, New York; Marcelo Araujo—Brazil; Stephen Kimball—Kansas City, Missouri; Deborah, Michele, Blayne Grant and Korynne Mulverhill—Fort Covington, New York; Brandon, Tara, Rhoades and Mya Tarbell—Akwesasne, New York; Ken, Rebecca and Matt Oar—Phoenix, Arizona; William Linton—Hamilton Ontario; Dale and Terry Waldruff—Massena, New York.

We met on Saturday at a motel in the Palmyra area. The weather was perfect for all the time that we spent outdoors. We first visited the Hill Cumorah site. We toured the visitor's center there that was run by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, listening to several audio tapes and a video about the Book of Mormon. It astounded the tour guides that we were all one church "family" from different locations on two continents. After the tour of the visitor's center, we climbed the Hill Cumorah. At the top is a monument and garden. It is an impressive sight. After we wandered around the monument, we all found a place to rest before we made our descent. During this time, Brother Ken Oar asked some questions about the things that we heard in the

visitor's center, and how they differed from what we believe.

After we left the Hill Cumorah, we drove to the Joseph Smith Farm complex. We again toured the visitor's center at this site and were asked where we were from, what group we represented and if we were all one family. Again, we caused some surprise among the guides there. We listened to the story of Joseph Smith and were then led to a log cabin that sits on the site of the original home of the Smith family. It is amazing to step back into this world away from the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives.

The log home housed 11 people in its time. It certainly was very crowded with the 29 of our group, plus two tour guides. The humble beginnings of Joseph Smith were very evident. After visiting the log home, we walked the short distance to tour the frame home where the Smith family eventually moved. From this home, we crossed over to the Grove.

Walking toward the Grove, we ended up breaking into several smaller groups. The youngsters ran ahead, attended by a few responsible members. The rest of us took our time wandering on the trails through the Grove. It was a beautiful way to spend the afternoon. Just being in the place where Joseph Smith went to the woods to pray and ask God for direction as to which church to join, and where he received his answer to "...join none of them..." was very humbling. The peace and serenity of the area were a wonderful reminder that God's world is a beautiful place.

We all met back at the cars and after a few refreshments offered by the Grant family we packed into our vehicles to visit the Book of Mormon historic publication site on the main street of Palmyra. This tour was again very interesting. We listened to the account of the building and

the history behind the first printing of the Book of Mormon. We were able to see the printing press and the assembly line that was in place to produce those first books.

During our tour of the publication site, each local was given a copy of the first 16 pages of the original printing of the Book of Mormon.

After our tour of the publication site, it was time for dinner. After dinner, we all congregated in the lobby of the motel for fellowship.

Sunday morning dawned with sunshine and warmth. We met for breakfast at a nearby restaurant. We were able to have a room set up for 29 people, and when asked about conducting a church service, we were told that would not be a problem—as long as we were done by noon. We discussed the places we had visited the day before and the events that took place in those places after breakfast.

When we left the restaurant, we went to Peter Whitmer's log home at Fayette, near Waterloo, New York. We were again led through a guided tour of the visitor's center before we visited the log home. Again, we were humbled by the realization that this is where something very important happened. This time, it was the establishment of the Church of Christ on April 6, 1830.

After our tour, we left one another to make our trips back home.

It was amazing to realize how the Lord's hand worked in getting all the people and all the items in order for the restoration and subsequent events. It certainly was not coincidence.

*In Gospel Bonds,
Terry Waldruff*

Colorado Reunion Report

June 8 in Western Colorado dawned bright and beautiful. We are having hot temperatures with incredible blue skies and fluffy white clouds over the mountains. The first service of the Reunion was led by our Pastor, Bro. David Larsen. His opening remarks were from Eph. 2: Christ is our peace; He has broken down walls between us; enmity is abolished and we are reconciled before God. We have access to His Holy Spirit, though we are from many places because there are no strangers among the followers of Christ. Many prayers were offered for those in need of physical and spiritual help, and for the work of the missionary effort. We enjoyed many testimonies of God's goodness in our lives.

After the spiritual food, we enjoyed the food for the body at noon, and the fellowship as more of our visitors arrived to join with us in worship.

The afternoon service was a sermon by Bro. Bob Hedrick. He quoted Matthew 24 and told us that this is our day. Even though Satan tries to influence us, we are called to be an example and a witness at all times. What is a Church? It is a people called and summoned together. We are expected to be where God wants us. Bob's illustration with a 2 x 4 piece of wood gave us an understanding of what God can do with raw material; that is, as a man builds a house of various parts and qualities of material, so God builds His earthly kingdom with us, though many of us come to Him with flaws and imperfections in our lives. As he held the wood by one end, he showed that it cannot stand alone, but needs all of the other pieces of the house to hold it in the proper place. It is also this way with humans; we all need each other and should be willing to share our cares and joys with one another. Be a piece of wood that God can use to build a strong

building (kingdom) where others can take refuge.

The song service was held at 7 p.m. The children's group of Phoenix sang a delightful song for us, and we all enjoyed the group singing.

At 7:30 p.m. Bro. Brian McIndoo was our speaker. On the overhead projector he showed us pictures of the work and the people in Kenya, and illustrated by some of their stories what they had overcome in their lives to dedicate themselves to God. He asked us to consider what our priorities are in life. Are we looking for instant satisfaction, or do we understand what is necessary to be sure we are headed for eternal life? Brian illustrated the physical laws of God by dropping a rubber ball, showing the force of gravity. He then noted that very few people deny these laws of God, but choose to deny the Spiritual laws God has put into his books of Scripture. People are forever wanting to change the Spiritual laws of God but they do not try to change the physical laws He has established. No one has been given the right to change the Spiritual laws of God. II Nephi 6 contains the four points that must be accepted for eternal life: Repent, believe, be baptized and endure to the end. We are joint heirs with Christ, children dependent on God for all things. As stated in Ephesians 4, we must "walk worthy." This is the job of the Church of Christ.

On this Saturday morning (June 9), about 75 people were assembled in our little white church to partake of the goodness of God's Spirit at 9 a.m. Bro. Robert Oldham asked us to sing a favorite song, "Stretch Out Your Hand" to begin our worship service. We were then asked to kneel with him to pray for those so desperately in need of help, such as those

with cancer. Also, he asked that we focus on glorifying God for His mercy. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." In another session of prayer, we were asked to especially give thanksgiving for the blessings we have already received. The testimonies were varied, relating help from God for problems in the workplace, opening up opportunities in the Kenya missionary work, and many of healings.

After the noon meal, we had some time to relax and visit with those from far away. We have visitors from Arizona, Idaho, Missouri, Michigan, and some from other areas of our own state that we don't see very often.

At 3 p.m. the speaker was Bro. Roland Sarratt. As he enjoyed the morning meeting, he thought how we really are a peculiar people. He and his wife drove nearly 1,000 miles to spend three days going to church. Now, isn't that odd? Our traveling and visiting is important. It gives us a good way of life, showing we value each other and the gospel.

Bro. Roland quoted from Proverbs 14, wherein it says that there are ways that seem right to men, but the end is death. The way of the "natural man" is the way of death. We are called to struggle toward the way of life, and we can thank God that we can be strengthened to this end.

There is an anti-Christ, but we don't always recognize it. Reading from John 3:16-18, our speaker asked if we are really different than those around us. Do we believe enough to do something about it? Indulging in worldly pursuits is not a part of believing. We must try to influence others to bring them to God. Avoid those whose deeds are evil, for they hate the light. Remember this: we are not at the bargaining table, for we must beg God for His forgiveness.

What do we have to offer to the world? We have a gospel that is being rejected. We are more successful at making converts in those parts of the world where they have few worldly possessions. Patience and trust will give us chances to do many things for God. As outlined in Moroni 7, we must have hope to be raised to life eternal, cleaving unto charity to be purified with our Lord.

After an evening meal, we assembled to have a song service at 7 p.m. We enjoy the talents of many volunteers on these occasions in the musical selections and group singing.

At 7:30 p.m. Brother John Case was our speaker. He chose his opening text from Romans 12, wherein we are admonished to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, giving reasonable service to God at all times. When Christ chose His apostles, in Mark 1, they didn't know much about Him, but left their work and followed in His footsteps to do much good. As humans, we don't always know what we would do in threatening situations. There are many examples of steadfastness of God's servants in the scriptures. In I Kings 18, Elijah taunted the idol worshippers and proved what the true God could do. In Alma 12, Ammon stood for the right before King Lamoni.

Look at the promises we have made to God. The sacrament is not a tradition; it is a remembrance of the covenant we have made to serve Him. One of the ways we serve God is to be in the service of our fellow man, as related in Mosiah 1:48-51.

The end of the day finds us refreshed in Spirit, but we must seek rest for these human frames.

June 10, 2001

Good Morning! We were greeted with another sunny day for our Sacrament Service at 9 a.m. Bro. Leslie Case invited us to consider if there was a "most important" service in the Church. There really is not one, for they are all very important. Quoting from Moroni 6, Bro. Leslie reminded us that our names are taken that we might

be nourished by the word of God, and we must meet together oft to fast and pray and take the sacrament in remembrance of our Lord and Saviour. John 6:53 gives us the understanding that we must partake of His flesh and blood to have His life in us. We then entered into a season of prayer to dedicate ourselves to the Lord.

Bro. John Case brought our attention to the statement in John 17:20 that we may be one in Christ, perfect in Him. After the passing of the emblems, many prayers were offered for the concerns for those among us and for many throughout the Church and our families and friends.

Testimonies included various instant blessings, awareness of God's forgiveness and joy in the love of God to us in everything we bring before Him.

After the noon meal, the afternoon was free for us to fellowship together in many groups. Visiting together is so important! We get to know each other better, enjoy the little ones and voice our concerns and hopes for the things that are to come.

We reassembled at 6 p.m. for a song service. Our voices blended in the singing of favorite hymns. I am always impressed when we sing "America, the Beautiful" as we look out our windows here at the surrounding mountains and fruitful valley where we live. "The Old, Old Path" was sung beautifully for us by the Joel Yates' family.

The 7 p.m. speaker was Bro. Joel Yates. His opening scripture was II Peter 1, wherein God tells us that He has laid out a plan of great and precious promises for us. In reading from Galations 5, Bro. Joel pointed out that we know what sin is and we can put aside the works of the flesh and partake of the gifts of the Spirit. God can see in us the potential of moving away from a sinful life and making us into something beautiful for Him. We need to learn to look at our fellow man through the eyes of God, trying to help lift them up and not being critical. The story of Abraham in Genesis 22 is a great example of a man who "believed God," and his seed became a multitude of nations. What can we give up

to show our belief in God? Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own little boy. What do we have of this world's pleasures that we cannot let go of for the sake of our salvation?

We leave ourselves a way out because we cannot meet the challenge that God has laid before us. We must "fight or perish" in our spiritual life. The four sons of Mosiah were in line for riches and honor in the kingdom of their father, but they laid all of this aside and served the Lord, bringing His word to millions of people. Prove to God that we can give up worldly pursuits to follow in His pathways and be of service to Him.

"God Be With You" closed our meeting. We again met in our dining room to finish up the "leftovers" and bid many God's speed, until we meet in His house again, perhaps in another place in this earthly Kingdom.

And so, we bid you Goodbye from the Colorado Reunion. We hope to see many of you here next year, and bring someone new for us to meet.

Enid Bell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSOURI REUNION

Dear Brothers & Sisters:
The Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 2001 Missouri Reunion, which will be held **August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2001**. All meetings will be held at the Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

We will again organize an ice cream social for Saturday evening after the final preaching service of the day. The social will be held either just outside the Visitors' Center or in the basement.

For information please contact:

Roland Sarratt
15910 E. 36th Terr.
Independence, MO 64055
816-373-6605

Mike McGhee
18907 E. 6th Street North
Independence, MO 64056
816-796-6255

TRI-STATE REUNION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
This is an invitation for all to attend the Tri-State Reunion. This year the reunion will be held in Wisconsin.

Where: Indoor Group Camp at Wyalusing State Park. The Park is just South of Prairie du Chien, where the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers converge.

When: The camp is available from 3:00 PM Aug. 31 to 3:00 PM Sept. 3. There is no admittance to the park between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

There are four dorm buildings, which can house up to 27 persons each. Campers must provide their own bedding.

FYI—Wyalusing is a Munsee-Delaware Indian word meaning "home of the warrior."

For more information please contact:

Merlin L. Eddy
3370 203 r, St. W.
Farmington, MN 55024
(651) 463-2218

ARIZONA REUNION

The Church of Christ, Phoenix Local, will be hosting our annual reunion. Services will begin on Friday morning, **November 23rd**, and will continue through Sunday evening, **November 25th, 2001**.

Those who plan to attend, or requiring more information, please contact the following people:

Pastor Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-2341
glpdmccann@aol.com

Asst. Pastor Priest Duane Ely
18814 N 30th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-1516

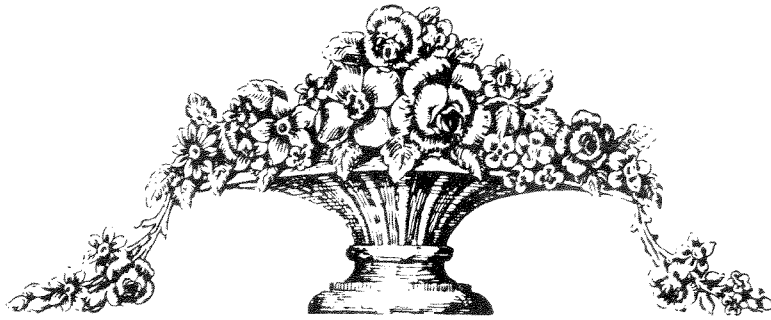
Asst. Pastor Priest Glenn Orsted
1327 E. Wescott Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050-2393
(602) 780-8764
borsted@ix.netcom.com

We invite everyone to come and share the Thanksgiving holiday and worship the Lord with us!

OBITUARY

Sylvia Axtel

April 27, 1914~March 15, 2001



In Memory of our Sister Sylvia Axtel of Lancaster, Wisconsin

Sister Sylvia was called home to her eternal reward suddenly in the early morning hours Thursday, March 15, 2001, after being taken to the Grant Regional Health Center by her husband Donovan.

She was born April 27, 1914, in Ellenboro Township of Grant County, Wisconsin, the daughter of Elder William and Antonie (Spease) Matthews.

She and Donovan "Doc" were married May 9, 1938, in Dubuque, Iowa, and enjoyed a union of nearly sixty-four years. They spent

most of their lives farming in the Lancaster area, retiring to town in 1961, where Sylvia worked for an attorney and was active in the Women's Relief Corp in Lancaster.

Sister Sylvia became a member of the Church of Christ when she was baptized in 1927 by Apostle C. L. Wheaton, and remained steadfast in faith throughout her walk of life.

Surviving are her husband Donovan, Sister Beth Stivarious and a brother, Clyde Matthews, of Lancaster, and Sister Kitty Crone of

McMinnville, Oregon, many nieces and nephews and sister-in-law Helen Hensil of Milwaukee.

Our dear Sister Sylvia will be missed by all those who came to know and love her, but do take comfort in knowing she is with our Lord and Saviour in His paradise.



OBITUARY

Arthur Eugene Gould

April 6, 1912 ~ June 9, 2001

Arthur Eugene Gould was born to Leon A. Gould and Alice E. (Anderson) Gould on April 6, 1912, in Bemidji, Minnesota. He was raised and educated near Bemidji. His father was a long time missionary and an apostle of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

Eugene went home to be with Jesus Saturday afternoon, June 9, 2001, after being hospitalized for several weeks.

He was married to Bernice Schultz on June 26, 1938, in Bemidji. The couple also lived in various other locations in Oregon and Missouri, enjoying nearly 63 years of happiness. They lived in Junction City, Kansas, for the past few years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four sisters, two brothers and two of his children.

He is survived by his wife and three children and their spouses: a son, Raymond and Maurine Gould of Junction City,



Kansas; two daughters, Elizabeth and Melvin Tabler of Odessa, Missouri, Shirley and Gary Reeds of Springfield, Missouri; one brother, Don Gould, of Bemidji; Minnesota; three sisters, Darlene Smith of Ava, Missouri, Amy Schrader of Kansas City, Missouri, Helen Taubert of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Eugene was an active minister in the Church of Christ for

over sixty years. He enjoyed gardening. He loved children, especially his grandchildren. He was loved by all who knew him.

The funeral service was at the Londeen Funeral Chapel in Chapman, Kansas, June 13, 2001, with Apostle Frank Fann in charge, assisted by Apostle Roland Sarratt. Music was provided by Becky Rudd, Amy Schrader, Melissa Seibel, Roland Sarratt and Joyce Meyer.

The final resting place was at the Highland Cemetery in Junction City.

God saw he was getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So he put His arms around him,
And whispered, "Come with me."

With tearful eyes we watched
Him suffer and saw him fade away.
Although we couldn't bear to lose him,
We could not bid him to stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands laid to rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

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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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