

# 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—SEPTEMBER 2001

NUMBER 9

## *Power in Prayer*

*We kneel how weak, we rise how full of power.  
Why therefore should we do ourselves this wrong,  
Or others—that we are not always strong,  
That we are ever overborne with care,  
That we should ever weak or heartless be,  
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,  
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee?*

*—R. C. Trench—*

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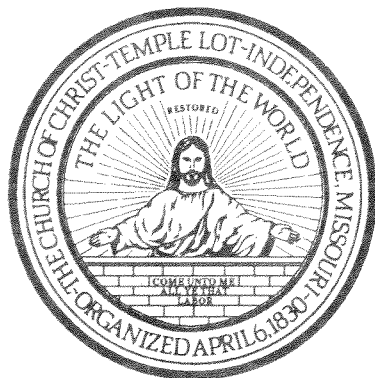
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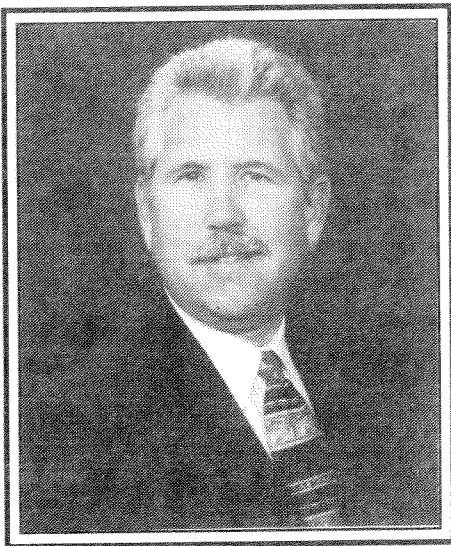
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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

ARTICLE

# OBEDIENCE to God's Word



By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

There is a fallacy in the world today about the need for obedience. The world's concept begins with several truths, but then Satan wedges in a false doctrine that seems to be acceptable

in today's religions who profess to be of the Christian faith.

FIRST CONCEPT: THE BELIEF THAT GOD IS LOVE.

This, of course, is true, for if God was not a God of love, we would have no hope. Without God's love there would have been no redemption made for our sins and we would all perish.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be*

The requirement for salvation is putting the Word of God into practice in our life. This practice is called "Obedience."

*saved"* John 3:16, 17.

SECOND CONCEPT: GOD WANTS US TO BE HAPPY.

This is true. We can experience great happiness in life because of the blessings of God. More importantly than happiness for the short period we have in this mortal

- ▶ 2001 REFERENDUM RESULTS: Bill #1: Yes 536; No, 33
- Bill #2: Yes, 536; No, 34
- Bill #3: Yes, 503; No, 70

All three referendum bills passed with the required 2/3 majority in favor.

*Yours in Christ,  
Referendum Committee*

body, God desires for us eternal happiness.

*“And he hath brought to pass the redemption of the world, whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day, hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God, in a state of happiness which hath no end”* Mormon 3:29.

THIRD CONCEPT: THE LAW OF MOSES IS FULFILLED AND WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE, NOT WORKS.

This is true; man is not able to redeem himself with his feeble efforts. For man is but a sinner by birth and thus can not fully accomplish all that is necessary to become sinless before God. We must recognize and accept the grace of God and the infinite atonement made by the sinless sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...”* Eph 2:8.

*“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament”* Heb 7:19, 22.

FOURTH CONCEPT: GOD WANTS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED.

This is true. It has been the plan of God even before He created the earth that

**Scripture clearly tells us there will be a separation of the wicked and the righteous.**

the way would be prepared that man might come unto him and have salvation. He created us for the purpose of fellowship with Him, and He desires that none shall be lost.

*“And he inviteth them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; And he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; And he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile”* 2 Ne 11:113-115.

*“And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them, saying, Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands, and in my feet, that ye may know that I am*

*the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.”* 3 Ne 5:14.

FIFTH CONCEPT: EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED.

This is where we have to separate ourselves from the more modern beliefs prevailing in today's world. This idea usually comes from those who do not want to commit or surrender their life over to the Lord. Rather, they chose to live their lives in pursuit of their own interests, pleasures and many times the lusts of the flesh. Scripture clearly tells us there will be a separation of the wicked and the righteous.

*“And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...”* Mat 25:33, 34, 40, 41.

**SIXTH CONCEPT:** TO BE SAVED ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CONFESS WE BELIEVE AND ACCEPT JESUS AS A PERSONAL SAVIOR.

Again, this is becoming a modern and common belief in the religious society of those calling themselves Christians. However, it is a lie of Satan, and scripture clearly states that salvation requires more than belief on Jesus or hearing the words of God.

*"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" Mat 7:21-23.*

The requirement for salvation is putting the Word of God into practice in our life. This practice is called "Obedience." The following is an overview on the subject of obedience.

1. JESUS REQUIRES OBEDIENCE FROM THOSE WHO BELIEVE
  - A. Proverbs 13:13 - *"he who feareth shall be rewarded"*
  - B. Mosiah 1:57-61 - *"He*

*requires that ye should do as he hath commanded"*

**To support causes, give a few donations, help some one less fortunate than yourself or do charitable works, and then go your own way in disobedience to God's word will not bring about salvation.**

2. WE FIND JESUS HIMSELF WAS OBEDIENT AS AN EXAMPLE TO US.
  - A. Luke 2:52 - *"Unto his parents"* (How can we ever be obedient unto God if we do not learn to be obedient unto our parents and to authority even as Jesus did?)
  - B. Luke 22:42 - *"Unto the Father"*
  - C. Philippians 2:8 - *"Unto death"*
3. GOD REWARDS OBEDIENCE
  - A. Mosiah 1:57-61 - *"Receive his blessings even though we owe Him"*
  - B. Proverbs 13:13 - *"Fear of the commandment shall be rewarded"*
  - C. John 15:10-17 - *"Brings joy, friendship with the Lord, blessings from God"*

- D. Mosiah 1:32 - *"Rejoicing and love of all men"*
  - E. Mosiah 1:87-91 - *"Blessed and Happy, received into heaven"*
4. WHAT DOES OBEDIENCE ACCOMPLISH?
    - A. 1 John 5:2-3 - *"Shows our love, If we love Him we want to keep God's commandments"*
    - B. 1 John 2:3-6 - *"Perfects the Love of God within us"*
    - C. 2 John 6 - *"We walk in the love of God"*
  5. THE STRAIT PATH OF OBEDIENCE
    - A. Matthew 7:13, 14 - *"Enter the strait gate"*
    - B. Mosiah 2:49 - *"But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish."*
  6. SACRIFICE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE
 

A sacrifice according to our desires or dictates is only creating a false concept of charity. To support causes, give a few donations, help some one less fortunate than yourself or do charitable

works, and then go your own way in disobedience to God's word will not bring about salvation.

- A. 1 Samuel 15:22, 23 - *"Obey is better than sacrifice"*
  - B. Mosiah 2:10 and apply Mosiah 2:43, 44 - *"impart your substance and be diligent in keeping the commandments"*
  - C. Matthew 15:8, 9 - *"honor with lips but are far from God, is worship in vain"*
  - D. Proverbs 15:8, 9 - *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness."*
7. HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH OBEDIENCE IN OUR LIVES?
- A. Luke 11:28 - *"Hear the word of God and keep it"*
  - B. James 1:22-25 - *"Be doer of the word not just hearers."* (We should not deceive ourselves, rationalizing our actions and sins or situations as if they are somehow unique and not covered in the scripture, or that God will excuse us even though he forbids everyone one else.)
  - C. Mosiah 2:12-17 - *"Believe in God and believe in His wisdom."*  
This applies even when we may not understand, or with our

human reasoning we think there is a better

**True happiness in this life and the life to come comes only by obedience.**

course to take for our situation.

- Proverbs 16:25, *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*
- D. Mosiah 1:113-118 - *"Become as a little child"* (One that is dependent and submissive to the will of a parent)
- E. Mosiah 1:120 - *"Put off the natural man; yield to direction of the Holy Spirit"* (The natural man seeks it own desires and lusts of the flesh contrary to God, spirit will move upon you to encourage to do what is right before God, but we must listen.)

**L**et us conclude by returning to the concept of God's desire for our happiness. True happiness in this life and the life to come comes only by obedience. With obedience to God's word we become partakers of the sacrifice of Christ and achieve eternal life.

Alma 19:74, 75: *"Behold, I say unto you, Wickedness never was happiness. And now, my son, all men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God; therefore they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness."*

Mormon 3:29, 30: *"And he hath brought to pass the redemption of the world, whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day, hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God, in a state of happiness which hath no end. Therefore repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus, and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record, but also in the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews, which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you."*

# To Work on the SABBATH DAY

**B**rothers and Sisters, it is a hard thing to rebuke the ones you love, especially when I am less than perfect, but I feel it is from the Lord.

Do the scriptures not say that you are not to work on the Sabbath, you or your son or your animals? Can we teach these commandments with any authority to the world if we ourselves justify our deeds?

I have endeavored to teach my children not to be like the world on the Lord's day, and being isolated, this is difficult enough, but they see the example of our leaders, who not only work on the Sabbath, but also allow their children to do the same. I see these jobs being justified in our own eyes, but our children see it for what it is: you work on the Sabbath; so can I!

Did God make any exceptions to the rule? Is He a respecter of persons? Is it right for one and wrong for another? Were there amendments like, "You can work on

the Sabbath if you do this for me?"

The whole world is watching what we do. Even the church in Africa says, "If you see us doing anything wrong, tell us."

I would ask you, what are you teaching your children about this? It is one of the original ten commandments, isn't it, to keep the Sabbath day Holy? Can we break God's commands in order to serve Him better? So others justify their sin because they see our sin. This burden should never have been. When you look for a job, you say, I can't work on the Sabbath, period.

So what do we do when we get in a mess? Repent, pray for direction, start anew, put your foot back in the right path. This is harsh, I know, and the things of the Lord are not always easy. It is hard for the weak ones to stand by as sinners mock their ministry and church.

I think I understand when He says, "They grind the face of the poor." Is there

a two-sided answer to this question or a double standard, when your child comes to ask, "Can I work on the Sabbath?"?

Many scriptures come to my mind, like, Be ye steadfast and immovable, serve God and Keep His commandments, if you break one of the least of these commandments and teach men so, etc. and so on.

I think I have said enough. I invite any comments: chastisement is never pleasant, on the receiving or the giving end. My heart is with you and for you as it ever has been.

*With love,  
Sister Kathy Cloyd*

# A Good Attitude

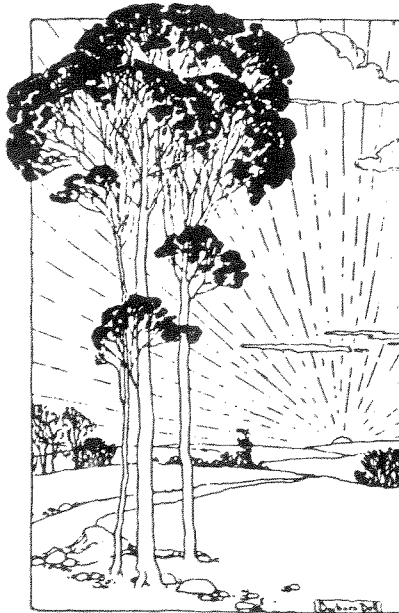
By Plácido Matú

I recently went to Chunchuhub, Quintana Roo, México. It is a town of about 3,000 people. Even though they have had difficult times, there is still a Church of Christ there. I went to preach at a special occasion for a young girl—it was her fifteenth birthday.

It is a custom in México to give a big party. But for Nidia Rebeca it was a good opportunity to give thanks to the Lord and to invite her friends to go to church. Nidia Rebeca arrived at church with a very pretty white dress. She was accompanied by her parents. They listened to the sermon sitting in the front row.

Rebeca seemed to be impressed by the occasion. She looked radiant as she prayed and gave a brief speech about her plans. She also thanked all the people for coming to her party. It was a very good service and a beautiful night. After the service we went to her house, which was about seven blocks from church.

Her house is made of wood and the roof is made of straw. Many houses in México are made like that because they are fresh in the summertime; on the other



PATHLIGHTS

hand, they are cold in the winter. We enjoyed the party, and of course the good food. The name of the food was "posole." During the party, Rebeca visited with each guest and came to my table to ask me if I enjoyed the party. Since it was a special occasion I drank three me-

dium bottles of coke, but ONLY FOR THAT PARTY. Because I was having a very good conversation with the pastor of the local there, it didn't seem like too much. After that, a Kodak moment! Nidia came to my table to ask me for a picture with her. I did not notice how quickly the time passed during that beautiful party. When I saw my watch it was almost twelve midnight.

It was another of my good experiences with young people. I like to see them doing things for the Lord and I am sure that it was something that Nidia is not going to forget in her entire life. In my sermon I pointed out that in her life, many times she needs to say "no." I think she understood because she was listening very carefully. It was wonderful! Today I want to encourage the young people to do good things for our Heavenly Father, and to listen carefully to the sermon in church, because God always has something to tell them.



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

### BAPTISM—the Third Principle

Baptism is the burying into much water, for taking away our sins. There is no other way to cleanse our sins away. After we have FAITH in God and we REPENT of our sins, we can be baptized by one with the authority given by God. We must be at an ‘age of accountability’ to be baptized; that’s knowing the difference between right and wrong.

Jesus set this example for us to follow. He went to John the baptist (called that because he taught repentance and baptism). John knew Jesus, by the Spirit, as being the Christ. He did not feel good enough to baptize Jesus. He said, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

And also, John said, *“I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?”* Jesus answered, *“Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.”* And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water, and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* (John 1:26-31 and Matthew 3:13-17).

Even though Jesus was perfect, without sin, He was baptized to set the example for us.

Baptism, as told to us in the Scriptures, is a symbolic burying of a person in much water after Faith and Repentance.

Except a man be born again (baptized), he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The Scriptures are firm on the fact that it takes much water to baptize, not sprinkling or pouring.

And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”* (Matthew 28:18-20).

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

### BAPTISM—the Third Principle

**Questions** to ask class: (can be used as a refresher in an extra week’s class)

1. What is baptism?
2. When are we ready for baptism?
3. Why do we need to be baptized?
4. Where are we to be baptized?
5. Who are we to be baptized by?
6. How are we to be baptized?
7. Then what happens?

### **Answers:**

1. A symbolic burying in much water to cleanse away our sins.
2. When we have reached the age of accountability where we know right from wrong. Also, we should have a FAITH through learning and have REPENTED of past wrongs.
3. To follow the example set by Jesus and to follow the commandments of God.
4. In much water.
5. By one having authority given him by God.
6. An elder or priest, called by God, in the Church of Christ, walks the person down into the water about waist deep. The elder or priest raises his open right hand with fingers extended toward heaven, while with the left hand he holds the person’s clasped hands. He says the person’s name and then: *“Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen”* (III Nephi 5:25). Then he lays the person down into the water and under the water, until the person is completely covered, using his right hand under the person’s shoulders to ease the person down under. Then he lifts the person back up to a standing position and they walk out of the water together.
7. Then the Laying on of Hands by an elder takes place for the reception of the Holy Spirit (we will study this next week). And, in most churches, if the person desires, there is a Hand of Fellowship where each member of the congregation gets an opportunity to welcome the new brother or sister into the Church of Christ.

Next lesson is the **Laying on of Hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit.**

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

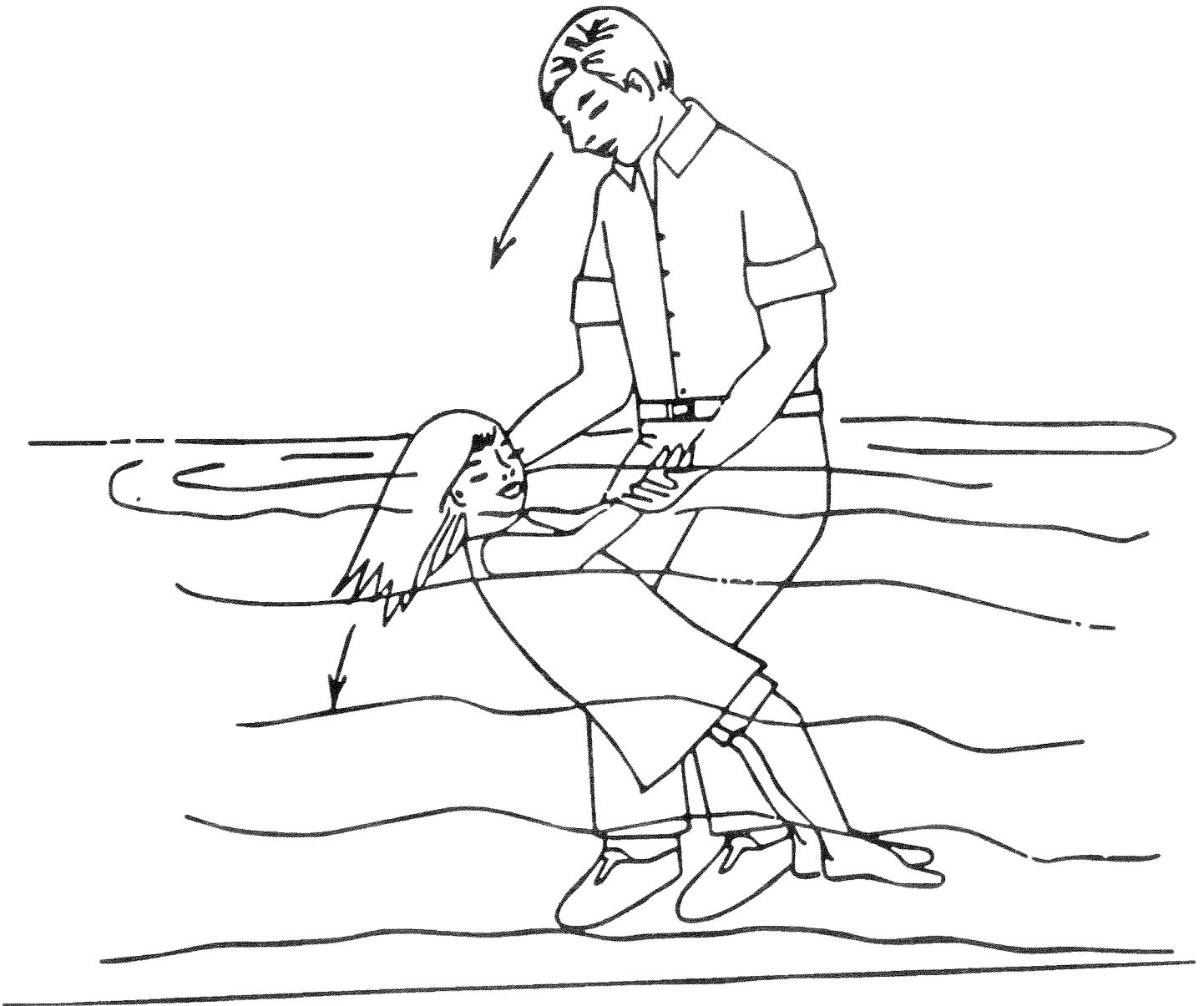
Here is a picture depicting baptism to color.



**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

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

Here is another picture depicting baptism to color.



**REUNION REPORT**

# New York Reunion Report

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters,  
I apologize for the lateness of this report.

The New York Reunion was held on July 6-8, 2001, at the Akwesasne local. It was very nice to see many of our Canadian brothers and sisters again, along with new faces from the States. It is wonderful to realize the vastness of our "family."

## **Friday, July 6, 7:00 PM**

**T**he evening opened with song and prayer. The opening hymns that we sang started a theme that carried through the reunion - "The Spirit of God" and "Have You Counted the Cost?"

Elder Ken Oar was the first speaker of the reunion. He reminded us that the Scriptures are plain about the times in which we live. He asked if we have counted the cost of not yielding completely to God, of not turning from sin. Ken also asked us to contemplate "eternity." As Ken reminded us that a wrong that takes only a few minutes to commit in this life could keep us from spending eternity with our Heavenly Father.

Ken also asked us to think about what we do and how we act when we are alone. Then he reminded us that we are not truly alone because God looks upon us. While we may be able to fool others about our actions and thoughts, we are unable to fool God.

Another reminder was that Christ's call to each of us is to be separated from the world. We are to be a

witness of Christ wherever we are and whatever we do. Our duty is to serve God. God will help us to overcome the things of the world. We must watch and pray always.

Among the scriptures that Brother Ken used during his sermon were: Ecc. 12:13-14; Alma 19:104-107; Luke 21:36; Mosiah 2:12-21; 2 Peter 1:4-10; Eph. 5:25-27; Mosiah 3:6-9; Mosiah 9:39-41; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 3 Nephi 5:32-42 and Moroni 10:29-31.

As a closing hymn, we sang "Trust and Obey." After this service, we enjoyed fellowship and snacks.

## **Saturday, July 7, 9:00 AM**

**B**rother Jim Yates led the group in opening songs, "Lord, We come" and "In Thy Name, O Lord."

Jim reminded us to listen to the still small voice, and that we are a peculiar people. The gospel is built upon love and concern for our fellow man. Therefore, we should watch and pray always. Jim used the following verses to strengthen his words: 3 Nephi 8:47 and 3 Nephi 8:50.

We followed Jim's words with a season of prayer.

At 11:00 AM, we started the next service with a special by Marn Viveen's grandson, Shane, who sang, "Blessed Assurance." Elder Max Spencer was the speaker of the hour for this service.

Brother Max started the hour with this thought: Even though the Ten Commandments were on two tablets, some people still think they are too

large to swallow.

In Gen. 3:1, Adam and Eve died a spiritual death. We were reminded that sin is like the serpent. It enters into our lives small and cute, then it causes us to err. As we are not perfect, we all sin every day. We must strive and seek perfection. We need the Lord. Brother Max reminded us that we must pray always, for that which is right, believing that you shall receive, by referring to the following scriptures: 3 Nephi 8:42-49, 51.

Max told us we should be aware of the difference in these two statements: "Believe in God" and "Believe God." We should learn from other's mistakes, so we don't have to make the same mistakes. For the closing scripture, Max referred us to Matt 18: 11-14. This reminded us that as the shepherd left the 99 sheep to look for the lost one, there was a small feeling of guilt that one should be lost. We have all felt a similar gnawing guilty feeling at one time or another in our lives.

At 2:00 PM Laura Gill directed our song service. Many lovely songs were offered, with specials from Laura, Marn Viveen's grandson, Chris, and Mya'lee Tarbell. Mya was a little shy about singing by herself, so Laura helped out.

At 2:30 PM, Brother Keith Hoare started the service with a question about his sermon last year at the NY reunion: What would you do if Jesus arrived on your doorstep? Then we were all asked if we were better than we were a year ago. Quite thought provok-

ing questions for us all.

Keith reminded us that our goal should not be to compete with the other churches, but to be like Christ; to endure to the end. We must watch daily how we act and what we do. Many times we try to figure out man's way to solve a problem. But if we just go to the Lord, answers are there. We only need to listen to the still small voice.

Among the scriptures that Keith used were: 1 Nephi 4:58; Hebrews 1:1-2; John 14:1; John 1: 1-4, 14; John 14:2-14.

Keith also reminded us that we must seek first the kingdom of God. We need to work now for our rewards in heaven. We were again reminded to follow the commandments of God.

After Keith's sermon, we enjoyed dinner and fellowship.

At 6:30 PM, another song service was held. Many songs were offered, including some specials. One of the specials was offered by all the women, another by all the men. I apologize for not including the hymns, but I did not write them down.

Our last service of the day started

at 7:00 PM. Apostle Brickhouse was the speaker of the hour. Before he spoke, Sisters Gretchen Tarbell and Wanda Yates sang "I Surrender All." As Brother Hubert Yates was introducing the speaker, he shared that preaching is a serious business; but it is also fun and a joy, not only for the audience, but also for the speaker.

As Buzz started his sermon, he reminded us that we should write down the blessings and miracles that we receive. Then we can look back and see how God answers our prayers.

Through the slides that Buzz brought, we were able to "see" many of our new brothers and sisters in Kenya. We learned of some of the trials that the Kenya missionaries have endured, along with many of the blessings and miracles. We learned that there are 19 different locations in Kenya with 300 members. The Gospel is truly being taught and preached around the world. How wonderful to see the results of the missionaries' efforts!

We enjoyed a question and answer period following the slide presentation. After the service, we continued to enjoy

fellowship.

### Sunday, July 7, 9:00 AM

A sacrament service was held. Brother Hubert Yates spoke reminding us how important it is to realize that we each have a Savior twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Also, there is one power that can overcome Satan—Jesus, the son of God. Many wonderful prayers and testimonies were shared.

"Living for Jesus" was the closing hymn.

After the service, we enjoyed a cookout lunch.

At 7:00 PM, a study session was held for all those who could attend.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:borsted@ix.netcom.com)

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

## NEWS

## TEMPLE LOT LOCAL

**W**e truly are a blessed people! It has been exciting to be in Independence the past few months because there have been so many instances and witnesses of God's goodness and work in our lives. It seems only appropriate to share these occurrences with you, our brothers and sisters, so we may rejoice together.

If you don't mind, I'd like to begin with some somewhat dated news. Saturday, June 16, Tabitha Sheldon (daughter of Becky and Elder Randy Sheldon) and Matt Case (son of Barbara and Elder John Case) entered into the sacred covenant of marriage. Elder Andy Brown of Phoenix, Arizona, conducted the ceremony at the Temple Lot. The following morning, Matt was ordained as an elder in the Church of Christ. Matt's grandfather, Elder/Evangelist Marvin Case offered the prayer of ordination and John Case assisted.

Recently, Mark Hill and Don Case were also called and ordained as elders in the Church of Christ. We can praise and thank our Heavenly Father for hearing and answering our prayers! I can remember a time, not so distant, when many services were held solely to petition our Lord for the calling of more ministry.

July 1, prior to the Sunday evening preaching service, a 13-year-old young man named Joshua Bryant (son of John Bryant) made a precious promise to his Savior by entering the waters of baptism.

Vacation Church School recently concluded (July 9-13). This annual

scripture study for children was hosted by the Temple Lot this summer, because the usual site, the East Local, was under construction. It was an exercise in imagination to furnish adequate space for classes and activities within the Temple Lot, but with God's wisdom and intervention the school was a success. The kids came away with valuable instruction to "Pray without ceasing," (I Thessalonians 5:17). All the students shared what they learned throughout their week at Bible School via a program of skits and songs.

From the program I gained stronger understanding of the purity and humility of children eager to serve their Lord. It is so amazing and encouraging that already the young are allowing their light to glow in a dark world.

Sunday, July 15, our congregation witnessed the blessing of five-month-old Elijah Adams Denhamcontreras, son of Ginger. His grandparents are Nathan and Ana Denham. Apostle Roland Sarratt and Elder/Pastor Alvin Harris performed the ordinance.

Our church family celebrated Marvin and Edith Case's fiftieth wedding anniversary July 28.

Around the time of wedding anniversaries, the seasoned members of our church often point out to the youth that it is not impossible to love and cherish the same mate all of your days, even when divorce statistics seem to support the opposite. Because I know all things are possible with God, I believe the words of the elder and wiser who say: "See, it can be done, folks."

Teen Challenge 2001 at Camp Far Westa in Stewartsville, Missouri, was an

extremely fun and spiritually rewarding experience. The theme for camp was from Titus 2:12, 13.

As a final-year camper, I would really like to express how much the experiences of camp have enriched my life, and how thankful I am for the preparation, hard work, and sacrifices our teachers, counselors, cooks, and ministry make for those adolescents who attend each year. Camp is a terrific blessing!

I cannot speak for everyone, but the Missouri Reunion that follows Teen Challenge has always been a special experience for me. Aside from the opportunity to fellowship with my brothers and sisters from around the globe, it is a chance to feel God's spirit in great magnitude and hear the true words of God delivered through His servants in the ministry. I really felt that the underlying message of both camp and reunion is that we, as the Body of Christ, have an urgent and awesome responsibility to ready not only ourselves, but the world, for Christ's return.

As recorded in Matthew 9:37-38, Christ told His disciples that, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Praise God that He has called us to be "laborers." God bless each of you. My prayers are with you, and I know yours are with me.

*Reporter,  
Heather Palmer*

## NEWS

## COLLINS, MISSOURI

**G**reetings to all our Brothers and Sisters. Allen and I were privileged to attend the Missouri Reunion. It was also our grandson's first time to attend camp. He really enjoyed it and plans already to attend next year. I would like all the counselors and C.I.T.s to know that their hard work and great patience is very much appreciated.

We have a couple of folks who have moved to our vicinity and are able to pop in for services from time to time. Paul and Sharon Likeness live in the Clinton area now, so we are looking forward to their visits here. Also Donald, Tracie, and Miss Catherine Gill from the Sedalia area have been keeping company with us too. Leann Yates and her children have moved to the Independence area where Leann has a job and is attending church at one of the locals there. We will miss her and her family—oh, and be sure to ask her to sing a special now and then. She's wonderful!

Michelle (Harrison) Houston, who lives in the Houston, Texas, area, was visiting her mother, Nancy (Yates) Harrison, of Preston recently. We seldom get to see

our pretty Michelle since she married and moved away. However, this time when she came to visit she brought her sweet baby boy and asked to have him blessed. So, Elders Allen Kauffman and Jack Martin were privileged to hold up little Ryder Harrison Houston for a blessing of God. What a sweet baby!

Jack and Betty Martin have been a little under the weather lately. Jack has—but is about over—shingles. It has caused him a great deal of pain and almost no appetite, which has made a lot of his clothes too big! Betty has also had problems with a lack of appetite and some depression. I'm sure they both would appreciate an interest in your prayers. These are two of the dearest people I know.

I'll close my "over-due" news report with some sermon quotes I have kept for you. Hope you will consider them.

- *How conscious are we of the will of the Father?*
- *It's our choice whether we want to follow after Christ or not. We're going to spend eternity somewhere—it's our choice where.*
- *It wasn't the nails that kept Jesus on the cross—it was His love for us.*

- *When you ask for directions, I hope you ask a living man—Jesus Christ.*
- *We've got to depend on the written word.*
- *We can be guilty by an act of omission.*
- *People notice constantly what you do and what you say. You could be a "stumbling block" to someone around you.*
- *Maybe no one recognized that you were a Christian....*
- *Read God's word, recognize the Standard, don't be ignorant of His word.*
- *It doesn't matter if you agree—this is what you have to do.*
- *Don't underestimate the wisdom and knowledge of Satan.*
- *Oh,—and "Keep your hat on straight!"*

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

## NEWS

## PHOENIX, ARIZONA

**G**reetings from Phoenix! In April Apostle Brian McIndoo traveled to Kenya while others were spreading out to both coasts of our own continent. Elder Ken Oar was joined in New York by his kids Rebecca and Matt for a trip to Palmyra, sponsored by the Hogansburg, New York, local. On the other side of the country, Apostle Joel Yates and Elder Jeff Oldham conducted a Youth Retreat in

Yakima, Washington. The weekend activities centered on the scripture Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" The kids participated in two theme studies and attended a preaching service on Sunday. In between the spiritual activities was lots of good outdoor fun: softball, a scavenger hunt and a float trip down the Sadis River.

Brother Brian McIndoo returned from Kenya in May with more pictures and

inspiring stories about the dedication of our brothers and sisters there. On arriving in Kenya, Apostles McIndoo and Brickhouse greeted thirteen new members who had been baptized by Elder Moses Ohuru. While there Brothers McIndoo and Brickhouse were privileged to baptize 26 new members and bless ten babies. As of May 13, we had 286 members in Kenya.

Back at home on May 13 we honored our moms and sisters in the gospel who are like mothers to us or are examples of the kind of mothers we strive to be.



On May 14 Elders Bob Hedrick and Joel Yates traveled to the Northwest to counsel with a young couple contemplating marriage.

On May 19 we took a trip back in time with a "Fifties" night. Our pastor served up a feast of fried chicken and potato salad. After a highly competitive hula hoop contest and a few games of paddle ball we were treated to an after dinner show. Our D. J., Johnny Rocket (AKA Bob Hedrick), introduced several memorable singers and musical groups who performed their versions of some Golden Oldies.

On May 26 Joel Yates, Duane and Kathy Ely, and Gordon and Pat McCann were in Colorado attending the funeral of Pat and Duane's father, Bob Ely. Brother Joel conducted the funeral service. Bob was one of those people whose loving spirit uplifted and encouraged all he knew. He always had a hug or a kind word for everyone. We'll miss you Bob.

On May 28, we began our Vacation Church School. The Wednesday before VCS we had special prayer that God would bless our efforts. He answered those prayers with His peace and guidance.

On June 13, Elder Ken Oar and daughter Rebecca headed out for a missionary trip through the Midwest and Southern U. S.

On June 17, we gave thanks for our fathers and father figures with songs, readings and testimonies.

During the month of June, Apostles Don McIndoo and Jay Moser continued to minister in Mexico and Honduras. They brought home some very encouraging testimonies about the enthusiasm of our brothers and sisters there.

On June 20 Pastor Gordon McCann held a meeting to discuss and answer questions about the referendum ballots sent out by the General Conference.

On June 27 we met in fasting and prayer for brothers and sisters throughout the church with serious health needs. We

were blessed with a very sweet spirit in our meetings. Each time we meet in fasting and prayer it strengthens us all.

We kicked off the month of July with an Independence Day program. We sang and listened to special songs and readings, thanking God for our heritage of freedom and entreating Him to heal our land.

During July people from Phoenix again fanned out to both coasts for church activities. Apostle Brian McIndoo, daughter Holly, Priest Duane Ely, wife Kathy and daughter Michelle attended the Alaska Reunion on July 7 and 8. Brother McIndoo preached and conducted a class on the 12th chapter of Revelation. Brother Ely and Elder Rodger Bruner of Missouri also delivered sermons. An impression from Alaska: "The people there made you feel so welcome. The sermons and studies were thought provoking."

The following weekend, Brother McIndoo was joined by his wife Becky at the Idaho Reunion on July 14 and 15. An impression from Idaho: "Everybody felt very close even though small in number. The Lord did what He said and He was there among us."

On the other side of the continent, people from Phoenix were attending the New York Reunion on July 6, 7, and 8. Elder Ken Oar was joined there by his wife Marlene, son Tim, Elder Hubert Yates, Elder Jim Yates and Jim's wife Wanda. An impression from New York: "It went by so fast. The spirit was there in greater abundance than I have ever felt it before."

The following weekend several of the Reunion guests were privileged to stay over for the beautiful wedding of RYANNE Tarbell and Marcello Araujo. Elder Oar ministered in New York for another week after the other Phoenix folks had gone home.

Apostle Don McIndoo returned home in July from a six-week trip to Mexico and Honduras. Brother McIndoo was able to preach in a new village called Oculi where Brothers Ronnie Gill and Gustavo

Sevilla had recently held a study. Interest is high and the people of Oculi would like to meet every week.

On the 20, 21, and 22 Brother McIndoo participated in a Youth Reunion in Cancun, Mexico. Thirty-two enthusiastic young people attended. Brother McIndoo was joined from the Estados Unidos by Teacher Dan Lawrence and his wife Manon. Brother Lawrence alternated with Brother McIndoo, Brother Placido Jr. and Brother Guadalupe Canche in teaching the Young People's classes. Sister Manon taught a choir who performed some beautiful songs for the Reunion.

We are thankful to have Apostles Jay Moser and Frank Fann of Missouri home safely from their trip to the Philippines! Even greater than our happiness and relief to have our brothers back is the joy of welcoming 36 new brothers and sisters into the family of Christ! The first Church of Christ Mission in the Philippines was organized in Panabo on July 15. A Sunday School organization was formed to continue the work there. Brother Moser and Brother Fann ministered to people from several "barangays" (villages) and are very hopeful of the work growing there on future trips.

We are so appreciative of the e-mails our missionary brothers send us from their trips. Whether it's slipping and sliding on a muddy road in Kenya, climbing a mountain trail in Honduras, studying in a hut or worshipping in a jungle clearing, we feel like we're right there. We're so grateful to be allowed to share in this part of history.

*Marlene Oar*

OBITUARY

# Edna Rae Smith

May 7, 1914~August 4, 2001

**E**dna R. Smith, 87, of Independence, Missouri, passed away Saturday, August 4, 2001, at Rosewood Health Center. Edna was born May 7, 1914, in Evansville, Wisconsin, to Bert C. Flint and Freda A. Flint. She was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

Edna was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth. They had just celebrated their 54th anniversary a couple of weeks before his death. She was also preceded in death by both of her sisters, Virgie and Verna, and her only brother, Orville.

Edna is survived by her children, Alexander H. Smith and wife Carol of Raymore, Missouri; Kenneth J. Smith and wife



Sharon of Independence, Missouri; Robert O. Smith and wife Kathy of Overland Park, Kansas, and June C. Sarratt and husband

Roland of Independence, Missouri; 11 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; and 3 great great grandchildren.

Services were held at the Speaks Suburban Chapel in Independence, Missouri, August 9, 2001, at 2:00 p.m., with Apostle Frank Fann in charge, assisted by Elder Lawrence Beem. Interment was at the Oak Ridge Memory Gardens in Independence. Pallbearers were Eric L. Sarratt, Christian Lee Smith, Cary Patrick Smith, Michael D. Smith, Daniel Ray Smith and Christopher Wade Smith.

# *A Tribute to My Grandmother*

Your eyes are closed. Your voice silent.

But you still speak to me.

I hear your laughter, loud and clear

The song you sing is sweet.

The things you'd say ring in my ears

The many 'bricks' you wanted placed on  
our heads.

To keep us from growing taller.

"That cart is off kilter," you'd say.

Your lips are still, but I can see your smile

And though you're not here in a certain way,

What you taught us remains and lives on in  
our heads

Like how to give, how to love, how to pray.

To believe, trust, and wait for the hand of  
the Lord

To keep holding on, when the road seems  
too tough

But, mostly you said, "it's the little things  
that matter."

Like Yahtzee dice in Grandpa's coffee cup.

How you said you couldn't have sugar.

"Okay, maybe just a smidgel!"

How you said you need "something for  
company."

How we always found Bon-bons in your  
fridge.

It's hard to let go, hard to say goodbye.

I'm not sure the Lord really wanted it this  
way.

But, now you are wrapped tight in His  
loving arms.

No tears will grace your eyes, there's no  
loneliness or pain.

It's hard to let go, hard to say goodbye.

To your loveliness, your love, your grace.

But I know I'll see you again one day.

With the beauty of God on your face.

Peace and joy are finally yours

And though it seems that you are gone

Your memory lives forever in my heart

For I know I'll always be your "sugar plum."

—by Jamie R. Smith

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The 2002 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 29 & 30. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 2002 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9, 10 and 11, at Independence, Missouri.

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