

# 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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*"...In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace,  
our wives, and our children..."*

—Alma 21:41—

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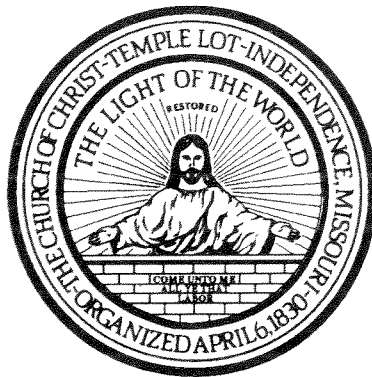
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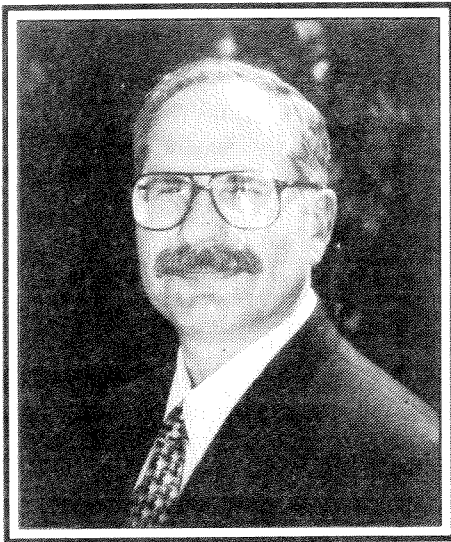
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

# POSSESS the Land!



By Apostle Mike McGhee

“Woe to the land shadowing with wings,” Isaiah 18.

*The Marvelous Work and Wonder*, by Daniel MacGregor, explains this land to be the continents of North and South America, with the United States of America as the land upon which verse 3 points.

“All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.”

As we consider this na-

tion and its people we find it is truly a blessed land, with our borders open to receive all that have a desire to participate in the world’s greatest experiment, that of a republic with liberty for all.

“And thus the Lord did pour out his blessings upon this land, which was choice above all other lands; and he commanded that whoso should possess the land, should possess it unto the Lord, or they should be destroyed when they were ripened in iniquity; for upon such, saith the Lord, I will pour out the fullness of my wrath,” Ether 4:22.

Take time, each of you, to number the blessings of this, our homeland. The wealth of the waters that protect, provide transportation, food and quench our need for daily water. The fertile earth that provides not only for our own but allows us to care for the needs of others, bread to maintain life and fill the physical hunger. The minerals and precious things found deep within the

As we consider this nation and its people we find it is truly a blessed land, with our borders open to receive all that have a desire to participate in the world’s greatest experiment, that of a republic with liberty for all.

ground which we count as riches. With these blessings comes a responsibility; more than that, it is a sacred duty:

“...He commanded that whoso should possess the land, should possess it unto the Lord.... And he had sworn in his wrath unto the Brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should

be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them. And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written" Ether 1:30-35.

Again in these verses it speaks of possessing the land by serving the true and only God. Each of us are guaranteed choice by the true God. As a nation and a people we are drifting apart from God

towards iniquity. The scriptures describe this time as ripening, and God waits until a nation is fully ripe before

**The nature of our natural man is always quick to sin and slow to remember God.**

He lifts His protective hand. The nature of our natural man is always quick to sin and slow to remember God. These verses also name the God of the land whom we are to serve as Jesus Christ.

"And now it came to pass that when Moroni, who was the chief commander of the armies of the Nephites, had heard of these dissensions, he was angry with Amalickiah. And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it, In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children; and he fastened it upon the end of a pole thereof. And he fastened on his head-plate, and his breastplate, and his shields, and girded on his armor about his loins; and he took the pole, which had on the end thereof his rent coat (and he called it the title of liberty), And he bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his God

for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren so long as there should be a band of Christians remain to possess the land; For thus were all the true believers of Christ, who belonged to the church of God, called, by those who did not belong to the church; and those who did belong to the church, were faithful; Yea, all those who were the true believers in Christ, took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or Christians, as they were called, because of their belief in Christ, who should come; and therefore, at this time, Moroni prayed that the cause of the Christians, and the freedom of the land might be favored" Alma 21:40-45.

As the events of September 11, 2001, played out, each of us were witness to the disbelief, shock, sorrow, fear and loss of individuals—as a people and a nation. As the flag of our nation was displayed with pride and with the warmth of love instead of disdain and reproach I remembered this passage:

"And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it, In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children; and he fastened it upon the end of a pole thereof... (and he called it the title of liberty)" vs 41, 42.

Representative Gephardt from the state of Missouri said: "Terrorists believe liberty is our weakness; it is our strength!"

“Thus saith the Lord God: It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land” Ezekiel 38:10-12.

This evil thought has been the subject of many sermons and classes. The ones I have attended usually concluded that the evil thought would be some sort of armed invasion—an army, if you will, invading the land of unwalled villages, to them that dwell safely, having neither bars nor gates. The terrorists certainly had an evil thought! Did they succeed in taking away our liberty? If liberty is our freedom of movement, then yes! If liberty is taking for granted the blessings of this land, then once again yes! If liberty is only for self and not considering or helping another's struggle through and for life, then yes, they (the terrorists who had an evil thought) removed all these from our lives.

IF LIBERTY is the title

of liberty as Moroni hoisted (“In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children”) then the answer is

**...I am confident this is how we are to possess the land, seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness....**

NO, they did not take away these liberties, but instead caused each of us to REMEMBER the Lord.

Yes, how quick we are to do iniquity, and how slow to remember the Lord God.

How do we POSSESS THE LAND? Do we point the finger and make accusation, or should we instead bend the knee? Remember when Y2K was the fear and concern in all our lives? Everyone had opinions but no one had the answer. In answer to the Body of Christ and our own questions the Council of Apostles met to seek the Lord and ask His divine direction. I remember as we knelt thinking to myself, “What if He does not answer?” This was not doubt in what we were about to ask or doubt in Whom we were asking or His ability to answer. It was a

fear, reverence and love rolled into one about approaching God for an answer that no man held. After a season of prayer we rose and one member relayed to us a scripture and verse which had been given him, but not the knowledge of the content of that verse. We read Matthew 6:33:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

That was our answer then, and I am confident this is how we are to possess the land, seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, not the pointing of fingers. We are to seek on bended knee in fear and love.

How do we POSSESS THE LAND? Does being a member of the Church of Christ entitle us to the possession of this land?

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” Mark 12:30-31.

We are to possess the land in all meekness and humility, loving God with all we are and hope to be in Jesus Christ. Then comes the hard part: we are to love others as



Jesus loves you and I.

## How do we POSSESS THE LAND?

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints..." Ephesians 6:10-18.

We wrestle, according to the scriptures, not against flesh and blood. We are to use all just and lawful means (including arms) to resist the wrongs in this world—our strength! To be fully armored we must put on the armor of God, the **WHOLE** armor of God! The scripture

says having done all, to stand, and that is the measure of faith—to stand!

**We are to possess the land in all meekness and humility, loving God with all we are and hope to be in Jesus Christ.**

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing" Romans 13:1-6.

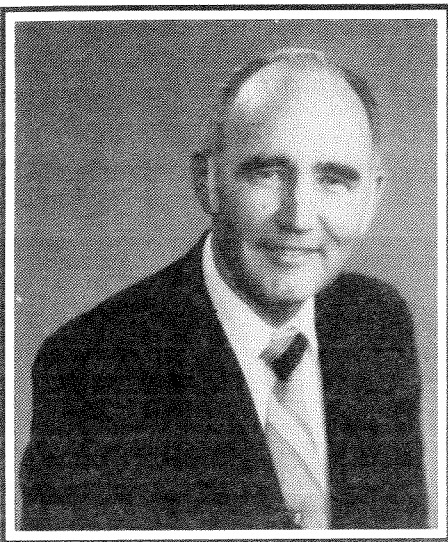
Our President has stated

we are engaged in a struggle of good against evil and "good will prevail." He has further stated we will bring evil men to justice or take justice to evil men.

I am greatly encouraged by the display of our flag and a remembrance of those things precious, such as were displayed on Moroni's title of liberty, prayer in private and in public, thanking God for the blessings of this land, and compassion for others.

Brothers and Sisters, possess the land on bended knee, remembering we are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of this world through Jesus Christ, and to serve the God of the land who is Jesus Christ.

# Caught, Up, In, PROPHETCY



By Apostle Don McIndoo

**M**y last evening in Yucatan, Sunday, March 11th, found me announced as the speaker at the anniversary service for the dedication of the church in Uayalceh (in Maya, "the place where the deer drink"). Sitting at the front of the church, watching the young congregation as they listened to their pastor, I was suddenly overtaken by the Holy Spirit. The knowledge was borne in upon my heart that there were important, basic

principles of which, through my negligence, these young believers were not yet fully aware. In that moment, overcome by emotion, I dedicated myself to the task of developing lessons that would bring to them the basic, and fundamental, teachings of the Restored Gospel.

The first of those lessons was a three-day study about Book of Mormon prophecies (three pages of them) that relate specifically to the indigenous people of America. The lessons included evidences of the fulfillment of those prophecies that had already come to pass, and oh, how these young people reveled in the learning and understanding of these meaningful messages! Today I would ask you, "Are you caught up in, do you revel in those prophecies of the Book of Mormon that relate to God's promises to the Gentile peoples of this land?" I would review a few of them:

**"Are you caught up in, do you revel in those prophecies of the Book of Mormon that relate to God's promises to the Gentile peoples of this land?"**

**"...It is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations..." (2 Nephi 1:16).**

As you think of the war-ravaged nations of Europe, Asia and Africa, doesn't your heart rejoice at the strategic placement of this America to which the Lord guided our forefathers?

**"Wherefore the promises of the Lord are great unto the Gentiles, for he hath spoken it,**

and who can dispute?  
But behold, this land,  
saith God, shall be a  
land of thine inheri-

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tance; and the Gentiles shall be blessed upon the land. And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles: and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations..." (2 Nephi 7:16-19).

The pages of our American history are filled with ample evidences of the veracity of this promise of God to America and her people.

These are the blessings our fathers have known, and they have been passed on to us. So accustomed are we to these marvelous blessings of God, we have come to take them for granted—that is, *until the eleventh of September*. A new world dawned

over America's shores that fateful morning. Now Americans everywhere are wondering—will our children and grandchildren be able to enjoy these precious gifts that have so long been ours?

As one analyzes the pages of the Book of Mormon, it becomes evident that God's promises to, and covenants with, the people of America contain so many facets and intricacies that a careless and indifferent people would find themselves in a dangerous position. The fear gripping every element of our society today demonstrates that we recognize this is now *our* position. An important point for us to consider is that only a small minority of our population is even aware of these prophetic words of God.

So, by the same token, an observant, concerned and obedient people would find themselves greatly challenged by these prophecies. I propose that believers in the Book of Mormon now find themselves in the unenviable role of a Prophet Jeremiah, an Abinadi or a Samuel. Why these three? Each of them were moved by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the words of the Lord to an indifferent people who had no desire to hear them. What words does America need to hear? I shall quote but two vitally important passages:

"Therefore, wo, be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the

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Lamb of God; For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other; either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken" (1 Nephi 3:213 - 216).

This great and marvel-



ous work is none other than the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the Church of Christ, both of which have been largely ignored or vilified by America's majority. Has America's rejection of this great work played a role in the terrible destruction that has come upon her? It appears undeniable to me!

**"And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ..."** (Ether 1:31, 34, 35).

The iniquities of America to which this passage refers were enumerated by none other than Jesus Christ, and

**...The people of America must serve Jesus Christ: He must be made Lord of this land.**

are found in 3 Nephi 7:34. The list includes the following:

- ▶ Rejection of the fullness of the Gospel.
- ▶ Being lifted up in pride over all the nations of the world.
- ▶ A nation caught up in lying and deceit.
- ▶ A ministry engaged in priestcraft.
- ▶ An abundance of murders.
- ▶ Whoredoms.

As we analyze the meaning of these various categories, it is like reading the headlines of our daily papers. And woe be to the politician or minister who speaks out against them in specific, recognizable terms. Shall we be

quiet, shall we apologize for frankness, as did one popular minister, or shall we be a Jeremiah, an Abinadi? Of all the points raised by Moroni in this passage from Ether, the one that most stands out is that the people of America must serve Jesus Christ: He must be made Lord of this land.

In this perilous time when we should be turning to Him with all our hearts, I am filled with concern as I feel the pulse of America's religious thought. In August of this year there appeared two "headlined" invitations in our local newspaper to come hear a famous Buddhist teacher explain their teachings. And where was to be his podium? In the local Anglican Church. On October 1st, the following headline appeared in our paper:

**"Valley Church Explores Other Faiths in Wake of Terror"**

"Rather than hear another sermon on strengthening their own Christian beliefs, members of Christ's Church of the Valley heard from a Sikh, a Mormon and a Muslim on Sunday."

A number of interesting thoughts come to mind as I read these words but the words of the article itself make my main point.

I also grow concerned as I hear our political and religious leaders encourage America to respect and extol Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and

**Let us pray for this nation, and her leaders. Let us pray that this people shall return to God.**

other anti-Christ religions, with never a mention of returning to our own religious roots. Just as the great American principle of "separation of church and state" has been misapplied as a bias against religion in general, another great American principle, "freedom of religion," is seemingly being transformed into a bias against Christianity.

America has been caught up in prophecy! Not only prophecy found in the Book of Mormon, but in Biblical prophecy as well. September 11th ushered us into a new world, "a new kind of war" that will encompass the world, all of which is prophesied in Revelation 16, verses 12 through 14. There is not time here to go into detail about that prophecy, but I intend to cover it in a new series of articles in the *Advocate*. America has been caught up

in a planned deception about this important book of the Bible. That, too, is something we need to explore.

The important decisions that our leaders are now making, are out of our control, out of our hands. We have little, if anything, to say about them, yet we shall all be greatly affected by them. One might well ask, "Is there nothing I can do?" Yes, there is much we can do, and should be doing. Let's consider just a few of these things.

**1** We can be engaged in mighty prayer before God. His ear is attainable. **"But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath."** (Psalm 78:38). And the Apostle Peter wrote, **"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..."** (1 Peter 3:12). Let us pray for this nation, and her leaders. Let us pray that this people shall return to God.

**2** In times past, when in moments of crises, our leaders have urged America to

repent and turn to the Lord. This is such a time! Let that repentance begin with us. Sincere repentance turned God's

**Perchance the prayers and repentance of a righteous few might deliver this nation.**

wrath away from ancient Nineveh. It can do so today. Even if the majority of Americans did not do so, oftentimes the minority has prevailed. **"And after they shall have been brought down low in the dust, even that they are not, yet the words of the righteous shall be written, and the prayers of the faithful shall be heard, and all those who have dwindled in unbelief, shall not be forgotten..."** (2 Nephi 11:83). Though their nation was destroyed, the prayers of righteous Enos, Alma, and Mormon were heard by the Lord, and their descendants would hear the words of their fathers. Perchance the prayers and repentance of a righteous few might de-

liver this nation.

**3** We can witness to the truth. We have received the fullness of the Gospel, a message of importance to deliver to the people of the world. Our duty is to be preaching and witnessing about God's word. When God performed His marvelous Restoration, He gave counsel and commandments to this Church of Christ. *"And let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness"* (B of C 40:36). Shall all be happy to hear that loving, warning voice? Of course not! The Lord, Himself, gave answer to that question: *"And the poor and the meek shall have the gospel preached unto them, and they shall be looking forth for the time of my coming, for it is nigh at hand"* (B of C 37:17).

**4** We can, and we must, trust in the Lord. In answer to the question, "What can we do now?" I heard one lady say, "I am going to trust my president, our leaders and our Armed Forces." Each of us should be supporting these three but, mean-

while, our trust shall be in the Lord. It is He alone who could tell His people, **"Fear thou not;**

**"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness"**

**for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness"** (Isaiah 41:10). And what is His promise to this people in this very hour of need? **"Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved..."** (1 Nephi 7:37). Never forget this beautiful promise to His people when all the forces of evil are gathered together against them: **"And**

**they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory"** (1 Nephi 3:231).

Blessed with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;

And this be our motto, "In God is our trust!"

And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

—Francis Scott Key, 1814

# Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death

**T**here is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free – if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending – if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained – we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us! They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our

backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable – and let it come!

I repeat, sir, let it come!

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace – but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

*Patrick Henry*  
*March 23, 1775*

– *Chronology of US  
Historical Documents*



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

### LAYING ON OF HANDS—the Fourth Principal

The gift of the Holy Spirit is received through the ordinance of the Laying on of Hands. This is the birth of the Spirit, or baptism of the Spirit.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

This makes us citizens in the Kingdom of God, the Church of Christ, and we are now part of His body, His Church.

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Ghost is that power that “enlightens” (Alma 16:145), and that it is this Spirit that “inviteth, and enticeth to do good.” (Moroni 7:11). It is through our obedience to the gospel that we may have the Holy Ghost as an “abiding comforter” (John 14:26). Both the baptism of water and the Spirit complete the “New Birth” and we are now prepared to walk in a newness of life and to continue to follow the doctrine of Christ and to not fall away.

Other uses for the Laying on of Hands are the Blessing of Children, Healing of the Sick, and the Ordaining of the Ministry.

### QUESTIONS for class, to spark thought and conversation:

1. Did Jesus sprinkle water or baptize little children?

**Answer**—Jesus did not sprinkle water or baptize little children. He said, “Suffer little children and forbid them not, to come unto me; for such is the kingdom of heaven.” And He laid His hands on them and blessed them. (Matthew 19:13-15.)

2. What example did Jesus give us for healing the sick?

**Answer**—He said, “Is there any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of Faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up” (James 5:14-15).

3. What example did Jesus give us for Ordaining the Ministry?

**Answer**—“They laid their hands upon them, and said, In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a priest (or if he be a teacher, “I ordain you to be a teacher”) to preach repentance and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen” (Moroni 3:1-2).

4. What gifts are given by the Holy Spirit?

**Answer**—Faith, Wisdom, Knowledge, Miracles, Healings, Tongues, Prophecy, Interpretation of Tongues, and Discerning of Spirits. (I Corinthians, 12th chapter.)

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

Here is a picture of a person receiving the Laying on of Hands to color.



**ADVERTISEMENT**

# Turning Point

## TURNING POINT

**SKI RETREAT FOR AGES 15-25**  
**December 29, 2001 - January 1, 2002**

*"...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and long suffering; having faith on the Lord; Having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at the last day, and enter into his rest..."*  
Alma 10:28-29.

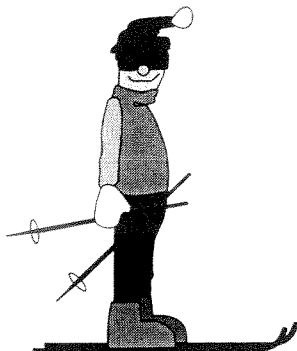
**Hosted by Elders John and Matthew Case**  
**Enjoy Fellowship with the scenery of the Rocky Mountains**

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

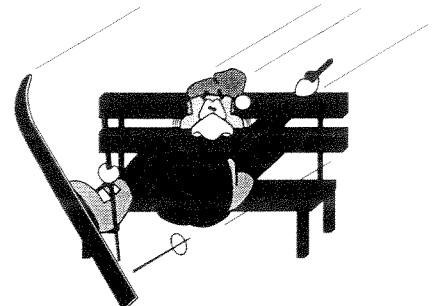
- ▶ Lift tickets, ski/snowboard rental, snow & ski gear for two days, and all other accommodations.
- ▶ Price of package is \$150 [make checks payable to Matthew Case]
- ▶ Please bring your sleeping bag, warm clothes, personal toiletries and your Bible and Book of Mormon

**For information contact:**

Matt Case (970) 482-0632; e-mail: [the.best@att.net](mailto:the.best@att.net) or John Case (970) 203-9183.



Complete and return the back of this form by November 30 to confirm your reservation. Include payment of \$150.00. Please make checks payable to Matthew Case. Mail to: Matt Case, 3106 Palm Ct #7, Ft Collins, CO 80526.



**ADVERTISEMENT**

**TURNING POINT Ski Retreat 2001 Registration Form**

**SKIER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Skier's SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Skier's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of a medical emergency, by my signature on this document I give permission for the hosts of this ski retreat to administer and/or obtain the necessary treatment for my minor child. **Note:** please have this notarized and list any medical conditions (such as allergies, asthma, medications, etc.) that we should be aware of.

**NOTARIZATION**

Subscribed & Sworn to me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

County of: \_\_\_\_\_

State of: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_



# A Great Faith

By Plácido Matú

I went to visit a brother the other day who has been very sick since last year. He has at least seven kinds of sicknesses, and he has suffered a lot in the last few days. I always accompany him when he goes to the doctor.

When I arrived at his house he was sitting on his hammock. He was sad because he could not walk, and every fifteen minutes he had a strong pain in his whole body because of the advanced arthritis. He always had a headache.

But when he saw me a smile illuminated his face, and in just a few minutes he was laughing and remembering many things about his life in the past. He said that his desire is, if it is the will of God, that he can walk again and preach the gospel. He told me about his studies in the Bible and in the Book of Mormon and I was impressed about how he has memorized many parts of the Holy Scriptures. He is able to say exactly what book, what chapter and what verse.

What impressed me about this visit was when he said, "Can we say a prayer?" Then he began

a very powerful prayer. He prayed for himself and also for the church, for his family and for the church in the U. S. A. He made



## PATHLIGHTS

such a powerful prayer that we all in the room felt touched by the Spirit. I have never heard such a powerful prayer like that! I am sure that God was with us in that season of prayer.

Vicente Poot is a special brother and friend to me. He helped me when I was a teenager and advised me in many aspects of my life. Many times when I

was discouraged he always had a word of encouragement for me. I made my first missionary trip with him. Today he is recovering from surgery but he still needs prayers.

I remember a great blessing that he received during his last operation. He was in a coma for five days, but every day we realized that he was recovering little by little. When he recovered his first words were, "I am going to continue studying the scriptures because I have a lot of work to do in the church." It was really a blessing because the doctor told me, "Be prepared, because this man is going to die at any moment." I was really surprised when he could eat and talk, and he left the hospital smiling again and telling jokes.

Brothers and friends, that is just one of many miracles that we have received in Mexico. That is why we testify of the power of our heavenly Father. We surely know that if we trust in Him we can receive many blessings. Our faith will grow and we can share it with our friends and with all the world.

# He Knows Us

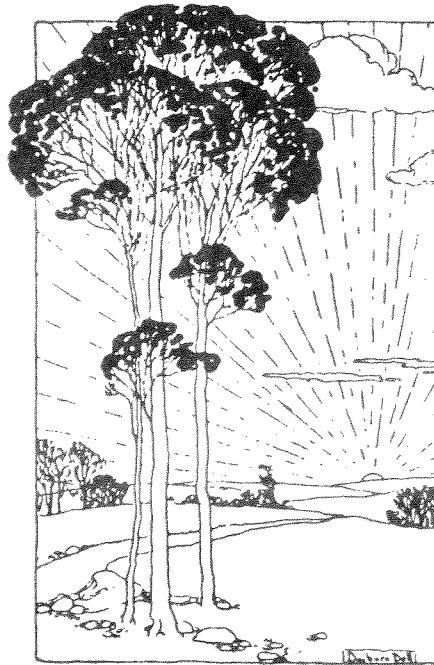
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was born February 14, 1923, and my parents named me James Wendell Martin. I was the last of 9 children, and the only one living now. My parents had moved to Independence so that an older sister, 22 years older than I, could be nearer better doctors. She died when I was a couple of months old. When I was born, they laid me on the bed beside her, and she said "Hi Jack." We moved back to the farm near Collins, Missouri, when I was about two years old. I was a good sized lad before I learned that my name was not Jack.

As I was growing up, I remember several of the ministry visiting our home, particularly Apostles Mohler, Bozarth, Wheaton, Gould, and Smith. My cousin, Ray Martin, and his wife Blanche asked for baptism, so Bro. A. M. Smith baptized all three of us. I don't think he had any idea that my proper name was James instead of Jack, so I was baptized as Jack. As the years passed, I began to worry that I had not been baptized by the right name. I guess Satan was needling me. I never told anyone of this concern. I didn't feel that I could ask to be re-baptized under my proper name because that would be denying that the first was valid.

Betty and I and two of our three children attended the Colorado Reunion in 1966 (could have been 1967). I went there thinking I would be called to the ministry.

Two days passed and there was no calling. We were staying in Jim and Viva Shaw's home. Before I left my room on Sunday morning, I knelt and prayed about it. I probably don't remember the exact words that



## PATHLIGHTS

I prayed, but in essence it was, "I am willing if you want me, Thy will be done."

During the morning session, Bro. T. J. Jordan arose and began calling several to the priesthood. Now we all know that man is not supposed to call another to the priesthood, but God alone. Bro. Jordan, a Canadian who had never been in our home and would not know my name at all, called several by their first and last names, and

when he got to me he said "Martin, I know your name," (that, too, may not be the exact words used, but in essence is it). At noontime, another apostle came to me and told me he had no evidence of the calling, and asked if I was going to accept it. I told him yes. No human except me knew that I had a problem with my name, and that was wiped away forever, so I was entirely convinced that the calling was from God, not from Bro. Jordan! Yes, most people still know me as Jack. Oh yes, Jim Shaw was one that was called that day. I probably could name them all but will not for fear that I might miss one.

God calls whom He will, through whom He chooses, and may or may not give evidence to everyone that thinks he should personally receive that evidence. I love and respect that apostle that might have cast a shadow of doubt because he did not receive his evidence.

*In God We Trust,  
Elder James W. (Jack) Martin*

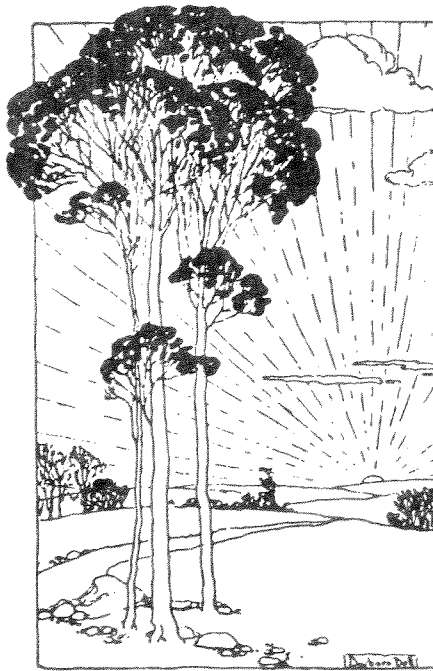
—Posted on the CCEG

# The "Beautiful Man"

Dear Brothers & Sisters:  
I wanted to share a testimony with all of you from my seven-year-old daughter MacKenzie. She sometimes is troubled by nightmares, and we make it a habit to say our evening prayers together for comfort and protection. This is especially sweet for me, because this is our visiting time when we share thoughts about our day, etc. Many times I have been surprised by the simple faith and spirituality of children. Last night I was surprised again as I listened to MacKenzie. She wanted to tell me about a dream she had the night before and share with me what she thought it meant. It touched me so, I wanted to share it with all of you too.

MacKenzie said that she dreamed she was on the water and there was a large floating box with a latched lid on top. She heard someone inside the box calling for help and when she looked, there was an ugly, frightening looking man who tried to pull her into the box. Just then, a boat appeared with a "beautiful man" who held out his hand to her and pulled her safely to the boat. Then he reached in and pulled the other people from the box onto the boat. MacKenzie described this "beautiful man," not as handsome, but full of "pure love." Then the dream changed and she was in the car with her brother, father, and I, and this "beautiful man" was in the car with us. We traveled through a scary forest, but we were safe because the "beautiful man" was with us in

the car. When we finally reached home and got out of the car, the "beautiful man" hugged each one of us and filled us with love. She said that the man even hugged her daddy and it made him so happy.



## PATHLIGHTS

When she explained to me what she thought the dream meant, I knew that it was a spiritual dream. She said that she thought that the "beautiful man" was Jesus and that He was helping her with her problems that were too difficult for her to overcome by herself (she got into the habit of telling lies several months ago. After we talked about it, she has made a huge effort to stop lying—and she felt that in this dream Jesus was telling her that He

would help her and that He forgave her). She has also been very worried lately about her daddy (Steve is not a member of the Church and only attends services occasionally). She has been asking him to come to Church with us and asking him a lot of questions about whether or not he believes in Jesus. She said that in her dream when the "beautiful man" hugged her daddy, he was happy. It was a very comforting dream for her in a number of ways.

When she told me about this dream and what she thought it meant, I was truly overwhelmed. I didn't tell her any of my thoughts about it until she was finished, but I agreed with her that Jesus had given her this dream to comfort and encourage her. This was such a wonderful testimony to me about the way God works in each of our lives and how much He cares for each one of us, from the oldest to the youngest. It is my prayer that I would have the pure, simple faith and understanding that my daughter has experienced; and that she would remember this dream as she gets older and that it will always be a source of strength and encouragement for her.

*Love in Gospel Bonds,  
Nanette Smith  
Independence, Missouri*

—Posted on the CCEG

## NEWS

## BRADLEY, MICHIGAN

The past few months in the Bradley, Michigan local have been eventful, blessed by God with graduations, a wedding, and the Michigan Youth Retreat.

The Michigan Youth Retreat was just a ton of fun this year. It was held at Camp Manitou-Lin, (near Bradley and Middleville). Youth attended from both the Bradley and Ontario locals: Jared Lee, Eric Lee, Danielle and Debbie Lester, James Brooks, Ty Lussenden, Emily and Heidi Porter, and Ken Oar's niece, Lindsey. Attending adults were Brandon and Tara

Tarbell, Keith and Leona Hoare, Ken Oar, Tony Jones, and Adam and Sue Porter. Everyone had fun horseback riding, kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing, and worshipping God. We had a Sunday church service at the camp, in which Elder Ken Oar delivered a sermon on resisting temptation. Overall, this retreat was a fantastic experience to fellowship with our brothers, sisters, and youth in the church.

Graduating this year were Matthew Jenkes and Christina Lee. We wish them a joyful future.

Christina Lee and Billy Wolfe were joined together in Holy Matrimony on June 9, 2001. They were married by her

Uncle Max Lee with family witnessing. They are currently living in South Carolina. Please remember them in your prayers as they journey on life's path together.

Please pray for Laura Ritsema, Ellen Van Duine, Lester and Marion Walthorne and Joyce Lussenden. And as always, our prayers will be with you.

*Love in Christ,  
Heidi Porter  
Bradley Local*

## NEWS

## RAVENNA, MICHIGAN

Greetings from the North Country! The summer has been a busy one for our little local, especially the ministry who have been busy attending reunions, ministering to scattered members, and otherwise attempting to do the Lord's work.

In June, Bro. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines drove to Wisconsin where they met with Deb's parents, Bro. Charles and Sr. Jeanne Brantner, and held services with the Wisconsin saints.

Our annual Michigan State Reunion was held the weekend of June 23-24, with many in attendance and a good spirit prevailing throughout the entire reunion—challenging sermons, inspirational music programs, and a spiritually uplifting prayer and testimony service. One of the highlights of the reunion was Apostle "Buzz" Brickhouse's presentation on the missionary effort in Africa. It's heartwarming to see the work of the Lord going out to the world. Please pray for this work and the ministry who are giving so unsel-

fishly of their time to travel to these far-away places in an attempt to "preach the gospel to every creature." A big "thank-you" to the "Bradley Bunch" for doing a "yeoman's" job of hosting the reunion again this year.

The weekend of July 6-8, Bro. Max and Sr. Vivian Spencer and Vivian's sister, Lois Armstrong, drove to Hogsburg, New York, to attend the New York State Reunion.

The week of July 29-August 3, Brother and Sister Spencer again participated as counselors at Camp Teen Challenge. Also attending were Sr. Kristi Horn and Bro. Michael Horn, Mike attending as a CIT.

Following Teen Challenge, they attended the Missouri State Reunion, Bro. Max also attending the August Ministers' Conference. Also enjoying the Missouri Reunion were Bro. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines, Sr. Jenni Vogel, and Bro. Aaron Heath. Bro. Aaron also attended the Ministers' Conference.

On September 9, we had our annual business meeting, with the following officers elected for the coming year: Pastor,

Elder Max Spencer; Assistant Pastor, Elder Aaron Heath; Secretary, Sr. Deb Haines; Treasurer, Bro. Bruce Haines. Sr. Vivian Spencer was elected Public Relations person, and Sr. June Haines as Advocate Reporter.

Saturday, September 22, we gathered at the little park in Middleville, where we enjoyed the annual pig roast hosted by Adam and Sue Porter and family. Bro. Adam again displayed his culinary skills by roasting the pig to perfection. Thanks to the Porter family for their wonderful hospitality.

As always, we ask that you keep our little local in your prayers as we attempt to do the Lord's will and stay upon that straight and narrow path. Until next time, may God bless and watch over each and everyone of you.

*Sister June Haines,  
Reporter, Ravenna Local*



## NEWS

**EAST LOCAL,  
INDEPENDENCE,  
MISSOURI**

**W**ell another month has come and gone. The weather has been just beautiful, warm days and cool nights. Truly this is the best time of year.

As summer turns to fall there is sad news from Independence—we have lost two very special people. Edna Smith passed from this life on August 4, 2001, and Ron Temple went on to his reward on September 9, 2001. They will be sorely missed. I count it a great blessing to have known them both.

As there is a time to die there is also a time to be born. The Temple Lot and East Local gave a long distance surprise baby shower for Robin and Daniel Harris of Paris, Tennessee. Mike and I were scheduled to go down for church services so we brought the baby gifts. When we got there we visited for a while and then Mike asked Daniel if he would help him bring something in the house. Daniel had no idea what he was about to see: a trunk and back seat load of baby gifts. Daniel came

back in with a big smile, and the next thirty to forty minutes were spent opening gifts and taking pictures. Robin made the comment, "some of these people don't even know me and they did this for us." It was just a wonderful afternoon.

On September 22, Terry McGhee and Lisa Clark were married at the East Local. Now let me tell you there is a story behind this. On Friday afternoon, while the family was decorating the church, a man came in the door and asked if Kevin McGhee had family there. Well, come to find out Kevin had been in a car accident. Steve and Melissa ran up to see about Kevin and all was okay. They sent Kevin to the hospital to be checked out. Kevin still made it to the rehearsal dinner! But I'm not done yet. At the rehearsal dinner held at V's Restaurant we were all having a great time and were about a little over half done eating when the restaurant had to be evacuated due to a bomb threat! Terry suspected Mike Smith, one of his uncles known for his pranks, was pulling a joke. No joke, it was real as we were out in the parking lot for about twenty to thirty minutes. We were let back in and had dessert and a very unforgettable evening. By the

way, the wedding was just perfect.

Sue Brickhouse just got back from Africa. I haven't had a chance to talk with her about the trip yet; I'll fill you in on it later. She looks great. I think the trip agreed with her. Sue, we are glad to have you back.

Please remember Buzz and Brian as they are still there.

Again I would like to invite you to come out and visit the East Local and see the difference. There is new carpet and bright walls and new doors and a lot of other things. Something kind of interesting happened when the pews were being refinished. The man doing them saw a date on them: it was 1892. Neat, wouldn't you say? I hope you will come and join us.

*Well, better go for now,  
May God Bless You,  
Pat McGhee*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ARIZONA REUNION

**T**he 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

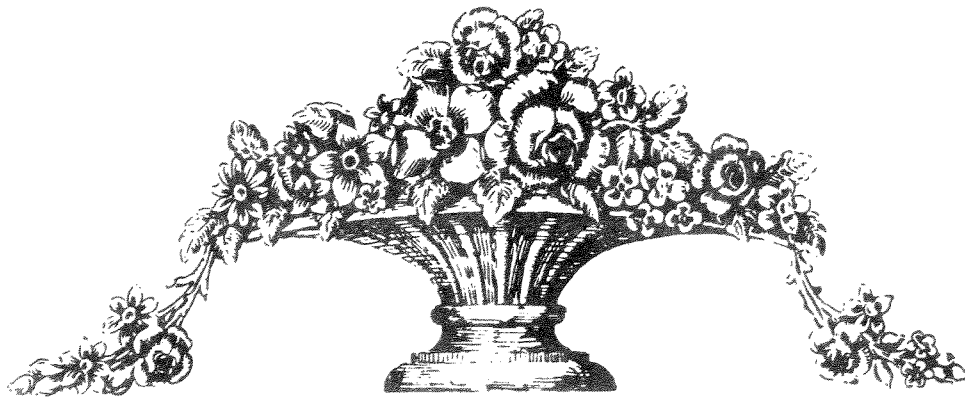
**Asst. Pastor Priest Glenn Orsted**  
1327 E. Wescott Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85050-2393  
(602) 780-8764  
[borsted@ix.netcom.com](mailto:borsted@ix.netcom.com)

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

OBITUARY

# Robert "Bob" Lee Ely

March 10, 1924—May 21, 2001



Robert "Bob" Lee Ely passed away Monday, May 21, 2001, at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado, of natural causes. He was 77. A funeral service was held Saturday, May 26, 2001, at Martin Mortuary Chapel in Grand Junction, with Apostle Joel Yates of Phoenix, Arizona, officiating. Burial was at Memorial Gardens with Brother John Bell officiating.

Bob was born March 10, 1924, in Meeker, Colorado, to Theodore Roosevelt and Sybil Irene Park Ely. He lived in Meeker, Colorado, and at an early age the family moved to Delta, Colorado, in a covered wagon. From there they moved to Palisade, Colorado before moving to Orchard Mesa in 1937. It was

in Orchard Mesa that Bob met his future wife, Shirley. He attended school at Lincoln Orchard Mesa where he was a track star.

Bob married Shirley M. Fash on November 19, 1942. They were married for 58 years.

He was a retired optician who had worked for Darnell Optical and Mesa Optical Lab. He was proficient in all phases of making eye glasses.

Bob was an active member of the Church of Christ, Orchard Mesa Local.

He was blessed on September 12, 1926, and baptized on September 4, 1933. He was ordained to the office of Priest on June 19, 1955, and served in that office for 45 years. He also served as Pastor of the Orchard

Mesa Local. He served our Lord as a Priest until his stroke in 1997.

He raised peaches and was a volunteer firefighter for Central Orchard Mesa Fire Department for many years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, raising flowers and his yard work. He worked for a time at Weddle's Nursery, which specialized in plants native to the western slope of Western Colorado. Tinkering in his workshop was a favorite pastime, and he had a special knack for fixing things.

Bob was very interested and curious about everything. He enjoyed people and never met a stranger. He was a friend to everyone that he met.

Bob is survived by his wife Shirley of Grand Junction, Colo-

rado; a son Duane (Kathy) Ely of Phoenix, Arizona; a daughter Patsy (Gordon) McCann of Phoenix, Arizona; a sister Margie Downs of Grand Junction, Colorado; three grandchildren, Michelle Ely, Jared Ely and Jennifer McCann, all of Phoenix, Arizona. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Marvin Ely.

**F**rom Duane, Memory of my Father:  
My dad never had a bad day fishing. He was never discouraged, even when the fish weren't biting. He would try everything in his tackle box and if the fish still weren't biting, he would start over again.

He always enjoyed taking children on fishing trips. If they weren't catching any fish, he would get one on his line and then make some excuse to trade poles with them. A few minutes later the child would realize they had a fish on the line and think that they had caught it.

He loved to see their faces light up.

My dad inspired many people during his life and he truly made a difference. He was a unique person and he can never be replaced, but we will always have his memory with us. He was a good father who truly loved his family and friends. I want to

thank him for all that he taught me and for the example that he set. I love you Dad, and I will miss you, but I know you are now living in a state of peace and happiness where you can rest from all cares and troubles.

*Love,  
Duane*

**F**rom Patsy, My Father  
My father, my mentor, my hero—truly a man of God who loved the gospel and lived a life of giving, sharing and caring for others.

A man of honor, honesty and integrity who was never too busy to help a friend.

A man who never knew a stranger and whose quick humor would bring a smile to those about him.

A favorite quote he would use in sermons, "I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." And, from Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Daddy, you will be missed but not forgotten. You leave your love, humor and wisdom with us. Rest in peace in the paradise of God.

*With my love,  
Patsy*

**I**f you did not know our brother Bob, ask someone who did. They will have a wonderful story to tell you of his generosity and loving spirit.

*Sister Karen Bell*

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

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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