# 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 79** 

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI-AUGUST 2002

**NUMBER 8** 

# nd now behold it came to pass that the people of Nephi did wax strong, and did multiply exceeding fast, and became an exceeding fair and delightsome people. And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them. —4 Nephi 1:11-12

- In This	Dssu	e~
-----------	------	----

EDITORIAL—Marriage, Instituted by God -	REUNION REPORT—Missouri Reunion
Elder Gordon McCann	2002 Report - Carrie Geier 148
SERIES: Part 10—The Revelation of Jesus Christ	NEWS
to the Apostle John - Apostle Don McIndoo 141	ANNOUNCEMENTS 154
GSSA—Book of Mormon Heroes: Alma 144	OBITUARY—
_	Ethel Adair Blake McCubbin 155

**ZION'S ADVOCATE** is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or (816) 833-3914. The Church of Christ web site is: <a href="https://www.churchofchrist-tl.org">www.churchofchrist-tl.org</a>.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**: Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes the rate is \$2.00. Non-member rates: \$4.00 per year; foreign orders add 50¢.

Send subscription requests with appropriate fees, donations to Church funds (Temple & Storehouse), consecrations, tithes and all other offerings to the Business Manager at Church headquarters as listed below.

**PRIESTHOOD VISITATION**: If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed below.

#### THE APOSTLES' MISSIONARY FIELDS

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214 Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346 Placido Koyoc Matu, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255 Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900 Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1240 Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414 Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605 William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-461-8956 Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296 Placido Koyoc Yam, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

GENERAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OFFICE: Apostle William A. Sheldon, assisted by Evangelist Marvin Case, Elder Leslie Case and Elder Charles Brantner.

Apostle Roland L. Sarratt and Apostle Michael E. McGhee in joint charge of Missouri. Apostle Roland L. Sarratt and Apostle Frank Fann in joint charge of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota.

Apostle Frank Fann in charge of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse and Apostle Michael E. McGhee in joint charge of Wisconsin, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina; the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, Canada and the Maritime Provinces.

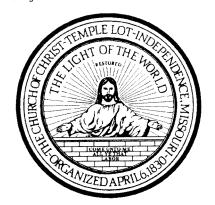
Apostle Brian E. McIndoo and Apostle Joel A. Yates in joint charge of Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Alaska, Hawaii and Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the western half of the Northwest Territories.

Apostle Donald E. McIndoo and Apostle Alvin J.

Moser in joint charge of Arizona, California, Nevada and New Mexico.

Apostle Donald E. McIndoo, Apostle Alvin J.
Moser, Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam and Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu in joint charge of Mexico and Central America. Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam and Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu to assist in areas with large Spanish speaking and Native American populations within the United States.

**UNDEVELOPED AREAS:** Council of Apostles in charge.



#### GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse 5713 Logan Road Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case 8312 Lee's Summit Road Kansas City, Missouri 64139

#### **GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY**

Elder Robert W. Oldham 5709 Logan Road Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### **BUSINESS MANAGER**

Elder Alvin L. Harris Church of Christ P.O. Box 472 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

#### GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Rick Olson 5629 Logan Road Kansas City, MO 64136

#### ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

#### **EDITOR**

Elder Gordon McCann 18808 N. 30th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85050 E-mail: <u>Gpjmccann@aol.com</u>

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Jim Case 15018 S. Outer Belt Road Lone Jack, MO 64070

Jim Gordon 1528 Dickenson Road Independence, Missouri 65040

#### PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

#### WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for Pathlights, submissions to other regular monthly *Zion's Advocate* features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

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

<u>underlining</u>, ALL-CAPS and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

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

#### STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

#### 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.

ZION'S ADVOCATE is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or (816) 833-3914. The Church of Christ web site is: www.churchofchrist-tl.org.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes the rate is \$2.00. Non-member rates: \$4.00 per year; foreign orders add 50¢.

Send subscription requests with appropriate fees, donations to Church funds (Temple & Storehouse), consecrations, tithes and all other offerings to the Business Manager at Church headquarters as listed below.

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION: If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed below.

#### THE APOSTLES' MISSIONARY FIELDS

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214 Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346 Placido Koyoc Matu, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255 Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900 Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1240 Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414 Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605 William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-461-8956 Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296 Placido Koyoc Yam, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

GENERAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OFFICE: Apostle William A. Sheldon, assisted by Evangelist Marvin Case, Elder Leslie Case and Elder Charles Brantner.

Apostle Roland L. Sarratt and Apostle Michael E. McGhee in joint charge of Missouri. Apostle Roland L. Sarratt and Apostle Frank Fann in joint charge of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota.

Apostle Frank Fann in charge of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

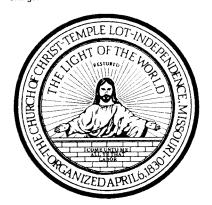
Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse and Apostle Michael E. McGhee in joint charge of Wisconsin, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina; the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, Canada and the Maritime Provinces.

Apostle Brian E. McIndoo and Apostle Joel A. Yates in joint charge of Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Alaska, Hawaii and Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the western half of the Northwest Territories.

Apostle Donald E. McIndoo and Apostle Alvin J. Moser in joint charge of Arizona, California, Nevada and New Mexico.

Apostle Donald E. McIndoo, Apostle Alvin J. Moser, Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam and Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu in joint charge of Mexico and Central America. Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam and Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu to assist in areas with large Spanish speaking and Native American populations within the United States.

UNDEVELOPED AREAS: Council of Apostles in charge.



#### GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse 5713 Logan Road Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case 8312 Lee's Summit Road Kansas City, Missouri 64139

#### GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Elder Robert W. Oldham 5709 Logan Road Kansas City, Missouri 64136

#### **BUSINESS MANAGER**

Elder Alvin L. Harris Church of Christ P.O. Box 472 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

#### **GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER**

Rick Olson 5629 Logan Road Kansas City, MO 64136

#### ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

#### **EDITOR**

Elder Gordon McCann 18808 N. 30th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85050 E-mail: Gpjmccann@aol.com

#### **ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

Jim Case 15018 S. Outer Belt Road Lone Jack, MO 64070

Jim Gordon 1528 Dickenson Road Independence, Missouri 65040

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Harvey L. Seibel

#### WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for Pathlights, submissions to other regular monthly Zion's Advocate features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of submitted material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS and italics. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

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

#### STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

#### 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.

# MARRIAGE Instituted by God

#### By Elder Gordon McCann

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

From the beginning of the creation of mankind God intended for man to have one woman and together they would form a bond that would be theirs alone to share. The translated word "help" comes from the Hebrew word "ezer" which means aid or help, and the translated word for "meet" comes from the Hebrew word "arak" which means to suit orbe meet for. So, by combining the two definitions we understand that God's intent was to provide Adam with a companion that would be an aid suited for him. Eve's creation was not to be a maidservant to Adam but a true companion suited for Adam, and because she was created from him they would be of one flesh.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). During the time Jesus was teaching the people in the coasts of Judea the Pharisees approached Him and asked the following question:

"Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?" (Mark 10:2-9).

This question from the Pharisees was designed to tempt Christ. Those who were present knew that if a man or woman was found to have committed adultery, according to the Mosaic Law (Deut 22:22-24), that person was to be condemned to death by stoning. The Pharisees were also aware that Moses of old had given a law (Deut 24:1) allowing a man to put away his wife for other reasons besides adultery. The Pharisees object was to see if Christ would teach something opposite from what was given them in the Mosaic Law. Jesus quickly answered their question with a question. "What did Moses command you?" Pharisees' obvious response was that Moses gave them the right to put away their wives through a bill of divorcement. This answer allowed Jesus Christ to condemn Israel as a people by responding:

"For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:5-9).

It was our Heavenly Father and not mankind that created this societal function that we call marriage. As the scripture points out our God takes this union between a man and a woman very seriously. The marriage covenant was designed specifically to fulfill mankind's temporal needs while living in the flesh. Christ pointed this out by answering a question that the Sadducees had asked him pertaining to the resurrection when He said the following:

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" (Matt 22:30).

It is plain to see, by the words of Christ, that the marriage covenant between a man and a woman would be in effect throughout the lifetime of this temporal body and would have an end upon their death. The marriage covenant was designed to satisfy not only the physical desires of the flesh (fulfilling the commandment of God when he said "Be fruitful, and multiply" Gen 1:28), but more importantly to provide a life long companion to share this life's experiences mentally and spiritually with.

Who else knows our needs more fully than our Creator? Man has, throughout the ages of time, tried to undo or "put asunder" the marriage covenant. Today many in our society believe there is no need of a marriage covenant (by claiming that it's just a piece of paper). They say marriage is a concept that is old and outdated, and that living together for a time is a more practical way of knowing if a couple is truly compatible. I read a recent government survev article in our local paper that came from the Associated Press July 24, 2002, that found just the opposite was true.

### "Some couples face longer odds of staying married

"Couples who live together before getting married are more likely to divorce. After 10 years, 40 percent of cohabiting couples had broken up, versus 31 percent of those who did not live together first.

"If you have a couple think-

ing about getting together, they don't believe it's right to cohabit. These are also the kind of people not likely to divorce," said Matthew Bramlett, the report's lead author."

Our children are growing up in a society where the family unit is being torn apart by separation and divorce. Children from homes where parents have violated the marriage covenant often find themselves in the middle of a parental tug of war. The effects of a broken home are devastating and recovery of the individuals involved is a long and hard road to walk. Many times the situation is perpetuated where the young person grows to adulthood and unwittingly follows the same path his or her parents have taken. We have a very serious problem in our nation and we in the Church of Christ must do everything in our power to promote and protect the marriage covenant. With help from God we must prevent our families from following that same path of separation and divorce.

The first steps we must take as ministry, parents, and Sunday school teachers are to stress the following three basic concepts to our children. This will provide a sure foundation for them to build upon when they decide to pursue a mate.

It was God, not man, that instituted the marriage covenant.

2 Then, if God instituted marriage, He can and will help you find a mate that is just right for

you!

After God helps you find the mate for you and you enter into the marriage covenant, it becomes a commitment for life.

Another step we must take as a people is to not tolerate this condition to exist among us as a "peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). We must confront this issue head on with the power of God or it will destroy us. Some of the things we must do as a people are:

We cannot and will not accept divorce as a fact of life. It is clearly condemned of God ("saving for the cause of fornication" Matt 5:32).

2 We must devote time to fasting and prayer for those marriages that are faltering.

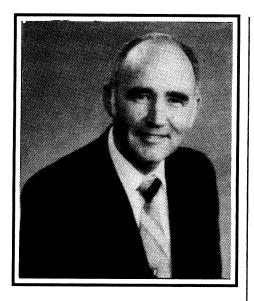
If we find ourselves in marital problems, it is our responsibility to humble ourselves before God and seek His divine will and submit ourselves totally to Him through much fasting and prayer. Putting self aside is a major victory in all marital problems!

The task that lies before us will be difficult but it is by no means impossible for us to accomplish.

"And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. ...And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God:" (4 Nephi 1:17, 19).

SERIES: PART 10

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE APOSTLE JOHN



By Apostle Don McIndoo

#### CHAPTER TWELVE

As we examine this chapter in light of that written by Protestant historicists and writers from the Church of Christ we see definite and important differences taking place because of differing perspectives. Almost all commentators realize that the woman clothed by the sun is a representation of the "true church." Daniel MacGreggor correctly identifies her as the Church of Christ.

Many historicists identify the **light of the sun** that

## SECTION TEN

# A GREAT WONDER IN HEAVEN

clothes her as the glory and beauty of the true church. MacGreggor expressed the viewpoint of many early believers of the Restoration in saying that it represented the spirit of revelation upon which the church is based. The basis for this thought is a passage in Matthew 16: "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (verses 17, 18). They see this revelation to Peter as the rock upon which the church would be founded

This beautiful vision saw the church in relation to the old Mosaic Covenant, as we shall see in the next paragraph. It would seem, therefore, necessary for the vision to demonstrate clearly the superiority and perfection of the New Covenant made in Jesus Christ. That new covenant in Christ is adequately portrayed by the illuminating light of the sun which bathes and illuminates the woman, even as she stands above the lesser light of the moon.

Most commentators are fairly consistent in identifying the **moon** upon which she stands as the lesser light of the old Mosaic covenant and the **twelve stars** with which she is crowned as representing the twelve apostles who were her special witnesses. However, there are many who see these twelve stars as the twelve tribes of Israel.

The woman is with child, and verse five tells us she brought forth a man child. Many see this as being Christ, but Barnes, a Protestant historicist, correctly reminds us that "Christ is rather represented as the Husband of the church than the Son." <sup>2</sup> The identity of this man child is

really twofold: MacGreggor identifies it as both the righteous portion of the body of Christ and the authority of the ministry placed within it. He was "to rule all nations with a rod of iron." The key to his identity is found in Revelation 2:26 and 27. Here Jesus told John, "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end...he shall rule them with a rod of iron." The Apostle Peter saw the twofold nature of this man child as he told the church. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;" (1 Peter 2:9). We read later that this child will be caught up to God. Again, MacGreggor writes that these sanctified saints and the ministry resident within them will be caught up to heaven. He states further, "In them shall the seed of the church be preserved...." 3 Apostle Brian McIndoo⁴ concisely identifies the man child as This the kingdom of God. would include the following:

Christ as the head, the ministry as the officers, the Gospel as the law, and the true believers as its citizenry.

This is what shall be caught up to heaven.

All historicist commentators are in agreement that the **dragon** of verse 3 refers to Satan. But there is confusion as to whether he is waging his warfare against God by the instrumentality of the pagan Roman Empire or Papal Rome. MacGreggor points out that dragons signify nations and Rome at this time was the universal one. Satan was behind this idolatrous empire. dragon had seven heads, which symbolize the seven hills of Rome and the seven forms of Roman government. It had seven crowns on these heads which represent the seven administrative heads of the empire through her history; namely, (1) kings, (2) consuls, (3) dictatorships, (4) decemvers, (5) tribunes, (6) emperors, and

(7) exarchs.

It also had ten horns, representing the ten parts into which Rome would become broken and with a king over each. Machiavelli, a noted Catholic historian, identifies them as follows: "1. The Ostrogoths in Media. 2. The Visigoths in 3. The Sweves Pannonia. and Alans in Gasgoine and Spain. 4. The Vandals in Af-5. The Franks in rica. France. 6. The Burgundians in Burgundy. 7. The Herulia and Turingi in Italy. 8. The Angles and Saxons in Britain. 9. The Huns in Hungary. 10. The Lombards at first upon the Danube; afterward in Italy." 5

Seibel also believes the warfare of the dragon waged against the church in this time period used the instrumentality of the pagan Roman Empire. This was the first enemy of God's people seen by Nephi in

his vision and which he identified as a "great and spacious building" that "was the pride of the world" (1 Nephi 3:88-94).

In verse 6 we see that the woman flees into the wilderness where she will be fed for 1260 vears. Most Protestant historicist commentators see this wilderness place to which the church flees as a place of safety from Roman persecution. Seibel also thinks that Christians and Jews fled to the eastern lands where other religions were better tolerated, especially after the victory of the Muslims. Others see this flight into a wilderness as a decline in purity and spirituality. Barnes thinks it represents "the obscure, and humble, and perseofcuted state church...." While these latter two points of view are correct, it is only to a lesser degree. What is the position of the Church of Christ?

Though the authority of the priesthood to represent Jesus Christ and the pure Gospel law had been caught up to God. the woman, or the church, was to tarry upon the earth. She would flee into the wilderness where she would remain for 1260 years (Rev. 12:6). This is the great apostasy, or falling away, seen by the Apostle Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:3). And why would she fall away? We are told "she would be nourished from the face of the serpent" (Rev. 12:14). McIn $doo^{7}$  writes, "The use of from the serpent does not imply away from; rather, it is used like a baby received nourishment from its mother. The nourishment she received from the serpent would not be a spiritual nourishment; rather, a flood of lies and false doctrines...that support the agenda of the devil." MacGreggor<sup>8</sup> writes, "...a very questionable source of spiritual supply."

Sheldon, MacGreggor and McIndoo identify the two great wings upon which she flew into the wilderness as representing the deception and idolatry of the Papal Roman church and the Eastern Orthodox division of the ancient Roman church which carried her into the wilderness of complete apostasy.

This would be the fulfillment of the prophesy in Amos 8:11, 12: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God. that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water. but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." The church with her ministerial authority, her sacred ordinances and gifts of the Holy Spirit had disappeared, and all that remains is a remnant of believers bereft for 1,260 years of the accouterments of the true Church of Christ.

The dragon is frustrated: All he can now do is make war

with this remnant. The next chapter will tell of the new instrument he shall use in this warfare. The tool of Satan shall be Papal Rome, and the battle is carried on with an indescribable ferocity. Sheldon quotes Scott about this warfare:

"No computation can reach the numbers who have been put to death in different ways on account of their maintaining the profession of the gospel and opposing the corruption of the Church of Rome. A million of the poor Waldenses perished in France; nine hundred thousand orthodox Christians were slain in less than thirty years after the institution of the Jesuits. The Duke of Alva boasted of having put thirty-six thousand to death in the Netherlands, by the hand of the common executioner, during the space of a few years. The Inquisition destroyed by tortures, one hundred fifty thousand Christians, within thirty years." 9

Seibel quotes the historian, Will Durant: "Compared with the persecution of heresy in Europe from 1227 to 1492, the persecution of Christians by the Romans in the first three centuries after Christ was a mild and humane procedure." 10

On this point of the flight of the woman into the wilderness, we of the Church of Christ differ drastically with the Protestant historicists. Whereas, we be-

lieve the true church was not to be found on the earth and would have to be restored by the hand of God, they maintain that the flight into the wilderness was only that the believers (whom they identify as the church) became hidden and obscure. They believe that the "church" has always been present in the person of the reformers and protesters against the Roman Catholic Church. They must take this position or recognize that all have come out of the once universal Roman Catholic Church and received their ministerial authority only from her.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1. MacGreggor, Daniel, A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, 1971, p.41.
- 2. Barnes, Albert, Notes on the New Testament: Revelation, 1851, p. 327.
- 3. Op. Cit., MacGreggor, p. 44.
- 4. McIndoo, Brian, unpublished *Thesis on Revelation Twelve*, p. 4.
- 5. Op. Cit., MacGreggor, p. 43.
- 6. Op. Cit., Barnes, p. 327.
- 7. Op. Cit., McIndoo, p. 5.
- 8. Op. Cit., MacGreggor, p. 44.
- 9. Scott, *The Seven Kingdoms*, p. 76.
- 10. Durant, Will, The Story of Civilization, Vol. 4, p. 784.

#### GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I must start by offering an apology and asking your forgiveness for letting such a long break in Advocate lessons exist.

I am thrilled with how God is sending ministry around the world. I am concerned about meeting the growing needs of all our members. As you know, we have the capabilities in place to translate to Spanish. However, our members speak so many other languages as well.

My desire is to start translating Sunday school material into African, Philippine and European languages. If you know someone who is willing to translate the materials into the languages from any of these regions please write, call or e-mail.

Please pray that God will send the people and materials needed to meet all His peoples' educational needs.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Gill 4804 N. E. Sycamore Kansas City, MO 64119 (816) 452-9258 segleg@juno.com

#### **BOOK OF MORMON HEROES**

REFERENCES: Mosiah 11:159, 161-163, 164-175, 177-184, 185-200 STORY OF ALMA, THE MAN CHANGED BY AN ANGEL

Alma wasn't always a hero for God. In fact, he was very wicked. Alma was named after his father Alma, but that is the only way they were alike. Alma the father was a man of God. His son Alma was wicked and willful. Every day Alma would pray for his son, but young Alma just kept rebelling against God. He and his friends sneaked around telling people, "Don't believe what the church teaches you." But Alma's father was diligent. Do you know what diligent means? It means to keep on trying and not give up. Alma's father was diligent. He didn't t give up. He just kept on praying for his son.

Then one day something happened. Alma and his friends were on their way to a new place to speak against the church. Suddenly an angel appeared! "Alma," the angel said in a voice that sounded like thunder and shook the ground. "Remember all the wonderful things God has done for you. Don't fight against the church anymore." Then the angel was gone.

Alma couldn't talk. He couldn't even move. His friends carried him to his father. Do you think Alma's father was upset? He was happy! He knew this was the answer to his prayers. He called the people together. Look what God has done for my son! Alma summoned all the ministers of the church. We must fast and pray that Alma's strength will return. They prayed for a long time...two days.

On the third day Alma stood up. "God has forgiven my sins!" he cried. "I am so happy!" Alma and his friends spent the rest of their lives helping the church and telling people about God.

God heard the prayers of Alma's father and he'll hear your prayers. So be diligent just like Alma's father. Keep on praying!

If you would like to read more about Alma, you will find his story in the Book of Mormon in Mosiah 11, page 286.

#### GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

#### **BOOK OF MORMON HEROES**

#### ALMA WORD SEARCH

E	H	Y	E	E	E	O	O	D	R	E	О	T	W	R	D	T	H	Y	W	I	R
F	A	W	Н	U	D	A	E	T	T	A	Н	T	I	C	E	A	E	C	R	N	Н
F	E	C	I	О	J	E	R	A	T	F	I	F	E	A	E	A	L	E	F	F	A
E	T	E	T	E	R	Н	I	E	Н	G	G	Н	C	L	E	L	E	M	R	E	U
R	A	E	R	T	A	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S	T	T	C	A	R	E	A	E	Н
E	A	D	O	E	E	R	T	E	A	O	T	Н	R	E	A	N	Н	D	W	E	C
R	Н	E	I	T	D	E	T	R	L	F	S	C	D	Н	W	G	J	V	Н	F	Н
S	R	J	C	L	Н	L	E	L	F	S	R	E	Н	О	R	E	G	О	J	A	T
R	A	Н	F	Н	R	T	E	S	R	N	N	L	Ο	N	Ο	L	U	G	R	W	R
G	R	C	C	L	I	F	E	E	E	Н	I	V	L	О	R	E	W	O	P	E	R
L	Е	E	N	U	H	P	L	N	Y	C	R	E	E	E	I	Y	E	I	D	A	R
F	F	D	C	Н	U	R	C	Н	I	Ο	R	A	О	C	E	I	C	R	Н	J	L
Н	Y	A	L	I	A	E	T	A	E	U	R	E	A	E	D	Α	L	Н	Н	I	Н
E	R	E	D	N	U	Н	T	F	E	Н	R	T	C	E	L	R	S	T	T	S	R
N	E	N	W	C	S	N	О	E	О	T	C	E	S	T	Н	R	E	Н	I	U	L
N	M	Н	R	R	R	R	E	E	D	M	E	Y	R	E	L	W	E	A	A	E	R
W	R	R	F	T	G	E	A	P	L	S	F	T	Н	I	D	Y	Н	C	F	E	C
S	N	H	T	I	Α	R	R	N	F	L	A	C	R	A	R	Н	A	L	R	E	R
E	T	О	V	О	I	N	T	N	F	V	T	E	Ο	G	S	Н	J	R	E	Н	О
A	E	E	E	R	E	Н	Н	T	E	A	Н	I	W	T	L	R	L	N	R	L	F
E	N	L	I	F	A	E	A	E	F	E	E	Α	R	E	L	E	S	R	P	О	E
M	T	E	R	L	E	C	E	R	Н	G	R	Н	T	T	Н	Н	H	C	A	E	T

ALMA ANGEL CHURCH DESTROY

EARTH FAITH FATHER FELL

FORGIVEN POWER PRAYERS REJOICE

SECRECTLY TEACH THUNDER

#### **GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

#### **BOOK OF MORMON HEROES**



# Missouri Reunion 2002 Report

The August Missouri Reunion was held on August 9, 10, & 11th at the Temple Lot Local in Independence, Missouri. There were approximately 350 attendees. (It is getting harder to count people, as there are so many, but what a wonderful problem to have!!)

#### Friday August 9th

The first meeting of the day was a prayer service with Elders Warren Johnson and Loren Bryant in charge. The opening comments of the Reunion were focused on 2 Peter, chapter 1, "...add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge." Prayers and testimonies of God's blessings followed until the preaching service at 11:00.

The speaker of the hour was Elder Gerald Cox. "What was it that held Christ on the cross?" (The cords of the cross.) Matthew 26:36 - Account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Brother Cox proposed that there are 4 cords that held Jesus:

- 1. The first is our human sin. Isaiah: He hath born our griefs and carried our sorrows. He gave up everything to come for us. Galatians 3:14 & 15: Jesus bore the curse for us.
- 2. The second cord is His love. John 13:1: "...when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." Christ is perfect. Christ is holy. Christ is our awe-inspiring hero. John 11:35: "Jesus wept." He had sympathy for the mourners and great love for them and for Lazarus. Romans 8:35 & 39: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- 3. The third cord is obedience. Jesus willingly suffered and died in obedience to the Father.
- 4. The fourth cord is loyalty. Gen. 3:15. Acts 2:23: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and fore-knowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain...." He is the master pattern. 1 Timothy 1:9. 1 Peter 1:2: "Elect according to the fore-knowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...."

Brother Cox then concluded his sermon with a poem, "I've seen the face of Jesus..."

If here is so blessed, what will it be up there?

At 3:00 the speaker of the hour was Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse. The service began with a special by Czerna Kauffman and Erica Moser, "Longing for the Gathering."

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Hebrews 12: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

We need to remember the time we live in. We need to remember our responsibilities. 2 Nephi 8:1-19: "...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." 2 Nephi 8:66: "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious; the fruit of the earth

excellent and comely to them that are escaped of Israel." Daniel 2:44-45: King Belteshazzar's dream of the latter days.

Outline History, p. 45 - Dedication of the Temple Lot. Articles of Faith & Practice, Article 23 - Temple redeemed. Micah 4: 1, 2: "...And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Article from 1914, Evening and Morning Star regarding Temple. 1936, design of Temple.

Ether 6:3: "Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, which dwelt upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord." The city of Jerusalem is to be a city of refuge and support. We need to accept in our hearts and be prepared to do what we need to do. Jeremiah 6:16: "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." 2 Nephi 13:27-30: "...Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life." We were admonished that we should be prepared for words of righteousness, words of instruction, that the Lord may have a people, a generation of people, to fulfill his plan.

By the end of the Friday afternoon service, most of the campers and staff of Teen Challenge were back in town. (I'd like

to take this opportunity to thank Sister Ella Engle for taking notes for me while I was still at camp. She is a big help to me.)

We began our Friday evening with another special, this time by Martha Bruner and Czerna Kauffman.

The Friday evening speaker was Elder Alvin Harris. He reminded us that our Brother Brickhouse had told us that "God indeed does have a plan." Brother Harris gave us some history lessons to help us understand where we are in God's plan. In order to have a "restoration," something had to be missing for it to be "restored." God did take his Spirit away during the Apostacy. Mormon 1:14-18: Healing ceased because of lack of faith. "And there were no gifts from the Lord, and the Holy Ghost did not come upon any, because of their wickedness and unbelief." In recounting the history in Europe, the council of Nice (the establishment of the papacy in the Roman Catholic church) coincides exactly with the Book of Mormon's account of the apostasy at 325 A.D. Rev. 12:3-6: "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." According to history, the apostasy, commonly known as the Dark Ages, continued for 1260 years.

Brother Harris gave us many examples of early Christians and martyrs who fit into God's plan. We can look back and see that God had all of these things happen in His time frame, in His manner, so that His plan will be fulfilled. Some of the people mentioned were: John Wycliff - first translated part of the Bible for the common man; the "Tindale" Bible was published and was the predacessor of the King James Bible; Calvin; Knox; Luther. Christopher Columbus - (1 Nephi 3:147) was prophesied of in the Book of Mormon and made the first European trip to the Americas; Sir Walter Raleigh - founded first colony in America, which happened to be 1260 years from the beginning of the apostasy to the first white man living here (1 Nephi 3:152): "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles which had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them."; Roger Williams (1733) founded the Georgia Colony (the 13th colony) based on freedom of religion. The King James Bible was here in 1620. Nephi 3:157 refers to the Bible being brought to this land —it would have been the King James Bible at that time.

1 Nephi 3:184-185 prophesies of the Book of Mormon: "For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious...these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb." Nephi 3:192-196: "...These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them...wherefore they both shall be established in one." The Bible and Book of Mormon together could not have happened in Wycliff's time, or any of the other men discussed. This is God's plan.

Brother Alvin likened God's plan to a set of children's blocks. You keep building with the individual blocks until you get the structure you want. God has been building all along.

1 Nephi 3:214-216: "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 3:227: Saints of God are upon all the face of the earth. We are building God's plan as his directs. We are living in exciting times. We are watching God's plan be fulfilled.

1 Nephi 3:220-221: There are only two churches. Church of Christ (we are NOT Protestatnts) v.s Church of the devil (this includes all others). Various Restoration churches are dying or changing their names. All other churches are being polluted. We no longer accept baptism transfers from restoration churches. There is a division between us and the churches of the world. We're not all brothers in the restoration. The "restoration" was a movement, not a church. We have to face the truth.

The "Other" Gathering: 1 Nephi 3:229: "And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God." The enemy is gathering its forces to fight against us. 1 Nephi 3:232: "And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth." Scandal in the Catholic Church is tearing it apart—It is God's plan.

Our ministry are becoming known. As we can see in history, persecution will come. The adversary knows who we are. Covenants will be fulfilled because it is God's plan. We must teach our children the basics from the ground up. We cannot afford to be nice guys. For instance, the Apostle Paul was NOT a nice guy. You may say, "But there are all those nice Christian folks out there." But I say, "Are there?" We're going to have to be strong. We're going to have to increase our outreach to friends, neighbors; increase our missionary outreach; provide activities for the youth. We need to analyze how we spend our money. The church has to come first. As a bishop, I can tell you that we are better than we have ever been, but it is going to have to grow.

We are being polluted. That is NOT God's plan. That is the adversary's plan. We have to learn to say "no." We have to continue for several years. This is where the faith comes in. Keep your eye on the goal.

#### Saturday, August 10

We began Saturday with a prayer service at 9:00 with Elders Glenn Gill and Don Case in charge. The first song was "Nearer My God, To Thee." The opening comments from Brother Case drew us to consider our prayer life. What should we pray for?

- 1. Our own soul. Enos 1:5: "And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication, for mine own soul."
- 2. The souls of our brothers and sisters. Enos 1:12: "...for the welfare of my brethren..."
- 3. Our enemies. Enos 1:17: "...the Lamanites." God has a plan for the world, for you and for me. We need to petition him for insight into His will. The other scriptures referenced were: Enos 1:29 prophesying and testifying; Alma 4:5-6 commanded to gather together oft to fast and to pray for the souls of those who knew not God; Alma 12:14 & 16 men working in the wilderness fasted much and prayed much that they might bring the Lamanites to the truth; Alma 16:218 Call upon the His Holy name because he is mighty to save. Cry unto him over everything.

We also need to preach, teach, show love, share. Enos 1:46 "...there is a place prepared for you in the mansions of my Father..." Enos had success in his prayer, life. I pray we will also.

The prayer service followed, including three administrations. During the service we heard many testimonies of God's blessings. Also, a portion of one of many letters from Juan Jesus, of Spain, to Don McIndoo, was read. He has not given up on finding the true gospel of Jesus Christ. We had a special season of prayer for this young man. He sees every study that is sent to him from Don as more light being shed and he is grateful for that light. Please continue to remember him.

Saturday afternoon we had a song service and preaching followed. We began the preaching service with a special song by Sister Neva Housknecht and Brother Donald

Gill. The speaker Saturday afternoon was Elder Larry Beem.

**D** rother Beem began by telling us his D testimony that he was told at a reunion to join the Church of Christ. We can receive God's greatest blessings. We just have to ask. "To be successful in missionary work in the Philippines, you have to be different from the others. You have to present the gospel in truth. You have to live the gospel of truth. You don't need to whitewash the gospel of Christ." This also applies to the rest of our lives at work, with our family, everywhere. 3 Nephi 5:60: "...be the salt of the earth...." Be the light of this people. People are watching right now how we conduct this meeting. We get complacent and we let our reverence and respect for this building, this meeting, slip. Do we live up to what we've been teaching? The very minute we falter, we become a stumbling block for other people. Our words, demeanor, actions, charity: Do these things show that we love Jesus Christ? Moroni 7:50-53: "...he must needs have charity...." Alma 3:27-31: "And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you?" We have to be different from the world. If we are the same, we are hurting the people of this world who are watching us; we are hurting our brothers and sisters; we are hurting Jesus Christ. We are called to be a peculiar people. We are peculiar because we are special for Jesus Christ. Stand out.

Brother Beem gave a testimony about how he was asked to give the benediction for the college where he works. He was asked to leave Jesus Christ out and not to address God. He informed them that he couldn't do that. He was told, "if you have to, go ahead." The dean gave him a letter that had a "generic" prayer they wanted him to read. He said he couldn't. They said his name was already in the schedule, so go ahead. He told them that he'd have to pray the way he

felt—about Jesus Christ and God. They said, "We know, go ahead." Stand out.

Read your scriptures. Share your testimonies. Have a strong resolve not to disappoint your heavenly Father. It is better to disappoint a few people than to disappoint God. Matthew 5:13: Be the salt and light of this world. Fill your mind with truth. Fill your heart with love. Fill your life with service. Dare to be different from the world.

Our service had a very special ending because we had the joy of witnessing the blessing of a baby girl by Brothers Joel Yates and Hubert Yates. Brother Joel read from III Nephi 8:17 of Jesus' example of taking the little children one by one and blessing them and praying unto the father for them. Quincy LeAnn Kelly was blessed with parents Jeremy and Shanna Kelly present.

The evening service was started with a song service and followed by preaching. The preaching service was opened with a special by Tabitha Case, "The Lamb of God."

Elder David Keeney was the speaker of this hour. What is the solution to the state of our nation? He thinks that this is something that we're lacking as a nation, not necessarily as a church. However, maybe there are some aspects of virtue that we hadn't considered. As Christ's body, there may be some aspects of virtue that we could benefit from. What better place to start than with Proverbs, chapter 31? Proverbs 31:10-31: The virtuous woman. We can all pick things out of this scripture that we can use. He related that there were virtues about his wife that attracted him to her in the first place. One of the things is that she is always thinking of others, and not of herself. He wanted to give his wife some credit for all the things that she does.

As a society, we're not virtuous. We don't understand what virtue is. Virtues and values are two different things. Values are the things that each one of us values. It is completely biased. It is something that is valued by each of us individually; a personal preference. Virtue, on the other hand, is completely unbiased. It is an unbiased moral

law. The definition of virtue is: moral excellence, merit, good quality. The definition of virtuous is: upright, dutiful, chaste.

If you listen to the advice that is given in the world, it is often "follow your heart." You never hear them say to "follow what the Holy Ghost has put in your heart," or "follow what God has put in your heart." I don't want my children to follow their heart because if their heart is like my heart can be, they will make bad decisions. So it's no wonder that our society today is mixed up and lost in a moral state of confusion.

Most people know that God's laws may be different from their values. We must be living demonstrations of the light of Christ that is within us. We have to be a living demonstration of our virtue. We may not realize how close we are, as a society, to a breakdown. The stock market and banks are a deck of cards. They are only as strong as people's perceptions.

Brother Keeney went on to quote George Washington. "The foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality. Nothing is more important for public wealth, than to form and train youth in wisdom and virtue. Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

We have to have good intentions with the freedoms we have. We have to have a mind-set to want to do good with the freedoms that God gives us. In order to have these good intentions, we have to be a virtuous people.

We take our freedom for granted. We don't realize how lucky we are. The older generation knows. They see what we are losing. The younger ones probably don't realize it as much. Our founding fathers did know this. They witnessed it in Europe. The things that they saw back then can still apply today.

"...They have more need of masters." When we think light of our freedom, we are more apt to need laws and people to rule over us that can cause us to lose some of our freedoms. Benjamin Franklin said, "A people that sacrifice freedom for safety deserve

neither safety nor freedom." That is true and we see that, unfortunately.

Virtue is not only something that is beneficial to us as individuals, but it is beneficial to us as a church body and as a nation. We should not only think of virtues as something that we value for our own lives, but Christ's church and his people.

When we are virtuous, we can be used in God's plan. The Reformers that Alvin mentioned in his sermon did things that threatened their own safety, but they knew that there was a greater good out there that had to be performed. They did these things under the threat of personal harm and danger.

These are some of the consequences of lack of virtue: Romans 1:18-32: We see these things displayed in our world today. These people had some knowledge of God. They decided to oppose him anyhow. Like in the lumber industry, the logs are cut, and taken to the saw mill. If the heart of the wood is rotten, it is not usable for building any structure. It won't be able to support anything. Impurities entered into the trunk of the tree. Likewise, impurities can enter into our minds; our heart can be impure and rotten like the tree. We might be able to fool our fellow man, but we will not fool God. We need to watch our thoughts because it can have an effect on our inner soul.

How do we become virtuous? Without God's direction in our lives, we will have this heart that is impure. A good example of that is Isaiah 64:6-8: "...we are the clay, and thou our potter...." Psalms 40:1-4: "...He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay...." In Montgomery City, Missouri, there are a lot of clay mines and clay pits. They just dig it out of the ground. They dig a big deep hole. Brother David has been down in these pits. It is dark and it is miry. The Lord brought us out of the pit and set us on a rock. Just like a potter spins the clay on the rock, the Lord forms us with His hands. Brother Keeney told us that he has been in that proverbial pit. He has been looking out of that pit before. He has felt guilty about going to church and praying. But, he never felt so guilty that he stopped praying. You may feel, at different times in your life, that you are unworthy to pray, unworthy to enter church, unworthy to approach God. It is Satan that is putting that thought in your mind. Never let Satan stop you from praying. In Alma, he speaks of a dark abyss, which is very similar to what we've been talking about.

We need to ask God for virtue. We need to ask Him to place the Holy Spirit upon our heart in such a way that we will be virtuous. It is not our natural heart to be virtuous. We need to have something other than just our mind. We need to have God's help. 2 Peter 1:2-4: "...that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...." If we are partakers of that divine nature, we will have this virtue in us. 2 Peter 1:5-9: "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...." We must know the word of God to know the godly values that He wants us to have. Alma 16:82: "...Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God." The word of God was used to point people to the virtues that Alma thought the Zoramites should have. Knowledge of the word and understanding of the virtues are very important.

There is a promise to those that God will call His own. 3 Nephi 9:67-80: This is something in our future. This is Christ speaking here. If we are that virtuous people that Christ desires us to be, we can be included in who He is speaking of here. Let's hope and pray that we will all be included in what we have read here.

After the sermon we gathered downstairs and outside for an ice cream social to visit with the brothers and sisters from all over.

#### Sunday, August 11

We gathered in Sunday morning to quiet, gentle piano playing by Sister Martha Bruner. Elders Marvin Case and Allan Kauffman were in charge of the sacrament service. We began by singing "Near to the Heart of God," and then "Nearer, My God to Thee."

Brother Allen began by commenting that he was impressed with the soberness of the congregation and how pleased he was to see

the front row filled with young people. He read: 2 Nephi 13:4: God works in plainness. V. 7-9: Jesus himself witnessed unto the Father that he would be obedient unto Him by keeping his commandments. V. 16: We cannot deceive God. We must make that commitment (baptism) with real intent. We are a peculiar people. We are peculiar because we have the Holy Ghost. This is what makes us different. V. 18-24: The gate is repentance and baptism by water. V. 29-30: "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life." We must be baptized by those who have the authority to baptize and the authority to lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This is the ONLY way. This is the only and true doctrine. Love for God and all men does not come automatically to men. We must pray for it. It is a gift from the almighty God.

After partaking of the sacrament, we knelt in a season of prayer, followed by ten administrations and many testimonies.

The closing comments of the service were, "There is no end to the heart-wrenching, soul-reaching ways God blesses our lives." We then closed with #233, "Oh, Worship the King."

Sunday afternoon we gathered again for a service called "Special Offerings." There were 11 special songs offered by young and old alike. Five-year-old Braden Oldham "directed" the specials from his seat in the 5th row from the back. Those of us sitting behind him thoroughly enjoyed his contribution to the service.

For our final sermon, we were blessed to have Elder Placido Koyoc be our speaker. He did a remarkable job of speaking English and having the congregation read the scriptures in English out loud.

The opening song was "My Hope Is Built," followed by an administration. The second

song was a special "I Surrender All" in Spanish by Laura Gill, Nanette Smith, Melissa Denham, Becky Sheldon, Tabitha Case, Manon Lawrence, Jesse Lawrence, Dan Lawrence, and Randy Sheldon.

Brother Placido's sermon was entitled "How to Resist Evil." Tomorrow when you go back to your work, school, etc., you have to think about how you are going to resist bad things. Who is your enemy? The devil. Our enemy is more intelligent than us. There are 4 Characteristics of the Devil:

- 1. He is the Accuser (Rev. 12:10) "...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down..."
- 2. He is the Enemy (Matt. 13:39) "The enemy that sowed them is the devil...." The enemy wants to destroy our children. Jesus Christ is our friend.
- 3. He is the Tempter. (Matt. 4:3) "...when the tempter came to him...." The bad things are increasing every day.
- 4. He is a Liar (Rev. 12:9) "... and Satan, which deceive th the whole world:...." We need to be careful. We need to know our enemy. Sometimes we don't think that the devil is doing anything, but in fact, he is doing a lot of things.

What do we need to know to be firm in God's word?

- 1. Prepare our mind against the devil. Be firm. Be vigilant every day of our lives. We have the privilege and security of Him. When we say "we can't" what we are actually say is "we don't want to."
  - 2. We need to put the devil in his place.
- 3. Use the scriptures to prepare out mind against the devil and to be ready to use them every day all the time in our lives, so the devil will flee from us.

At night we have darkness. When we turn on the electricity we have light and the darkness goes away—the same as the devil. He cannot be in a heart that serves God.

4. Approach God and ask His help always. Don't be afraid to ask our Father for what we need. We need to talk to God about what we need. It is similar as going to the doctor. You can't go to the doctor and say, "I'm sick," without telling him what is wrong. The same is true for God. You need to tell Him what

you need. Psalms 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." In English, you say "keep" the commandments. In Spanish, we say, "hide" the commandments. We need the words in our hearts, so we cannot sin against God.

Don't be afraid to talk to our leaders—ministry, pastors, etc. God has a solution. III Nephi 4:42-43 & 48: "...mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are they which cometh unto me." We are called to be victorious, not victims. We need to be good Christians in God's plan.

We then closed with #23, "God Be With You."

All in all, we had a really nice reunion with a beautiful spirit there. There is never enough time to visit with everyone, but we loved seeing lots of familiar faces and even some new ones. I hope this report is a help to those who were not able to attend and encourage you wherever you are.

Love in Gospel Bonds, Carrie Geier Missouri Reunion Reporter

#### **APOLOGY**

#### To Whosoever May Be Concerned,

It has been brought to my attention that some who were at the sacrament service the morning of 11 August 2002 were greatly troubled by the passing of the collection plate. I thought this was what was supposed to be done. I find now I was mistaken. Please forgive me and all come back to the Missouri Reunion.

Your Brother in Christ and Gospel Bonds,

Elder Marvin M. Case

#### TEMPLE LOT LOCAL REPORT

"But, behold I say unto you, that ye must pray always, and not faint: that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate they performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul" 2nd Nephi 14:12.

At the Temple Lot local we are blessed with a faithful pastor, many active ministers, a loving church family, and an abundance of activities. It is our desire that each event, whether a preaching service, choir practice or social, will bring us closer to God. As the scripture implores, we pray that each activity will be consecrated for the welfare of our souls.

One of our greatest joys is that our young people are a vital part of the local. They attend services regularly and are on a number of committees. The youth group, known as the Young People's Christian League, meets every Saturday. It is led by several young men, with an adult couple being their sponsor and overseer. Each month they schedule a study, an educational, and a social along with an occasional money making project.

Some special events over the past year have been: a twenty-four mile bike-a-thon, a restaurant style dinner, and the creation of a church history time line. The young people also attended and participated in the Collins, Springfield and Puryear rallies.

The local also has a Jr. Young People's Group which meets once a month. These events are for ages six to twelve. They've enjoyed campfires, crafts, and even a testimony service (where the majority of them gave a testimony!). However, the highlight of their activities was the annual luncheon for the senior citizens of the church. The kids helped prepare and serve a meal for our senior brothers and sisters. It was wonderful to have old and young enjoying each

other

Another auxiliary group that meets once a month is the Temple Lot local United Workers. This women's group has a variety of interests and events. Their meetings usually include a devotion, fellowship and a time for learning (often a craft). Activities like a Christmas dinner, a soup and salad luncheon and a day trip are enjoyed once a year. They also sponsor several other annual events like the Sweetheart Dinner and the church Garage Sale.

Our local loves music, and we are privileged to have a "Worship and Song" service twice each month. It is a time of praise and adoration to God.

There are usually several specials in between, the congregation singing their favorite hymns. The social committee sponsors a get together after one song service a month, and we enjoy fellowship and snacks. However, the opportunity to sing doesn't end with song service. We have an adult choir, and the children and teenagers have Junior and Senior Choir twice a month. The adult and youth choirs have presentations for the Christmas and Easter services.

Members of the local are also interested in learning more about God's word. Every Monday night a study class is held at the church. Everyone is welcome, and those who come bring questions about the gospel or the scriptures. After a question is presented, the ministry direct the group to the Bible and Book of Mormon to discover the answer. There are usually 10 to 20 people in attendance, and they have studied a wide variety of topics.

Vacation Church School was in July and was a joint effort of the Temple Lot and East Independence locals. We had 56 children this year and consider this a missionary outreach as many of the students do not regularly attend church. Another favorite event is our yearly Scripture Theme Camp. This camp is for everyone and is held in May.

It is a great opportunity for studying, visiting, and enjoying Missouri in the springtime.

This past year has also brought several new endeavors to the local. During the winter and spring there was a men's monthly breakfast. Men from both locals were encouraged to invite their sons, friends and relatives. It was a time for fellowship and conversing about how to be "men for God." We've also begun a women's prayer group and a men's prayer group. An hour before the Sunday evening service each group meets and we have prayer for our families and loved ones. We share special needs and then pray specifically for those needs. There is a wonderful feeling of unity and God has answered many prayers.

We feel blessed to be a part of an active local in the Church of Christ. We are thankful that the word of God is preached and that we often feel a sweet Spirit during Wednesday night prayer meetings. What a privilege to weep with those that weep and rejoice with those that rejoice! These experiences give us strength to run our spiritual race and fight our spiritual battles.

Once again I'd like to thank God for our pastor and his dedicated wife (she keeps all these activities organized in our monthly calendar!) Most of the time after a service is over, the congregation will stay and talk. Our pastor joins in and waits patiently (sometimes for an hour!). It is a beautiful sight to see our members communicating and concerned for each other. It is the body of Christ being a family—— bonded together in the love.

Becky Sheldon

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### TRI-STATE REUNION

he Minnesota Locals invite all to meet with them for fellowship and service at the Tri-State Reunion.

Where: The Indoor Group Camp at Wyalusing State Park. The Park is located just south of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. It is a beautiful spot, sitting high on the bluffs overlooking the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.

When: The camp is available for our use from 3:00 P.M. August 30th to 3:00 P.M. September 2nd. There is no admittance to the park between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

There are four dorm buildings which can house up to 27 persons each. Campers must bring their own bedding. No pets are allowed in the park. A park sticker must be purchased at the park office.

For more information, please contact:

#### Merlin Eddy

3370 203rd St. W. Farminaton, MN 55024 (651) 463-2218

E-Mail spikeeddy@aol.com

#### MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

Dlease mark your calendars and plan to attend the Missouri Camp For All Ages, being held Friday, September 6th through Sunday, September 8th, 2002.

The camp will be held at Katy Roundhouse located on the Katy Trail in New Franklin, Missouri. Sites have been reserved for tents and pop ups. RV sites with water, sewer and electric hook-ups (30 & 50 amp) are also available. There are restrooms and shower facilities.

We will bike on the beautiful Katy Trail on Saturday, September 7th. Please bring a sack lunch for the bike trip. Saturday night dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch will be provided. Further notice on food items to be brought by each family will be announced.

Please start preparing for a contribution to our Campfire, such as a song, skit, musical instrument performance, etc.

**DIRECTIONS**: From Kansas City east on 1-70 take exit #101 (Hwy 5 North) at Boon-Take Hwy 5 through Boonville, across the Missouri River, and into New Franklin. In New Franklin turn left at the 4-way stop. Then turn left again at the carwash (watch for signs). Travel down the hill 3/4 of a mile. The park is on the left.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Mike Smith if you have any questions or need further information. Home phone: (816) 737-0846; e-mail: thelandgroup@Yahoo.com.

#### PHOENIX REUNION

he Phoenix, Arizona, local would like to invite you each to join with us in the worship of our Lord at the 2002 Phoenix Reunion, which will be held November 29th, 30th and December 1st. Come and enjoy the warm weather and the warm fellowship.

For information, please contact:

Pastor Bob Hedrick

2908 E. Rockwood Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85050 (602) 494-9661 Bobnliza@juno.com

Asst. Pastor Glenn Orsted

1327 E. Wescott Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85024-2393 (623) 780-8764 Asst. Pastor Duane Ely

18814 N. 30th St. Phoenix, AZ 85050-3436 (602) 569-1516

#### **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Friday, January 17, and Saturday January 18, 2003.

"Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation, on thee do I wait all the day" Psalms 25:5.

To the Sisters of the Church of Christ (Ages 18+): In an effort to follow the teaching of scripture as found in Titus, chapter 2, we invite all women to join us for a Women's Retreat. This will be an overnight fellowship activity and details will be announced through the CCEG.

For further information, contact:

#### Carrie Geier

14609 E. Phelps Ct. Independence, MO 64055 (816) 836-0035 geiers@kcnet.com

Lana Hill

2305 Owing Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-7887 mhill30@earthlink.net

# Ethel Adair Blake McCubbin

March 12, 1922—July 23, 2002

Thel Adair Blake McCubbin died Tuesday, July 23, 2002, at her home in Independence, Missouri, at the age of 80, after a brief illness.

Born March 12th, 1922, in Baltimore, Maryland, to the late Fredrick P. and Ethel B. Blake, she was a Newport News, Virginia, resident for 22 years, and graduated from Newport News High School's class of 1941.

Preceding her in passing were her brother Franklin Blake and sister Marjorie B. Mitchell.

She is survived by her husband, Robert D. McCubbin, sons Glenn, Shawn and daughter-in-law Debbie, daughter Robin A. Crick, her sister Marguerite Blake Mason and



brother-in-law Randall Mason of Newport News. Her grand-children include Stacy Crick, twins Joseph and Katherine McCubbin, Benjamin McCubbin and great granddaughter Morgan Crick, along with many loving nieces and nephews.

She was married March 1st, 1957, in Sedalia, Missouri, and was baptized into the Church of Christ—Temple Lot at Collins, Missouri, on July 3rd, 1960. She worshipped at the East Local and was a resident of Independence, Missouri, for the past 40 years.

A memorial service was held in her honor at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 27, 2002, at the Church of Christ—Temple Lot at Lexington and River Blvd. in Independence, Missouri.

Apostle William A. Sheldon and Elder Curtis D. Yates officiated. Olivia Yates sang For Those Tears I Died, the Harvey Seibel Quartet sang My Hope is Built and the congregation joined in singing Till We Meet Again.



#### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your Zion's Advocate by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable Zion's Advocate costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

#### **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 12, 13 and 14, at Independence, Missouri.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Price Each<sup>1</sup> Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Members (optional) Non-Members \$4.00 4.00 4.50 Foreign 1.85 Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape Book of Commandments (plastic bound) 6.00 Book of Commandments (hard bound) 9.00 Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed 12.00 18.00 Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition-plastic) Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—hard bound)
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—leather). 5.00 12.00 Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic) Book of Mormon Companion, A (hard bound) Book of Mormon Concordance. Changing of the Revelations 1.60 Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot 7.00 Libro De Mormon (Spanish) 4.50 Marvelous Work and a Wonder, A, by Daniel MacGregor Outline History of the Church of Christ. Temple Lot Deed 9.65 .30 2.50 What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God 12.00 Zion's Hymnal Cost of mailing will be added

#### THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH **PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:\***

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830

Apostasy from the New Testament Church

Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ Article of Faith, #1 - (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)

Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)

Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy Book of Commandments, The - Its Role in the History of the Restoration

Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants

Brief History of the Church of Christ, A Call to National Repentance, A - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ

Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The - Sunday

Colored Tracts to Native Americans 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did You Know?

3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk

Concerning Marriage and Polygamy

Cost of Salvation. The Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?

El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauración De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)

Evidences of the Book of Mormon

First Presidency or First Apostles?

God's Promises to Israel God's Purpose in America

Great Plan of Redemption, The

Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy

Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The

Latter Day Apostasy

Latter Day Restoration, The

Priesthood-Divine Authority

Principles of the Gospel-Baptism Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands

Resurrection and Eternal Judgment

Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon

Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)

That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located

What about the Book of Mormon?

Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)

Zion and the Temple of the Lord

\*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage)

#### Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT 200 S. RIVER BLVD. P. O. BOX 472 INDEPENDENCE, MO 64051-0472

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID INDEP., MO PERMIT NO. 259

#### **AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS**

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

#### SLIDE PROGRAMS WITH TAPED NARRATION

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-

LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A (32 minutes)-Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, complied from three other programs.

LIGHT AT EVENING (27 minutes)—Story of the bringing forth of the book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and

OUT OF THE DUST (45 minutes)-Tells the story found within the Book of

RETURN, THE (12 minutes)—Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

#### HOLY SCRIPTURES ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set for the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

#### SERMONS ON AUDIO & VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139; on video tape contact your local missionary.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for Sunday School materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 West Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

Bible Stories to Grow By-52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7 Book in the Stone Box, The—About the Book of Mormon

Church History for Juniors-Includes a Teacher's Guide

Jesus' Life and Teachings-4 Quarterlies for ages 8-10

Who Am I?-Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals