

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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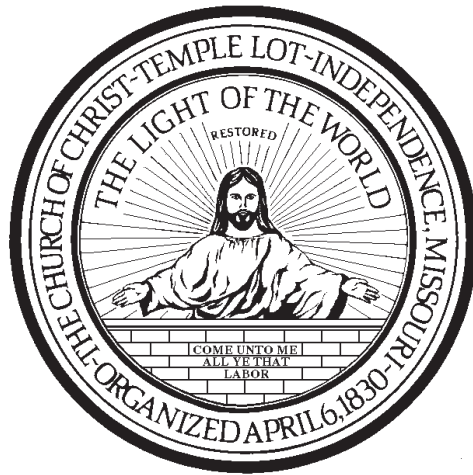
"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:1, 4

~ In This Issue ~

SERMON—Families in Crisis -
Teacher Dan Lawrence 103
SERIES—The Great Apostasy and the
Restoration, Part 6 - *Harvey E. Seibel*. 105
INTERVIEW—Introducing Elder Prudencio and Sr.

Lolita Alameda from the Philippines. 109
PATHLIGHTS—A Testimony from Joanie Gill. . . 111
NEWS 113
OBITUARY—H. Irene (Reed) Shelley. 114
OBITUARY—Elizabeth Darlene Gould Smith . . 115



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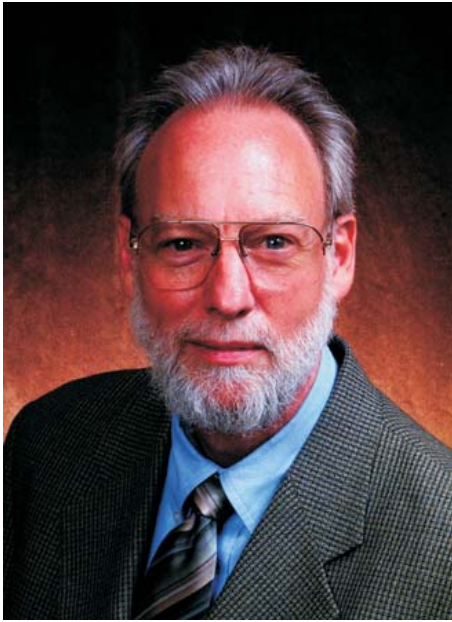
STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

Families in Crisis



By Teacher Dan Lawrence

After Jesus' forty day temptation He returned to Nazareth, His birthplace, to begin His ministry. As was His custom He went to the synagogue to worship. During the course of the service He was asked to read and expound upon the scriptures, and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He read these words as recorded in the fourth chapter of the gospel according to Luke:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them

that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Those present waited eagerly for His explanation of the verses but were astonished when He declared that the prophesy was fulfilled in Him that very day.

We recognize that the power of Jesus' gospel is to accomplish these very things in the lives of the believer, and when we examine our lives and the lives of the people around us we see a great need for this spiritual deliverance. We have friends, as well as brothers of the Church, who are brokenhearted. We see those held captive to sinful activities. We look with sorrow upon those who turn a blind eye to God's commands. We see children's lives bruised because of the selfishness of their parents. Christ came to preach His acceptable Gospel of freedom from the bondage of sin.

Our country is at a crisis point. It's teetering on the brink of becoming a nation in decline. Not because of terrorism or high oil prices or any other outside threat. **Our crisis as a country, as a people, as a church, and as church locals is due to the disintegration of the family.** Because of broken homes children are deprived of the leadership

and nurture they need to fully develop their God given gifts. Teen depression and suicide occur at an alarming rate. Many youth are losing the drive to succeed and excel at academics and career goals. As an example, our country lags far behind others in the training of professions like engineering. There could come a day when we no longer have the developed talent to support our own infrastructure.

When we look at our own past and consider the generation of our elderly, divorce was almost non-existent. But as we examine each generation since then we see broken families increasing until more often than not a marriage ends in failure. Is it any wonder that we look at the youth and see drug abuse, promiscuity, suicide, depression, failure in school, little interest in church?

We see the symptoms but fail to acknowledge the cause or seek the remedy. Both the cause and the remedy are summed up in the fourth chapter of Ephesians, verses 31 and 32:

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

We need to be looking at ourselves, our families, our marriages. Read carefully the words in these two verses and ask yourself if they apply. If you see any of these causes of discontent in your behavior, seek the remedy.

The family was ordained by God as the bedrock of human civilization. It provides stability and the opportunity to teach and exemplify moral values. It displays a pattern of life skills. It's a platform from which to share the pure love of Christ. Proverbs 13:22 says:

"A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children...."

Much is made these days of investing our money so that our children can have a lifestyle better than our own. But our real investment must be in our children's spiritual inheritance. As Christians we have the absolute responsibility to raise our children in godly families. This means examining ourselves and altering our attitudes and behavior so that we are humble, not proud; sharing, not selfish; loving, not hateful; nurturing not destructive. This is the meaning of the Ephesians text quoted above: that we be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving. As simplistic as it sounds, these three traits can be the remedy to most of the problems our families face today.

It's no coincidence that Paul continues in the fifth chapter to discuss the roles of the husband and wife in the family, comparing them to His role as

head of the church:

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (v. 1-2).

As Christ sacrificed His life for the church, there is an expectation that parents will sacrifice their desires for the family and their children:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.... Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it..." (v. 22, 25).

Make no mistake, Christ's love is alive in His church. This is what drew me to the Church of Christ. Many others who have come here have recognized it. I cherish it; our children crave it. When we share that love we share God himself. When we love someone with Christlike love, the finger of God is touching their heart.

Men, when you love your wife, you are inviting the Lord Himself into your home. Sisters, when you love your husbands you are showing your children the face of Christ Himself as plainly as if it were a photograph hanging on the wall. Truly the love of Christ, kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, is the remedy for the crisis in our nation, in our church, in our church locals—and it's within our grasp. John the Beloved, in his first epistle, said:

"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on

the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment" (1 John 3:23).

How often we profess that our sacrifice is a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We must believe it and practice it. We cannot navigate life thinking we are the center of universe. Our will must be broken and our desires conformed to the will of Christ. We must love those around us with a Christlike love, putting the needs of others above our personal desires.

Finally, we must recognize that we cannot accomplish this in our own strength. We have Christ's own invitation to rely upon Him:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mat 11:28-31).

Let us be yoked with Christ. Let us lay our burdens at His feet. Let us love unconditionally. Let us be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving. Let us find rest to our souls. This is the solution to the crisis.



THE GREAT APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER INQUIRERS AFTER THE TRUTH

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH HEADQUARTERS IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
THE ONLY CHURCH ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS



By Harvey E. Seibel

AN ANGEL FLYING IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN

(LIGHT AT EVENING TIME)
(THE WONDROUS EXPECTATIONS OF THOSE
WHO PRECEDED THE RESTORATION)

THE RESTORATION OF
THE GOSPEL IN THE LAST
DAYS



PART 6

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come” (Revelation 14: 6,7).

This is the signal event which would usher in the new dispensation. It would be the preaching of the “gospel of the kingdom” once again in the earth. “Behold,” says He, “I will send you *Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:*

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Malachi 4:5-6). The flying of the angel in the midst of heaven ushered in the hour of God’s judgment—not the great judgment of the last day, but the return to the saints of the power and authority to minister in the ordinances of the gospel, power to seal in heaven and on earth, power over all devils and sicknesses. It represented the end of the long night of darkness which had covered the earth, the end of the famine for the hearing of the word of the Lord. The reign of the Antichrist was to end when judgment was again given to the saints, as affirmed by Daniel, and that judgment shall sit and shall take away the beast’s dominion, and shall consume and destroy it unto the end. That beast, as represented by the papacy, is the “mystery Babylon” spoken

of in Revelation 17. The return of judgment to the saints will ultimately result in the fall of this Babylon, for when the angel flew in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, there followed another angel, saying, "*Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication*" (Revelation 14:8). This is the power that shall finally be destroyed by the brightness of His coming, a time when that beast shall be given to the burning flame.

"He (Sir Isaac Newton) points out that an angel must fly through the midst of heaven with the everlasting gospel to preach to all nations before Babylon falls and the Son of man reaps His harvest, and says: 'If the general preaching of the gospel be approaching, it is to us and our posterity that those words mainly belong' (*Romanism and the Reformation*, p. 171).

"And perhaps it may not be improper for us to indulge the hope that as the land in which we live was the birthplace and the nurse of civil liberty, so also in America, true religion shall first begin to flourish. - *Seven Last Plagues*, p. 217, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania" (*A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p. 225).

"Martin Luther: 'I cannot tell what to say of myself, perhaps I am Philip Melancthon's forerunner, I am preparing the way for him like Elias in spirit

and power'" - *D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation*, vol. 2, p. 111 (*ibid.*, p. 147).

"Luther perceived that the ancient and primitive church must, on the one hand, be re-

such a church as they had formed an idea of, would never be established by human means, indulged the hope that God himself would in his own time erect for himself a new

The return of judgment to the saints will ultimately result in the fall of this Babylon.

stored in opposition to the papacy by which it had been so long oppressed" - *Ibid.*, vol. 3, p. 80 (*ibid.*, p. 147).

"Roger Williams, founder of the first Baptist Church in America: 'In the poor, small span of my life I desired to have been a diligent and constant observer, and have been myself many ways engaged in city, in country, in court, in schools, in universities, in churches, in Old and New England, and yet cannot, in the holy presence of God, bring in the results of a satisfying discovery that either the begetting ministry of the apostles or messengers to the nations, or the feeding or nourishing ministry of pastors and teachers, according to the first institution of the Lord Jesus, is yet restored and extant...the apostasy of Antichrist hath so far corrupted all that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew' - *Kelley's Presidency and Priesthood*, pp. 109, 110" (*ibid.*, p. 147).

"Waldensians, Wyckliffites, and Hussites: 'Some of this class of people, perceiving that

church, free from every blemish and impurity; and that he would raise up certain persons and fill them with heavenly light for the accomplishment of his great object' - *Mosheim's Church History*, book 4, pp. 200, 201" (*ibid.*, p. 148).

"Alexander Campbell, founder of the Disciples: 'By the reformation of the seventeenth century that dark cloud was broken in fragments and though the heavens of gospel light are still obscured by many clouds - the sects of various names - the promise is that at evening time it shall be light. The primitive gospel in its effulgence and power is yet to shine out in its original splendor to regenerate the world' - *Hayden's History of the Disciples*, p. 36, quoted in *Kelley's Presidency and Priesthood*, p. 95" (*ibid.*, p. 148).

"John Bunyan: 'It hath been the way of God, even when he doth execute the severest judgments, to tell it in the ears of some of his saints, some time before he doth execute the same; yea, it seems to me that it will be so in the great day of God Almighty, for I read, that

before the Bridegroom came there was a cry made, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,' which cry doth not seem to me to be the ordinary cry of the ministers of the gospel, but a

Works, vol. 1, pp. 44, 45" (*ibid.*, p. 148).

"Sir Isaac Newton: 'Newton came to the conclusion, however, that the time had not then arrived for the full light to

seems to be, we have more encouragement than ever to look into these things. - Sir Isaac Newton, *Observations on the Prophecies*, p. 250, 251" (*ibid.*, p. 149).

"It is evident that this does not refer to the first publication of the gospel by the apostles; because it immediately precedes the execution of judgment upon the kingdom of the beast. But it is a publication of the gospel preparatory to the fall of mystic Babylon. It must, therefore, signify some remarkable spreading of the knowledge of the gospel at the latter end of the reign of Antichrist. And it is called 'the everlasting gospel' to signify that it is a glorious revelation from the Eternal God - *Langdon's Observations*, etc., pp. 192, 193" (*A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p. 176).

"Such a restoration was declared to be needed and desired in the days preceding 1830" (*ibid.*, p. 176), and indeed was even expected or anticipated by various students of prophecy. 'And this may perhaps be the event described in Revelation 14:6, of an angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth. Some such sensible renewed divine interposition seems indeed to be wanting to revive real religious impressions in the world where, in general, religion is degenerated into a mere unimpressive name and form.' - *Reverend James Brown, on Revelation*, p. 95, published 1810" (*ibid.*, p. 176).

"And perhaps it may not be improper for us to indulge the hope that as the land in which we live was the birthplace and the nurse of civil liberty, so also in America, true religion shall first begin to flourish."

cry that was effected by some sudden and marvelous awakening, the product of some new and extraordinary revelation.' - *Tomlin's Interpretation*, etc., p. 516" (*ibid.*, p. 148).

"John Robinson: 'He charged us before God and his blessed angels, to follow him no further than he followed Christ; and if God should reveal anything to us by any other instrument of his, to be as ready to receive it as ever we were to receive any truth by his ministry; for he was very confident the Lord had more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy word. He took occasion also miserably to bewail the state and condition of the reformed churches, who were come to a period in religion, and would go no further than the instruments of their reformation.... For, saith he, it is not possible the Christian world should come so lately out of such thick antichristian darkness, and that full perfection of knowledge should break forth at once.' - *Robinson's*

shine, but looked for clearer light to shine in future days, saying: "About the time of the end, in all probability, a body of men will rise up, who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition." - *Totten's Our Race News Leaflet*, Number 90, June, 1898, pp. 325, 326." (*ibid.*, p. 148).

"THERE MUST BE A STONE CUT OUT OF A MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS BEFORE IT CAN FALL UPON THE TOES OF THE IMAGE AND BECOME A GREAT MOUNTAIN AND FILL THE EARTH. AN ANGEL MUST FLY THROUGH THE MIDST OF HEAVEN WITH THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL TO PREACH TO ALL NATIONS BEFORE BABYLON FALLS AND THE SON OF MAN REAPS HIS HARVEST.... But if the last age, the age of opening these things be now approaching, as by the great success of late interpreters it

“Sir Isaac Newton, 1733 AD.: ‘The sanctuary and the host were trampled under foot 2,300 days and in Daniel’s prophecies days are put for years. They were to last till the sanctuary which had been cast down should be cleansed, and the sanctuary is not yet cleansed’ - *Observations on the Prophecies*, pp. 123, 124” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Sir Henry Kitt, B.D., one of his Majesty’s preachers at Whitehall 1801 AD.: ‘We have sufficient ground to conclude positively that from whatever remarkable era these prophetic years are dated, the period of their accomplishment cannot be very remote from the present time’ - *History of the Interpreter of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 58” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Archdeacon Woodhouse, M.A, 1805 AD.: ‘The 1,260 years are not yet elapsed’ - *The Apocalypse*, p. 303” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Messrs. Riverton and Hatchard, 1810 AD.: ‘How or when did the woman return from her long stay in the wilderness? To which it must be answered that as her stay in the wilderness is not yet completed, the method of her return, being future, cannot be pointed out’ - *Daniel’s Metallic Image*, p. 333” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Reverend G. S. Faber, B.D., 1811 AD.: ‘We are living in the predicted days of antichristian blasphemy and that the 1,260 years are rapidly drawing near to their termination’ - *Dissertation on the Prophecies*, vol. 2, p. 220” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Reverend William Girdlestone, AB., 1820 AD.: ‘But there has been yet no cleansing of the sanctuary’ - *Visions of Daniel*, p. 222” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Thomas Newton, D.D., lord bishop of Bristol, in his thirteenth edition, published 1823 AD.: ‘These 2,300 days denote the whole time from the beginning of the vision to the cleansing of the sanctuary. The sanctuary is not yet cleansed and consequently these years are not expired’ *Dissertation on the Prophecies*, p. 294” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Reverend Robert Culbertson, 1826 AD.: ‘Some interpreters date the commencement of this period with the time of the vision, which was in the third year of Belshazzar; Daniel 8:1. But this is manifestly too early, because more than 2,300 years have elapsed and we know that the sanctuary is not yet cleansed’ - *Lectures on the Book of Revelation*, vol. 3, p. 541” (*ibid.*, p. 156).

“Charles Wesley:

‘Almighty God of love
Set up the attractive sign,
And summon whom thou dost
approve
For messengers divine.

‘From favored Abraham’s seed
The new apostles choose,
In isles and continents to spread
The dead-reviving news.

‘Previous to that dreadful day
Which shall thy foes consume,
Jesus to prepare thy way,
Let the last prophet come.’

—*Prophetic Times*, vol. 2, p. 144” (*ibid.*, p. 147).

“John Wesley in his seventy-first sermon: ‘The times that we have reason to believe are at hand - if they have not already begun - are what many pious men have termed the latter day glory, meaning the time wherein God would gloriously display his power and love in the fulfillment of the promise that “the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.” The generality of Christians can see no signs of the glorious day that is approaching; but how is this to be accounted for? How is it that men who can “discern the face of the sky,” who are not only great philosophers but great divines, as eminent as ever the Sadducees or Pharisees were, do not discern the signs of the glorious times, which if not begun are nigh even at the door?’

“And yet the wise men of the world, men of learning and renown, can not understand what we mean by talking of an extraordinary work of God. They cannot discern the signs of the times. They see no signs at all of God’s arising to maintain his own cause, and set up his kingdom over all the earth.

“What could God have done which he hath not done to convince you that the day is coming, that the time is at hand when he will fulfill his glorious promise, and will arise to maintain his own cause, and set up his kingdom?” (*The Fall of Babylon*, p. 230).

INTERVIEW

Introducing Elder Prudencio and Sr. Lolita Alameda from the Philippines



By Br. Bruce & Sr. Deb Haines

First of all, our brother and sister would like to extend the best of wishes to you all from our brethren in the Philippines. They are very happy and overwhelmed in thanks to God for this opportunity and

privilege to come to this beautiful place called America. Our brother Prudencio says all the people here are beautiful and handsome (Br. Prudencio has a wonderful sense of humor!). Br. Prudencio told us he has a little knowledge, which was given to him by God, not his

teacher. God has blessed him so much in being able to understand and be understood with his broken English. Sr. Lolita speaks English pretty well and helps him out occasionally. He is also very good with acting out in his own form of sign language to help us

understand what he is trying to tell us. When Br. Prudencio prays in his native tongue, Cebuano, it is very beautiful.

Br. Prudencio and Sr. Lolita have five children: they have one son who is now 21 years old; two daughters who are 19 and 17 years old; and two more sons who are 15 and 13 years old. They live on one of the larger islands called Mindanao, in the city of Panabo, in the southern Philippines. Sr. Lolita's mother lives with her sister, and her father is deceased. Prudencio's parents are both deceased. Sr. Lolita is the middle child in a family of eight children; Br. Prudencio is the youngest in a family of nine children, with four of his siblings still living. Most of their family members are now members of the Church of Christ.

They explained to us that the people of the Philippines call the Book of Mormon the Golden Book, for the golden plates it was taken from.

Br. Prudencio and Sr. Lolita are busy every day with church work, with studies, visiting people and people coming to them for help. Sr. Lolita is the Secretary/Treasurer for their local, as well as the Secretary for the Board of Trustees for the Philippines. Their hopes for the future are that they will have more peo-

ple to work with, more purpose in the church, and that the people will become stronger and grow in their faith in Christ.

Both Br. Prudencio and Sr. Lolita like the United States very much. They say it is nice, but cold. When they first arrived in the United States they had a layover in Minneapolis. Br. Prudencio said, "This is America? This Minneapolis—it's COLD!"

They like that it is peaceful and not crowded where they have been, which is not like their home. They have been to the Truman Library in Independence, to Kansas City where they saw the fountains, and they also saw a horse and buggy! They feel the people here are very nice.

Br. Prudencio says at home he eats much and more often; yet is not full. Here, he eats a little and is very full! They like our food, even the "grass" (salads). He says he eats like a rabbit. He feels good with no rice. They both really like the food that we eat here. Philippine food is a mixture of American, Chinese, Malay, and Spanish dishes. Most people eat rice at every meal and many dishes are highly seasoned.

Asked if WE (church brothers and sister) are what they expected, they answer "YES, yes...VERY nice." They have very much enjoyed

their visit to America. They say: "Yes, Yes, Yes." They really like the attitudes and friendliness of our church people here.

Br. Prudencio is a photographer and likes to take photos of all of us with his camera. He will have quite a collection of photos from their trip to take back home with them!

Br. Prudencio has cataracts quite badly and uses a magnifying glass to read at times. He may need to have surgery. Please pray that the Lord will heal him.

As an elder in the Church of Christ, Br. Prudencio says to study Acts 1:8 and look for understanding, and adds: "Amen to our God, I come back here!"

We thank God for our Elder Prudencio and our Sister Lolita Alameda, and for the opportunity to meet them while they visited us at Conference time. It was such a joy to talk with them, to learn more about them. We all fell in love with them. They have such love for all of us, for our Lord and for the work of the gospel.

A Testimony from Joanie Gill



Ronnie and Joanie Gill and their family of five children are a missionary family living in Honduras. Ronnie and Joanie are originally from Minnesota. Joanie is a convert to the Church of Christ. This is her story:

I was a firm Catholic. When I was about 17 Ronnie and I became boyfriend and girlfriend. I remember getting on Ronnie about the Book of Mormon. I didn't know anything about it except what I had read in the encyclopedia about Joseph Smith for a school paper that I had to do. Ronnie gave a really positive response, saying that he believed the Book of Mormon and that he would not ever be persuaded away from it. That gave me a lot of respect for Ronnie because he was so firm in his belief. He wasn't baptized at that time either.

A number of my brothers and sisters had left the Catholic Church and I know that was hard for my dad. He came from a very Catholic family. He sent us all to Catholic schools. I remember not wanting to break my dad's heart. I was determined that out of all the kids, I was going to remain a very devout Catholic.

The summer after I graduated from high school I went to stay with my sister Patty and her husband Enoch. We were very close to Ronnie's so I would frequently go to church with them. When I went to the Catholic Church there in Rosemont I didn't like it. To me, it felt more like a business instead of a church. Enoch was a great one for debating and that summer we spent hours in discussion and debate.

Then I went to college. In college my best friends were Catholics. One girl wanted to become a nun. We used to go to the Newman Center, a Catholic center for the students. It was a clean place to hang out. Every Friday they would show a film about the life of a Catholic saint. They had meetings there. I used to participate in masses by doing readings; but at the same time, because of my influence from the summer, I was beginning to have doubts.

The first doubt was about infant baptism. Back when I went to the first Tri-State Reunion, the preacher was criticizing infant bap-

tism. I was so upset and offended that I walked out. Stephen followed me out and we debated the issue, with me defending some of the Catholic philosophies.

The first doubts I started having were because I understood that when Christ died on the cross He died to cleanse us from the sin of Adam, and so we weren't responsible for the sins of our parents. Yet they were baptizing infants for the sins of Adam, infants who could not possibly have any sins. I questioned the priest there. Didn't Christ die on the cross to cover Adam's sin? He just looked at me and said, "When an infant is baptized, don't you feel the spirit of Christ?"

I'm thought of all little babies, all the innocence in them—you can see the spirit in any one of them. I started having one doubt upon another. For the first time in my life I started studying from the Bible. I remember one scripture that says if you're guilty of one sin you're guilty of breaking all the law. I understood that if the Catholic Church was teaching wrong doctrine in one aspect they were breaking all His law. I began seeing that what I saw as inconsistencies in the Bible weren't really inconsistencies in the Bible, they were inconsistencies between what the Bible really teaches and how the Catholic Church interprets what the Bible teaches.

About this time Ronnie was baptized. I remember that he made a lot of changes in his life at that time. He's always been a solitary person, so one of the biggest changes I saw was that he took an interest in his brothers. And there were other changes, like his music.

Ronnie had given me a scriptural comic book called Alberto (about a Catholic priest who challenged the church). When I read it I began to see that I had a choice to make in my life, and I contemplated it. I went to the dorm that night and lay down on my bed. I closed my eyes. I had a vision wherein I was inside a circle of people, feeling a happy environment. I understood that the people were my family, friends and acquaintances. Their forms started changing and they become like a wall. I felt trapped in the middle of this circle. Then I noticed that beyond the wall was a light. I knew that I needed to break out of the wall before it was too late. I hadn't noticed the light when I was happy. But now I knew that inside the wall was captivity and death.

I got up and began writing a list of All the Reasons to Stay in the Catholic Church and The Reasons to Leave. The reason to stay was mostly for my dad, so I began really studying the Bible and talking with Enoch and Patty.

I went home for Christmas to see my parents. Enoch had asked me in the car if I had ever considered baptism. I said that I had been thinking about it, but my biggest doubt was about authority. I was convicted about baptism but I wasn't sure if this was the right

church. I looked in the phone book and thought about visiting all the different churches in the area. I considered it, but I didn't really feel inspired to.



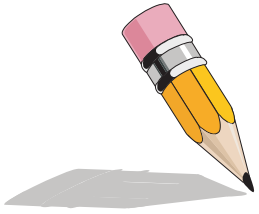
PATHLIGHTS

I decided I needed to fast about the Book of Mormon at that time too. I happened to open the Book of Mormon to the Sermon on the Mount. It was always a beautiful place to me in the Bible. I saw that the Bible and the Book of Mormon read the same. Looking back on it, I think the Holy Spirit fell on me then and convicted me that the Book of Mormon was true. I didn't understand the Holy Spirit at the time. I just saw the similarities between the Sermon on the Mount in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. When I think about it, there was this assuredness. I began studying the Bible and Book of Mormon together. When I read in the Book of Moroni about infant baptism I became more and more convicted.

I remember on another

Sunday I was sitting in church in Minneapolis at a sacrament service. During the meeting I felt a strong urge to stand up and ask people to pray for me, but I was really nervous. Tom Maley and my father-in-law were sitting up front. As Tom started to close the service he asked if anyone else wanted to stand and say something. They were both looking straight at me. I stood and asked for prayers.

Through my studies I became more and more convinced that I needed to be baptized. When I went down into the water and came back up I felt like a newborn baby. I felt really clean. I understood that with the laying on of hands you received the Holy Spirit, but before the laying on of hands while we were kneeling down and saying the prayer, I felt this presence, this peace come into my body, a peace and joy. I realized then that I had received the Holy Spirit then.



Independence East Local Report

Spring has sprung in Missouri! Flowers are blooming, birds are nesting and grass mowing season has begun!

Our Women's Group has been active with purchasing new round tables for the annex for our enjoyment and for easier conversing with our brothers and sisters during our gatherings. We also are enjoying the fresh warm feeling of new wallpaper as we step into the church foyer.

Apostle Smith (Buzz) and Sr. Sue Brickhouse have returned from their Africa missionary trip. Priest Bill and Sr. Karen Malone, from Phoenix, accompanied them for part of the trip, then Apostle Brian McIndoo joined Br. Buzz for the last part of the trip.

Apostles Smith (Buzz) Brickhouse and Roland Sarratt made a missionary trip, visiting isolated members and several locals in Wisconsin and Michigan during April.

The Blessing of 4½-month-old Emily Chung Seibel took place on March 20th, by Elder Randy Sheldon and Apostle Buzz Brickhouse. She is the daughter of Nathaniel and Gina Seibel; the grandparents are Harvey E. and Irene Seibel. There were many family members looking on. May God bless this sweet little one.

Br. Sam and Sr. Helen Kidd are home from their wintering in Phoenix. We are happy to see them again! We are also

happy to report that we have a new East Local member. Pamela Whitehead moved here from Phoenix and is now a member of our local. Welcome, Pamela!

Br. Frank and Sr. Carol Fann have returned from their missionary trip to the Philippines. Elder Prudencio and Sr. Lolita Alameda returned with them, ending their first trip to America to attend the Church Conference. We are sad to see them leave us to go back to their homeland, but, God willing, they will visit us again.

It was a joyous time welcoming all our loved ones in for the Solemn Assembly and Conference at the Temple Lot. We had an increase in the number of our brothers and sisters attending, yet there were still many who could not attend, and we missed them.

After the Solemn Assembly and Sunday Sacrament Service we enjoyed our Annual Pancake Dinner at the IHOP Restaurant. This is a very enjoyable time for all, a time of fellowship, and a very good fundraiser too!

On Wednesday afternoon of Conference the East Local annex was the setting for the women's United Workers luncheon. We enjoyed hearing from three of our sisters who witnessed of how God had helped them in overcoming adversities in their lives.

Our East Local Business Meeting took place the evening of April 25th.

Our newly elected officers for the coming year are:

- *Pastor—Elder Rick Olson*
- *Assistant Pastor—Elder Isaac (Bick) Brockman, Jr.*
- *Secretary—Sr. Diane Brockman*
- *Treasurer—Br. Harvey L. Seibel*
- *Sunday School Superintendent—Priest Rusty Granger*
- *Assistant Sunday School Superintendent—Priest Kevin McGhee*

And many others who have "volunteered" their services in various responsibilities!

As our brothers and sisters depart after all the Conference activities we feel saddened, but we look forward to seeing as many as we can as the summer schedule of church reunions begin. We praise the Lord for the time we have had together in worship and to glorify His name.

In thankfulness for all our blessings,

*Your Reporter,
Sr. Deb Haines*

OBITUARY

H. Irene (Reed) Shelley

July 1, 1918 ~ February 26, 2005

Mrs. H. Irene (Reed) Shelley, age 86, died February 26, 2005, in Muskegon, after a lengthy illness. She was born in Harrietta, Michigan, to Christian and Bessie (Hart) Klingbeil on July 1, 1918, and married John Reed on August 7, 1937. He died May 16, 1992. She then married Atwood Shelley on May 18, 1993, and he passed away on October 26, 2001. She lived in Muskegon most of her life.

Mrs. Shelley had been a homemaker and was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling and fishing. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include one son, Oscar (Darlene) Reed of North Muskegon; three daughters, Joy (John) Chalko, Sue (Gary) Monson, both of Twin Lake, and Renee Schaab of Muskegon; three step-daughters, Shirley Graves, Diane Crain and Arlene (Leland) Cory, all from Flushing, Michigan; nine grand-children and fifteen great-grandchildren; one sister, Mildred Suchy of Muskegon, and sister-in-law Marie DeVries of Hesperia. Her son-in-law, Mark Schaab, also preceded her in death.



Services were held in Muskegon, Michigan, with Pastor Aaron Heath officiating.

Sr. Irene's daughter Sue gave a eulogy and reminded us of many things our dear sister had done throughout her life, and how much she enjoyed her family, cooking, camping, etc.

Bro. Aaron said we should be comforted because she is in God's care, and reflected on our memories of her as we knew and loved her so much in this world. Irene loved the church and tried to pass that love on to her family. She never stopped being involved, and she and John helped build our present church building. She was deeply devoted to God and she tried to give her family

the foundation of living for God and everlasting life through His son, Jesus Christ.

This life is fragile and this loved one was fragile and at times like this we are reminded that we are all human and this body that we dwell in is just temporary. It is just a shell. The thing that makes our bodies move, talk, alive, is the spirit of God within us. He created us all, and breathed life into each and every one of us (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7).

Brother Aaron also read from Job 34:15, Psalms 103:1-19, Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 4-8, 11-14, 17-20; also Ecclesiastes 12:7, our spirit returns to God: Romans 8:35-39, and John 14:1-4. We need not fear, a place has been set aside for Irene and for all who follow the commandments of God, our Creator, our Father in heaven (Revelations 21:1-4).

All who knew Sr. Irene will surely miss her.



OBITUARY

Elizabeth Darlene Gould Smith

May 19, 1915 ~ May 17, 2005

Elizabeth Darlene Gould Smith passed from this life on Tuesday, May the 17th, 2005. Darlene was 89 years, 11 months and 28 days old at her passing. The Graveside Service was held on Saturday, May 21st, at 10:00 A.M. at the Dobbs Cemetery, nine miles east of Ava, Missouri, Elder Joseph F. Smith officiating, Elder Sam Gould assisting. It was a clear, beautiful day, with a sky of pure blue and a cool breeze drifting gently from a nearby stand of timber. Our voices drifted softly through the spring air as we sang one of Darlene's favorite songs, *The Old, Old Path*, which was beautifully accompanied by a chorus of nature's songbirds. In the shade of a huge oak tree, under whose branches lay her long departed husband, a place was prepared for her to rest. There in a brief solemn service we said goodbye as we sang *God Be With You, Till We Meet Again*.

Darlene was born May 19, 1915, near Bemidji, Minnesota.



She was the seventh of eleven children born to Leon and Alice Gould. She was a member of the Church of Christ for many years, having been baptized on September the 16th, 1923, by her father Leon A Gould, and confirmed by her father and G. W. Day. She married Alexander Martin Smith, June 20th, 1937, at Bemidji, Minnesota. Shortly thereafter they came to Ava, Missouri, where they made their home. They had been married 45 years when Alex passed away in 1982. She was

also preceded in death by her parents, an infant son, and seven brothers and sisters: Leona Narr, Winfield Gould, Phyliss Black, Arlo Gould, Lovita Seibel, Eugene Gould and Stella Winegar.

She is survived by a daughter, Estella Smith; a son, Verl Smith; three grandchildren: David Davis, AdriAnn Smith, Jason Smith; four great-grandchildren: Chloe McKee, Bailey Smith, Troy Smith, and Eli Smith; two sisters: Helen Taubert and Amy Schrader; and one

brother, Don Gould.

She is also survived by a host of friends, relatives and neighbors, who hold with great respect the memory of the special person she was, for she portrayed a beautiful example of what it means to be a Christian.

Elder Joseph F. Smith

Church of Christ

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1, 2 and 3, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2006 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 and April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

2005 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

MAY

Scripture Theme Camp

- ▶ May 13-15, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Camp Shawnee Camp Area at Knob Noster State Park.
- ▶ For information contact:
Mark Hill, Jesse Lawrence, Randy Sheldon, Dan Lawrence, Dan Malone.

JUNE

Idaho Reunion

- ▶ June 3-5, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Southwestern Idaho Senior Citizen's Recreation Association, Inc. (S.I.S.C.R.A.).
- ▶ For information contact:
Roy Coon
 3995 County Line Road
 Emmett, Idaho 83617
 (208) 365-34109
 racoon21@juno.com or
 racoon21@earthlink.net

Colorado Reunion

- ▶ June 10-12, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado
- For information contact:
Karen Bell
 PO Box 1137
 Palisade, CO 81526
 (970) 464-4624
 kbell@gvii.net
- John Bell**
 572 34 Road
 Clifton, CO 81520
 (970) 434-7100
 jeeb54@gvii.net
- Allen Downs**
 515 28½ Road
 Grand Junction, CO 81501
 (970) 245-8344
 addowns@hotmail.com

Michigan Reunion

- ▶ June 25-26, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Bradley Local, Michigan
- ▶ For information, contact:
Duane Lee
 2053 Fawn Ave.
 Middleville, MI 49333
 (269) 795-7420
- Randy Lee**
 2953 Wing Rd.
 Hastings, MI 49058-9537
 (269) 948-8971

Springfield Rally

- ▶ June 26th, Sunday
- ▶ 2251 N. Golden; Springfield, Missouri.
- ▶ For information contact:
Elder Matt Case
 (417) 832-8349
 tabianhdmatt@hotmail.com
- Priest Martin Addie**
 (417) 862-2255
 ec05959@earthlink.net

JULY

Wake Up Camp 2005

- ▶ July 1-3, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Bemidji Local Church, Bemidji, Minnesota
- ▶ For information contact:
Hannah Gould
 (218) 586-2774
- Sam Gould**
 (218) 586-3759

New York Reunion

- ▶ July 8-10, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Hogansburg, New York
- ▶ For information contact:
 In Canada:
Wayne and Susan Miller
 868 Tollgate Road
 Cornwall, Ontario
 Canada K6H5R6
 (613) 933-5469
- In the United States:
Eli and Gretchen Tarbell
 PO Box 21
 600 State Route 37
 Hogansburg, New York 13655
 (518) 358-2911
 egtarbell@hotmail.com
- Dale and Terry Waldruff**
 429 Country Road 34
 Canton, New York 113617
 (315) 265-1221
 terrwald@slc.com

Church of Christ Teen Camp

- ▶ July 24-29, Sunday-Friday
- ▶ Camp Far Westa, near Stewartsville, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 12-18
- ▶ Camp Cost: \$115.00
- ▶ For information contact:
Michelle Oldham
 5811 Duggleby
 Davenport, IA 52807
 (563) 359-1693
 jnmham@mchsi.com

Scripture Adventure Camp

- ▶ July 28, Thursday
- ▶ Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 5-11
- ▶ For information contact:
Randy and Becky Sheldon
 (816) 229-6712
 r-bsheldon@juno.com
- Jennifer Yates**
 (602) 569-9296
 a2zyates@cox.net

Missouri Reunion

- ▶ July 29-31, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:
Roland Sarratt
 15910 E. 36th Terr.
 Independence, MO 64055
 (816) 373-6605
 r.sarratt@earthlink.net

Michael McGhee
 18907 E. 6th St. North
 Independence, MO 64056
 (816) 796-6255

SEPTEMBER

Camp for All Ages

- ▶ September 16-18, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Pinnacles, about ten miles north of Columbia, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:
Jesse Lawrence
 jesselawrence@earthlink.net

Women's Retreat

- ▶ September 30-October 1, Friday-Saturday
- ▶ Lake Mauer Retreat Center in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- ▶ For women ages 18 and up
- ▶ Cost: \$45.00/person (includes one night accommodation and 3 meals)
- ▶ For information contact:
Carrie Geier
 14609 E. Phelps
 Independence, MO 64055
 (816) 836-0035
 geiers@kcnet.com
- Geri Adams**
 2804 Westbrooke Circle
 Blue Springs, MO 64015
 (816) 228-8283
 admsgeri@cs.com

NOVEMBER

Phoenix Reunion

- ▶ November 25-27, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ For information contact:
Pastor Bob Hedrick
 2908 E Rockwood Dr
 Phoenix, AZ 85050
 (602) 494-9661
 bobnliza@cox.net
- Assistant Pastors:**
Duane Ely
 18814 N 30th St
 Phoenix, AZ 85050
 duanekathyely@aol.com
- Gordon McCann**
 18808 N 30th St
 Phoenix, AZ 85050
 gbjmccann@cox.net