

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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*"...And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them,
till it came and stood over where the young child was.*

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

—Matthew 2:9-10—

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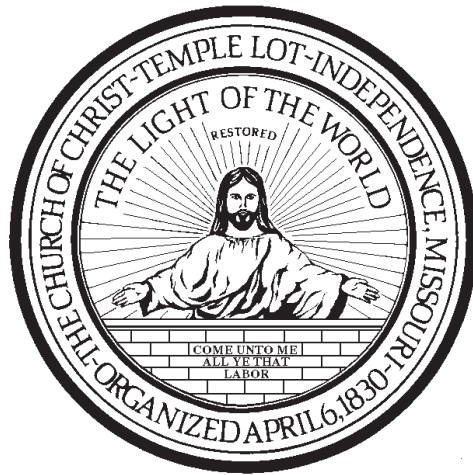
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

EDITORIAL

Where is the Peace?

By Teacher Dan Lawrence

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:8-14).

Over two thousand years ago this astonishing message was declared to a humble people living in a land dominated by tyrannical rule and poverty. The announcement of the birth of a Saviour promised peace and prosperity to a society that experienced neither. Every year these words are repeated and the hope of peace dwells in the hearts of those who hear, but reality begs the question, "Where is the peace?"

That very Saviour who was declared made this statement early in His ministry:

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division" (Luke 12:51).

And Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, prophesied:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come...Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim 3:1, 12-13).

Truly, Paul's prophecy rings true today. In the same passage he stated that in the last days man would be endowed with an abundance of information but that he would be "...never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (v. 7). A recent survey by the Barna Group revealed that only 22% of Americans claim to believe in the existence of absolute moral truth and that only 13% cited the Bible as the source of the standards on which they base their moral and ethical decisions. To the average American, spiritual life seems foreign and irrelevant to the "real" world that they inhabit.

The false god of political correctness has banned prayer in school, the public display of the Ten Commandments, manger scenes from public property and religious discussion and symbols from the work place. History books are being rewritten to exclude any reference to God, religion and faith. Human life has been devalued by the legalization of abortion and assisted suicide. Domestic and international terrorism have escalated at an alarming rate, with suicide bombing being the most common method.

Where is the peace?

God's word in Genesis tells us that man was **created** by Him. But God's truth is being replaced by man's fable. Without any scientific evidence, evolution has been

adopted as fact. Not only does it contradict scripture, the theory of evolution goes to the heart of the question of who **or what** we are. It reduces mankind to the level of an animal, motivated only by self interest, his moral truth defined only by what seems most advantageous at the time, with no soul, and no consequence beyond the immediate cause and effect, a life with no meaning or purpose.

So, where **is** the peace? Jews of old anticipated a messiah who would deliver them from human bondage and oppression, but Jesus told His disciples:

*"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: **not as the world giveth**, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).*

The peace He gives us is not freedom from human bondage, but a liberation from the bondage of sin and the misery of its consequences. This freedom comes only through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the plan of salvation set in motion when God created man. We can have this peace if we accept Jesus by faith, admitting our sins before Him, allowing Him to rid our lives of iniquity through baptism, and adhering to His unchangeable laws for the remainder of our lives. Then we can realize Paul's promise to the believer:

"And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

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

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
(TEMPLE LOT)
(CONTINUED)



PART 12

Of these glorious events
Lucy writes,

“While Joseph remained here, the angel showed him, by contrast, the difference between good and evil, and likewise the consequences of both obedience and disobedience to the commandments of God, in such a striking manner, that the impression was always vivid in his memory until the very end of his days; and in giving a relation of this circumstance, not long prior to his

death, he remarked, that ‘ever afterwards he was willing to keep the commandments of God.’

“Furthermore, the angel told him, at the interview mentioned last, that the time had not yet come for the plates to be brought forth to the world; that he could not take them from the place wherein they were deposited until he had learned to keep the commandments of God - not only till he was willing, but able to do it. The angel bade Joseph come to this place every year, at the same time of the year, and he would meet him there and give him further instructions.

“The ensuing evening, when the family were all together, Joseph made known to them all that he had communicated to his father in the field, and

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DIFFERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES? OR HOW OUR CHURCH IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER? DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHAT CHURCH WE JOIN? IF THESE OR SIMILAR QUESTIONS HAVE COME TO MIND THEN THE MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THIS SERIES SHOULD BE HELPFUL.

also of his finding the Record, as well as what passed between him and the angel while he was at the place where the plates were deposited.

“Sitting up late that evening, in order to converse upon these things, together with overexertion of mind, had much fatigued Joseph; and when Alvin observed it, he said, ‘Now, brother, let us go to bed, and rise early in the morning, in order to finish our day’s work at an hour before sunset, then, if mother will get our suppers early, we will have a fine long evening, and we will all sit down for the purpose of listening to you while you tell us the great things which God has revealed to you.’

“Accordingly, by sunset the next day we were all seated, and Joseph commenced telling us the great and glorious things which God had manifested to him; but, before proceeding, he charged us not to mention out of the family that which he was about to say to us, as the world was so wicked that when they came to a knowledge of these things they would try to take our lives; and that when we should obtain the plates, our names would be cast out as evil by all people. Hence the necessity of suppressing these things as much as possible, until the time should come for them to go forth to the world.

“After giving us this charge, he proceeded to relate further particulars concerning the work which he was appointed to do, and we received them

joyfully, never mentioning them except among ourselves, agreeable to the instructions which we had received from him.

“From this time forth, Joseph continued to receive instructions from the Lord, and we continued to get the children together every evening, for the purpose of listening while he gave us a relation of the same. I presume our family presented an aspect as singular as any that ever lived upon the face of the earth - all seated in a circle, father, mother, sons, and daughters, and giving the most profound attention to a boy, eighteen years of age, who had never read the Bible through in his life: he seemed much less inclined to the perusal of books than any of the rest of our children, but far more given to meditation and deep study.

“We were now confirmed in the opinion that God was about to bring to light something upon which we could stay our minds, or that would give us a more perfect knowledge of the plan of salvation and the redemption of the human family. This caused us greatly to rejoice, the sweetest union and happiness pervaded our house, and tranquility reigned in our midst.

“During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling, and

the animals upon which they rode; their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life with them.

“On the twenty-second of September, 1824, Joseph again visited the place where he found the plates the year previous; and supposing at this time that the only thing required, in order to possess them until the time for their translation, was to be able to keep the commandments of God - and he firmly believed he could keep every commandment which had been given him - he fully expected to carry them home with him. Therefore, having arrived at the place, and uncovering the plates, he put forth his hand and took them up, but, as he was taking them hence, the unhappy thought darted through his mind that probably there was something else in the box besides the plates, which would be of some pecuniary advantage to him. So, in the moment of excitement, he laid them down very carefully, for the purpose of covering the box, lest some one might happen to pass that way and get whatever there might be remaining in it. After covering it, he turned round to take the Record again, but behold it was gone, and where he knew not, neither did he know the means by which it had been taken from him.

“At this, as a natural consequence, he was much alarmed. He kneeled down and asked

the Lord why the Record had been taken from him; upon which the angel of the Lord appeared to him, and told him that he had not done as he had been commanded, for in a former revelation he had been commanded not to lay the plates down, or put them for a moment out of his hands, until he got into the house and deposited them in a chest or trunk, having a good lock and key, and, contrary to this, he had laid them down with the view of securing some fancied or imaginary treasure that remained.

“In the moment of excitement, Joseph was overcome by the powers of darkness, and forgot the injunction that was laid upon him.

“Having some further conversation with the angel on this occasion, Joseph was permitted to raise the stone again, when he beheld the plates as he had done before. He immediately reached forth his hand to take them, but instead of getting them, as he anticipated, he was hurled back upon the ground with great violence. When he recovered, the angel was gone, and he arose and returned to the house, weeping for grief and disappointment.

“As he was aware that we would expect him to bring the plates home with him, he was greatly troubled, fearing that we might doubt his having seen them. As soon as he entered the house, my husband asked him if he had obtained the plates. The answer was, ‘No, father, I could not get

them.’

“His father then said, ‘did you see them?’

“‘Yes,’ replied Joseph, ‘I saw them, but could not take them.’

“‘I would have taken them,’ rejoined his father, with much earnestness, ‘if I had been in your place.’

“‘Why,’ returned Joseph, in quite a subdued tone, ‘you do not know what you say. I could not get them, for the angel of the Lord would not let me.’

“Joseph then related the circumstance in full, which gave us much uneasiness, as we were afraid that he might utterly fail of obtaining the Record through some neglect on his part. We, therefore, doubled our diligence in prayer and supplication to God, in order that he might be more fully instructed in his duty, and be preserved from all the wiles and machinations of him ‘who lieth in wait to deceive’” (*Lucy Smith's History*, pp. 83-86).

Continuing with Joseph's history,

“In the year eighteen hundred and twenty-four my father's family met with a great affliction by the death of my eldest brother Alvin. In the month of October eighteen hundred and twenty-five I hired with an old gentleman, by the name of Josiah Stool, who lived in Chenango County, State of New York. He had heard something of a silver mine having been opened by the Spaniards in Harmony,

Susquehanna County, State of Pennsylvania, and had previous to my hiring with him been digging in order if possible to discover the mine. After I went to live with him he took me among the rest of his hands to dig for the silver mine, at which I continued to work for nearly a month without success in our undertaking, and finally I prevailed with the old gentleman to cease digging after it. Hence arose the very prevalent story of my having been a money digger” (*Times and Seasons*, p. 772).

Of this event Lucy writes,

“A short time before the house was completed, a man, by the name of Josiah Stool, came from Chenango County, New York, with the view of getting Joseph to assist him in digging for a silver mine. He came for Joseph on account of having heard that he possessed certain keys, by which he could discern things invisible to the natural eye.

“Joseph endeavoured to divert him from his vain pursuit, but he was inflexible in his purpose, and offered high wages to those who would dig for him, in search of said mine, and still insisted upon having Joseph to work for him. Accordingly, Joseph and several others returned with him and commenced digging. After labouring for the old gentleman about a month, without success, Joseph prevailed upon him to cease his operations; and it was from this circumstance of having worked by the month, at digging for a silver

mine, that the very prevalent story arose of Joseph's having been a money digger.

"While Joseph was in the employ of Mr. Stoal, he boarded a short time with one Isaac Hale, and it was during this interval, that Joseph became acquainted with the daughter, Miss Emma Hale, to whom he immediately commenced paying his addresses, and was subsequently married.

"When Mr. Stoal relinquished his project of digging for silver, Joseph returned to his father's house" (*Lucy Smith's History*, pp. 91-92).

Continuing, Joseph writes,

"During the time that I was thus employed I was put to board with a Mr. Isaac Hale of that place; it was there that I first saw my wife (his daughter) Emma Hale. On the eighteenth of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, we were married while yet I was employed in the service of Mr. Stoal" (*Times and Seasons*, vol. 3, p. 772).

Says his mother,

"We were pleased with his choice, and not only consented to his marrying her, but requested him to bring her home with him, and live with us. Accordingly he set out with his father for Pennsylvania...."

"...And the next January returned with his wife, in good health and fine spirits.

"Not long subsequent to his return, my husband had occasion to send him to Manchester, on business. As he set off early in the day, we expected him home at most by six o'clock in the evening, but when six o'clock came, he did not arrive. We always had a peculiar anxiety about him whenever he was absent, for it seemed as though something was always taking place to jeopardize his life. But to return. He did not get home till the night was far spent. On coming in, he threw himself into a chair, apparently much exhausted. My husband did not observe his appearance, and immediately exclaimed, 'Joseph, why are you so late? Has anything happened to you? We have been much distressed about you these three hours.' As Joseph made no answer, he continued his interrogations, until, finally, I said, 'Now, father, let him rest a moment - don't trouble him now - you see he is home safe, and he is very tired, so pray wait a little.'

"The fact was, I had learned to be a little cautious about matters with regard to Joseph, for I was accustomed to see him look as he did on that occasion, and I could not easily mistake the cause thereof.

"Presently he smiled, and said in a calm tone, 'I have taken the severest chastisement that I have ever had in my life.'

"My husband, supposing that it was from some of the neighbours, was quite angry, and observed, 'I would like to know what business anybody has to find fault with you!'

"'Stop, father, stop,' said Joseph, 'it was the angel of the Lord: as I passed by the hill of Cumorah, where the plates are, the angel met me, and said that I had not been engaged enough in the work of the Lord; that the time had come for the Record to be brought forth; and that I must be up and doing, and set myself about the things which God had commanded me to do. But, father, give yourself no uneasiness concerning the reprimand which I have received, for I now know the course that I am to pursue, so all will be well.'

"It was also made known to him, at this interview, that he should make another effort to obtain the plates, on the twenty-second of the following Sept., but this he did not mention to us at that time" (*Lucy Smith's History*, pp. 93, 98-99).

2005 REFERENDUM RESULTS

■ Ballot #1 concerning the Law of Consecration: 1,464 votes in favor; 63 votes opposed.

JESUS THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35, 2:8-17

The Bible tells us that long ago there lived a good and kind young woman named Mary. One day an angel appeared to Mary. "God has chosen you to be the mother of His only Son."

A good man named Joseph loved Mary. They were planning to be married. When Joseph saw that Mary was going to have a child even though they had never been together, he was afraid to marry her.

One night God sent Joseph a wonderful dream. A bright shining angel stood there. "Joseph, do not be afraid to make Mary your wife," the angel said. "This child will be called Jesus. He will be the Savior of the world."

So Joseph and Mary were married. Time passed and it was almost time for Jesus to be born. Each man was ordered to go back to the town where he was born to pay taxes to the government. Mary rode on a donkey as Joseph walked beside her on the way to Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem the town was filled with people. Joseph went to an inn to find them a place to stay for the night. "Sorry, no room," the innkeeper said. Joseph and Mary

went to another inn, and another. "We have no room for you," was the only answer. Mary was so tired. "Please, do you have room for us?" Joseph begged an innkeeper. "My wife is going to have a baby." "All right," one innkeeper finally said. "You can sleep in the stable with the animals." There in the stable that night, Jesus the Savior of the world was born. They made his bed in a manger filled with straw.



In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds were watching their sheep. An angel appeared and the shepherds were afraid. "Fear not," the angel said. "...Today in Bethlehem the Saviour is born. You will find him laying in a manger." Then other angels appeared in the sky singing: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."**

In the sky above Bethlehem appeared a new star, brighter than any star people had ever seen! The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Jesus. They were so happy that they told everyone, "Jesus, the Savior is born!"

The Spirit of God

Brothers and Sisters, I wish to share with you a spiritual blessing that I received earlier this year. I have spent much time in study and meditation about the love of Christ and His grace upon us all, trying to train my heart to be like His. In the spring of this year, 2005, I became aware of the sensation of being about a hundred feet in the air. It was a manifestation of awareness, not of levitation or flight. I did not look "down" to earth and its people, but rather seemed to be able to see beyond the apparent visual dimension. I found it easiest and most comfortable to just say that I was a hundred feet in the air. This experience lasted several weeks; I was not always aware of it directly, but it was near my consciousness continually.

Because of this different perspective, all those that came into my range of vision or awareness were revealed in greater depth. I saw not just individuals, but the layers of influences on them, from the way that their parents raised them and that society trained them, to the effects of their diet and environment on the chemistry of the brain, as well as the layers upon layers of theological and philosophical control exercised upon them by their ancestors.

I also saw, as it were, the Spirit of God which descended upon all humans. It was an illuminating

warmth which swirled and eddied around each person that was or had



PATHLIGHTS

ever been on this planet. It was doing its best to penetrate into all people and it was more successful on some than on others; the difference was that some were too attached to the world as it had been taught to them, or they were addicted to materialism, sensuality, pain, or theology, to just name a few of the barriers to the Spirit's influence.

I was also made aware of the great love that God has for all people. It is so great that it cannot be spoken of. His love for us is personal and universal. It is very much like the love that parents enjoy, a bond that gives Him immense joy and exqui-

site pain. All humans are His children and we are all brothers and sisters. The only way to a closer relationship with the Father is by following the leadings of the Spirit.

The Spirit of God is and always has worked to break through our distractions, our prejudices, our theologies, our handicaps to bring us to love. The love of Christ is the basis of all righteousness.

*Elder George Adams
October 8, 2005*



Finally... two reasons for celebration! One, the weather is *finally* cooling off here in Arizona. The nights are beautiful and the mornings almost brisk—well, to a Phoenician like me they feel brisk! And two, I'm *finally* writing an update on what has been going on here in the Phoenix Local these past few months. It has been too long, as always, since this has been done!



Vacation Church School in July was a huge success, thanks to all of the teachers, parents, and students who were there to make sure it went well. This year we had several young people make the trip to be here for that week. Noah Geier and Trevor Fann from Missouri, Caleb and Jeremiah Case from Ohio, Leslie (Mickey) Willig from Payson, and several of Rebecca and Jose Galvan's nieces and nephews from the Phoenix area were in attendance. Anyone who has ever been to the Phoenix Local knows most of the congregation lives within walking distance of the church. This works out perfectly for VCS week. The entire neighborhood gets involved in opening up their homes for classrooms, meals, and swimming. They all pitch in to make



PHOENIX, ARIZONA

that whirlwind of a week one the kids will always remember. As the coordinator of VCS I appreciate all the efforts that are put in by those willing to teach, prepare crafts, set out snacks, sing songs, write lessons, watch babies and take out trash—and smile every day while doing it! Being a member of this church is an amazing blessing. Nowhere else would I find so many willing to be of service. I'm truly grateful to be a part of this wonderful group of people. Whether you live here in the States or across the ocean in Africa you are a blessing from God put here for a reason.

Speaking of Africa...many members of our congregation have made trips there in the past few months. As always, Apostle Brian McIndoo has visited several countries there, accompanied by different ones along the way. Andy, Debbie, and Nathan Brown recently joined him and his wife Becky there, along with Michelle Ely and Erica Moser. These seven individuals traveled for 30 days to Kenya, Tanzania, and several other places during their trip. Already we have seen pictures and heard many stories of their adventures there. I know the people and places they've seen will remain in their



hearts forever. Tony McIndoo will soon have an opportunity to travel with his father Brian in Africa for a three-week visit. We look forward to hearing his experiences when he returns.

In other travels, Apostle Jay Moser will be in the Philippines for a three-week stay. I know he has wanted to return to see the people there ever since his first visit. Whenever we travel to other locals the people there stay in our thoughts and we look forward to a time when we will see them again. Apostle Don McIndoo is in Yucatan, and Elder Ken Oar and his wife Marlene are in Honduras until the beginning of November. Apostle Joel Yates recently returned from a two-week trip to the Northwest

portion of the U.S. He also made a trip to Nigeria this summer.

If you've read the *Hand of Fellowship* news you already know our group here in Phoenix has increased by two recently. Laura Gill from Missouri

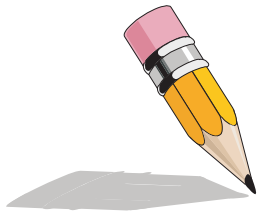


and Emily Porter from Michigan have decided to call Phoenix their home for a while. My little house is now full again, which means I am never bored! We've also gotten to welcome Alex Moser to our group. He is the second child of Aaron and Amy Moser, and he is, of course, adorable! Gary and Alesha Jacobsen are expecting their second child in December. We can hardly wait for her arrival. Not only has our group here grown in these ways, but our membership has increased through baptisms as well. This summer cousins Aimee and Kaitlyn Yates were baptized in Missouri. Amanda Trugen (New Delhi, India) was baptized this July here in Phoenix. We also got to see our new brother Jose Galvan make that covenant in October. He and his wife Rebecca, a member of about three years, and their daughters Mary and Didi, have been a wonderful new part of our local here.

Hopefully that catches us up for the past few months. I'm sure I'm leaving some things out, but I've hit the highlights at least. Until next time!

Rebecca Oar

TEMPLE LOT LOCAL, MISSOURI



The Temple Lot local has enjoyed a season of celebration, starting at the Missouri Reunion with the extension of the hand of fellowship to our newest brothers and sisters, Laura Greenwood, Noah Geier, Peggy Geier, DiAnn Hedrick, Ryan Lesh, Sherry Rowett and Hannah Vogel. As these began their life in Christ we celebrated the conclusion of the earthly life of Velma Wheaton. Rejoicing in the peace of her passing, we remember fondly her example of faithfulness and her enduring testimony of praise for her Maker.

In August we issued our celebration of Nicolas Denham's 95th birthday through a card shower, and in September enjoyed an afternoon commemorating the 60th wedding anniversary of Leslie and Irene Case. Also in that month a surprise anniver-

sary party for Scott and Cathy Harris's 25th wedding anniversary was enjoyed. Similarly, a surprise birthday celebration for Janice Welch was successfully thrown earlier in July.

Following the September Temple Lot local business meeting we met again in thankful celebration of the many years of service as the local Pastor selflessly given by Alvin Harris. Allowing him to retire, we look forward to supporting the new pastor, Jim Case, as he works to fill those shoes.

As summer cooled to Missouri's finest season the Missouri Camp for all Ages was held at a beautiful site near Finger Lakes State Park. We enjoyed beautiful weather, scenery that inspired the donning of hiking boots, and a peaceful spirit throughout our fellowship and services. A few weeks later, the women of the church enjoyed a weekend retreat in Excelsior Springs as we studied and discussed

finding Godly contentment. It was a wonderful weekend spent in good company and in prayerful attention to God's directions for our lives.

Also in September we joyously welcomed home David Welch from a tour of duty in Iraq. We praise God for his safe return and happily enjoy the frequency with which we now have him in our presence.

October brought celebrations of new unions with the marriage blessing of Sam and Tabitha (Grim) Harris on the 8th and a wedding shower for Cynthia Greenwood on the 28th. We praise God for the many reasons He gives us for celebration here on this earth and look forward for more opportunity to celebrate Him.

Sister Aubrey Case



Temple Lot Local, Independence, Missouri



INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL, MISSOURI

Our love to all from the East Independence Local! With autumn upon us our thoughts turn from reunions to "Our Thanksgivings" unto the Lord. We are so very thankful for all our blessings and would like to share some of them with you.

Elder Rick and our Sister Becky Olson arrived home after a month spent with our brothers and sisters in Kenya. They were accompanied by Apostle Brian and his wife, our Sister Becky McIndoo, as well as others from the Phoenix Local. Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse and Elder Adam Porter, from the Bradley Local in Michigan, returned home after two weeks in Nigeria. Apostle Frank Fann, Apostle Mike McGhee and Apostle Jay Moser (from the Phoenix Local) have returned from a Philippine missionary trip. Apostle Roland and his wife, our Sister June Sarratt, traveled to the Brantford, Ontario Reunion and the dedication of their new church building October 8-9. They continued on to visit members in New York, down the



By Sr. Deb Haines

East coast and to West Virginia. We are thankful for the many prayers that have been answered for all our brothers and sisters, and all who have traveled in the missionary fields...many more than what can be mentioned here.

We are happy to announce that Elder Andy and Sr. Carol Brantner are grandparents for the first time! Jake and Kim Brantner were blessed with a beautiful daughter, McKenzie Lynn,

on October 8th. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 11 ozs. This is number 8 for Great Grandparents Elder Charles and our Sister Jeanne Brantner.

Our Social Committee hosted a Luau on September 10th, a fundraiser for the Philippine and African Missions. A very enjoyable and fun time was had by all and many funds were raised to benefit the foreign missions.

The Women's Group got together in lieu of their regular monthly meeting to clean the church Tuesday, September 13th. Everyone that could attend very much enjoyed the "work out."

Once again, we are so thankful to God for all His blessings upon us, and we ask a continued interest in your prayers for those who are in need. We are very thankful for all our brothers and sisters in the Gospel. May God bless each and every one of you.



East Independence Local, Independence, Missouri

OBITUARY

Doris May Sheldon

August 7, 1923 ~ October 27, 2005

Doris May Sheldon was born August 7, 1923, to Clyde L. and Beatrice Babcock in Flint, Michigan, the first of three children, and passed from this life on October 27, 2005. Her passing resulted from about 15 years of progressive Alzheimer's disease.

Her public education through high school was had in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. As a young lady she went to live with her aunt Darl Hunholz and her husband Ray in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, for a few years, and she met William Sheldon at that home. William was in the military service at the time, in Chicago, having gone to the Hunholz home for a spiritual service being held by Apostle B. C. Flint.

Doris and William were attracted to each other and consummated a marriage about a year later in Independence, Missouri. This marriage took place on April 13, 1944. Following his three year service in the military, they settled in Independence in order to have a Church home and to rear a family. To this union were born three children: Darl, Randall (Randy) and Ronald (Ronnie), who have survived their mother in life, as has her husband, William. There are two children of Darl Temple, and their mates: Kyle and wife



Hollie; Heidi with husband John Collings. Randy and his wife, Becky, have four children: Tabitha, married to Matthew Case, Luke, Cynthia and Laura. Tabitha and Matthew are parents of a daughter, Keira. The Kyle Temples are parents of three small boys: Payton, Jackson and Sterling.

These adults mourn the passing of Doris, as also many brothers and sisters in the faith of Christ, especially those who had been acquainted with her on a more personal basis.

It is not meet to give praise to humankind, only as they have reflected the life and teachings, and the moral

character, of Jesus Christ. Doris accepted the Restored Gospel of Christ in her youth, to which she was faithful to the end. She taught her children in that faith in Christ, and lived to see them each converted to Him, faithful members of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot. Her compassion and aid to many outside her home were often demonstrated, and her humble prayers and testimonies of God's goodness were a source of comfort and encouragement within the Church. She truly loved the Lord and His saints, and in her own unique way she spoke of and glorified her Savior, notwithstanding her human weaknesses. She could only have been considered an average singer, but she loved to sing the gospel hymns, a reflection of her inner light and joy toward Christ.

During approximately the past two years, her affliction robbed her of oral communication, but her suffering was only apparent in her physical disabilities. However, her eyes often revealed her recognition of things and people. Her passing was scarcely noticeable to her husband at the time, a marvelous blessing in itself.

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Christmas Joy

Starlight and song on a night
long ago,
When angels came to earth,
Bringing to humble shepherds
The news of our Savior's birth.

Then
Leaving their sheep to pasture
They hurried to Bethlehem,
And finding the Baby Jesus,
Knelt down and worshiped
Him.

—Helen Taubert



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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2006 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.