

# 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 83

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—MARCH 2006

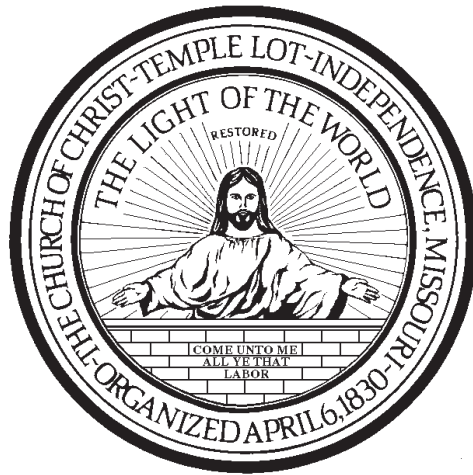
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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
 To promote His Teachings and His Church,  
 the Church of Christ;  
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be  
 Zion's advocate.

# The Philippines Shared



**By Apostle Michael McGhee**

I have been asked to write of the Philippines. Writing is not one of my talents but I will seek to share memories and experiences the Lord has blessed me with in my ministry.

This last trip to the Philippines was very special for me as I have been unable to travel there because of health problems in our family-owned business. I intend to recap this last year's activities and some of the last four years; I will begin not at the beginning, but with my last sight of this land.

The last thing I could make out from the air as we left the Philippines this last October 2005 was a church. Not the Church of Christ, but a church that has its beginning and foun-



► Song special at the Toril Mission.

dation in the Philippines. They are beautiful churches from the air, and more especially on the ground. They catch the eye of all that look upon them, yet they grind upon the people for money to maintain their exterior appeal. How unlike our churches the Lord has led us to build, that catch not the eye from the air, as their roofs are not unlike the roofs of everyday homes. From the ground they are unimpressive and simple in construction, but on the inside there is a beauty in the members, an inner beauty that the Lord has placed there, and which the ministry called into the Church of Christ continues to maintain, not by grinding upon our members, but by nur-

turing growth in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This last December 2005 we drew upon monies from the Church of Christ to purchase motorbikes for the use of the ministry. The work has spread over 500 km north to south on the island of Mindanao, and as far inland as the roads will allow. We are over 2,800 members strong and growing, with three locals and 40 plus missions to care for on a weekly basis. To understand the importance of these motorbikes it is helpful to know that of all our members only one owns a jeep, and that I have never seen one in one piece and running at the same time. For our ministry this meant taking a bus or a jeepney; al-

ways expensive by their standards, never on time and always a long walk from their home to the main road. Your prayers for their safety are appreciated, as they must drive through congested city traffic or steep mountain roads. Their health and well being have always been, and continue to be, in God's hands, but now "their" hands are the ones steering; their time and energy are conserved now for the Lord's work.

In November 2005 we received an e-mail that the New People's Army (a communist backed group) had taken control in the Paquibato region, the size of three of our counties. The NPA, according to Elder Prudencio Alameda, was terrorizing the citizens in general, but in particular three of our leaders: Brother Jun Banatao, Panalum Mission; Brother Ruben Enlog, Sabang Mission; Santos Lumondang, Tagaytay Mission. They were alright, but it was decided to move our members to Pigdalahan Mission, and later to Tibungal Mission, because of the close proximity of Pigdalahan to a Philippine Army outpost. Prudencio reported there was heavy fighting and casualties, but not one of our members was harmed; he rightfully gave the thanks to God. We, you and I, helped them with two or three sacks of rice to feed them during this displacement. As a side note, two of our members used to be a part of this organization. They have buried their sins with Christ and now wield the sword of truth – His Word. One of these two the Lord has called



► Baptism class at Toril.

into His Ministry!

This last October 2005 Brothers Frank Fann, Alvin Moser and Michael McGhee were privileged to make a three-week trip to the Philippines. It was interesting to listen to Jay's observations on the trip, especially concerning the people as it had been three years since he had been able to make the trip. He and Frank were the ministry sent to open up the work here and the logistics and numbers have increased greatly. We were able to hold six Sunday Services, nine reunions with over 20 missions represented, and baptize 132 new members. Once a year we try to hold leadership training and this year we had over 80 attending. The classes were held over a three day period starting at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m., an exhausting day for both Filipinos and Americans!

The subjects taught were: Church History, Book of Mormon, Stewardship, Articles of Faith and Practice, Christian Ethics, Teaching from the Scriptures, Budgeting and Reporting, Pastoral Ethics, Evangelism, Music and How to Teach Sunday School. The numbers and distances that separate our missions dictate that there be a leader for each mission to assemble and hold meetings with study and prayer. Their sacrifice of time and labor has been a great blessing to Brother Frank, myself and the ministry called to labor in the Philippines. We have wondered at times if the lessons we have taught at the Headquarters in Panabo were understood by the leaders, let alone passed on to the membership; then on a homemade blackboard in the recesses of the jungle we have seen our lesson plan. Yes, we



► From left to right: Elder Tobias Operio, Elder Jonathan Alameda, Elder Prudencio Alameda, Elder Demetrio Indangan, Elder Roger Manlai, Priest Arturo Superio.

have had cause to rejoice in the Lord and His work.

This last June 2005 Brothers Frank Fann, Cody Fann, Charles Brantner, Andy Brantner and Jeff Oldham made the three-week trip. This caused much excitement—a large contingent from the United States all coming at

once! You would think this was the reason, but really a young man with blonde hair and blue eyes was the subject of talk among our young people. The larger number of visiting ministry allowed the missions and distance to all be covered north and south during this three-week period, and Cody

was able to share with the youth how young people in the USA organized and took the lead in their youth gatherings. The Lord blessed an assembly gathered to pray for additional ministry. To our Elders Prudencio Alameda, Demetrio Indangan and Roger Manlai the Lord added: Tobias Operio, Elder; Arturo Superio, Priest; Ben Retanal, Teacher; Jonathon Alameda, Elder. I rejoiced hearing of this calling of the Lord as I had carried a witness to these four for almost 18 months. The Lord more than doubled the ministry in the Philippines, and yet they are hard pressed to keep up with the demands. Their desire in the Lord stays them as it does us all!

May 2-6, 2005, the 3rd annual youth camp was held. Each year the number attending has increased. The missions and locals sponsor those attending with food and chaperones. Leadership positions are elected from their number and classes are taught by the ministry and youth leaders. Of course, there are games and



► Apostle Alvin Jay Moser baptizing at the 2005 leadership training.



competition.

In March of last year Brother Frank and Sister Carol Fann traveled to the Philippines alone and were able to minister to and teach our brothers and sisters. The exciting part is that they were able also to bring Brother Prudencio and Sister Lolita Alameda back to the USA for our April Conference. This was no small undertaking as travel restrictions were in place, especially from the Philippines, known to foster the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the New People's Army and the Abu Saef. Once the need and obstacles to acquire a

► Special song at San Marcos.



► Part of congregation at San Marcos.

Visa were identified, brothers and sisters here in the USA contacted a Senator and a Congressman, but more importantly prayed to our God and He made it happen!

The Alamedas were able to meet, greet and embrace geographical locations, organizational concepts and the people they had been taught of and, I am sure, had dreamed of meeting. Sister Lolita Alameda was able to talk at length and learn with her sisters here in the USA. Elder Prudencio Alameda was able to preach at both the Conference held on the Temple Lot and at the East Local. He sums up his experience best in an e-mail to Brother Frank and myself, which says in part: "Last Sunday, I let the members listen to my message that you record on the tape and they were very happy that I have made it and that I convey the message to you even though I am using crooked English. As I listen to the tape I also felt proud of myself that I have finished it up to the end. My children are very proud of me because I have given a message in front of many Americans and I have explained it clearly and many were blessed. God bless and thank you all, Prudencio."

These are just a sampling of last year's activities. I will close now with just a few of the problems and triumphs in the Lord these last four years.

- A reunion was planned and scheduled to happen the next day. On the way to our day's activities the Lord spoke to Brother Frank. Brother Frank, I and Elder Alameda with his wife Lolita assembled in



► Getting ready for administration at San Marcos.

the only quiet place, their bedroom. Frank said the Lord had spoken to him, informing him there was a plot to kill Christians, that we were not to go, but instead were given another direction. Our brother and sister did not complain or question, but promptly gave thanks to God. This was no small problem as they

had no telephone, no transportation and hundreds of people gathering the next day. All was stopped and other plans put in place, given of the Lord. That next day there was a bombing a mile from our residence. The city of Davao was placed under Marshal Law, and there was another bombing at a



► Some of the children at San Marcos.

power plant in the direction we would have been headed. At the entrance to Mount Carmel, the site of our reunion, buses and people were stopped, and the people robbed, kidnapped and murdered.

- Our members are hungry and have no food for the following reasons: too much rain and the newly planted crops are washed away by mud slides, not enough rain and the tender plants are withering, an infestation of rats are eating the plants before grain is even formed, the Philippine Army corners the terrorists on a mountain and surrounds the whole mountain! Good news, except that our members cannot go back to their homes or tend their crops, depending on which side of the battle line they are trapped! Your tithes and offerings provide relief from starvation with a little rice for our Church of Christ members in the Philippines.
- Fever from malaria or dengue fever. Elders, called and ordained of God, living in the Philippines, feel for the first time during the laying on of hands the power of God lifting a fever as their hands are laid on in obedience to the WORD.
- A child was struck by a falling coconut on the head from a height of 50 feet or more. An x-ray showed a fracture 3-4 inches long on the swollen head of a child with listless eyes. Brother Charles Brantner and myself were asked to lay on hands and call upon the Power of God. We learned that in two days' time the child was up, running and playing. Praise God!
- A man diagnosed with lung cancer has received all that the medical profession can do for him; he is refused further treatment or medicine and is told he has two weeks to live. He is the stepfather of one of our members and we lay on hands in



► Making flutes at Luna Sur.

obedience to their request and the Word. He has not been out of bed for a month, and there is no life in his eyes! The next day he arises, bathes and takes a walk. But that is not all—he begins to witness to all he knows and meets of the power of God and his miracle. He lives two more years and then dies; I question and wonder why did he not “live”? He was baptized into the Church of Christ during his “two years” and is alive in Christ! He witnessed and worked for the Lord in his hometown of Tagum, and the Lord’s Work is alive and well there with newly baptized members and regular meetings because of his “two years”!

- The problems in the Paquibato region mentioned at the start of this letter for November of last year became a real problem this January 19, 2006, when we were notified of a kidnapping of Amondo and Santos Lumondong! They were held for 1000 pesos each, \$20 US, and a cell phone. Affordable, not

much money—let’s pay and get them out of harm’s way! We sent an e-mail explaining that the Church of Christ does not pay ransom. If we did, brothers and sisters, everyone would be put at risk all the time. What you and I did, along with the Church of Christ throughout the world, was pray to God. God chose to cause their release on the 22nd. God chose to deliver them, and this is cause to give thanks and acknowledge the power of God. If He had chosen to support them in their captivity or death, it is still the same power, and no one can separate us from the love of Christ and life in Him!

How do you share your experiences with a land, a people and the power of God?

I hope I have succeeded in Christ,

*Michael McGhee*



REPORT

# Seeing Poor is Seeing Poorly



By Cody Fann

I was approached by my grandpa, Apostle Frank Fann, to write an article describing the Philippines through the eyes of an American teenager. This presented a problem, however, because in order to accurately describe the Philippines through the eyes of an American, one subject takes precedence over all...economic status! Economic status...the one subject I don't want to talk about, yet it overlooks every aspect of life, not only for Filipinos, but also for Americans. Yes, we all know that by Ameri-

can standards they are poor; don't worry, I am not offending anyone—they know as well as I that when comparing material wealth, Filipinos in general don't even come close to matching American's wealthy status. The average income for a Filipino is \$30 a month...enough said about that. The biggest problem in all of this is that there is so much more to talk about than the fact that our brothers and sisters in the Philippines are poor, yet there is no way to avoid the subject. I am, therefore, stuck between a rock



► Church members of Toril.

and a hard place, where I don't want to talk about the "under-privileged" status of many of the church members, but it is not possible to give you an accurate account of anything that I experienced without mentioning it at least once! So I will attempt to tie their economic status into their wealth in other areas, and convince you, the reader, that when viewing the Philippines through the eyes of an American, seeing poor is seeing poorly.

Being truly humbled is an experience that can never be forgotten. I never have really been humbled until I traveled to the Philippines...and not because of their lack of material wealth! The most humbling thing about the Philippines is their sincerity in serving the Lord. I have never met a more dedicated group of people than our brothers and sisters there; they display and emit a love that I had never seen or felt until then. When the members shake your hand, and you look into their eyes, you develop a feeling down in your chest, a feeling of acceptance, love, and fullness; it's a feeling that cannot be described as well as it is felt, and I wish everyone could know the feeling that is sensed. Ask anyone that has been there and they will tell you the same thing.

Could I have felt this tremendous humbleness had it not been in a third-world country? It is hard to say, but knowing that our brothers and sisters have little to nothing, and yet have the most incredible faith I have ever seen, makes it hard

for me to believe that if those same members had grown up with an abundance of material wealth that they could have the same reliance on the Lord that they have now, as I am guilty of, which is why I was extremely humbled by the faith and genuine love that they display.

The first feeling I had after being humbled was that when I get home, I should take all my belongings and sell them, and go live a life of humbleness and not worry about my material wealth any more, or that I should sell all of my things and give the money to the Philippines so that I could live a more humbling life as well.

Well, as I thought it through, I had an epiphany...if I hadn't had all my material wealth that I enjoy, I wouldn't have been able to travel to the Philippines! If God hadn't blessed us with amazing prosperity and wealth, how could His work continue overseas without the resources we enjoy now? AH!!! The reason that we have all this wealth is (1) God has blessed us with prosperity, and (2) Our prosperity should be used to further His work here and overseas!

The members in the Philippines are grateful for our prosperity because our prosperity, along with other things, helps to not only better their lives, but it also supports their spiritual growth as well. Yes, the members view us as wealthy, but they also view us as help, love, and support...as well they should because after all, as it is said, much is expected from whom much is given. We in the

United States have been blessed with tremendous wealth and opportunity that should be used to spread God's word throughout all the world.

There is no better way to describe the Philippines than to talk about food. Why? The food is exactly like the country of the Philippines...no diversity! In the United States, to be an American can mean many things...one could be a natural born citizen whose parents came to America centuries ago from Europe to settle the newly discovered continent, while others may be immigrants from all around the world looking to better their lives and live the "American Dream." In America, citizens come from many races and backgrounds, all different skin colors, all different languages, and all different religions.

The Philippines, however, are somewhat less diverse. There is not a prevalent mix of races and backgrounds, at least not by any American standards. The food, like the people, is also lacking in the diversity department. The Philippines should win an award for the most rice and chicken eaten in a day, which after a week or two there, I could think of a gazillion other things I would LOVE to eat...anything but chicken and rice! In a place like the Philippines, however, their culture dictates their food...the less diversity in culture, the less diversity in food. Think about it...try explaining Taco Bell to a teenager in the Philippines, as I had the privilege of doing not too long ago...it's harder than it

sounds! There is no Italian or Mexican food in the Philippines even remotely close to what it is here; but then again, there is no chicken and rice meal in the United States as there is in the Philippines!

To an American, their culture is, well, funny. We would travel hours to a remote village high in the mountains far away from any towns or cities only to encounter bamboo-woven huts with a basketball goal and a karaoke machine for entertainment.

One thing that I joke about now is that I hardly ever saw any stoplights, except in downtown Davao. Otherwise there wasn't anything to control the flow of traffic, even at an intersection, and every time we went through one I thought that I was seriously going to die. It is perfectly legal to "relieve" yourself on the side of the road in the middle of broad daylight on the side of the street somewhere, and there aren't many places that I visited that sport the sign, "No shoes, No shirt, No service."

Riding in the cramped van we encountered many things, including five or six salesmen that come up to our window trying to sell us knock-off Rolexes or some fake pearl necklaces for the convenient price of \$1.

Boxing is huge in the Philippines, and they take great pride in their boxers, and are proud to be Filipino when a Filipino boxer beats a foreign opponent.

They even run schools differently: they don't go from August to May with a summer



► Baptism at Toril.

break, they go to school for a while and then get some off, and then go back again; I couldn't describe their school system even if my life depended on it.

They are able to ride seven people to a motorcycle, and love to sing even though it may not be exactly on key.

Their markets are outside, and their malls are like discount stores, with four or five floors of things ranging from furniture to pencils to clothing. In order to get inside you have to check all your bags at the door for fear of someone blowing up the place with an explosive device.

Every drink comes in a glass bottle, from Coke to Sprite and even Gatorade, and there were some cans of coke and diet coke too. The only thing that was plastic was the bottles of water that here would cost \$2.00 but there cost around \$.30.

Besides the quirky culture differences, the Philippines are a wonderful place full of wonderful people who are filled with love and the truest desire to serve the Lord. I have never

had a more enjoyable time in my life than the time I spent with our brothers and sisters there, and they will always hold a special place in my heart, and I miss them more and more each time I think about them. Thinking of them now almost brings a tear to my eye, remembering all of their smiling faces and warm handshakes, and their eagerness to share stories with me of how the Lord has greatly blessed them and their families.

I have a personal testimony about God watching over me in the Philippines, as many that traveled there have also, and if you want to hear it ask me sometime.

God has greatly blessed me by giving me the opportunity to travel there, and I have seen firsthand His great blessings and love He gives to our fellow members over there. I know for a fact that God's work continues in the Philippines, and with your support, can continue for many years to come.

## INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL REPORT



**O**ur love and best wishes to all from the East Independence Local! As we look forward to a new year ahead of us we are so very thankful for all our blessings of years past and would like to share some of the most recent blessings and happenings with you.

Our sister Doris Sheldon was gently taken home to our Father on October 27th. A beautiful memorial service was well attended at the Temple Lot building on the 31st, in which many wonderful memories were shared. Our Sr. Doris is survived by her husband, Apostle William Sheldon and their three children: Elder Randy Sheldon, Sr. Darl Temple, and Br. Ron Sheldon, and their families. We rejoice that our sister is now in the arms of our Savior.

James Parker McGhee was born on November 23rd. Even though he was five weeks early he weighed in at 5 lbs. 10 oz., and was 19 inches long. It was three weeks later before baby James was able to come home from the hospital. The happy parents are Br. Terry and Sr. Lisa McGhee. Grandparents are Br. Ralph and Sr. Kathy Clark, and Elder Steve and Sr. Melissa McGhee.

Witnessing Weekend activities began with a cottage-type meeting at the Granger's home Saturday evening, November 12th. On Sunday, the 13th, church services began with a prayer and testimony meeting in the morning, which was followed by a sermon given by Apostle Frank Fann. We enjoyed dinner and fellowship in the local's annex, and then another sermon, given by Elder Bob Oldham.

On December 17th, the East Local's women's group attended a breakfast and tour at the Frontier Trails Center. Much fellowship and Independence history was enjoyed by all.

The East Local Christmas programs were held Sunday, December 18th. The choir performed many beautiful songs in the morning service, and the children's Sunday School classes gave us a special program in the evening service.

We are thankful for the safe return of our Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse (and Elder Hubert Yates from Phoenix) on December 20th, from a missionary trip to Africa.

On December 20th, our Brother Jim Gordon

passed unexpectedly from a heart attack. A beautiful service was held December 23rd at the Atkinson Funeral Home, in Harrisonville. Our Br. Jim leaves behind his wife, Julie Gordon; two sons, Nathan and Aaron; a sister, Tommie Porter; two brothers, Elder Bob Oldham and Mike Gaither, and their families. Br. Jim and his beautiful voice are greatly missed. We are comforted by the thought that he is now singing in a heavenly choir in the presence of our Lord.

On December 25th there was a combined morning service held at the Temple Lot building. There was joyous singing in praise of the birth of our Savior from the East Local choir, a sermon by Elder Rick Olson and then a beautiful cantata sung by the Temple Lot Local choir.

Sunday, January 8th, brought many blessings. Little James Parker McGhee was blessed by his grandfather, Elder Steve McGhee, and assisted by his great-uncle, Apostle Frank Fann. It was such a beautiful ordinance we were able to witness as this little one was held up in prayer to



our Heavenly Father. We then enjoyed a sermon by Apostle William Sheldon, which was followed by a pot luck dinner, and another sermon by Priest Rusty Granger. A surprise announcement was made that Sr. Heidi Collings and husband John had just become parents, with their baby boy born earlier that afternoon. Sr. Darl Temple is the happy grandmother and Apostle William Sheldon is the happy great grandfather.

On February 5th, the blessing of baby Joseph Eugene Beem, by Elder Larry Beem, assisted by Apostle Frank Fann, took place. The parents, Larry Jr. and Cristen, and siblings Lorin, Mason and Taylor, are from Oklahoma. The grandparents are Elder Larry and Sr. Jewell Beem. Baby Joseph was born prematurely on December



**By Sr. Deb Haines**

23rd, weighing only 3 lbs 11 oz. Baby Joseph had been out of the hospital for only one week at the time of his blessing.

We are thankful for the safe return of Apostle Buzz Brickhouse on February 14th from a missionary trip to Yucatan. We ask a continued interest in your prayers for other missionaries who are sent forth doing the work of the Lord wherever He may lead.

On February 19th, the blessing of baby Makenzie Lynn Brantner, age 4 months, by Elder Andrew Brantner, assisted by Elder Charles Brantner took place. The parents are Jake and Kim Brantner from Blue Springs. The grandparents are Elder Andrew and Sr. Carol Brantner, and Kathy and the late Joe Swearngin. The great grandparents are Elder Charles and Sr. Jeanne Brantner.

Once again we are so thankful to God for all His blessings upon us, as we have had some wonderful health blessings and healings among us. We are very thankful for all our brothers and sisters in the Gospel, and our thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one as we ask a continued interest in your prayers for those who are still in need. We look forward to greeting all that are able to come to Solemn Assembly and our General Church Conference coming up the first week of April. May God Bless You All.



## COLLINS, MISSOURI NEWS

**G**reetings to all our brothers and sisters in the gospel of Christ. It's a brand new year and what better place to begin it than in a church service! There were very few of us that attended on New Year's Day Sunday, but those of us who did were rewarded with the touch of God's Spirit. I know that so many of us have lots of things to do and not enough "time" to get them all done, but if you only knew how very much WE need you at church, and wish that you needed us too...one day all our "time" will be gone.

Back in August several of us gathered together at our Sister Shawna Herd's home with family and friends to witness the baptism of Shawna and Dale's son, Aaron Herd. Brother (and Grandpa) Allen Kauffman stepped into their pool and had the honor and privilege of baptizing his grandson. We had waited a long time for this special moment. Aaron had said that it was "time," and that he had learned that it is necessary to lead by example—and so he has chosen to follow the commandments of Christ and place his feet on the narrow path that leads to salvation. It was a nice service. The laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost was done in the house with Brother Jack Martin assisting Allen.

October 13th Allen had surgery on his back and has been off work since then. He is getting along very well, though still has soreness and can't bend very well. He goes back to check in with his doctor in February to see where he goes from there. Your prayers would be appreciated concerning his future. Our thanks is unending to our Heavenly Father for His kindness and blessings He has provided us during this time. Part of this has been in the timing—as I have been able to work while Allen has been off. Also the great blessing of people and their caring for us—it is without a doubt, amazing!

Our Sister Betty Martin has taken several falls, one of which caused her to have a few stitches in the back of her head. She is doing better and is able to get out and come to

church, but not without a great effort. Some days are harder for her to deal with than others. Jack is ever faithful in caring for her and taking her places—seeing that she gets out of the house and goes for lunch, visits her sister in the nursing home, etc. Your care and prayers for these two special people would always be appreciated.

We had a good turnout for the Collins Rally, along with way too much food! Thank you to all who came, and also for all the food you helped us with. I'd always rather have too much than not enough, so again thank you! We had plenty of spiritual food too. Our Brother Matt Case from Springfield, Missouri, was our first speaker, followed by Brother Glen Gill. Then in the afternoon our Brother Bob Oldham gave the last sermon of the Rally. It was a full day. Several of the young people from Independence were able to attend and blessed us with some music. Oh how I love to hear them sing!

We shared in the Collins Community Thanksgiving Service in November at the Baptist Church again this year and contributed a reading and song for their program. Then we all met together the week before Christmas at our church for the Community Christmas Service and had a short program and sermon there too. We heard the "Christmas Story" several times this season and somehow I never get tired of it. It always seems so new and refreshing and full of hope to me.

While I'm speaking of Christmas, I'd like to tell you a little about Christmas at our house this year. Since Allen isn't working we decided to not participate in the buying and giving of gifts. (This is hard for me, as I enjoy finding little things to give to the kids, etc.) But this was our decision. I did, however, put up our little tree and decorated it, and underneath it I set up the tiny nativity scene that I have. It wasn't very elegant, but it kept me focused on the event of Christmas—Christ's birth. We invited our family to come and have dinner with us and as we gathered together and were ready to set the meal out for everyone, Allen called us into the living room and he read to us the

Christmas story. Then he offered a beautiful prayer—not just for the food, but for all of us, and thanked God for the birth of Jesus that we might have opportunity to know Him. I believe this was the best "Christmas" I have ever had. There was no hustle and bustle, fuss or muss, just Christ in Christmas. (Another blessing given of God since Allen's surgery!)

Paul and Sharon Liekness have gone to Texas for the winter, though they were home for Christmas and got to come to church one Sunday before they went back. Curtis and Margarite Yates have also taken flight to the south—I think also to Texas, I'm not sure. We miss them all and look forward to their return.

I have a few sermon quotes to share with you. I hope you find some use in them.

- *We know that God IS because we "ARE"!*
- *Paul didn't choose the easy way—he chose the RIGHT WAY.*
- *Can you "borrow" time? or Can you "save" time? Can you invest your time?*
- *We fight together—we don't fight each other.*
- *There are people who have used up their time on earth....*
- *In our lives is the evidence of whether we love God or not.*
- *I've read the end of the story and God will be the Victor!*
- *We're rich and there's a legacy—of passing on the gospel to those behind us.*
- *We have an adversary—a hope stealer.*
- *Our hearts are private, but they're always exposed to God!*
- *HE is God and I am not!*

Thank you so much, Brothers and Sisters, for your time. May our almighty God bless each of you in this new year is my sincere prayer.

*Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman*

OBITUARY

# John H. Jones

May 11, 1914~January 14, 2006

Elder John H. Jones passed away peacefully at 91. John Haskins Jones was born in Williamsville, Illinois, May 11, 1914. He was the son of James Armstead Jones and Sarah Louisa (Noffsinger) Jones. He passed away at the Missouri Veterans Home in St. James on January 14, 2006. He married Verna Francis Eddy on December 22, 1936, in Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

He is survived by one sister: Margaret Heiden, from Lakeside, California; three children: Maybelle Edith (Jones) Woiak, from City Point, Wisconsin; Johna May (Jones) Kozemezak, of Houston, Missouri; and David Lee Jones of Independence, Missouri; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren and one



great great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Verna, a son, James Eddy Jones, and a brother, Kenneth Wilber Jones.

John's occupation was sign painter, artist and cartoonist. He

was also an elder in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) and served as pastor for the church in Phoenix, Arizona, and Houston, Missouri. He was a World War II Veteran of the U. S. Army, serving overseas in France. He was elected Secretary of the AFL-CIO Phoenix Local.

When asked, "How are you?" his reply would be, "Perfect."

His funeral service was held at the Evans Funeral Home in Houston, Missouri, January 17, 2006, and the interment was at the Pine Lawn Cemetery.

# Thomas Edward Tyler

July 24, 1938 – December 5, 2005



Thomas Edward Tyler was born to Edward William and Hester (Paschall) Tyler July 24, 1938, and passed from this life December 5, 2005, at the age of 67 years 4 months and 11 days.

Thomas was a carpenter by trade and a member of the Church of Christ Temple Lot at the Foundry Hill Local near Puryear in Henry County, Tennessee.

Thomas and Beverly Cole were married April 25, 1957, and to this union were born two daughters, Carol and Brenda, and

three sons, Randy, Danny, and Eddie. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Beverly, who passed away January 23, 1992; his parents, Edward William and Hester Tyler; one son, Eddie Tyler; stepson, Richard Woodward; and a brother, Nobel Tyler.

He is survived by his children Carol and Jimmie Lowery, of McKenzie, Tennessee; Brenda and David Kimbrell, of Paris, Tennessee; Randy and Jen Tyler, of Paris, Tennessee; Danny and Sandy Tyler, of Paris, Tennessee; fourteen grandchildren, and

seven great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McEvoy Funeral Home Chapel in Paris, Tennessee, Thursday, December 8, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. Internment was at the Foundry Hill Baptist Cemetery in Henry County near Puryear, Tennessee.

His family and many friends and relatives will miss Thomas.



## Church of Christ

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### Church of Christ TEEN CAMP 2006

#### Prospective CIT's,

We are calling out to all young people who want to take the challenge and sign-up as a Counselor in Training (CIT) for Teen Camp 2006.

We need your help from the very start of this important service. Mosiah 1:49 says, "...*That ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God.*" We are CHALLENGING you to be in SERVICE of your God. WE NEED YOU!!! Following are a few details relating to camp.

**When is Camp?** Camp will be held this year from July 23rd to the 28th.

**How do you sign up?** That is the easy part. Please e-mail Sister Kim Yates at (cofcteenecamp@yahoo.com), or call 602-374-3688, to get a CIT application.

**When do you need to sign-up by?** We are asking that you submit your application to be a CIT no later than May 10th. We need your help in setting up classes and taking part in the planning process of camp.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Additionally, be thinking about any suggestions or ideas that you may have for a class at camp!

Don't delay—sign-up today! We're looking forward to seeing you there!

*May God Bless,  
Bro. Jeff Oldham*

P.S. Keep in mind the camp theme for this year. *"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near"* Isaiah 55:6.

### APRIL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2006

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference be advised that the 2006 April Ministers' Conference (general membership) will begin on Monday, April 3rd, 2006, with Conference Sunday on April 2nd, 2006. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3rd, 2006, at the General Church building on the Temple Lot. According to action taken during the 2005 April Ministers' Conference, two days of fasting and prayer will be held Friday, March 31st and Saturday, April 1st, 2006, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All Committee Reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that all business to be placed before the 2006 April Ministers' Conference be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

The mailing address for the above requested information is:

Harvey E. Seibel,  
April Ministers' Conference Secretary  
9800 E. 32nd Street S.  
Independence, MO 64052  
harvenes@juno.com

Your brother in the Lord's work,  
Harvey E. Seibel,  
2006 April Ministers' Conference Secretary

### TWO DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

Be it resolved that services be held at the Temple Lot the two days preceding the April Ministers' Conference, on March 31st and April 1st, 2006, and that all members of this Church of Christ who are hindered by circumstances beyond their control from assembling on the Temple Lot are encouraged to dedicate this same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or in their homes, that the whole Church may be united in one heart and one mind.

*"And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls: and they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;.... And their meetings were conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach or exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done" Moroni 6:6, 9.*

Respectfully submitted,  
The Council of Apostles

Smith N. Brickhouse  
Secretary

### 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 **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.

The **2006 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held the three days following the April Ministers' Conference, at Independence, Missouri.

### ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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