

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—October-November 2006

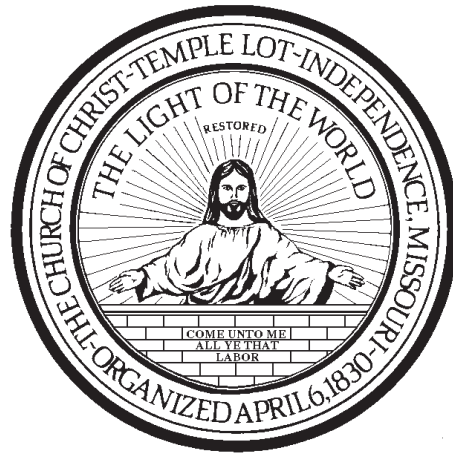
NUMBER 7

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

—Psalm 100

~ In This Issue ~

ARTICLE—God's Commandments Not Grievous - Apostle Joel Yates	103	Part 2 - Michael Kelley	108
ARTICLE—Florida Mission - Apostle Smith Brickhouse	106	REPORT—2006 Missouri Reunion Report - Sr. Deb Haines	110
SERIES—Grace versus Works-based Salvation,		NEWS	114
		OBITUARY - Marian Gail Addington	115



THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com
Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346; e-mail: fann212@juno.com
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: p_matu@hotmail.com
Placido Koyoc Yam, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3047
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: mcgheeme@msn.com
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: mcindoo@cox.net
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050
Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: ajmoser3@cox.net
Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: r.sarratt@earthlink.net
William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3914; e-mail: cofct1@kcnet.com
Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: jyates2@yahoo.com



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

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

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

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

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, Missouri 64052

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Jim Yates, Jr.
2919 E. Siesta Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85050

BUSINESS MANAGER

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85050
E-mail: gpmccann@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dan Lawrence
8420 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, MO 64139

Marlene Oar
19012 N. 29th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85050

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

GOD'S COMMANDMENTS NOT GRIEVIUS



By Apostle Joel Yates

Have you thought about how hard it is to keep the commandments of God? Sometimes it seems impossible and we become overwhelmed by the very thought of remembering all of them. Not long ago I was thinking about these things and realizing my humanity and the struggle between the carnal and spiritual man. Pondering this struggle, I was reminded of a scripture God had caused to be written to remind us of the importance of His commandments.

“By this we know that we

love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” 1 John 5:2-3.

We are reminded in this scripture that showing God we love Him is by keeping His commandments. Even more importantly, we are reminded that His commandments are not weighty, burdensome or heavy. God's commandments were never intended to bring us down or burden us, but to protect us from Satan and the evil he desires to do to all of mankind. God, as our Father, has given us commandments to help and keep us in His love and safety, while each commandment brings blessing and good from God to us. The scriptures remind us of how God cares for us when we seek to do His will.

“I say unto you, that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and art preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move, and do according to your own will, and even sup-

**God's
commandments
were never
intended to bring
us down or
burden us, but to
protect us from
Satan and the evil
he desires to do
to all of mankind.**

porting you from one moment to another; I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole soul, yet ye would be unprofitable servants. And behold, all that he requires of you, is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments, ye should prosper in the land; And he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments, he doth bless you, and prosper you. And now, in the first place, he hath created you, and granted



unto you your lives, for which ye are indebted unto him. And secondly: he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you, for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you; and therefore, he hath paid you. And ye are still indebted unto him; and are, and will be, forever and ever; therefore, of what have ye to boast?" Mosiah 1:53-59.

cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke

eral Church and it should be able to be used by God to further His work as He should choose. It should not be something we give to the Lord with strings attached or in a place where we are in control of how it is used. Offerings are those extra funds or whatever we are able to give beyond our tithing. In these things we have some opportunity to give for certain uses in God's work that we are able to choose to support.

I have heard so many testimonies of brothers and sisters who struggled financially and yet made the effort to give God ten percent first and foremost and how many blessings they have received. How many have testified of giving back to the Lord even though they did not have the ability to meet all of their debts or needs, and time and time again the Lord provided for them in miraculous ways, fulfilling His promise to open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing without room to receive it all. This promise shows us again that God does not intend to make our way heavy, but He desires to bless us when we walk in faith and confidence in His commandments.

Many commandments seem small and inconsequential, but they have such great importance in the life of a Christian and the wonderful promise of God's blessing. One commandment I think we do not pay enough attention to is:

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain

...Striving to refrain from going places and doing things that have an appearance of evil, are intended to keep the Christian man or woman from the strongholds of Satan's temptations.

God reminds us that He blesses us immediately when we strive to keep His commandments. This does not always mean the road will be easy, only that it will be filled with blessing for those striving to keep His commandments. I have heard many testimonies of God's people who were blessed by keeping His commandments. I would like each of us to consider a few of these commandments and how we are blessed when we keep them.

Consider the commandment of tithing. The scriptures tell us the importance of paying our tithing.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are

the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the fields, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed, for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts" 3 Nephi 11:11-15.

We read in this scripture of blessing and cursing in regard to giving back to God our tithing and offerings. Since God has provided everything for us, He considers it robbery not to remember His blessings to us by giving back a tenth to Him and more if we are able. In the Church of Christ we understand this to mean that we need to give our tithing to the Gen-



from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” 1 Thessalonians 5:21-24.

Making Godly judgments about good and evil, as well as striving to refrain from going places and doing things that have an appearance of evil, were intended to keep the Christian man or woman from the strongholds of Satan’s temptations. We know Satan desires to bind the children of men to bondage in sin, which carries the curse of misery and endless woe. God, on the other hand, gave a wonderful promise with the commandment to sanctify us, or make us holy, able to be preserved blameless until the Lord returns and we share in His joy, which is unspeakable. Most people wish keeping this commandment was as easy as it sounds, and yet we find it very difficult to follow—it requires a constant struggle. Remember the blessing and promise of this struggle found in Matthew 11:28-30.

“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.”

Once more we see the promise of blessing in our striving to keep the commandments of the Lord. We find rest and comfort in the promise that He wants to lighten our load and never intended the commandments to be heavy.

The Lord desires to have a relationship with us and to be our constant companion. He wants to give us a life filled with the blessings of heaven and has shown us the love He has for us. May we each respond to our Lord in love and strive, fight

Having a love for God is vital to wanting to keep His commandments.

Our yearning to keep the commandments of the Lord and receive the promise of His blessing must stem from our desire to keep the first great commandment.

“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” Matthew 22:36-40.

Having a love for God is vital to wanting to keep His commandments. Most of us do many things to please someone with whom we want a good relationship. It can be no different in our relationship with the Lord. Christ made it very clear when He said:

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;...” John 14:15-16.

and desire to keep His commandments and receive a lifetime of blessing.



Florida Mission



By Apostle Smith Brickhouse

In 2002 the Church approved the organization of groups of members into Missions where there is not ministry present to establish a Local Congregation. A Mission recognizes groups that have committed to meet together regularly and be identified and numbered among an official congregation of the Church of Christ.

Referendum Bill #1 of 2002 states in part:

"Missions—

An organized mission is a location where there are at least six baptized members, which meet together regularly, but in the absence of Elders they must depend upon missionaries to perform the Ordinances of the Gospel. Missions are also subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and are governed thereby.

Missions will operate under the supervision of the Missionary (s) in Charge of the area in which they are located. They will welcome in and receive ministering by General Church officials and visiting ministry whenever circumstances permit them being present.

The criteria for Missions in the Church of Christ shall be as follows:

- 1 There will be at least six baptized members.
- 2 They meet together on a regular basis to hold meetings such as Sunday School, prayer and testimony service, study classes, song services and preaching services when visiting ministry are present and available.
- 3 They will hold their meetings at a predetermined location (home, rental building, church building, a plot of ground etc.).

4 The baptized members of the Mission will elect officers from among themselves, such as a leader or coordinator, secretary, treasurer, bishops' agent, Sunday School teachers, etc.

a A Leader will take charge of organizing and overseeing the services, coordinating with the Missionary in Charge, and make arrangements for visiting ministry to teach and preach to the congregation.

b A Secretary or Clerk, who shall take care of the secretarial work of the Mission and keep its records.

c A Treasurer, who shall be the financial agent for the Mission.

d A Bishops' Agent will collect tithing from members, issue receipts and forward the funds to the General Church.

5 They hold regularly scheduled Sunday School classes for the children and adults alike.

6 They will be established at the time an organizational meeting is held by the Missionary in Charge, and baptized members who desire to be members of that Mission will then be recorded and recognized as such by the General Church."

Since the approval of this referendum many missions have been established in Africa,



Honduras, Mexico and the Philippines. Each of these groups have been richly blessed by the commitment and united fellowship with others of the "Body of Christ." Missionaries, when able, continue to regularly minister, preach and perform the ordinances of the Church.

This past year a mission was formed here in the states. On April 24, 2005, six members of the Church located in Florida requested the approval to organize a Mission in Altoona, Florida. This was approved by

the Missionaries and today the Altoona, Florida, Mission meets regularly at the home of George and Geraldine Payne. They have elected Bro. Tom Barton as their coordinator and Sunday School teacher.

Several missionaries schedule visits to the groups and minister to them as often as possible. Recently my wife Susan and I met with them, enjoying their fellowship. The group has grown in number with others of family attending whenever possible. They have grown

spiritually and in their desire to serve. Presently they are studying in the Book of Mormon. Below is a picture of the group outside of the Payne home. Unable to attend the day we were there, but one of the original members of the Mission, is Nina Matheny.

If planning on visiting Central Florida and would like to fellowship with this group there please contact me and I will provide the contact information.



▶ Left to right: Sue, Randy Payne, Rick & Shell Craig, George & Geraldine Payne, Karen Anderson and Tom Barton.



Grace versus Works-based Salvation



By Michael Kelley

In the previous installment of this article it was shown how it is by the grace of God that we are saved, yet it is by our works we are judged. Many Evangelical and non-denominational sects believe that once you accept Christ and confess Him with your mouth you are saved and cannot ever lose your salvation thereafter. This is clearly refuted by the following scriptures:

Isaiah 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear

PART 2

toward me is taught by the precept of men:"

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Luke 6:46-49 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

James 1:22 "But be ye doers of

the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

James 2:17-18 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

James 2:19-20 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Clearly these passages show that only those who keep the commandments and teachings of Christ are true believers. Those who only profess God and worship Him with their lips but deny Him by their works shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. James plainly states that faith without works is dead... it is utterly meaningless and vain. He also states that the devils believe in God yet surely we know that devils will have no place in heaven. Evangelicals believe that once we are saved we cannot possibly apostatize and fall, yet many of Paul's writings refute this:

1 Corinthians 9:27 "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any



means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away.”

Philippians 3:11-14 “If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 6:4-6 “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Clearly Paul did not take his salvation for granted. He states that he had not yet apprehended this salvation, but that he was pressing forward in the hope of obtaining it. He also stated in Hebrews it was possible for those who had been partakers of the Holy Ghost, who had been enlightened, to fall away into apostasy. The apostle Judas Iscariot is a perfect example. He started out as a chosen apostle who went forth performing mighty miracles like the rest...healing the sick, casting out devils etc., and later betrayed Christ and committed suicide, yet hardly any Christian would say he was saved in

the kingdom of heaven. Some dismiss this by saying he was never saved or was never a true apostle, but this is ludicrous. The Bible states that Mathias was chosen to replace Judas’ ministry, so clearly he had it.

It is common for a Christian to become converted and again entangled in the sins of their previous life, yet many are able to repent and recover.

Acts 1:17 “For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.”

Clearly then it is possible for a truly converted and “saved” Christian to apostatize. Israel...God’s chosen people...apostatized many times throughout their history and faced harsh punishments when they did. Even chosen men like the prophet Balaam and King Saul were utterly rejected by God after their repeated apostasies. Peter speaks of this:

2 Peter 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

Peter had a very sound perspective on the subject of apostasy. He himself denied Christ thrice yet was able to repent and be forgiven. All of the twelve apostles made many mistakes and were rebuked by

Christ time and time again, yet were forgiven. It is common for a Christian to become converted and again entangled in the sins of their previous life, yet many are able to repent and recover. The key word in Peter’s passage is being “overcome,” wherein the Christian totally apostatizes and fails to repent and goes back to their old ways as a dog returns to its vomit. Typically these individuals become hardened and more evil than they ever had been before they were converted. Our prisons are filled with such individuals.

The next section of this series will cover works, the type of works that Paul states won’t save you, and the Christian works that will. A closer examination of the scriptures can help clear up many misunderstandings of Paul’s writings that so many stumble over.



2006 Missouri Reunion Report



By Sr. Deb Haines

On Friday morning, July 28th, we entered into the House of the Lord at the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri, for the opening prayer service of the Missouri Reunion. Elders Warren Johnson and Randy Sheldon were in charge.

Opening remarks were made by Elder Randy Sheldon. Br. Randy reminded us that we must take these times in which we meet seriously, as it is a time to spiritually determine where we are going. With everything we do we choose whether to do things our way or God's way. Br. Randy gave us a few examples of things that are happening out in the world and the need to pray about them. We need an increasing of belief, not a dwindling.

Many voices were lifted up in prayers of thanksgiving and for the concerns of loved ones. Beautiful testimonies followed sharing

God's blessings. These are just a few of the highlights:

- A brother testified that we all need correction at times, and we all get discouraged at times. We ought not to let it keep us away, for that is the time we need God and His church the most.
- An elderly sister told of hearing as a child of things that will happen shortly before the end. These things are happening, the signs point to that.

Our first sermon of the Reunion was given by Elder Marvin Case. Br. Marvin used Proverbs 16:1-7. He reminded us that this land is a choice land, the chosen land of the Lord. Ancient history shows there have always been battles between good and evil. These battles are aligning what will be in the end: the two churches told about in Lehi's vision. Christ's light will always be there, however.

Be honest enough to see the weaknesses in ourselves that we see in others. He read John 15:1-5. If you are able to do good, be sure you understand you had some assistance, and the same goes with evil.

Br. Marvin read James 1:22-24. HE will cause to have things happen when HE desires it, not when we desire it. We have to strive to do HIS will and be the people HE desires us to be. We all need to rise to the need that God puts on our back.

After lunch and a song service our afternoon sermon was given by Elder Allen Kauffman. Br. Allen asked, "What are we willing to give up to draw apart from the world?" Br. Allen read Malachi 3:1-3. We don't have time to play, accumulate riches, etc. Our job is to preach and teach, whether they accept or not.

Do you feel like you are pulling yourself

away from the love of the world? Do not be attached to these things. Are you willing to give these things up? If you can't, then the love of the Father is not in you.

Anti-Christ, what is it? We need to be prepared—it is in the world. It is a belief that Christ never came in the flesh. Where do we stand with God? What are we willing to give up for God? Are we willing to separate ourselves from contrary things and people? Are we willing to give of our time for the gospel? Separate ourselves from the world.

Br. Allen read James 1:27. We can love each other in spite of our differences. We can still work together—disagree but not be disagreeable. We're coming to a time when we **have** to work together.

After supper and a song service our evening sermon was given by Elder Jim Case. Br. Jim asked us, "What is infinity?" Endless... endless what? No beginning and no end. Eternity is the same. He asked, "Why do we do the things we do, without considering the effect it may have on our own eternity?" This lifetime is only a tiny fragment of time. If we know just how long we have—does it change what we do at any given moment?

Br. Jim read Romans 6:23, where we are told that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. What do we do to receive this gift? God rewards us each and every day. We have life, breath, and time to decide what to do and where you'll be for eternity. Moroni cared for his own people and prayed for them. He also prayed for us, to have the humility to believe these things and to comprehend what eternity really is.

The Saturday morning prayer service began with Elders Isaac (Bick) Brockman, Jr. and Mark Hill in charge. Opening remarks were made by Br. Mark, who read about



prayer from John 17. We need to pray over everything.

Many voices were lifted up in prayer, and

the way, that they would be killed en-route.

- A sister told of how her husband had a dream several years ago which opened his



► Sisters June Haines, Vivian Spencer, Grace Rudd and Brother Virgil Rudd visiting in the dining hall.

several administrations took place.

Many strong and beautiful testimonies of God's goodness followed; these are just a few of the highlights:

- A brother asked for our prayers for a situation concerning the church and its history. We need to safeguard all our records so they will stand strong and not be corrupted.
- Another brother related several personal experiences and a story that had been told to him by his wife's grandfather many years ago. He had been on a missionary trip in Yucatan with another of our missionaries. In a dream he saw they were in danger and was told to choose a different route to where they were going. The two young Mayan guides that were to go with them didn't show up. So on their own they went the long way. When they arrived they saw their guides there. Questioning them, they learned the guides had been confronted and threatened by some very bad men, and told that if they showed the missionaries

heart. He saw a table where there were two books, with Jesus sitting there. Jesus said the Bible was good and that the Book of Mormon was good too. Her husband was baptized about a year ago.

- A sister testified of God's goodness with His help in the Scripture Adventure Day Camp. It went very smoothly. The kids have great insight that we have to follow God's direction. Dot to dot, if it's God's plan it'll turn out right.
- A young man of 8 years stood to testify and thank God for His goodness to him and his family. He is so thankful that his family is able to move back to the Independence area where he can be closer to his family and church.
- A sister testified of the grace and love of God. She knew going through the Police Academy would be hard. She fasted from worldly things to get her through, to draw herself nearer to Him. It was because of His guidance and His strength that she was able to get through the greatest trial of her life.

She misses the struggle now, crying out for His help with every step.

- A sister told of her reluctance to share her needs because of the greater needs of others. She did ask us for an interest in our prayers for a problem that she is having with her eye. She also told us of a great blessing she had while learning how to speak Spanish while teaching the children in Yucatan, and in leading her to choose a certain song to teach them. The same song had been chosen by another to teach in choir class, "Standing on the Promises." God's plan makes everything work together. A young brother from that area came up and told her that his group has also been learning the same song.

Following lunch and a song service, our afternoon sermon was given by Elder Jim Yates, Jr. Br. Jim admonished us that within the gospel of Christ we follow those who have walked before us. He read Isaiah 55:6 which is the theme of this year's teen camp. He asked, "How can we call on Him and seek Him if we don't know who He is? How do we portray Him if we're not sure He's worthy of our praise? What makes Him different and special?"

In Luke 11:11-13 we are told that He gives gifts we're not even aware of.

First of all—God is unchangeable:

- Malachi 3:6—I change not.
- Hebrews 13:8-9—He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

If they teach God is changeable, THAT is a strange doctrine. If it doesn't match up with what God says, we can discard it. We have a standard that is a gift to us.

- II Timothy 3:16—Inspiration of God for instruction.
- Romans 15:4—Hope.

How can we have hope if the gospel is always changing? There is an absolute truth of God, but the world teaches otherwise. Read it for yourself...the scriptures tell us.

If you're teaching from the scriptures you are always guiding right. If they disagree, they disagree with God.

After supper and another song service we were blessed to hear yet another sermon.

Br. Steve McGhee told us he feels reunions



are a time of rejuvenation. He doesn't like the term, "re-charging," as he hopes all of us are beyond that. He hopes we come that we might go on to perfection. Some of us are faltering, and some are satisfied.

Keep the commandments of God—if you do that you'll find rest for your souls, happiness, and contentment. Walk the walk. Efforts are more than keeping ourselves sin-free. We'll be judged on our own efforts. We are the body of Christ. How do we walk the path?

Br. Steve read Alma 5:33-44 and Helaman 5:15-18—Our activity needs to be about people's souls. Also, Rev. 3:15-18—I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot...lukewarm will be spewed out of my mouth.

We are naked without works. We need a plan; not just to keep ourselves unspotted from the world and convert family. It's more. There is more need to have the pure love of Christ! If we couldn't stand the thought of even one soul lost we'd have the pure love of Christ.

He read II Peter 3:1-14—People are willingly ignorant; they don't want to hear the gospel. What are you if you're not the body of Christ? Are you willing for any to perish? The Lord isn't. Aren't we to have the same will? ALL should come to repentance. Do something about it. Watch our numbers grow.

Apostle Roland Sarratt opened the Sunday service by welcoming us to the house of the Lord. He told us that he hopes we have all prepared ourselves for this solemn occasion. Elder Larry Beem then welcomed us. Br. Larry spoke of how the Spirit had given him something to share with us. He read about the fruits of the Spirit from Col. 3:12-15.

Br. Larry reminded us that none of us are worthy, but we all have a need for spiritual gifts from God. He then admonished us that a goodly amount of the Spirit has been here already and to desire more. He asked us to please discard those things which draw our minds away.

Br. Roland then led us into a season of prayer, where many voices were lifted in prayers of thanksgiving and praise to our Lord. The service was then opened to us for the leading of the Spirit for testimonies, prayers or song. These are just a few of the highlights of the many testimonies:

- A sister asked for prayers for her young

teenage son. He has been administered to and will be seeing an oncologist soon for blood levels that are out of range.

- A brother testified of the wonderful Spirit that was present at camp. He was very



▶ Sister Sarah Brantner from the Warrensburg Local and Sister Lois Harris from the Temple Lot Local. These beautiful ladies were the oldest members in attendance. They will each turn 96 in December of this year.

impressed with the questions that were posed to him, as it told him how deep the kids were thinking. God takes the youth seriously, and we should too. Support and love them.

- A brother testified of God's goodness years ago when his baby daughter was toddling towards their hot wood stove. He yelled at her to stop and turn around. She turned around and went to and embraced him. That is what the Lord wants from us...to stop when we are going the wrong way (receiving rebuke) and come to Him with love and joy.
- Another brother testified of God's blessings as he shared a story or two with us. He repeated a story told to him by his wife's grandfather, Skeet Yates, of an experience he had years ago in Yucatan. He was doing missionary work there and he had been told this firsthand by one of the guides who had seen a "prophet." He and his group

had heard him speak and then tried to follow him. They couldn't catch up to him on horses, even though the "prophet" was on foot. They went to town after town trying to catch him. The "prophet" would disappear after leaving one town and then

appear at the next town. At one town, the townspeople threw him into a deep well. He got out on his own; thus fulfilling a prophecy.

- The same brother also testified of an incident that happened to him many years ago. He was with two of his young friends out on the street in front of his house. They had small bullets and were throwing them down on the pavement and watching them explode. They laughed, having fun, not realizing the danger involved. He had a larger shell, a 12 gauge, in his pocket he was waiting to use. Just as he was about to throw it down, a man appeared and asked him what he had. He took the shell from him; and he walked away....and he disappeared.
- A brother testified that he had heard many testimonies this day from children whom their Heavenly Father had taken care of. He told of how he was led to tell a group of



young children a story about a wonderful playground they could all go to...if they followed the rules. Afterward, a 3 1/2 year old girl came up to him and asked him where it is and how can she get there? The keys are in the scriptures; the Lord says turn around and come to me! John 3:8

Book of Mormon to loving it, as he was exposed to it. He changed through choice, from a worldly man to a spiritual man.

- **Infinity is a concept of time. Our goal should be to change our thoughts on life's preparation.** Br. Mike read Psalms 90 where it tells us that man is given a



► Sisters Lorraine Welton, Caroline Hedrick, Amy Schrader, Ella Engle and Joyce Harris visiting in the dining hall.

tells us we have to become as a little child and want to go to Paradise.

Our final service for the 2006 Missouri Reunion was a sermon given to us by Apostle Michael McGhee. Br. Mike reminded us our labors are for Christ. Br. Mike began reading at II Nephi 3:42, where Nephi speaks of his spiritual struggles.

He spoke of the powerful sermons we have heard during this reunion. His thoughts of the messages we were given and their points made were:

- **Keep ourselves unspotted from the world.** He read verses 43 & 44 and admonished us that it is our choice which path we walk on, or flirt with.
- **Where will we be found? Will we be found blameless?** Will we be cleansed in baptism and remain spotless?
- **Do we take time to share this gospel with others? We were challenged to take this gospel to others.** Br. Mike read verse 45 and spoke of Br. Prudencio. He told of how early on he went from hating the

fleeting time. He read from II Nephi 3:47-50. He told us of the visit he and Frank had with Br. Prudencio just before he passed away. They prayed for his release. Br. Mike spoke of Br. Prudencio and the largeness of strength and spirit that he had. He used him as an example for us, as we all need to rise to the need which God has placed on our back. He told us of a thought that had come to him a year ago—he pictured Br. Prudencio as being like a huge tree; worn and shriveled, yet producing shade and having much growth underneath. He was a take-charge person, but when he began to fail, others had to step up.

- **When we are persuaded by Christ, we must rely on Him as we perform our labors for Him.** Br. Mike told us the Philippines can be dangerous, but the Lord's protection is given. He admonished us to listen when a brother or a sister warns you. We don't always like to be given advice, but when it's scripturally sound, we'd

better listen. He read verse 53.

- **It is not easy to do the right thing, but it's right to do the right thing.** We should not compromise or justify other than doing the right thing. There's no other choice than to do the right thing.

- **This is our profession, spiritually.** What is our goal after we take upon us the name of Christ? The answer should be Eternal Life—sealed incorruptible. Our soul must be sealed, our mind set and we must choose to do right CONTINUALLY. He read verse 57.

- **Free to choose only for SELF.** Br. Mike asked, How many others have we invited unto Christ, the treasure? He told us of Br. Prudencio's son (oldest of his and Lolita's), who is not a member of the church. He thought the Book of Mormon was a hoax until Br. Prudencio died. Now he is softened. Br. Mike told us of funeral customs there in the Philippines. They traditionally have 7-9 days of full funerals each evening. Sr. Lolita chose to have four. Because of the exposure the older son had to the Book of Mormon during those services, he is now beginning to see that the Bible and the Book of Mormon teach the same. He is now reading it and asking for more material. We all have opportunities where we can be used to further the work of the gospel. If we don't claim the opportunity it may be lost. Seize it, because if we don't...can we still be held blameless?

- **Hang in there.** Remember the tree he saw representing Br. Prudencio? Br. Prudencio bore fruit because his life was extended. It was through Br. Prudencio that the church made contact in the Philippines. His life had a purpose, and that purpose is now fulfilled. Others there will, and have already, picked up the work.

We are called to be witnesses for Christ.

At the close of the Reunion we were told to remember that each of us has a box of spiritual gifts. Our task is to take this box home, remember it, and **use** them.





MOGOLLON LOCAL REPORT

Greetings to our isolated brethren, our brothers and sisters in faraway lands, to the sick, to the faint, to the young people, to the newlyweds, may God truly bless you in all of your needs. May God truly rise up and strengthen the American church – some of our children have left us and this is a great trial that many of you have faced as well. I do trust that if we stay true to the course, the Lord will help them return to His truths.

We had such a blessing of visitors today, and a wonderful sacrament service. Elder Jim Yates, Jr., and his wife Kim, with their grandson Cosas, their son Chase, of course, who is always a faithful visitor, Priest Glen Orsted and his wife Beth and children starting their vacation in the White Mountains, and Suzie Case enjoying the beauty of the land. Elder Andy Brown and his boys on their way home from the ranch with Jessie Kidd. Mark McCollum should be a member of our local as often as he comes to see us!

I know I have not written about all of our visitors in April. Elder

Ken Oar and his wife Marlene, their son Tim and his wife Melissa and their newly born son William, and all the different ministry which try to come when they are in town. We are so pleased with their efforts and happy to know that God gave us such a caring family.

Also in April our sister Margaret from Africa was in Phoenix. I wanted to meet her, already feeling I knew her from the many e-mail stories from Africa, so after church in Payson I drove to Phoenix, spent the night, and was so grateful for the opportunity. I learned a lot about our American weaknesses! Her dedication is a true blessing to us and others. Surely I sin because I envy what they have: more time to spend with the Lord, to receive the riches that can not be bought. It is the type of strength we are going to need as we watch the world explode into chaos around us.

Elder Jim Yates, Jr., made some interesting comments today. People want to end the work of Christ at the cross with His death and what He accomplished to that point, but there was a resurrection, a new life with purpose and

power. His work is not yet finished, neither shall it be till the end of the world. He endured the worst that the world has to offer, so He could show the world the best that God has to offer.

The Lord told us to pray in these last days for all men, pray that we would be worthy to escape those things that are coming, and He promised that He would pour out His righteousness upon us. May we be willing and obedient, and may He help us to be a light.

*Your Sister in Christ,
Kathy Cloyd*




OBITUARY

Marian Gail Addington

January 15, 1940~April 26, 2006

Marian Gail Addington was born January 15, 1940, in Burdickville, Minnesota, to Walter and Lucinda Scott, the youngest of four children, and she passed away on April 26, 2006, after a courageous six-month battle with Pulmonary Fibrosis disease.

She moved with her family to many areas of Michigan before finally moving to Maple City, Michigan, with her mother. It was there that she went on a blind date with a handsome young man from Dante, Virginia, named Conley Addington, who was serving in the Air Force in Empire, Michigan. They fell in love and were married on August 11, 1956, by Apostle Don Housnecht.

Marian was baptized into the Church of Christ on September 5, 1954, in Glen Lake, by Elder Harold Polack. Conley entered the church three years after they were married. She served the Lord with all her heart, supporting Conley as the pastor of the Maple City Church of Christ Local, and she established a devout, Christian



home with her husband and four children.

Family and friends attended a memorial service on May 28, 2006, at Rose Hill Cemetery, as requested by Marian. She was a simple woman, and she desired a simple service with no funeral, and to die at home. The Lord blessed her by granting her those desires. Conley was by her side through the illness, taking care of her to the end. She went peacefully that

morning while holding her husband's hand, calling to her mother as she went.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Walter and Lucinda Scott, and her sister, Thora Alice (Homer Carl) Scott. She is survived by her husband, Conley Addington; four children: Mark (Angie) Addington, Dorinda (Mark) Spiers, Joyce (Duane) Lee, and Cindy Leo; seven grandchildren: Forrest Addington, Chris Spiers, Tim (Sara) Spiers, Shawn (Leslie) Lee, Kevin Lee, Jordan Lee, Eric Lee, and Alexa Leo; and three great-grandchildren: Michael Drake, Francis Spiers, and

Zachary Spiers. Other survivors are her two brothers, Alan (Bernice) Scott, and Lowell (Delores) Scott.





Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT
200 S RIVER BLVD PO BOX 472
INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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 **2007 General Conference** of the Church of Christ will commence on Sunday, April 1st. The business sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 2nd, at Independence, Missouri.

A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on Friday and Saturday, March 30th and 31st. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2007 Ministers' Conference** of the Church of Christ will be the three days following the General Conference.

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription rate to the *Zion's Advocate* is \$12.00 (optional \$4.00 for members). Send subscriptions and donations to:
The Church of Christ
P.O. Box 472
Independence, MO 64051-0472

2006 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS NOVEMBER

Phoenix Reunion
▶ November 24-26,
Friday-Sunday

- ▶ Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ For information contact:

Bob Hedrick
2908 E Rockwood Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliza@cox.net

Duane Ely
18814 N 30th St
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-1516
duanekathyely@aol.com

Gordon McCann
18808 N 30th St
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-2341
gpjmccann@cox.net

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

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

Change of Address Notice

To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64050-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net. One form per family, please.

Member's Name: (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

Old Address: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

New Address: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Names of all Church of Christ (TL) members residing at new address:

