

# 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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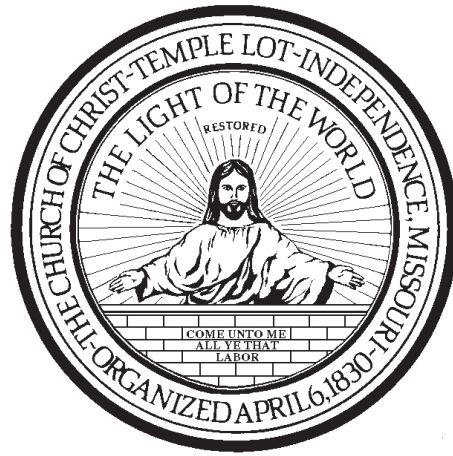


**"...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
—Matt. 16:18**



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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.

# Flee from Idolatry



**By Apostle Smith Brickhouse**

Since the beginning of time man has placed idols between himself and God, worshiping strange gods, images and items created by man rather than our Creator. Time and time again God admonished Israel for this sin, bringing punishments and woes upon them. The Ten Commandments forbade the worship of idols, while the Old Testament witnesses and bears promises of the punishments that have been and will be brought upon those who fall

into idolatry.

Webster's dictionary defines an idol as: any object of ardent or excessive devotion or admiration. Excessively placing things (idols) between us and our fulfilling the commandments of God may result in a sin.

1 John 5: 17-21 states: *"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."*

Scripture teaches that we are to "be as little children," humble, submissive willing to do the will of our Father. We are to "keep ourselves from idols"

(items that we might adore or allow excessive devotion to), that may keep us from fulfilling the commandments of God. Mosiah 2:48-50 instructs us:

*"I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I can not number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not."*

We must with great care be diligent and search within our daily lives for activities, objects and expenditures which have become excessive, and therefore idols, and which keep us from fellowship, worship, study, service and giving of our tithes, offerings and time as required as His children and heirs to His Kingdom.

We must continually be mindful that Satan desires to devour us and therefore places the pride of the world before us, enticing us to seek those things rather than the commandments of God. Galatians 6:1-9 instructs:

*“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

Let us remember the words of Christ:

*“...Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or*

*what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather*

*added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof”* Matthew 6:25-34.

**We must take inventory of our time, efforts and possessions and hold them in line so that first we may seek God and keep His commandments in all things.**

*into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be*

We must be alert, steadfast, watchful, abhorring sin and fleeing from the idols of our lives so that we are not overtaken. We must take inventory of our time, efforts and possessions and hold them in line so that first we may seek God and keep His commandments in all things. He has promised to open the windows of heaven for those that do. May God bless us in our efforts to serve Him.

# Fruit of the Spirit

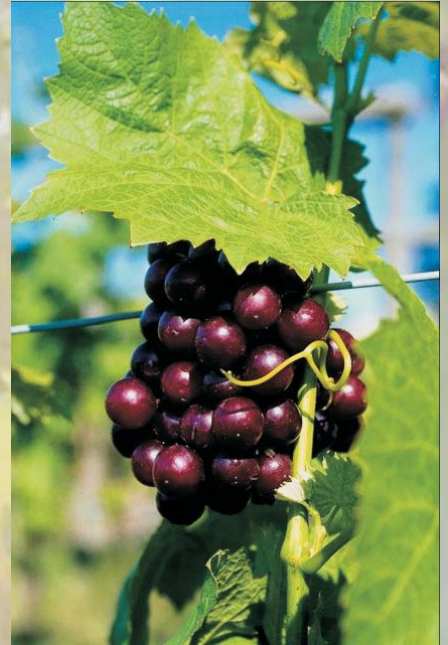


**Elder Duane Ely**

**L**ove is a feeling of deep affection and concern for the well-being of others. It is the benevolent affection of God for His children or the reverent affection that we must have for God. Love is caring and seeking the highest good for another person without motive for personal gain. It is a self-denying, self-sacrificing, Christ-like love.

## Love

*“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. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”* Matthew 22:36-40.



If we truly love God we will follow all of His commandments and serve Him to the best of our ability. We must first love God, but we must also love our neighbors as ourselves. This means that we are required to love all people, even our enemies. (See III Nephi 5:89-91.) This may not always be easy, but it is what God requires of us if we love Him.

*“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God*

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance: against such there is no law.”  
Galatians 5:22-23**

*abideth for ever*" I John 2:15-17.

We cannot love the world and the Father. This is the choice that each one of us must make during our time of probation. The things of the world will all pass away, but if we love them these things will lead us to destruction. If we do the will of the Father, it will lead us to eternal life.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* John 3:16.

This scripture plainly describes God's love for us. He willingly sacrificed His only begotten Son so that we might have eternal life. Would we be willing to sacrifice one of our children?

*"And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are*

*nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all for all things must fail; but charity is the*

*never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge,*

Love is caring and seeking the highest good for another person without motive for personal gain.

*pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them"* Moroni 7:50-52.

*"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity*

*it shall vanish away. And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity"* I Corinthians 13:1-8, 13.

The words in these last two scriptures describe love far better than I can. Read them over several times to completely understand the importance of love in our lives. Charity is the pure love of Christ, it endureth forever and without it we are nothing. Charity is the greatest of all and it never faileth. If we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives, we will be filled with love and it will lead us to eternal life.

# The Power of Our God



**By Laura Gill**

**B**efore you begin to read this testimony I will warn you that I remember the following incident with the memory of a 13 year old. So if some of the details are not perfect I beg your apologies, but I believe that the importance of the message remains unchanged.

I feel the need to apologize to everyone as well as to God. I have delayed much too long in sharing this testimony. It has been ten years now since the Lord placed His hand of protection over myself and my family in such a miraculous way. Many of you may already know what happened to my family on the roads of Honduras ten years ago, but for those of you who are not aware I will start at the beginning.

Ten years ago my family and I

started out on yet another trip to Honduras. The only thing different about the trip is that our brother Darin Crull (recently ordained as an elder) was coming with us. So we set out in the van heading south and hoping to make Honduras by Christmas. By the time Christmas came we were in southern Guatemala and very ready to make our destination. Well, as you may know from your own experience when you are on the last legs of a long trip you tend to do whatever it takes to push to the end as quickly as possible and so we found ourselves a couple days later driving through what we hoped to be the final night of the journey.

We were about 15 minutes north of Tegucigalpa (the capital city of Honduras which is located about 2-3 hours from our destination) when my father saw a truck crashed against the side of the mountain. By this time we were all in various stages of sleep and I had made myself a bed on the floor of the van just behind the front seats. I remember waking up and hearing my father leave the vehicle and then I dozed off again.

I woke up again when I heard the driver's door open and listened to what my father would say about the situation. I was very surprised (as was my mother who was in the front passenger seat) to hear the voice of a stranger. I heard my mother ask him where my father was, but he did not respond. He started the van and was trying to put it into gear when I was moved to action. I say that I was

moved to action because I honestly do not know how I did anything at all. I am typically a scaredy-cat who prefers to cower until danger passes, but somehow in that moment I felt an overwhelming anger with this man. How dare he enter our vehicle and try to hurt us?

I do not remember planning anything, I just remember wanting to stop him. So I reached up and grabbed onto his arm and sunk my nails into it as hard as possible while pulling back on it. At that instant my mother reached forward and pulled the key out of the ignition and threw it on the floor.

Now, I do not know what the man was thinking but I doubt that he was expecting anyone else to be in the van because he pulled away and began to lean against the driver door and point a gun at my mom. He was yelling at her to give him the keys and she just kept asking where my father was and what had happened to him. The man swung the gun to my face and told my mother he would kill me if she did not give him the keys. I honestly have no idea what my mother said next. All I remember is looking at that gun and knowing that in a moment my time could be up. I remember asking God to help me be ready if it was my time and to forgive me for my wrongdoings before Him. I remember being at peace.

The next moment my father (who had been beaten up by the man's cohorts and left on the side of

the road) opened the door that the man had been leaning on. As the man tumbled out my father jumped in and locked the door. Now, we could not leave because the keys were on the floor somewhere and the men were just outside of the vehicle banging on the doors and windows.

By this time everyone was awake and my mom told us to pray as loud as we could that God would be with us and keep us safe. And you'd better believe we all prayed at the top of our lungs.

The men finally threw a rock through the driver door window and shot into the van. The bullet hit my father, but since it was dark we could not tell where he had been shot. My mother cried out, "Murderers, you have killed my husband, you have killed my husband!" The men then tried to reach in and unlock the door so my mother told us to give her everything within reach and she began to stuff it out the hole in the window. Books, water jugs, covers, pillows, backpacks, food, everything was being tossed out to keep them from being able to reach in.

About this time a semi truck drove by honking and flashing its lights and the men drove off in their own vehicle. From this point on I get a bit fuzzy on the details because my job was to care for my brother John Michael who was considerably shaken and not speaking. I just held him and sang to him as my mother, Tommy and Darin looked for the keys. I do know that my brother Tommy helped take my father into the back of the van and tied a belt around his leg as it was determined that that was where the wound was.

When they found the keys my mother jumped in the driver's seat and began to head down the moun-

tain towards the closest hospital (about 20 minutes away). Halfway down the mountain we met an ambulance that was heading our way (it seems that the semi driver had called for help over his CB). We stopped and began the transfer of my father only to find that the ambulance had overheated and we had to use our vehicle anyway. When the medics got settled and we were on our way they realized that Tommy had tied the belt around the wrong leg. So the medics told him to untie it and raise the leg to let the blood that was trapped in that leg circulate to my father's heart and organs.

When we finally arrived at the hospital Darin administered to my father and they took him in for x-rays of the wound. Upon the first examination the doctor could see that the bullet had gone through my father's main artery in his leg and he believed that an operation might be necessary. We were very worried about having an operation or a blood transfusion, because one never knows how trustworthy the blood supply is in a country that does not have health codes that are as strict as they are in the United States. While my father was being examined we all had a season of prayer for his welfare and for the lives of those men who had accosted us on the highway. We found out in about an hour or so that the artery was in perfect condition and that a transfusion was not necessary. The very next day my father was released from the hospital, sore but on the mend.

We found out later that the truck that had crashed into the mountain was caused by the same men that accosted us. It was a band of men who were going about attacking people on the highway in order to

steal from them. They operated by riding in a pickup with two guys in the back with guns. They would pass a vehicle, shoot the driver and passenger, and come back to steal their belongings. When my father went to investigate the accident he found the driver of the vehicle dead and the passenger nearly so, but he was beat up and passed out before he could get back to the van. What if those men had chosen to shoot us off the road? What if the ambulance had not been on its way up? What if my father had needed surgery? There are just too many what-ifs.

Each time upon remembering this testimony I am humbled by the awesome power and grace of our loving God. Had He not been with us that night I am confident that I would not be here today—maybe no one in that van would be. But He was with us; He saw fit to spare our lives and to shower us with His miraculous power. That my father would be so wounded and not need surgery or even a blood transfusion? This is a miracle from God. I have been told that when someone is shot in that main artery they have about ten minutes to live. God gave my father much more than ten minutes. He indeed gives us our every breath. My prayer is that I would use that gift of life to ever praise Him for His abundant mercies.

As for the passenger in the other vehicle, she did live. That is another testimony that I would be happy to relate to you at any time. Do not ever doubt the power of our God. He is indeed great and greatly to be praised.



## REPORT

# Womens Retreat 2006



## By Aubrey Vogel

**F**riday, September 29th, a group of 54 women gathered in a small lodge tucked in a pastoral valley amongst the hilled landscape of Excelsior Springs, Missouri. A handful had spent the afternoon in the antique district of the quaint Missouri River town of Lexington; the others trickled into Lake Mauer's Pettit Lodge and were greeted with warm embraces and joyful salutations. In a flurry of excitement, reminiscent of sleepovers of their girlhood, each woman found their room and their bunkmates, tucked away their

overnight bag and then, slipper-clad, joined the group in welcoming the next arrival.

The women quickly gathered in the central meeting room as the weekend's activities and theme of the Proverbs 31 virtuous women were introduced. As the scripture Proverbs 31:10-31 was read, the daunting challenge of God's standard of virtuousness became apparent. As though anticipating our reaction, a skit, performed by Debbie Vogel and Caroline Hedrick, was offered. In a hilarious dialogue Debbie's character spoke for the skeptic-in-us-all as a young wife bewildered by the impossibility of attaining the life and skills of the Virtuous Woman. "What's with the wool, flax and working willingly with her hands...I can't sew a straight line without raising my voice." Guided by her wise friend, the young skeptic slowly abandoned her sarcasm and defiance and began to realize the true applica-

tions that can be gleaned from this ancient scripture. Her transformation revealed to the audience the relevance and wisdom of the Proverbs text.

The introductory meeting of the Women's Retreat, usually a light-hearted event of laughter and levity, continued with a different temper and introduced a sweet, joyful spirit of praise. Carrie Geier, a reluctant stand-in for an ill JaneAnn Carmicheal-Master of Ceremonies, introduced the theme and schedule of the 2006 Women's Retreat, as well as some of the special projects conducted by the Women's Retreat committee. When explaining the share-a-prayer program, a system where any woman could note a prayerful concern to be adopted by another woman who would dedicate themselves to a year of prayer for that concern, Belinda Smith rose to her feet. She shared the prayer she had contributed the year before—that her children

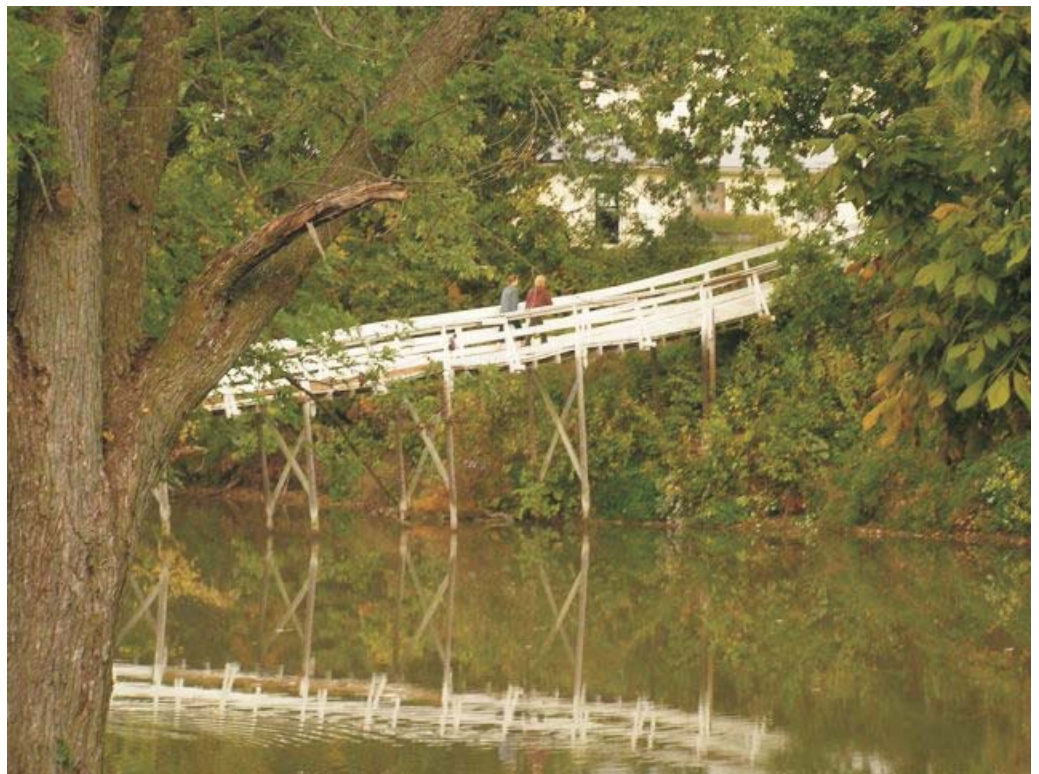


► Lake Mauer Campus, site of the Women's Retreat.

tual apathy. As they knelt, they demonstrated a key attribute of the Virtuous Woman—the fear of God.

Energized by the communion with God, the remainder of the evening was spent in joyful conversation and fun games, led by Cheri Campbell and Trish Cardello, challenging the assembly with the perplexing question of “what is the angle of the dangle?” As is requisite of all joyous gatherings of women, the evening ended with an abundance of snacks, good

would choose baptism—and how it had been answered recently in the baptism of her daughter and son-in-law. She praised God and testified of his faithfulness. In a sometimes tearful joy, the women in attendance praised God with her. In deviation from the planned activities, 54 women knelt in a season of prayer and poured out their hearts for their families, for those fighting battles with disease, and for those fighting battles with temptations, rebellions and spiri-



► Sisters Lisa Case and Aubrey Vogel on a Saturday morning stroll.



► Sister Cheri Campbell conducting a course on effective meal planning.

task of dissecting the personality of this biblical wonder-woman. Each verse of the scripture was analyzed to reveal character qualities she possessed. These characteristics were then discussed to determine how she demonstrated each quality and how a present-day woman might do the same. As expected, her attributes were extensive. She was industrious, respectful, charitable, thrifty, capable, competent, gracious, selfless, wise, reverent, not wasteful, organized, resourceful, motivated, hard working, patient, not impulsive, enduring, self-controlled, a motivator, a promoter, hospitable, honest, spiritually rich, self-sufficient, modest and all the while, humble.

When all the groups reconvened to share their findings and the list of this woman's attributes lengthened the exasperation of some weary women mounted. Then with the wisdom of the Virtuous Woman, they were cued in on the secret to her strength—she relied wholly upon God—she feared God (Proverbs 31:30).

friends, conversation and laughter.

Saturday morning began for some of the more energetic women with a brisk walk in the picture perfect autumn morning. Following breakfast the women met to study this Virtuous Woman, to find out who she was, why they should know about her, and how they could develop the skills that made her description worthy of scripture.

The women were separated into groups by age—each group with the



► Sister Margaret Gill providing instruction on stewardship and financial planning.

Invigorated by the new challenge, the women then focused on practical application of the discussed qualities. In a series of three short classes taught by Margaret Gill, Cheri Campbell, and Irene Datweiler the women learned how to wisely manage their finances, plan their meals focused on nourishing their families physical needs while leaving time to nourish their emotional and spiritual needs and finally, how to organize their homes and hearts to give God priority



► Women's Retreat coordinator, Carrie Geier, leading closing meeting.



► 2006 Women's Retreat closing ceremony.

in their lives and minds. These information packed classes provided not only great ideas and tools for managing families and households but revealed the talents God had bestowed on fellow virtuous-women-in-training.

With a new arsenal of tools, the women gathered together for a final meeting. In a surprise session promoting Proverbs 31:17, "She girdeth her loins with strength and strengtheneth her arms," Belinda Smith led the group in some invigorat-

ing chair aerobics. The women followed Belinda with varying levels of coordination in the most active 15 minutes of sitting in Women's Retreat history.

When once again the women were seated calmly, they met in summary of the weekend's events. Again the women found themselves together in prayer and praise of God. Testimonies were shared of blessings received by the message of the retreat, other testimonies re-

vealed God's provision-making a way for attending the retreat despite significant obstacles. The blessing provided by the time of fellowship and study was evident in the quiet peace present in this final assembly.

As a final reminder of the subject of study, the women were again directed toward the secret to the success of the Virtuous Woman—her reliance upon God. To further prove this elusive status possible, the women

began to offer names of women in their lives they used as models of this seemingly elusive goal. Beloved mothers, grandmothers, friends and mentors were named and honored, demonstrating clearly the truth of the scripture, "a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."



► 2006 Women's Retreat attendees.

## COLLINS, MISSOURI



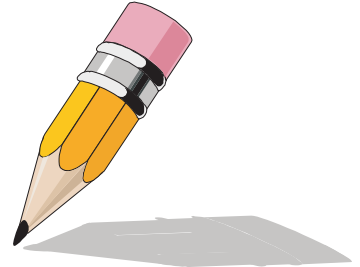
Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in the gospel of Christ. It has been a great length of time since I last sent a report to you from the Collins Local. We are, however, still holding regular Sunday services with our "faithful few." With the snow and bitter cold we have had it has been harder for some of us to get out and attend, and we have had to cancel services a couple of times due to the weather being so mean. But spring is just around the corner and most of us are really looking forward to its arrival! By the time this news is printed spring will probably be here in full force—birds singing, flowers blooming, bright sunshine and wonderful warm weather! (Along with the threat of severe weather storms from time to time!)

I'll try to catch you up on what has happened in our local over the past year. In March of 2006 a young man by the name of Bill Southern made his commitment to our Savior in the wa-

ters of baptism. He was baptized in our little font in the back of our church building by Elder Allen Kauffman. This was difficult for Bill as he is terribly afraid of water and so had to muster all the courage he had to step down and take Allen's hand and allow himself to be immersed in the water. But his determination to make a covenant with our Lord was greater than his fear of the water. Confirmation was done by Elders Bob Eddy and Allen Kauffman.

Funeral services were held October 28th, 2006, for a dear sister, Gussie Martin, widow of Everett Martin and mother to Beverly (Martin) Neuenschwander (deceased) and Kenneth Martin. Miss Gussie, as I always called her, had been in the Lowry City Nursing Facility for several years and had finally reached a point where she seldom responded to family or friends. It was a blessing when our Heavenly father finally saw fit to release her from this life and take her home. Her funeral service was held here at the Collins Local with Elder Leslie Case in charge, assisted by Elder Allen Kauffman. Gussie Martin was 91 years old.

January 8th, 2007, a brother in the gospel, George Allen, was laid to rest after fighting a long illness. George joined the Church of Christ several years ago but due to his work as an over the road truck driver was seldom able to attend services. Brother Oakley Yates called us to tell us that George was in the hospital again and needed administration. Allen was able to go and per-



form this ordinance, afterward visiting with George's wife Mary, and later his son Charles, for a few minutes. Mary agreed to allow the Church of Christ to conduct the funeral services for George and so it was done, with Elder Allen Kauffman officiating. George Allen was 71 years old.

In November of 2006, Allen Kauffman, Uncle Roland (Sarratt), Travis Routh, and Aaron Herd had opportunity to travel to Phoenix for the Reunion. While there, Travis made his decision to join the Church of Christ through the waters of baptism. Oh, how we wish we could all have been there to witness this occasion, but our hearts are thrilled that it was done! I understand Apostle Joel Yates officiated. We've known for some time that Travis was interested but just hadn't made his decision. On the trip out to Phoenix with Aaron driving and Allen and Travis riding together in the back seat they got to talk some about baptism, so Allen was hopeful that Travis would visit with Joel about this. The rest is history, as they say.

On their trip home Uncle Roland and Allen visited with several church members along the way and arrived home a week or so after the Reunion.

The boys, Travis and Aaron, got to experience their first flight ever! Along with the flight came all the usual problems—being bumped from their flight, etc., but none the less they enjoyed it. Aaron's mom and dad were at the airport in Kansas City to pick them up and shuttle them all home.

On December 23rd, 2006, Willard Herd passed from this life after a lengthy illness. Willard is our son-in-law, Dale Herd's father. He was in serious condition before Aaron, Willard's grandson, went to Phoenix. Aaron questioned whether he should go and his dad told him to go on, it would be okay. Aaron (and Allen) got home in time to visit with Willard some more. Though Willard couldn't speak very well toward the end, he seemed to know most everyone. Dale called Allen to come up and offer prayer for Willard when he seemed to be in pain and restless. This is a testimony of faith in prayer and I, for one, will always cherish this. Allen was privileged to conduct the funeral service for the family.

Just before Thanksgiving our brother and sister Liekness (Paul and Sharon) headed for Texas where it is warm and sunny most all the time. They have a place there and so spend their winters in that area. Allen and Uncle Roland were able to stop by and visit them for a bit while traveling on their way toward home from the Reunion at Phoenix.

Curtis and Margarite Yates left Missouri the day after Christmas and headed to Arizona to visit family and friends and will return sometime before Conference, I think. We sure miss our "flighty friends" and will be only too happy to welcome them all home again.

Allen left for Yucatan January 30th, 2007, to spend time there in the missionary field with Apostle Don McIndoo until March 7th, when he will return home. I have received several e-mails from him telling of the services there, as well as the warm weather—compared to snow and ice here! I'm grateful he was able to go, but sure will be glad when he can come home too!

Jack and Betty Martin have a rough time of it. It is becoming increasingly harder for Betty to get up and around, but she gives it her best and makes as much effort as she can muster. They are so dear to us. Please remember them in your prayers.

Marjory and R.C. Routh, Travis' grandparents, are faithful to come to church. They have had problems too. R.C. had some surgery on his forehead (a little cancer removed), but is doing fine. The ice and snow storm has made it hard for them to get out and, in fact, to even get their vehicle into their garage. Missouri—what a place!

I'm sure there are things that I have forgotten to tell you, but please know that we are still here and would appreciate an interest in your prayers for our small local. We're doing the best we can. We still hold a study class on Wednesday evenings, only now we hold them at Shawna and Dale Herd's home instead of the church, as there aren't very many to attend. Since Allen is gone right now Aaron has been leading our study and offering prayer, etc. (Another blessing!) Many of you may know, but Aaron has signed with the Marine Corp and will be leaving here around June 18th for boot camp, and then???? Well, though I have faith in God's power, I still find myself very much afraid. However, there are no guarantees, no mat-

ter where we live or what we do. I do know, though, that Aaron will be away from the church and his usual contact with God's people and so he will need your steady prayers for his well being, both spiritual and physical.

I'll leave you with a few sermon quotes that I hope will be useful to you.

- *Be a tool—an instrument God wants to use. The difference between a "rut" and a "grave" is the dimensions.*
- *Part-time faith, like a part-time job, cannot support you. Don't react—respond. Its not always easy to do the right thing—but it's required.*
- *Character is built, but is revealed by what we endure.*
- *There is a difference between "simple" and "easy." Following God's commandments is "simple" but not necessarily "easy."*
- *Its one thing to starve to death from a lack of food, but don't let your soul starve to death for want of spiritual food.*

May our Heavenly Father bless you each one.

*Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman  
Collins, Missouri*

## INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL



By Sr. Deb Haines

**G**reetings from the East Local! We send our love and best wishes to all! We are very thankful for all our Lord's blessings upon us, and we would like to praise Him and share some of those blessings with you, giving Him all the glory.

A SECOND set of twins, Olivia and Cameron, were born to Anna and Priest Kevin McGhee on October 19th, at 36 weeks into the pregnancy. Olivia Reese was born first, weighing 5 lbs. 9 oz., and Cameron August fol-



▶ Olivia and Cameron

lowed, weighing in at 5 lbs. 11 oz. The new babies join 2-year-old twin sisters Amelia and Lilian. It has been reported that Millie and Lillie love "their" babies.

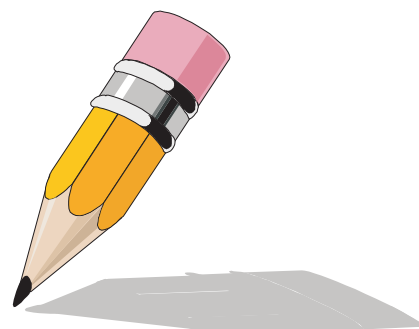
The work in the missionary fields continue: Apostle Buzz Brickhouse and Elder Bob Oldham made a trip to Nigeria; Apostle Frank and Sr. Carol Fann, Apostle Mike and Sr. Pat McGhee made a missionary trip to the Philippines. We are very thankful for their successful trips and their safe return to us, whether they travel near or far.

On November 5th the baptism of A. J. Berwick was held at the East Local. Elder Sam Gould took A. J. down into the water of baptism. The confirmation was given by Br. Sam with Apostle William Sheldon and Elder Peter Gould assisting. Welcome into the family of God A. J. May God bless you!



▶ A. J. Berwick's confirmation.

Blessings greatly flowed with three babies being blessed on November 19th:



Caden James Flemke was blessed by Apostle Frank Fann with Elder Charles Brantner assisting. Caden is the six-month-old son of Sr. Cindy (Clark) and her husband, Tim Flemke. Big sisters Karah and Hailey looked on, as well as grandparents Br. Ralph and Sr. Kathy Clark. The Flemke family lives in Evansville, Wisconsin.

Olivia Reese and Cameron August McGhee (one month old) were blessed by Elder Steve McGhee (their grandfather), assisted by Apostle Frank Fann (their great-uncle). Grandmother Sr. Melissa McGhee and extended family looked on.



▶ Blessing of Olivia and Cameron McGhee.



Br. A. J. Berwick and Sr. Charity Gould were united in marriage at the Temple Lot on November 25th. The ceremony was performed by the bride's uncle, Elder Doug Ferrier, from Bemidji, Minnesota. We pray for God's blessings upon them as they begin their marriage and for their lives together in the days ahead.

Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse made a missionary trip to India. Elder Dennis and Sr. Betsy Trudgen and their daughter Sr. Amanda met him as they visited our brothers and sisters there.

On December 16th, the Women's Department Breakfast took place at the Country Meadows Tea Room in Independence.

On the morning of December 17th the East Local choir blessed us with their "Celebration of Christmas" choral presentation. Later that evening the Sunday School program took place. We were blessed with gifts of many talents which were offered in remembrance of the birth of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus. Refreshments were served in the annex after the program.

A combined service on the 24th of December took place at the Temple Lot. We were blessed with choir presentations by the East Local choir, the Jr. Young Peoples group and the Temple Lot choir. There were also services that evening at each local, which rounded out the day perfectly.

Health blessings include: Sr.



► Hailee May Taylor.

Carol Fann, who was blessed with healing and return of her health after a heart attack; and Br. Mike Smith is slowly but surely recovering from ankle surgery.

A snow and ice storm hampered driving and walking in the parking lot of the East Local the middle week of January; blessings of that were the combined services at the Temple Lot church that took place on Sunday and Wednesday for those who could get out. We greatly enjoyed being able to join together with our brothers and sisters there!

In mid-January Apostle Smith "Buzz" and Sr. Sue Brickhouse and Sr. Leah Gould began a missionary trip to Africa. Sr. Sue and Sr. Leah returned February 10th. Br. Buzz continued the work there with Apostle Brian McIndoo, and he returned home several weeks later on March 9th.

Hailee May Taylor was born on January 22, to Br. David and Sr. Dana Taylor. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz., and measured 18 inches. On February 25th little Hailee was blessed by Elder Isaac (Bick) Brockman, her great-uncle, with Apostle Roland Sarratt assisting. Attending the blessing were her parents, Sr. Dana and Br. David Taylor, sisters Faith and Samantha, grandparents Sr. Cheryl and Br. David Taylor, grandmother Sandy Hopper, great-grandmother Sr. Ruth Brockman and other family members.

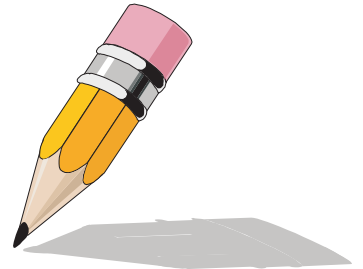
Until next time, may God bless you and yours as we all strive to do His will in the days ahead.

## SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI



**G**reetings from Springfield Missouri! We are slowly recuperating from the effects of the January ice storm that ravaged our region. Our neighborhoods looked like frozen war zones—branches shattered and split by ice. Many tall, beautiful trees toppled over, the roots completely pulled up. Telephone poles, cables and electrical wires littered the sidewalks. Thankfully all of the members of the small local here had homes and property protected by our gracious Heavenly Father.

That includes our small house of worship. A huge tree on the lot received quite a beating but the limbs did not fall on the building. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who prayed for us. We all had quite a lesson in “winter survival,” so to speak. Some of us were without power for as long as 12 days. Most used propane heaters and then opted for generators when the power loss dragged on for more than a week. We certainly take for granted our creature comforts in a world of electricity. I have to confess I did my fair share of complaining until the Lord opened my eyes to my selfish and ungrateful attitude. When confronted with this particular crisis it forced us to think about how to better prepare for possible disasters in the future. I am reminded, however, how important it is to be *spiritually* prepared. That means by dealing righteously with both spiritual and temporal tribulation in the future or being ready to meet



our Lord Jesus Christ. I like the story of the five foolish virgins and the five wise virgins found in Matthew 25. My prayer is that our lamps will be burning to the end.

*“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh”*  
Matthew 25:13.

*God Bless,  
Tabitha Case*



NOTICES

# 2007 CHURCH OF CHRIST TEEN CAMP



**ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN 12 AND 18 YEARS OLD:** You are invited to attend the Church of Christ Teen Camp held at Camp Far Westa in Stewartville, Missouri. The Camp will run from Sunday, July 22nd, through Friday, July 27th, 2007. This spiritual, fun-filled week will be packed with scripture classes, campfires and group activities designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

Camp forms can be found at [www.cofc-teencamp.com](http://www.cofc-teencamp.com) and should be filled out and returned by June 8th, 2007. Do you have a friend who might be interested in attending? Want to make sure all the youth of your local or area can attend? Do you have family members that would love to go with you to camp? Print off as many copies as you like—camp attendance is not limited to members of the Church of Christ. If you have any questions contact Camp Directors Jeff or Michelle Odham at 816-554-0263.

2007 Teen Camp Theme: Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

We look forward to seeing you there!

## COLORADO REUNION 2007

- Dates: JUNE 8-10, 2006
- ORCHARD MESA LOCAL  
3233 B ½ ROAD  
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81503

Please join us for a weekend of worship and fellowship in beautiful western Colorado.

If you will be attending the reunion please notify a member of the reunion committee so we can plan our meals and arrange housing if needed. If you need a list of lodging in the area it is available from Karen Bell.

As many of you know, the RV Parks in the area fill fast at that time of year so make your reservations ASAP.

### RV Ranch at Grand Junction

3236 E I-70 Business Loop  
Clifton, CO 81520  
970-434-6644

### Big J RV Park

2819 US Hwy 50  
Grand Junction, CO 81503  
970-242-2527

### Karen Bell

PO Box 1137  
Palisade, CO 81526  
970-464-4624  
[kbell@gvii.net](mailto:kbell@gvii.net)

### Joan Larsen

496 Arabian Way  
Grand Junction, CO 81504  
970-434-8504  
[joanandjean@hotmail.com](mailto:joanandjean@hotmail.com)

### Allen Downs

515 28 1/2 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
970-245-8344

## NEW YORK REUNION 2007

- Where: HOGANSBURG, NEW YORK
- When: JULY 13-15, 2007

The 2007 Akwesasne New York Reunion will be July 13, 14 and 15, starting Friday evening at 7:00 P.M., July 13 through Sunday afternoon, July 15, 2007. Please plan to join us for fellowship, sermons, song and praise.

We are looking forward to enjoying the company of all our brothers and sisters and spending another Spirit-filled reunion weekend with them again this year.

If you need more information regarding accommodations or anything related to the reunion, please contact one of the following:

- In Canada:

### Wayne and Susan Miller

868 Tollgate Road  
Cornwall, Ontario  
Canada K6H5R6  
(613) 933-5469  
[wmiller12@cogeco.ca](mailto:wmiller12@cogeco.ca)

- In the United States:

### Brandon and Tara Tarbell

PO Box 940  
37 Pearl Street  
Hogansburg, NY 13655  
(518) 358-9153  
[btarbell@bearsdentradngpost.com](mailto:btarbell@bearsdentradngpost.com)

### Eli and Gretchen Tarbell

PO Box 21  
600 State Route 37  
Hogansburg, New York 13655  
(518) 358-2911  
[egtarbell@hotmail.com](mailto:egtarbell@hotmail.com)

### Dale and Terry Waldruff

429 County Road 34  
Canton, New York 13617  
(315) 265-1221  
[terrwald@slic.com](mailto:terrwald@slic.com)

## 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.



# Church of Christ

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200 S RIVER BLVD PO BOX 472  
INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472

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Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Non-Members . . . . .	12.00
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Book of Commandments (plastic bound) . . . . .	6.00
Book of Commandments (hard bound) . . . . .	9.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed . . . . .	4.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic) . . . . .	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—hard bound) . . . . .	18.00
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Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic) . . . . .	5.00
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Temple Lot Deed . . . . .	.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God . . . . .	2.50
Zion's Hymnal (members) . . . . .	15.00
Zion's Hymnal (non-members) . . . . .	18.00

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

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- Apostasy from the New Testament Church
- Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
- Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)
- Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)
- Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy
- The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration
- Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants
- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
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- What about the Book of Mormon?
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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

### 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](mailto: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 (Temple Lot) members residing at new address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 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.