

# 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 84

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—May-June 2007

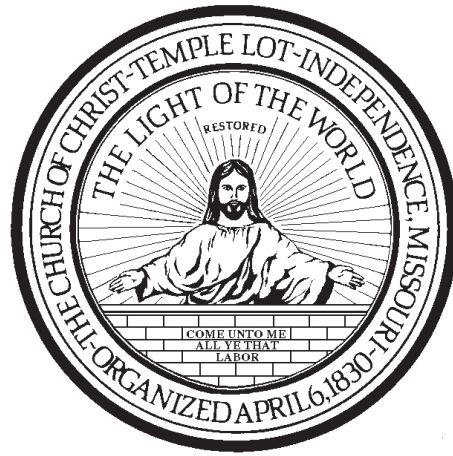
NUMBER 3

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" —II Chronicles 7:14.



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### 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.

# From the Editor



By Elder Gordon McCann

Over the past couple of years you may have noticed that the *Zion's Advocate* has gone through some significant changes in appearance. Change is never easy because it always takes us down the unfamiliar path. I remember my mother telling me a story about myself when I was a young child. She told me that she had a very hard time convincing me to give up my old full length pajamas (you know, the ones with the feet that button up the front) for the brand-new ones that she had bought for me. To me, my

old pajamas were comfortable and I felt they still had some more good nights left in them. My mom could see that I had worn holes through the feet and knees, along with the many stains from all the good things my mom had given me for breakfast that had not quite made it to my mouth. I would finally relinquish my old pajamas and wear the new ones and it would not be long until the new pajamas became my companion at night again.

It is my prayer that the changes that you have experienced with the new format of the *Zion's Advocate* will become your familiar companion once again.

To help you with making the adjustment to the new format I want to provide you with some of the reasons behind the changes. One of the biggest changes made was going from black and white to a full-color format, which required changing the paper type and sheen for improved quality. I know there are some that find this change most difficult, but it was done in an effort to bring to life our people and experiences through pictures, along with the written text, while maintaining the integrity and

dignity of the paper. We want all age groups to be interested and excited in the work of the Lord by looking at the published pictures and reading the articles or having the articles read to them. The map and list of Apostles on the back of the front page is a reminder to us all that the world is before us and our God is our strength. I am reminded of the following scripture verse: *"And thus we see, that by small means, the Lord can bring about great things"* (1 Nephi 5:36).

You may have noticed that the Advocate is being published every other month. There are several reasons for this change, which are:

- Cost – To publish the Advocate monthly in its present format would place it outside the constraints of the current budget.
- Contribution – the majority of the published content is provided by volunteers.
- Content – The contributions must conform to Church doctrine, beliefs and practices in order to fulfill our mission as "Zion's Advocate," thus becoming an extension to our missionary outreach.

Another change you may have seen is that the "Notices"

have been relegated to the second to the last page, thus being reduced (i.e. Camp for all Ages, Women's Retreat and Obituary notices) to fit on that page. These changes have been made in an effort to be fair to all while controlling costs by maintaining a certain amount of pages published per issue (20 pages).

With the major changes behind us our focus is now consistency with the new format so that the readership (that would be you) will look forward to reading editorials, articles, mini series on specific subjects, testimonies, local news reports and notices (i.e.

future events, obituaries, and available books, tracts, and lessons).

God has blessed us with many new brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined us in these last days to be a witness to the world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He has given authority to His church to represent him here on earth. Our missionaries, being led by the Spirit of God, are traveling many miles across many nations doing the will of our Father in fulfillment of the following prophecy:

*"...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 3:185-187).

Let us all be diligent in being *Zion's Advocate* by seeking new ways to:

*"...Bring forth my Zion at that day,...."*



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**FROM THIS...**

**TO THIS!**

## STATEMENT

# Oblations

A STATEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL OF APOSTLES AND THE  
GENERAL BISHOPRIC REGARDING TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

The Council of Apostles and the Bishops wish to clarify to the Church the commandment and subsequent blessing of the giving of tithes and offerings, what these free will offerings consist of, who they should be given to and the associated blessings promised.

The Book of Mormon states in 3 Nephi 11:1-19:

*“And now it came to pass that when Jesus had expounded all the scriptures in one, which they had written, he commanded them that they should teach the things which he had expounded unto them. And it came to pass that he commanded them that they should write the words which the Father had given unto Malachi, which he should tell unto them. And it came to pass that after they were written, he expounded them... Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye*



*say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are 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*

*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.”*

So important is this instruction and promise that Christ, after teaching His doctrine in the Americas, felt led to instruct the Nephites to record these words of Malachi that they would have them and that we would know today that Christ gave them utmost significance.

We are not to rob the Lord “in tithes and offerings.” We are not to be negligent in our responsibility.

The Apostles and Bishops therefore sense the need to clarify what is the Church’s belief on the giving of tithes and offerings.

## ● TITHES

A. Generally calculated as being 10 percent of your increase (income). Hebrews 7:1-9; Alma 10:8, 9

- B. To be given freely to those in need.
- C. Offerings are intended to support the missionaries, support the poor and

Local Congregations, Missions, special Local funds and individuals as each of us feels led.

May the Lord bless us as we strive to do His will.

**Tithes are not to be done in place of all the other responsibilities of a Christian; rather, in conjunction with them.**

*Yours in Christ,  
Council of Apostles  
Smith N. Brickhouse  
Secretary*

*General Bishopric  
Leslie Case  
Secretary*

B. Obedience in tithing brings bountiful blessings. 3 Nephi 11:9-13; Proverbs 3:9, 10

C. Tithes are not to be done in place of all the other responsibilities of a Christian; rather, in conjunction with them. Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42

D. Tithes belong to God and should be put in the hands of the General Bishopric to be used at their discretion according to instructions from the General Conference. The blessing is in releasing it to the Lord for His use, not ours.

clothe the naked. Luke 3:9-11; Romans 15:25, 26; Luke 10:1-12

- D. Offerings are also given as needed to the local congregation for their storehouse and administration; also to those that are in need wherever the need might be.

**I**n Summary: The Church of Christ believes in the principle of tithing ten percent of our income. These gifts are to be given to the General Church Bishops who have been appointed stewards over the Lord's temporal affairs. Fulfilling this commandment will result in a multitude of blessings as promised of the Lord and testified by many of the Church.

In addition we are instructed to give offerings to our congregations, missions and the needy throughout the church and the world. These gifts are to be given to

## ● OFFERINGS

A. God desires us to generously give a portion of our riches to help others. These offerings are to be **donated above the paying of tithing**. Luke 6:30-34; 1 Corinthians 16:1

# Fruit of the Spirit



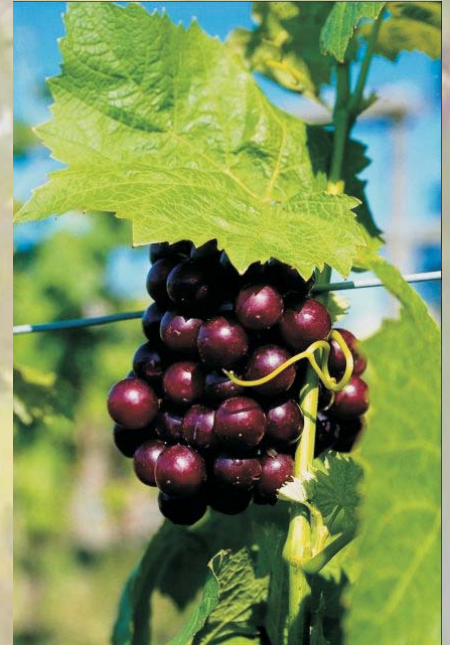
**By Elder Duane Ely**

**J**oy is cheerfulness. It is the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something good or satisfying, the feeling of gladness based on love, grace, blessings, promises and the nearness of God that belongs to those who believe in Christ—that deep abiding inner rejoicing in the Lord.

*“And now, behold, if*

## Joy

*Adam had not transgressed, he would not have fallen; but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created, must have remained in the same state which they were, after that they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And they would have had no children; wherefore, they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy” II Nephi 1:111-115.*



Adam and Eve dwelled in the Garden of Eden in a state of innocence. They were content, but they did not know true joy because they knew no misery. However, after they sinned, their eyes were opened and they then knew the difference between good and evil. Once they had experienced misery and sorrow they were able to experience true joy, which is the opposite

**“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**

of misery. In God's plan, "Men are, that they might have joy," but we are not guaranteed joy in this life. Just because we experience misery does not mean we will experience joy. We will only experience true joy if we are faithful servants to God.

in the truth of Christ and they were baptized. These people experienced the hardships of life, and then found a better life through Jesus Christ. They were now experiencing great joy and we all have this same opportunity.

**We can have joy in this life, but it will not compare to the joy that we will experience in the kingdom of God.**

*One of Israel, they which have believed in the Holy One of Israel; they which have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it; they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world; and their joy shall be full forever" II Nephi 6:42.*

We can have joy in this life, but it will not compare to the joy that we will experience in the kingdom of God. God has prepared unspeakable things for those that are willing to serve Him to the end. This joy He has prepared for us will last for eternity and have no end.

*"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city." "...But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" Acts 8:5-8, 12.*

This scripture is a good example of people having great joy because they put their faith in Christ and turned their lives over to Him. They had evil spirits removed from them, they were healed of their afflictions, they believed

*"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" James 1:2-3.*

When we have trials in our lives, do we "count it all joy?" This is not an aspect of joy that most of us look forward to. We often tend to think of trials as something that we want to avoid, but they are an important part of our lives. They make us stronger, they humble us, and they make us more patient. We should be glad when we have these problems because when we overcome them they make us a stronger, more righteous person. Without problems, most of us would not grow spiritually. When life is going smoothly we tend to get complacent and can become spiritually lazy; some even fall away and are lost.

*"But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy*



## SERMON

# The Burden on My Heart



By Apostle Don McIndoo

Throughout the days we've spent together there's been a burden on my heart, and every day it got amplified. Our sister Manon kept choosing songs that amplified this burden on my heart. And the other evening the quartet sang so beautifully, *My God Thou Seest Me*. There in the final stanza were the words, *Let Israel have light that their eyes once again may see and forever be blessed*. That's the burden on my heart.

I'm going to turn to some words that I know are favorites to everyone that uses the

Book of Mormon, the words of King Benjamin. Mosiah 2:20: *"Even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness...."* By that he doesn't mean that you have no value. You are of great worth to God. By that nothingness He really means my inability to resolve my problems, to make the correct decisions, to atone for my sins and errors without Jesus Christ, and without the presence of His Holy Spirit.

*"And his goodness and long suffering towards you unworthy creatures, and humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come...."* **STEADFASTLY**. I can't hardly read that word without it reminding me of another of my favorite scriptures, and one that must apply to each one of us. 3 Nephi 3:15,16: *"And thus there became a great inequality in all the land."* This is talking about a time just before the crucifixion of Christ. There was a time when everyone was expecting Him and wait-

ing for Him, but now a change had taken place, just like changes are taking place in our country. *"Insomuch that the church began to be broken up; yea, insomuch that in the thirtieth year the church was broken up in all the land, save it were among a few of the Lamanites, who were converted unto the true faith; And they would not depart from it, for they were firm, and steadfast, and immovable...."* **FIRM, STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE**, that's what we must be.

Mormon wrote a letter to his son Moroni and he said, *"While we're in this tabernacle of clay we have a labor to perform and we must do it diligently."* **DILIGENTLY**. What does that word mean? It means we're going to be prompt, it means we're going to be ready at a moment to take up our burdens, our responsibilities. It means when there's a service of the Church of Christ we're going to make every effort necessary to be there and to be there on time and to participate. When there's any activity going on in the Church of Christ we're going to be a

part of it. I can't overemphasize the importance of being steadfast, immovable, unwavering and diligent in our service to the Lord, especially in this day in which we live.

I'm going to go back to King Benjamin: "...*Standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel....*" A few pages before this, King Benjamin had an experience. In the night he was awakened by an angel. Mosiah 1:97: "*For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men and dwell in a tabernacle of clay.*"

There's another angel that announced the birth of Christ to a group of shepherds on a hillside. Luke 2:8-10: "*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*" We must remember that this announcement—these tidings of great

joy—are to all people. Jesus Christ came to minister to all people and to have them become reconciled to our Heavenly Father.

**But this is the restored gospel—to preach Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue and people....**

In Luke 4:16-19 it says He went back to Nazareth and as was His custom, He went into the synagogue and stood up to read: "...*And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book.*" Where was He reading? In Isaiah 61:1 He read, "...*To proclaim the acceptable year of the lord, and he closed the book. And the day of vengeance of our God.*" Why did He not read that? He didn't read that because that was not His mission at that time. Reconciliation to our Father in Heaven, the offering of life

eternal in His presence, the message of encouragement, of hope, of freedom from bondage and captivity—that was the message.

That last portion of that reading reminds me of another prophecy, the vision of John in Revelation 17:6, 7: "*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people saying with a loud voice fear God and give honor unto Him for the hour of His judgment is come.*" **THIS** is the day. The hour of God's judgment is coming, is the message for us to be proclaiming. The day of God's wrath poured out upon the nations of the world and those who fight against Him and against our Lord Jesus Christ and against the gospel He brought and restored here.

Yes, we do need to preach freedom and liberty and life and reconciliation to our Father and hope, but we also need to be aware that we're living in the day that is applicable to that verse in Isaiah 61 that Jesus didn't read

2,000 years ago. It is to be read today. People are to be warned today.

We praise the Lord that the gospel was restored here in America. America was the only place that it could have been restored at that time in history. It's easy to get a little proud, happy...comfortable. All over the world, especially the third world, we, America, are known for our pride and feelings of superiority to the rest of the world. In the words of the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles in Rome, "*Lest ye be wise in your own conceits, lest you begin to think of yourself more highly than you ought to.*" Then he reminded them of God's plan for Israel.

I'd like to remind you of God's plan for Israel. It's important that we recognize Israel's place in the eyes of God. That's the burden on my heart. Deuteronomy 32:8-10: "*When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.*" "Apple of His eye"—that's an idiom of speech.

It doesn't mean what it says literally. In Spanish, we read that verse, "*Israel es la niña, de su ojo.*" That's an idiom of speech also. I want to tell you exactly what that means in Spanish. "Israel is the FOCUS of God's eye." His eye now, yesterday, in 1830, was focused on Israel. Every prophecy that relates to this latter day work, every prophecy that relates to the restoration of the gospel and on into the future, if you look carefully, there's a subtle meaning that incorporates Israel, that ties and binds the peoples of this restored gospel to the house of Israel.

And where is Israel? Deuteronomy 4:26-29: "*I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you. And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*" The vision John saw,

the beautiful vision, another angel flying through the midst of the heavens with the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ to preach to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, because **that's where we find Israel today.**

Not that every nation, kindred, tongue and people weren't intended to hear the beautiful message of Christ. We remember what the angel said—to all people came that wonderful gift. But this is the restored gospel—to preach Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, because that's where God's focus is, on Jacob, and that's where they are.

I read an interesting article in a newspaper not long ago. I'm reminded of it because we've been writing to men in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile who are asking about the gospel of Jesus Christ. This article said there are a great number of Latinos, people who have lived there all their lives, that have recently discovered that they are really Jewish. How did that happen? Because back in the 1400 & 1500s when the inquisition was going on in Spain and Italy and other nations of Europe many of these Jews, to save their families and their lives, changed their names, converted to the Catholic religion and immi-

grated to America. They have lived here for 400 years as Catholic people but are Jacob. They are Israel and didn't know it until recently. I read an interesting article in *Time* magazine about the descendants of Aaron, who they are and where they are. There is the picture of the face of a black man, from a country just north of Kenya, a descendent of Aaron. His DNA carries the proof. This is where Israel is, scattered abroad on the face of the earth among the Gentiles. In Mormon 2:37 is a letter of Mormon addressed to the house of Israel, and also to the Gentiles who *have care for the house of Israel*. That has been given to us. That is our duty that came with this restored gospel, that came with the fullness of the gospel. We are irrevocably tied together with Israel because of the restoration of the gospel.

In that message of Paul to the Gentiles, "*Lest ye be wise in your own conceit,*" he said blindness in part has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. The fullness of the Gentiles—there are probably a thousand interpretations of what that means. In the Book of Mormon it's very clear. Nephi is speaking to his followers and to his family and to his brothers. He's tell-

ing us about the olive tree and how the natural branches of the olive tree shall be grafted in because of the fullness of the Gentiles. He refers to the latter day after his seed has fallen into unbelief and the Messiah has shown Himself here in America. In the latter day this gospel, this fullness of the gospel, will be revealed to the Gentiles and they will carry it to Israel. That is God's prophecy in Isaiah 11. The same prophecy is in the Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 9.

A few years ago our Brother Placido's father had a dream, a dream that I believe was inspired of the Almighty. In his dream he was walking in the jungle and he came out into an area that had been cleared. Sitting there by the fence was a young man seated on a rock dressed in a white robe and reading a book. When he saw Brother Placido emerge from the trees he stood up and approached him. He extended the book and said, "Read this." The book was the Book of Mormon. The prophecy that he said to read is the prophecy of Isaiah in chapter 11: "*And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord*

*shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people...."*

The man said, "This work has begun with your people." And why has it begun there? Because the restored gospel was taken back to them. The fullness of the gospel, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, were taken back to them and they have come into the fold. Yes, Israel shall be gathered.

The Apostle Paul went on to say "And all Israel shall be saved." This is clarified in the final words of Nephi. 2 Nephi 15:9: "*I have charity for the Jew, I say Jew because I mean them from whence I came. I also have charity for the Gentiles. But behold, for none of these can I hope, except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the straight path, which leads to life...."*

My prayer is that even now God is touching the hearts and the minds of people to be ready to receive that gospel message.

# God at the Wheel

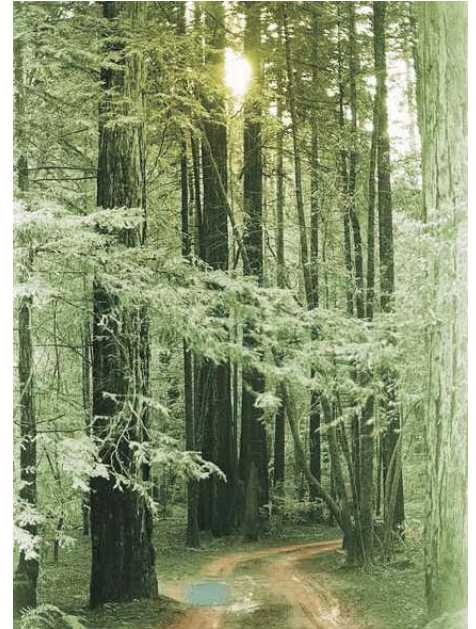


**By Elder Stan Buscher**

When my daughter was ten years old she kept having trouble with pain in her stomach. The little town of Metaline Falls where we lived had an x-ray machine and nothing else. The doctor x-rayed her and the best he could tell was that one kidney was tipped and had adhesions. We made an appointment to take her to Spokane hospital for surgery. We stayed overnight with some people in Spokane. The people in whose

house we stayed were moving at the time. I helped them move and it took all night. Before we left for the hospital we had our daughter administered to. Like most hospitals, if you have a seven o'clock appointment you get in at eleven. It was noon before they were ready. The doctor took an x-ray and couldn't find anything wrong. He took a couple more from different angles and couldn't find anything wrong so he told me to take her home. By this time I had been awake for over 24 hours.

About twenty miles out of Spokane the highway goes by a little town called Clayton. I remember driving by that. The next thing I remember, we were driving down a long gliding hill towards the town of Chewalah. My wife nudged me and said, "Honey." I opened my eyes and looked. My hands were lying in my lap. My wife had been sleeping on my shoulder and my daughter was sleeping on her shoulder. When I woke up I felt completely rested, my eyes



**PATHLIGHTS**

didn't burn or anything. We had driven on a winding road at least 25 miles!

# The Power of Prayer, Witnessed by Non-Believers

The first week of September Rich and I went to the Oregon coast. When we returned I had a message on my cell phone from my service manager who was in charge of the bank while I was away. On the message she told me that there was a problem with the vault. A vault not working at a bank is not a good thing.

When I arrived Monday Sandra, my service manager, was at the door to greet me. She explained to me that the vault would not open the whole time that Rich and I were gone...this was a total of eight days. I asked Sandra if she was joking about this—it really wasn't a funny joke. She wasn't joking. She told me they tried everything to get the vault open. They even called in our vault specialist to help open it, but nothing seemed to work. Sandra was told the only other option would be to demolish one side of the vault and try to get one person through, cutting their way through safe deposit boxes, steel, concrete and whatever else was in their way. The cost of this would be around \$25,000 and there was no guarantee that it would work.

At that time Sandra told me



## PATHLIGHTS

that there was no other option and lots of people were getting upset that they (we) had no access to our customers' safe deposit boxes and money. I also realized that deposits from our customers had not been processed for a week. This was a huge problem: we had no access to anything.

Now Sandra, who has absolutely no religion in her life, said to me, "Karen, you need to pray about this." She was absolutely right! I went over to my office and sat down at my desk and humbly prayed about it. I asked the Lord if He could please help us in our

time of need. Shortly after this I called Rich about the vault and told him that I had prayed about it. Rich told me that he would pray about it also. About fifteen minutes later I asked one of the tellers if he would try and open the vault with me. He told me, "Karen, it's not going to open," and I told him, "Let's give it a try!"

We put our combinations in, reached down towards the handle and turned it. Sure enough, the vault popped right open on the first try. I looked up towards the sky and said, "Thank you, Lord." As other employees started coming into the branch, they all asked if the vault was still closed, and Sandra said to them, "Just ask Karen how it opened." They all came to me and I was able to testify and witness to others of the awesome power of prayer and the wonderful blessing that the Lord gave us.

Our God is awesome, powerful, caring and always there to turn to! I love Him dearly,

*Sister Karen Bove*

## SOLEMN ASSEMBLY TESTIMONIES



**S**olemn Assembly opened with a prayer service Friday morning, March 30th, 2007. Apostle Roland Sarratt welcomed us in to the House of the Lord for the opening of Conference. Br. Roland read 2nd Chronicles 7:14, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* Brother Roland admonished us to **UNITE** in prayer, with all our hearts. Many names were lifted in request to our Heavenly Father, and many voices were lifted in praise and thanksgiving in songs, prayers, and testimonies of His goodness unto us. These are just a few of those that the Spirit has led me to share with you.

A brother shared a story of an experience he had while on a missionary trip in Honduras. He saw a family of four carrying a large heavy tree. The fa-

ther was in the lead, giving directions, and the rest of the family followed carrying their share of the load. Upon viewing this it was given to him that the Church is to be like this. At the time of this experience, he and two other ministry there were having difficulty with a problem; all three had different ideas on how to handle it. They discerned that they needed to rely on the Lord, that they needed to lay down their differences and let Him direct. After they knelt in prayer they did the Lord's work, and did His will with His strength. They pulled in the same direction. We need to come to the Lord united and in humility.

Another brother spoke of a time when at Ministers' Conference he heard a beautiful harmony with their combined voices. He was in awe and drank in the beauty of it. The second song was the same. It was impressed upon him that when we are working together in unity it is beautiful to God as he hears and feels the harmony. God is bringing us together, even though sometimes it doesn't seem like it. We must not lose sight of it. We can have a beautiful harmony. Immediately following this testimony a song was called for which seemed to fit the very sweet Spirit we were feeling. The phrase stood out, "Let those who love the Lord" as we sang, *We're Marching to Zion* with such feeling that our voices must have been a sweet smelling savor to our Lord.

A brother gave a beautiful testimony of God's hand at work when he told us of his experience two years ago

when he was led by the Lord to make an appointment for an exam. He was diagnosed with cancer some time later. Because of the Lord's leading it was caught at just the right time. The blessing he saw was in the knowledge that he was in the Lord's hands; there was a purpose. He knew he could trust in the Lord. The greater blessing is in having these testimonies to share. Our duty is to recognize God's hand at work and the blessings He showers upon us, to do His will and to give Him all the glory.

A brother spoke of an experience that has stuck with him 85 years, from when as a young man his grandfather chose him to go on a missionary trip with him. He believes that there are only two kinds of people: some that are part of the problem and those that are part of the solution. He believes obedience is that ingredient in life that pleases God, and that it behooves us all to look at ourselves and know how we look to God. Our deeds need to glorify God.

A brother told us that his parents lived right in the area of the church for many years, but never knew of the church. It wasn't until many years later, after they had left the RLDS church and moved away, that they met a family and learned of the Church of Christ. His father, who had a belief in the Book of Mormon, told him to read it and have a witness of it himself. That he did, and he was so blessed to have had that. Now he is being blessed with getting to know extended family and share that belief with them.

Another brother spoke of an old

time elder who once administered to a man that cut his fingers off accidentally. . . God put them back on. As another had given a heartfelt prayer for his unborn child, it was brought back to this brother that God has demonstrated His will when His children come to Him in heartfelt prayer, and that he is confident that His will shall be done on earth and we will be the recipients.

A brother told us he believes these prayer services have made a great difference in past meetings. He told us about a tree in Yucatan which thrives all year long when other trees are dried up. This one is near the city water plant, so it is nourished all year long. We should be like that, always bearing fruit for the Lord. He admonished us to pray that God will be mindful of our desire for His direction.

A brother gave us an admonishment, saying that parents need to find the direction and discipline for their children, for if they don't how can they have it to pass it on to their children. God says to keep His commandments, and that is how we show Him we love Him. The world doesn't know us, for our fruits are not as abundant as they should be. He told us that we should not be just hearers of the word, but doers. We must please God in all our ways.

Another brother told us of a time when he was called upon to administer to a woman. The doctors couldn't do anything for her. During the administration he asked the Lord to close the hole in her heart. The woman asked him to perform her funeral. Days later the woman left the hospital, and the doctors couldn't find a hole in her heart. It is so wonderful when the Lord

takes us and uses us. He also told of a time when he asked the Lord for a testimony of the Book of Mormon. He was told by the Spirit, "Why? You believe it."

Another brother told of people in the jungle who want to hear the gospel. It takes a day's wage to travel to a church service, yet they still come. Those that come to services ask for the missionaries to travel into the mountains to visit their family and friends. There are a people there that will listen, they'll take the time.

Another brother told of a job he has taken recently. He feels there is a purpose for his being there. It's not a job he wants to do, but God must have a purpose. He has learned already that it is a time of self-evaluation as his fellow employees have learned that he is in the ministry. He asked if we are afraid people will find out who we are and what we believe in? It IS all about serving Jesus Christ! We must have the strength and courage to do His will. He admonished us that we might be the one link in the chain that sets it all up for Christ; we don't want to be a weak link!

Another brother told of an experience he had when he was 11 or 12 years old. He had dashed out into the street (after looking both directions), but as he was in the center of the road a car was bearing down on him. All of a sudden it was as if a hand stopped him. The car went by and he continued on, not thinking about it again for years. God was there and protected him. In his missionary travels he has seen that in some places all they have is God—their faith is sufficient many times.

Another brother told of a miracu-

lous experience he had as the child of a missionary family. The family was camped in a tent in the area where their father was ministering. One day their father was away, their mother was busy working and the children were playing outside the tent. In the sky they saw a tornado bearing down on them! Their mother quickly gathered the children into the tent and they began to pray. Through the flap of the tent they saw the tornado come right to their tent, then divide in half and go around the tent before joining together again. The force of the tornado was strong enough to lift the children slightly off the trunk on which they were sitting, but no one was hurt!

In another prayer service a comment was made by a brother that hit home to many. We were told that we often refer to "our" church, or "my church." It was pointed out to us that this is wrong—we need to remember it is "CHRIST'S CHURCH!" We do not own it, but it is our responsibility to take care of things until HE returns. We must look to Him for His direction and let Him do the leading.

A sister told us she wonders all the time how can God use her when she is so weak. Then she heard what was said the other day in the service and she knows now that God can use us in spite of our weaknesses.

*Sister Deb Haines*



## REPORT

# SOLEMN ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

- Attendance: 300
- Areas represented—  
**Countries:** Africa, Canada, Honduras and Mexico  
**States:** AZ, CO, MI, MO, MN, NY and WA  
**SOLEMN ASSEMBLY:** Two days of supplication to the Lord for the work of the Lord and for the spiritual needs of His people of the kingdom of God, and in preparation for the conference.

**BUSINESS MEETINGS:** Monday through Wednesday morning.

**MORNING PRAYER SERVICES:** Prior to the business meetings, Monday through Wednesday.

**COUNSEL OF THE MINISTRY: To focus our minds:** *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”* II Chronicles 7:14.

The meetings of the church in ancient times were led by the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost (Moroni 6:9).

**Prayer:** Supplication and exhortation. The Lord's Prayer: direct, to the point. We need the spirit of prayer. Pray that laborers be sent into the field. Do not multiply words. We need unity of prayer. Seek to unite in prayer to do God's will and go in the same and right direction. Pray for the work. Pray for our enemies. The disciples prayed; Christ had to command them to “pray on.” What an expression of faith! They were filled with desire. *“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near”* Isaiah 55:6.

**Theme of prayers:** Pray for the souls of those *“which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not”* Jeremiah 5:21. And for the effect of the Church of Christ on those outside.

**God's people:** *“A book of Remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name”* Malachi 3:16 & Nephi 11:19.

Submit to God. Resist the devil. First acknowledge His power, that we are nothing.

Then we can resist the devil and tell him to get behind us (James 4:7-10).

His word is one of the most powerful tools to resist the devil. The Lord used it when the devil came to tempt Him in the wilderness. Draw nigh to Him and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts—these indicating action and attitude. Our actions must be motivated by righteousness. Have a godly sorrow. Humble yourself and He shall lift you up.

Spend time with the Word every day. We learn “Line upon line, precept upon precept.” It is a lifelong quest. *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him”* (I Corinthians 2:9.)

Miracles are done away because of unbelief (Moroni 10:15-21).

This is the Lord's church. He is interested in even the smallest detail. We should put aside our ideas and ask the Lord. He will direct us.

**SACRAMENT SERVICE:** A communion of the Saints with their Lord, including many prayers and testimonies, and singing of hymns.

**SERMONS:** Apostle William Sheldon, Apostle Smith Brickhouse, Elder Michael Bevaart, Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu and Apostle Don McIndoo.

### Apostle William Sheldon:

We're living so close to the coming of Christ, yet it's so far from the hearts of man today. The Prince of Peace is coming to Zion, the New Jerusalem in this generation. And it is, perhaps, sooner than any of us realize. He will bring with Him a great multitude of those who have gone before us who have had a desire toward God. The things of the here and now will pass away, but the things of God will continue. There are certain things that will happen relative to His coming. The meat of the gospel is written in the prophecies, those things pertaining to our Savior and His judgments which were poured out on Israel in ancient times but will also be in the latter days. He commanded

people to come to the Land of Promise from the Tower of Babel, from Jerusalem with Lehi, and now in the latter days to our places of deliverance in Zion and in Jerusalem. These are momentous times.

### Apostle Smith Brickhouse

The work in Africa has experienced many blessings and growth. The work now has opened in the Congo with two congregations, one with twenty people and one with forty people. They need our prayers. The work also opened up in India last year. Their belief in reincarnation prevents those people from having hope as we do in the resurrection. There are two groups now meeting for Sunday school. We need strong congregations united in purpose that the body might be whole and may be able to grow spiritually. *“This gospel...shall be preached in all the world...unto all nations and then shall the end come...But of that day and hour knoweth no man... Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh”* Matthew 24:14, 36, 44. In the last days there will be two churches, the Church of the Lamb of God whose numbers are few, and the church of the devil. This land is a choice land. It is the place of the New Jerusalem, of the holy sanctuary of the Lord. And also Jerusalem, which will be built up a holy city unto the Lord...two places to be cleansed for holiness. The Book of Mormon declares that the people on this choice land should serve Him or be swept off. We should not be deceived by the churches of the world which teach things that are nice to hear but are not the truth. We must be prepared and not lose sight of the hope of Zion. It is the place of protection for the pure in heart. It is a place of hope and refuge.

### Elder Michael Bevaart

Alma prophesied that in 400 years from the time that Christ came to them the Nephites would dwindle in unbelief. Then he said that this land would be cursed to all who do wickedly. In Alma 21:9-12, 17 Ether warned, *“...Whoso should possess this land of promise...forever should serve him...or should be swept off...when...his wrath should*

come upon them" Ether 1:30.

**The Tale of Two Cities:** New Orleans was hit by hurricane Katrina. They weren't prepared. Fuel prices spiked, and people suffered. Canada was even affected. Was Katrina a judgment of God because of the wickedness of the city? Toronto used to be a clean and good city, but now it is a very wicked city. Toronto is ripening for a hit from God. God will judge the Gentile cities and the strongholds will be thrown down except they repent. The Lord will comfort us because we know the Book of Mormon. (See Alma 16:110-115.) Things are going to happen on this land. The more you know the more you are comforted. We must get this book out because the more a person knows about Christ, the more comfort he has. We need to take this book to others and not be afraid. His people are willing to bear one another's burdens. We mourn with those that mourn, comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and stand as witnesses of God at all times. (See Mosiah 9:39-40.) *"May God grant unto you that your burdens may be light, through the joy of his Son"* Alma 16:200.

**Placido Placido Koyoc Matu:**

Through the Internet we can all be in touch with each other. We are praying for you. We are confident that our prayers will be answered. Sometimes things don't go very well. We say, "Why?" These things happen but we know that God will be with us. I have felt His Spirit in the Sacrament service. I have felt the same Spirit at home. We are blessed. We should be happy. *"Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice...let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee"* Psalms 5:11. We should rejoice in being in the presence of the Lord. If I go with my brother in his car I don't need a map because my brother knows the way. It is the same with the Lord. We should trust Him. I can take my joy wherever I go. And the people can see that I rejoice in the Lord. His divine love is bestowed as grace upon the people of God (II Timothy 2:1). Are we declaring the salvation of Christ? God is answering our prayers. He is taking the gospel many places. He is helping us. Because we have been given more, there is more required of us. This is our time. All that we have belongs to the Lord, and all that happens in our lives is part of God's plan. He

wants us to learn something. *"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"* II Timothy 1:7. I challenge you to be strong every day even if things aren't going the way you want. We are in the right church, the foundation. You are the example. I invite you to be united because people are looking at you. Perilous, dangerous times will come. Pay attention to what is happening. People can follow you not because of what you say but because of what you do. Read all of II Timothy. Christ's death showed His love for us. Now what are we going to do? When we have faith everything is possible. God will help us do the hard things.

**OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE:**

**Special Music Program** featuring a presentation of an Easter cantata by the combined Temple Lot and East local choirs with the Children's choir.

**General United Worker's Meeting:** The scriptural theme I Corinthians 10:31 of the luncheon was, *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* The United Workers Annual business Meeting and Luncheon began at noon on April 4, 2007, with women from across the United States and Canada in attendance. After a filling lunch the business meeting began. Sister Tricia Cardello will continue as the Chairwoman for the next year with Sisters Darl Williams, Elizabeth Gahner, Cheri Campbell and Cynthia Malone volunteering as Assistant chair persons. Sisters Irene Case as Treasurer and Jennifer Yates as Secretary were retained for next year. No old or new business was discussed. Various locals gave reports of their Women's Group activities through the past year. Sister Neva Housknecht encouraged the women of the locals to begin a Penny Saving program for a missionary area of need of their choice. The program for the luncheon was entitled, "Grab Your Fly Swatter!" Sister Darl Williams read an analogy of a fly and our bad spiritual habits. We must swat the bad habits of our lives or they will come flying back in our face when we least expect them. We then discussed specific bad habits and the strategies we can use to replace them with good habits. *Jennifer Yates, secretary.*

**Y.P.C.L.** On April 2nd at 4:00 p.m., a group

of about 15 youths met at the East local for the annual Youth Forum. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Aimee Yates. Elder Robert Oldham gave a study on "The responsibilities of the youth." He pointed out that our responsibilities are not much different than the older members of the Church. He also taught us that we need to have confidence in the Word of God. We should know the scriptures and "try the spirits" as mentioned in I John 4:1. Due to shortness of time, we were unable to have an official business meeting. Jared Gould and Ezekiel Crane were selected to choose the topic for next year's Youth Forum study. Cynthia Lawrence volunteered to submit a report to the conference. The study was followed by dinner and visiting. *Cynthia Lawrence, secretary.*

**Committee Meetings:** General Sunday School Association; Audio, Video, Visual and Archaeological Association and Board of Publications. Reports will be published in the Conference minutes.

We are grateful to all who gave service to the Lord and His people to make this year's Conference another success: The Council of Apostles in charge of the Conference; the Bishops with volunteer assistants; Conference Secretary and Assistant; Conference Coordinator Committee; Dining Hall Committee; AVVAA; Chorister and Pianist. Also we thank those who opened up their homes for visitors and for those who provided desserts for meals.

*Darl Temple, secretary*

**OBITUARY**



**Lois Arlene Heath**

November 1, 1918~March 13, 2007

Lois Heath, age 88, died Tuesday, March 13, 2007. The Lord has taken our mother home to a beautiful and joyful place with no pain or sorrow, and although we grieve her loss, we are happy for her.

Lois was born on November 1, 1918, in Coleman, Michigan, to the late Francis C. and Bertha B. (Brink) Schoonmaker. Her greatest joy in life was serving the Lord and baking cinnamon rolls, all different pies and deserts and cookies for her family.

Lois is survived by two sons: Norman R. Heath and Aaron and Sue Heath; three daughters: Vivian Spencer, Lois Armstrong, and Betty and Duane Hoffman; one daughter-in-law: Sandy Heath, one brother: Clifton Pullen; fourteen grandchildren, thirty great grandchildren and numerous great great grandchildren. Lois is preceded in death in addition to her parents by one son: Glen E. Heath, two sons-in-law: Max Spencer and Ken Armstrong, and by nine brothers and sisters.

The funeral service was held at the Church of Christ in Ravenna, Michigan, on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., with Pastor Aaron Heath officiating, assisted by Bro. Adam Porter. She was buried in the Ravenna Township Cemetery.

Mother was baptized into the Church of Christ in 1935 by our father Cleo Heath. Since the time of her baptism she never wavered from the path. She taught all her children about our Heavenly Father and anyone else who would listen. She loved her brothers and sisters of the church and truly loved attending services. We will indeed miss our wonderful mother and thank the Lord for taking her to her eternal resting place where she no longer will be in pain.

*In Gospel Bonds,  
Elder Aaron Heath*

**NOTICES**

**COLORADO REUNION**

- June 8-10, 2007
- Orchard Mesa Local  
3233 B 1/2 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503
- RV Parks in the area:  
**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
- For more information contact:  
**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

**MICHIGAN REUNION**

- June 23-24, 2007
- Bradley Local, Michigan
- For housing, camping or directions please contact:  
**Duane Lee** (269) 795-7420  
**Elder Adam Porter** (269) 795-2694

**NEW YORK REUNION**

- July 13-15, 2007
- Hogansburg, New York
- For more information please contact:  
IN CANADA:  
**Wayne and Susan Miller**

868 Tollgate Road  
Cornwall, Ontario  
Canada K6H5R6  
(613) 933-5469  
[wmler12@cogeco.ca](mailto:wmler12@cogeco.ca)  
IN THE UNITED STATES:  
**Brandon and Tara Tarbell**  
PO Box 940  
37 Pearl Street  
Hogansburg, NY 13655  
(518) 358-9153  
[btarbell@bearsdentradepost.com](mailto:btarbell@bearsdentradepost.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  
[terwald@slc.com](mailto:terwald@slc.com)

**SCRIPTURE ADVENTURE**

- Thursday, July 26, 2007  
8:45 a.m. Door Registration  
9:00 a.m. Day Camp Begins  
1:00 p.m. End of Camp—Pick Up
- The Church of Christ East Independence Local  
78 Highway and East Holke Road  
Independence, Missouri 64050
- For children between 5 and 11 years old. A \$5 donation per family is requested for attending the Camp. Lunch will be provided and a minister will be in attendance.
- For more information please contact:  
**Jennifer Yates**  
(602) 790-0852  
[hometeaching@cox.net](mailto:hometeaching@cox.net)
- Aimee Brockman**  
[aimee.brockman@tmcmcd.org](mailto:aimee.brockman@tmcmcd.org)

**MISSOURI REUNION**

- July 27-29, 2007
- Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

- For more information please contact:  
**Roland Sarratt**  
15910 E. 37th Terr.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 373-6605  
[r.sarratt@comcast.net](mailto:r.sarratt@comcast.net)
- Michael McGhee**  
18907 E. 6th St. North  
Independence, MO 64056  
(816) 796-6255

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

- October 5-6, 2007
- Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, MO
- The retreat program will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening.
- Cost: \$30/person (includes one night's accommodation and three meals)
- Scrapbooking supplies and instruction available on Friday afternoon. Bring photos and join the fun or just sit and fellowship.
- For more information please contact:  
**Carrie Geier**  
14609 E. Phelps Ct.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 836-0035

**PHOENIX REUNION**

- November 23-25, 2007
- For information please contact:  
**Pastor Duane Ely**  
18814 N. 30th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
(602) 569-1516  
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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.

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