

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 85

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—January-February 2008

NUMBER 1

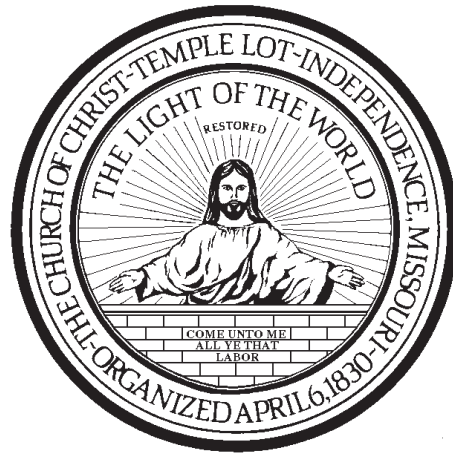
*C*ome, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. —Psalm 95:1



Photo courtesy of Gordon McCann

~ In This Issue ~

EDITORIAL—The Gift of Choice - <i>Elder Gordon McCann</i>	3	<i>Elder Glenn Gill</i>	10
ARTICLE—Some Thoughts on being a Husband - <i>Elder Glenn Gill</i>	4	SERIES—Fruit of the Spirit, Part 10: Temperance - <i>Elder Duane Ely</i>	13
ARTICLE—Listen to the Silence - <i>Janice Welch</i>	7	NEWS	15
ARTICLE—Five Powerful Words -		POEM—Excuses - <i>Sam Kidd</i>	18
		NOTICES	19



THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

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

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

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

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

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

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

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

BUSINESS MANAGER

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

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

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

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

The Gift of CHOICE



By Elder Gordon McCann

America is known throughout the world as a land of economic opportunity available to all its citizens to freely pursue within the established laws of the land. This economic opportunity is predicated on our fundamental freedoms that were established by our forefathers upon their arrival to America when they subscribed to the Mayflower Compact in 1620. The compact basically acknowledged that God was the author of the moral foundation that man should live by, which brought forth and established civil law and order. This theme carried on and eventually became an integral part of the Bill of Rights and then incorporated within

The United States Constitution. This free Nation, with our democratic republic form of government, along with our economic opportunities, is a direct result of God's blessing and prophecy concerning this land that we call America, as recorded in the Book of Mormon.

America's industry, after World War II, once focused on defeating the evil that had raised its ugly head to take away individual freedom of choice, now focused its attention to economic growth and opportunity. With this focus came products and goods that Americans at the turn of the 20th century only dreamed of. Stores of all types with goods and services were now available to consumers to choose from. Gone were the days when our choices for products and/or goods were made simple because of the availability or cost was beyond our reach.

This present generation, several generations removed from the days of scarcity and want, is faced with the new challenge of having too many choices at their disposal, causing what I would call "choice fatigue," or too much of a good thing. Now people are making choices based on convenience, pleasure and personal gratification, which is taking its toll on Americans as a whole. Our physical bodies and spiritual health are in total disarray where we are suffering the ill effects or consequences from the freedom of choices we have made in our lives.

God has granted all His cre-

ation the right or freedom to "Individual Choice." In the words of Lehi we find the following statement concerning that freedom granted:

"For there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them is; Both things to act, and things to be acted upon;" (2 Nephi 1:95-96).

We are the "things to act" and the choices before us are "things to be acted upon." I should also state, by the Word of God, all of this liberty comes by way of Jesus Christ.

As with the freedoms we enjoy in this nation there are consequences, for good or bad, which can lead to our untimely death. Our spiritual freedom of choice comes with consequences as well: eternal life or death.

In all cases life-changing choices can be made, pardons can be granted, and forgiveness obtained, but the consequence of our choices, in this life, will live with us until death.

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" Micah 7:18-19.

ARTICLE

Some Thoughts on being a **HUSBAND**

Looking back on forty-six years of marriage to my wife Margret, I can clearly see the learning experience involved. But more importantly I can see how beautifully and practically God's word lays out a pattern that, if followed devotedly, leads to satisfaction and joy.

Like many men I tried a more selfish way of conducting marriage. As a result my marriage became a separation and pending divorce. Wisely, we let God's word and the influence of the Holy Ghost intervene in our lives at that critical time. We also sought counsel from an uninvolved person with knowledge of scripture and the nuances of human behavior. These actions helped turn us away from the destructive course we had been on to a more charitable and forgiving course, saving



Glenn and Margret Gill

our marriage. Caring friends and relatives also helped by their prayers, and by not taking sides or spreading gossip. Twenty-nine years of growing

love and devotion to our marriage have followed, like a flower gradually opening to its full-bloomed beauty. So I feel an abiding desire to share with other husbands thoughts drawn from my experiences and from the word of God.

Four scriptural principles come to mind when I contemplate what actions on my part resulted in joy and satisfaction in my marriage. They are in the Bible and Book of Mormon simply stated, easy to remember and simple to apply. But determination and sacrifice are required in the application, the same as with any serious effort for good in our lives.

First: Leave your growing up family and make a new family with your wife. Memorize these words spoken by our Savior in answer to a Phari-

see's question:

“—He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh...” (Matt 19:5-6).

A husband must take this commandment literally. Throw off any influences, efforts and opinions from your former family that do not honor and respect your wife, and devote yourself first and foremost to her needs and the needs of your new family. You are her husband. Act like it all the time.

Second: Be the love leader in your home and family. Dedicate yourself unselfishly to this cause, making all necessary sacrifices. Consider Paul's words to the church at Ephesus:

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it...” (Eph 5:25).

Memorize that statement and link it in your mind to these words from I John:

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.... We love him because he first loved

us.” (1 John 4:17-19).

When a husband wholeheartedly, without fear, loves his wife with a perfect love like the love of Christ for His church (not waiting for her to

do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...” (Col 3:12-15).

You are her husband. Act like it all the time.

prove her love for him), he will find a happy, responsive and submissive wife in his house. When God made them male and female he designed him (that's you, husband) to initiate love, and her to respond to that love. If you are not getting the response you expect it is time to take stock of what you are initiating.

Third: Be the prime example of charity and forgiveness in your home, just as Christ is for the church. Remember it is part of loving first to forgive first if trouble arises between you and your wife. Pray daily for the pure love of Christ to always be in your heart. Read and reread the following verses often:

“Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also

So if you quarrel, instead of being the first to place blame for the disagreement, be the first to forgive in the same way as Christ has forgiven you. Forgiveness is not words—it is action. This includes the action of exercising the pure love of Christ (all of it) toward her, just as Christ has done toward the Church, and as part of this exercise initiating a discussion of possible solutions to the problem, reflecting on the will of God for your marriage. Memorize the key words in this passage explaining the pure love of Christ:

“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 truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of

Christ and it endureth for ever...pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love...that when he shall appear, we shall be like him..." (Moroni 7:51- 53).

It is at least as important as auto maintenance or keeping your rifle clean for deer hunting. A wise husband checks often to see if the fruit of the spirit is intact in his life and in

upon the children unto the third and fourth generation" (Numbers 14:18).

Look around. You can see this truth played out in many families. So we're talking serious business here. Where do you stand as a husband if you are not keeping all of God's commandments in regard to charity and forgiveness in your marriage? Make a commitment to do it right for the sake of your wife, your kids, your church family and future generations.

So to summarize, the four principles I have offered here are:

1 Leave your growing up family and make a new family with your wife as Jesus taught in Matt 19:5-6.

2 Be the love leader in your home as suggested in Eph 5:25 and I John 4:19.

3 Be the prime example of charity and forgiveness in your home as taught in Col 13:12-15 and Moroni 7:51-53.

4 Constantly test your success as a husband using as your indicator the fruit of the Spirit as described in Gal 5:22.

May God direct and bless your effort,
Elder Glenn Gill

A wise husband checks often to see if the fruit of the spirit is intact in his life and in his household.

An honest reading of these verses will illuminate your strengths and your weaknesses. Review them often and work daily to improve by strengthening your weak areas. Are you easily provoked? Discuss it with your wife. Let her help you to know when you are showing anger. Are you seeking your own (manipulating situations to get things the way you want them without proper regard for your wife's needs and wishes)? Discuss your desires and hers with your wife on a regular basis to avoid the fallout that comes from selfish behavior. Examine each point of your practice of charity in this manner, seeking your wife's input. Soon she will be doing the same in response to your lead—because you have first loved her enough to provide her with an improved husband—you.

Fourth: Constantly test your success as a husband. Call it marriage maintenance.

his household. Memorize the checklist Paul gave to the Galatians:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal 5:22).

If these things are not all present in your marriage it is time to seek, with your wife, the intervention of God's Spirit in your marriage in prayer and take the lead in an effort to restore what is missing. If the task is too difficult, seek help from good counsel before it is too late. Remember the condition of your marriage effects more than just you and your wife. It leaves its mark for good or bad for generations to come.

"The Lord is long-suffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers

LISTEN to the Silence

"...Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God" Job 37:14.

By Janice Welch

The world today is very busy. We human beings exist in a time when electronic sights and sounds bombard us from all sides. Images of worldly temptations are displayed all over the landscape and in the marketplace. Sounds of wickedness, pictures of evil are displayed on screens in public and in the privacy of the home. There is very little time that is silent in our daily lives. We are constantly distracted by the concepts these images and sounds represent. It is hard to hear God.

In the perfection of Eden Adam and Eve experienced all the joys of God's blessings and

creation. The greatest joy was the daily presence and companionship they shared with the Lord Himself. This joy continued as long as those first human beings spent their time listening to, and focusing their attention and activities on, God and His voice. Then Satan entered— intent on his goal—to distract his victims from the voice and guidance of God. Satan appealed to their physical senses in tempting them to doubt God's word and to believe a lie. He appealed to their *human nature*.

What is the driving force of human nature? It is to satisfy the physical senses. Physical senses respond to various stimuli: sights, sounds, smells,

textures, temperatures, thoughts. *THOUGHTS*? Do our physical senses respond to thoughts? *Thought* is: reasoning power; the power to imagine; the process of thinking. The definition of *think* is: to form or have in the mind; to have an opinion (believe); to reflect on (ponder); to call to mind. Notice that the MIND is mentioned in this definition as the location of our thinking—our *thoughts*.

Where are the physical senses located? They exist in the body—the flesh, bone and blood body. What is it that operates the body? *THOUGHTS*. Our thoughts—which come from our soul, our spirit, our MIND—operate

our body. Solomon states that "...as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he..." (Proverbs 23:7). Our thoughts generate and control the actions of our physical body. The Scriptures are full of references to show that it is by *thought* that we will be judged.

King Benjamin warned his people: "But this much I can tell you, that if you 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" (Mosiah 2:49). Alma warns that our thoughts will condemn us in his answer to Antoniah (see Alma 9:22-25). Christ warned His disciples against evil thoughts (see Matt 15:19). In Hebrews 4:12 Paul says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the *thoughts* and intents of the heart."

God has placed us on earth to make a choice between eternal life or eternal death. He has created all things as a means for each soul to choose either to serve Him and be redeemed through the atonement of Christ and returned to His presence, or to reject Him and be forever cut

off from Him. He gave us a body to house our soul, our spirit—to use as a means of making our choices.

"What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1st Corinthians 6:19-20). Our bodies are to be the Lord's temple. God has placed our souls in a structure that will, by one means or another, cease to exist. The soul He has given us will not cease to exist—ever. The "temple" has a finite allotment of **time**. It serves as a vehicle by which our soul will travel the **path** of our daily life. God has given us the right, the privilege, the **task** of choosing the **path**. Our **path** determines our destination: the place where our soul will exist through eternity. (Eternity being a concept beyond our comprehension.) Our **path** goes through the geography of our daily lives. To a certain extent, we choose the geography through which we travel. How do we do this? We do it by the choices we make in every thing we do, say, THINK. We do it by how we choose to **occupy our time** while our soul dwells in our body—our temple.

How do we occupy our time? With what do we fill our temple? What substances, sights, sounds, pastimes,

adornments, nourishment, thoughts, do we use to occupy and decorate our temple? To what being do we bring honor and glory in our temple?

We must seek shelter, safety, **nourishment** to keep the body alive and able to make choices. *Nourishment* means 1. to provide with food or substances necessary for life and growth. 2. to foster the development of; to promote.

When our basic needs are met, we seek things and people that give us "pleasure." In this current portion of the finite time that God has allotted for all mankind, people have an enormous amount of "free" time, and seek **entertainment** as a means of filling that time and experiencing "pleasure." What is entertainment? It is popularly described as activity designed to relax, to take one's MIND off of the dreary aspect of maintaining the basic needs of our self, or our family—to DISTRACT.

Do we have any basic needs other than shelter, safety, nourishment? Yes. We need **salvation**. Satan desires, and constantly strives, to DISTRACT us from an awareness of that great need, and from the effort that must be made to achieve it. What does Satan use to distract us? He appeals to our *human nature* just as he did in the Garden. He offers us many tempting ways to spend our time and occupy our **thoughts**. One ex-

ample could be music.

Most people spend some time listening to, or producing, music. Music is sound—noise consisting of combinations of any or all of the following: melody, rhythm, words (**thoughts!**). Music is defined as: the art of arranging sounds in time to produce a composition that elicits an aesthetic (“aesthetic”: from Greek word for sense perception) response in a listener. Music occupies a wide range of type, style—even PURPOSE. Some people have an appreciation for music, some have a talent for it. Some cannot produce it, nor perceive it. Music is generally regarded as a form of “art,” the use of skill and imagination in the production of things of beauty.

There is a common axiom—“beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” implying that what one individual finds aesthetically pleasing may not be so to another, and that there is no standard. Is there a Godly standard for beauty in art forms? Yes, there is. There are many references in God’s holy word that could be quoted, but a most simple direct statement was made by Paul to the Thessalonians: “Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1st Thessalonians 5:22).

Music that contains sounds, images, words (**thoughts**) that are degrading, violent, profane, lewd—or in any way UN-Christlike appeals to that base human na-

ture that the Lord has put us here to overcome. If we fill up the **mind** of our “temple” with these “nourishments”—what will we promote—what will we cause to grow in our soul? Can we judge (make a choice based on a standard) the nature and source of the music we listen to? Current “popular music” can be described—at best—as “frivolous” (1. unworthy of serious attention; trivial. 2. inappropriately silly.), at worst—containing a very dangerous “appearance of evil.” It distracts us, as do other carnal temptations—liquor, cigarettes, drugs, partying, etc.—from the voice of God. To distract us from His voice is the express purpose of Satan.

We run a grave risk of becoming addicted to and making an idol of these distractions—the carnal, worldly things. “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God: As God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Almighty (2nd Corinthians 6:16-18).

Can we hear His voice when we fill the ears of our “temple” with “unclean things”? Will He walk in our

“temple” when we fill it with “unclean things” viewed? We can not. He will not. We must keep our ears, eyes, **thoughts** ready to hear, see, **think** His word. Nephi advises us: “Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2nd Nephi 14:4). Christ’s own words state what He expects of us: “Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as where the bright shining of a candle doth give the light” (Luke 11:35-26).

If Christ were to enter the room as we are “relaxing,” could we face Him with a clear mind, with a body (temple) full of light?

Christ is, of course, **always** in the room with us. He would always speak to us in that “still, small voice.” How can we hear Him? By abstaining from, and by avoiding the distractions that Satan dangles before our eyes, our ears, our thoughts, our senses.

Listen to the silence, in stillness, considering His wondrous work.

“Be still and know that I am God:...” (Psalm 46:10).

FIVE POWERFUL WORDS



By Elder Glenn Gill, Ph.D.

For my tenth birthday my mother gave me a book titled *The Wonders of Biology*. The subject captured my interest and as years went by I earned college degrees in Biology education and a doctorate in invertebrate zoology. With that background I originated, conducted and supervised biological and ecological research projects and taught biological sciences in high school and community college.

I did not grow up with a church affiliation. During my college years I had an ambition to study and do research in organic evolution. So why, in an increasingly secular and anti-Christian world, do I believe those first five words Moses wrote at the beginning of the Book of Genesis? My objective here is to give an answer to that question for myself and for the many others educated in science who believe that God is the architect and creator of life in all of its fascinating and varied forms.

“In the beginning, God created.” By these five powerful words Moses gave science an infinitely reliable base from which to observe and explain. Creation is purposeful action. It requires a plan, a reason to execute the plan and a need to have processes and procedures in place for that execution. In short: an intelligent design and the power and resources to bring it to fruition. Biological science has been unknowingly uncovering evi-



dence for this design and the accompanying power and resources for more than a century by using established methods of testing and observation in an effort to explain and predict what occurs in nature.

Microbiologists and organic chemists have pieced together an extensive understanding of how living organisms and our own organs and individual cells, function to produce and use life giving and life sustaining sub-

stances. The more these things are understood the more there emerges a picture of myriad sequential and cycling biochemical processes that cannot operate in part. If any part is missing the whole process will fail; therefore, each sequence or cycle of reactions must have originated in complete form. This presents a situation known as irreducible complexity.

Biochemists have worked out many metabolic life processes found in the approximately three trillion cells present in our own bodies. They are called metabolic pathways and they have been charted as sequences and cycles of identifiable biochemical compounds found in living cells. A chart of all metabolic pathways currently known in the human body would be much too large to print on these pages. These pathways offer many illustrations of irreducible complexity and intelligent design. The following describes one such illustration:

The food molecule that powers the energy producing chemistry of nearly all living things is glucose from the digestion of carbohydrates. This process provides one small example of how metabolic pathways work. Within cells, energy derived from glucose is held, carried and exchanged by an oscillation

between forms of a molecule called adenosine phosphate. When energy is available in the cell adenosine diphosphate (ADP) becomes adenosine triphosphate

atoms released in the cycling process described above release high energy electrons (e⁻). These electrons enter an electron transport system and are passed from molecule

Where there is an intelligent design there must also be a designer and a purpose for the design.

(ATP) by the addition of one phosphate unit. When energy is needed for some process in the cell an enzyme breaks the phosphate bond that formed ATP and the molecule returns to its ADP configuration. The breaking of this bond releases energy in the cell. This goes on in every cell of every living thing. The energy to cause these reactions comes from a complex process which breaks down glucose molecules, uses oxygen from the blood, releases carbon dioxide (CO₂), produces ATP and provides activated hydrogen atoms. This process involves a repeating cycle of reactions through a series of nine organic compounds. The ninth compound is converted to the starting compound in the series by addition of carbon and hydrogen derived from glucose and the cycle repeats.

The activated hydrogen

to molecule in a chain of molecules called cytochromes. This releases a special type of energy into the cell which enzymes can apply to the formation of much more ATP. Like a storage battery, this ATP becomes stored energy in the cell. A specific enzyme must be present to facilitate each reaction that occurs in this process. Enzymes are proteins produced in all living cells from biochemical information provided by DNA.

The cycling molecules, proteins and cytochromes alluded to in the illustration above are all found in living cells. However, only a few are present in the general environment. Most are products of life processes within the cells. This means that the chance of all necessary processes of life starting up simultaneously by accident to begin even the simplest forms of life are virtually

zero. One could take up the equally complex processes of photosynthesis, protein synthesis or the replication of DNA and find similar situations.

The DNA found in the nucleus of every cell of plants, animals and microbes contains all of the information needed to produce every one of the thousands of proteins and other molecules needed for life functions, including the enzymes mentioned above. The DNA also has all necessary information for the development of each human being with all of their individual and personal characteristics from a fertilized egg to adulthood and beyond. In each process irreducibly complex patterns of cycling and sequential biochemical processes are in play. The origin of this chemically stored information cannot be explained through natural selection. There must be an infinite intelligent source for the information. As scientists learn more about these processes the whole picture continues to increase in its complexity and its amazing interdependence and coordination. No logical thinking person could imagine a situation in which all of these things could start up accidentally. They are an outstanding evidence for the intelligent design embodied in

those first five words of Genesis, "In the beginning, God created."

Where there is an intelligent design there must also be a designer and a purpose for the design. So why aren't thousands of scientists and teachers coming forward saying all that we have learned and teach calls for the acceptance of a creator God? Well, many are beginning to do this. That is why there is an effort to permit the teaching of intelligent design along with evolution in the schools of some states. However, there is an unwritten rule in place that allows only a naturalistic view based on Darwin's theory of natural selection to be taught in public education. It is called methodological naturalism. The fact that newer discoveries make the theory of intelligent design a more reasonable explanation for the beginning of life on earth and the origin of species is kept out of the discussion.

Teaching and research depend on grants from government agencies and salaries paid by school and university boards. They continue to insist that the naturalistic rule stay in place. Adding to the problem, the world of science is still dominated by scientists, textbook writers and publishers whose arrogant personal agenda

constantly supercedes truth. They don't want anything taught that might bring religion or the Bible into the discussion. They also continue to promote an erroneous and distorted idea of what the founding fathers of our nation intended by separation of church and state by making it apply to all aspects of religion. Behind it all is the reluctance of carnal man to accept that there was "in the beginning" an infinite being that man can not see, explain, describe or control.

What can believing parents of students do? Ask politicians what they believe and vote accordingly. Discuss these things with other parents and make an organized appeal for a fair presentation of all views of the origin of life in the school curriculum. Teach our own understanding at home, at church and in conversations with friends and relatives. Ask your pastor to invite a knowledgeable person to make a presentation on intelligent design as it relates to science and scripture.



Fruit of the Spirit



By Elder Duane Ely

Temperance is self-control. It is having control or restraint over one's own desires and natural impulses. It is moderation and self-restraint in action.

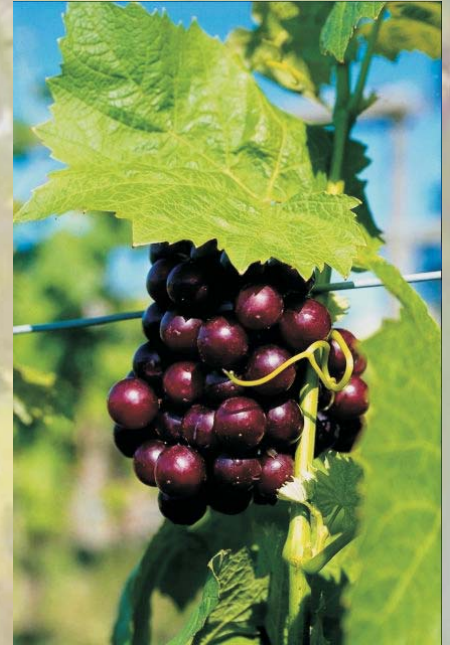
“And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suf-

Temperance

fering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all time;”
Alma 5:39.

This scripture, like so many that we have read, gives us several elements of the fruit of the Spirit that we are required to have in our lives. Here, we are admonished to be temperate in all things. A temperate person has self-control over every aspect of their lives. They have control over all of their actions, what they say, what they do and how they treat others. They live their lives in moderation and do not allow their own desires to lead them away to a life of excess.

“And now my son, I



have told you this, that ye may learn wisdom, that ye may learn of me that there is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ. Behold, he is the life and the light of the world. Behold, he is the word of truth and righteousness. And now, as ye have begun to teach

“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

the word, even so I would that ye should continue to teach; and I would that ye would be diligent and temperate in all things” Alma 18:11-13.

envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier peo-

ple among all the people which had been created by the hand of God: there were no robbers, nor murders, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God; and how blessed were they, for the Lord did bless them in all their doings; yea, even they were blessed and prospered, until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was not contention in all the land”

IV Nephi 1:17-21.

the fruit of the Spirit and the result was true happiness. They had a complete love for God and their desire was to serve Him and follow all of His commandments.

Christ walked this earth and He was perfect, without sin. He is our pure, unblemished example, but these people also show what we can achieve in this temporal body if we completely turn our lives over to Christ. As we strive to increase the fruit of the Spirit in our lives let us remember this scripture and the great blessings that we can receive.

Temperance is self-control. It is having control or restraint over one's own desires and natural impulses. It is moderation and self-restraint in action.

This scripture once again tells us to be temperate in all things, but it also tells us something else that is important for us to learn. It is God's will that we learn wisdom in our youth. If we have this wisdom when we are young, it can prevent us from having serious spiritual problems later on in life.

These last few months we have been studying the fruit of the Spirit. This next scripture tells the story of a people who allowed the fruit of the spirit to fully work in their lives. They are a good example of the blessings that we can receive when we completely turn our lives over to God.

“And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no

ple among all the people which had been created by the hand of God: there were no robbers, nor murders, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God; and how blessed were they, for the Lord did bless them in all their doings; yea, even they were blessed and prospered, until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was not contention in all the land”

IV Nephi 1:17-21.

These people had removed the works of the flesh from their lives and they were clearly allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and influence every aspect of their lives. They were filled with

COLLINS, MISSOURI

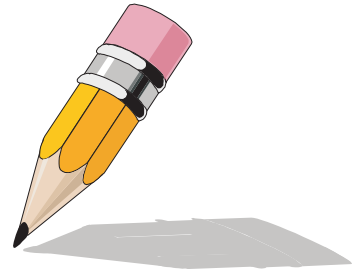


Greetings from the Faithful Few here at Collins. The hot miserable summer has pretty well gone on its way, leaving room for the slightly cooler days of fall. The leaves are blowing down from trees as the colors change to those beautiful shades of red and gold. There's a different feeling in the air and a marked quietness since the chatty little birds have headed south for the winter. I miss the early morning "dawn chorus," but I enjoy the crisper morning walks, too. All in God's plan!

I have some good news to report! On Sunday, September 23rd, two very special people stepped into the waters of baptism and made

their covenant with Jesus Christ. Elder Allen Kauffman had the privilege of baptizing his grand-daughter, Sheala Herd, and then his son-in-law, Dale Herd. Our Father in Heaven has answered many prayers concerning this event. Our hearts are full to overflowing with gratitude. Also, Aaron Herd was home on leave after having graduated from the United States Marine Corp (boot camp), and was here to witness his dad and sister joining the family of Christ. Sheala was confirmed with the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Allen Kauffman, assisted by Apostle Roland Sarratt, and then Dale was confirmed by Bro. Sarratt, assisted by Bro. Kauffman.

Speaking of Aaron—his mom, dad, sister, Allen and I got to go to San Diego, California, and be present, along with several friends from the Phoenix Local (Browns and Yates), to watch Aaron's Marine Corp graduation ceremony. It was very moving—all those young men answering their General with one voice as they snapped to attention. Please—remember



these young Marines (and other military people) in your daily prayers. Their lives may well depend on them. Thank you for the prayers that have already been offered. Also, a special thank you to the Andy Brown family for taking us in while we enjoyed our visit in Phoenix—as well as a big thanks to Joel and Jenny Yates for the use of their Suburban. We got to go to church with our brothers and sisters in the gospel while we were there, too. It was like a "mini reunion"!

Jack and Betty Martin quietly celebrated their 63rd anniversary in May. It is becoming increasingly harder for Betty to get out and go places. She attends church as often as her strength will allow. She made a very special effort to come when Dale and Sheala were baptized. There were several from Independence who came to share that time

with us as well.

We have done a little repair work on the church building here. The guys re-roofed the back part of the building and then several of us painted the old wainscoting, doors, etc., on the inside. It looks cleaner and will still hold several people whenever any extras want to come and join us for services. Aaron hadn't left for the Marines yet so we got a lot of use out of him when it came to taking off the old shingles on the roof and helping with the re-roofing. Even Sheala got up there and helped. Paul and Sharon Liekness were there to help with everything—well, Sharon and I didn't get up on the roof! We're more of the ground clutter fixers.

There was a going away party for Aaron in June. Lots of people came, but guess who the most of them were...the people from the church. Only a couple of his school friends came by. The rest were his brothers and sisters in the gospel of Christ. Some thought he would be around longer and they could say their goodbyes later, but his recruiter called him the NEXT day and asked him if he still wanted to be a Marine and that he would be leaving the following day. So many of his own friends

thought there was more time—and there wasn't. I guess it puts me in mind of the 10 virgins in the scriptures—are we prepared or do we think we have more time!!

The men's chorus from Independence came here and presented the Holy Bible in song. We had a large crowd to enjoy it. They were excellent!

This past weekend the young people had a get-together over at Sr. Marlene Cobb's cabin, and then came to attend services here at Collins. During our service we were privileged to have the blessing of a beautiful baby girl. Her name is Christiana Joy. Her parents are A. J. and Charity Berwick. Christiana is Stephen and Judy Gould's granddaughter. She was presented to the Lord for a blessing to guide and protect her by Bro. Randy Sheldon, assisted by Bro. Allen Kauffman. We were all glad to be witness to such a beautiful ordinance.

I have a few sermon quotes to send along for your consideration. Hope you find some helpful thoughts.

- *Never forget the necessity to be humble before God.*
- *Satan knows the time we're in and that his time is short, and he will do anything he*

can to destroy us.

- *Just to "believe" falls a little bit short.*
- *Nothing keeps you on your toes like a dedicated enemy!*
- *Pressures of life bear upon us, but the Lord has a purpose.*
- *Consider the consequences of when we commit sin—people, job—making you ineffective in talking to others about the gospel of Christ.*
- *What things do you do in your life that are marginal? (Avoid the appearance of evil.)*
- *We are the product of the choices we make.*
- *Sin will take you farther than you want to go—keep you longer than you want to stay—and you'll pay more than you ever dreamed you'd have to pay!*

Thank you for your time. May our God in Heaven bless and guide our lives in these last days.

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman*

INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL, MISSOURI



By Sr. Deb Haines

We send our love and well wishes to all of you. Our Heavenly Father has been so good to us, and we are thankful for the many blessings upon us!

We are thankful for the safe return of Apostle Mike McGhee and Elder Charles Brantner in July from a three week missionary trip to our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. The work is going very well there and they were richly blessed. Apostle Frank Fann was not able to join them on this trip due to health reasons, so all of our brothers and sisters in the foreign missions voiced their concerns and prayers for Brother Frank, whom they

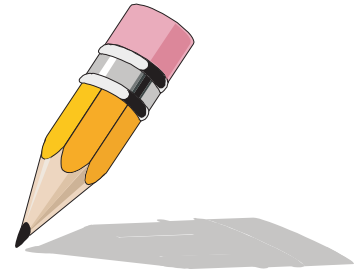
missed very much.

The Church of Christ Missouri Reunion was held July 27-29 on the Temple Lot in Independence, with over 350 in attendance over the three day reunion. We enjoyed seeing brothers and sisters from NY, AZ, MI, WA, CO, as well as many from throughout the state of Missouri.

Apostle William Sheldon had surgery for a detached retina on August 8. He has had some difficulties in recovery. Your prayers are needed that his eye will be healed and his vision restored.

Apostle Buzz Brickhouse had surgery to repair a knee in early August. He was on crutches for several weeks, but was greatly blessed and has healed nicely.

Apostle Frank Fann underwent surgery on August 16th. Since last spring Br. Frank has been having severe problems with a bile duct, adrenal gland and liver function. The Lord was surely with him and our sister Carol during this great trial. The Lord intervened many times on his behalf and provided the care, the mercy and the love to get them through this huge or-



deal. (We won't go into all the details at this time, in hopes that you hear Br. Frank's testimony directly from him.) We KNOW that Br. Frank is a walking MIRACLE and we are so very THANKFUL to GOD!

Little 1-year-old Emma Cook is in need prayers for a neck-shoulder problem. She is doing well with therapy at this time, but your prayers are needed for her complete recovery.

Sister Jeanne Brantner is doing well with a "chemo-maintenance" therapy at this time for lung cancer. She has been greatly blessed and we are very thankful!

Apostle Buzz Brickhouse left on a missionary trip to India for several weeks in September. Then, after a few days rest at home, he left again for the church reunion at the "Brant-Norfolk Local" of the Church of Christ, which is near Brantford, On-

tario. Also attending were Apostle Roland Sarratt, Sister June Sarratt, and Brother Bruce and Sister Deb Haines from the East Local. Brother and Sister Sarratt continued on their missionary trip, going up through the Northeastern states and visiting as many scattered members as possible. We are thankful for their safe return after traveling so many miles by car.

Our Sister Sue Brickhouse and Sister Pat McGhee each had surgery in early October and are both recovering very nicely now, for which we are very thankful.

Apostle Mike McGhee and Elder Andy Brantner left on October 16th for a three week missionary trip to our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. They had a very good trip and we are thankful to the Lord for their safe return home to us at the appointed time. There were many new members baptized into the Church of Christ while they were there this trip. Our Philippine brothers and sisters send their love to each of us.

Apostle Buzz Brickhouse and Elder Adam Porter (Pastor of the Bradley Local, in Michigan) left November 1st on a two week missionary trip to Nigeria.

The East Local hosted a “Fi-

nancial Peace University” program for 13 weeks; it was very well attended by our members and families. The classes were held on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons in the annex. This was an effort to help our families learn to manage their finances in the way God would have them to do.

A baby shower for Cheryl Fisher was held at the East Local annex on November 5th. A baby boy is expected for Cheryl and husband Ryan in December. Brother Ryan is the son of Brother Pat and Sister Michele Fisher. The shower was given by Sister Jane Ann Carmichael and Sister Holly Cook.

Please keep our locals and foreign missions in your prayers. We have so very much to be thankful for and pray that God will continue to pour out His blessings on all His children. May our hearts be full of thanksgiving unto God, from whom all blessings flow!



Excuses

In summertime, it's too hot to mow,
In wintertime there's too much snow.

It's church time and we overslept:
How can our religion be kept?

Forgot to pray—no time to do it;
Mentioned church to neighbor—did not pursue it.

Did not pay tithe—bought a new car;
Preacher says, “The end's not far.”

Could not hear prayer—though spoken with care;
Suddenly realized—not one did I bear.

Didn't listen to sermons—had things on my mind;
Solutions to things I just had to find.

Asleep in the sermon, I awoke with a start,
And found that God was still in my heart.

And hope that someday, I'll not say with woe,
“Where, oh where, did Christ's Church go?”

—Sam Kidd

NOTICES

APRIL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2008

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference be advised that the 2008 April General Conference (name changed per 2006 conference action) will begin on Monday, April 7, 2008; "Conference Sunday," beginning Sunday, April 6, 2008. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 7, 2008, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot. According to action taken during the 2007 April Ministers' Conference, two days of fasting and prayer will be held Friday, April 4th, and Saturday, April 5th, 2008, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All committee reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that any business desiring to be placed before the 2008 April General Conference be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

The mailing addresses for the above requested information is:

Harvey E. Seibel
General Conference Secretary
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, MO 64052
E-mail: harvenes@juno.com

Your brother in the Lord's work,
Harvey E. Seibel,
April 2008 General Conference Secretary
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2008 General Conference** of the Church of Christ will commence on Sunday, April 6th. The business sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 7th, at Independence, Missouri.

A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on Friday and Saturday, April 4th and 5th. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2008 Ministers' Conference** of the Church of Christ will be the three days following the General Conference.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be two days of fasting and prayer held at the Temple Lot preceding the General Conference on April 4th and 5th, 2008. We encourage all members of the Church of Christ who are unable to attend these meetings to dedicate the same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or homes that the whole

Church may be united in one heart and mind.

*Smith N. Brickhouse,
Secretary Council of
Apostles*

AVVAA WEBSITE

The Church of Christ AVVAA Committee is pleased to announce the launching of our Web Site. On this site you will be able to access media such as sermons on-line, studies, *Zion's Advocate*, Bible and Book of Mormon, and much more. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. Thank you to Daniel Malone and Ian Smith for all their hard work!

The site is cofcavvaa.net.

CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE

The General Church Correspondence Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

Pat McCann (Committee Chairman)

18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050

Marlene Cobb
630 S Pickwick
Springfield, MO 65802

June Haines
11589 Genuine Rd
Clare, MI 48617

CHURCH HISTORY PHOTOS ON CD

As a fundraiser for the Philippines missionary effort we are offering a CD of church history photos. On each CD there are over 800 photos of various church buildings, activities and members from 1887-2006. Included is a file with photo information.

If you would like a copy, please contact:

Deb Haines (816) 478-6839

debruhaines@juno.com

Barbara Kimball (816) 252-5829

michael.and.barbara@comcast.net

Pat McGhee (816) 796-6255

mcgheeme@msn.com

Please send your Philippine Fund donation (amount to be determined by you) to the Church of Christ, East Local, P. O. Box 2243, Independence, MO 64055-9243.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Members (optional)	\$4.00
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Non-Members.	12.00
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape.	1.85
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	6.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	4.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic)	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition reprint—leatherette)	46.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic)	5.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (hard bound)	12.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Changing of the Revelations50
Libro De Mormon (Spanish)	7.00
Marvelous Work and a Wonder, A, by Daniel MacGregor.	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ.	9.65
Temple Lot Deed30
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:*

- Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830
- 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
- A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ
- The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday
- Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did you Know?, 3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk
- Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
- The Cost of Salvation
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion De
- La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)
- Evidences of the Book of Mormon
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Promises to Israel
- God's Purpose in America
- The Great Plan of Redemption
- Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
- The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
- A Latter Day Apostasy
- The Latter Day Restoration
- Priesthood—Divine Authority
- Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
- That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
- 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. 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.