

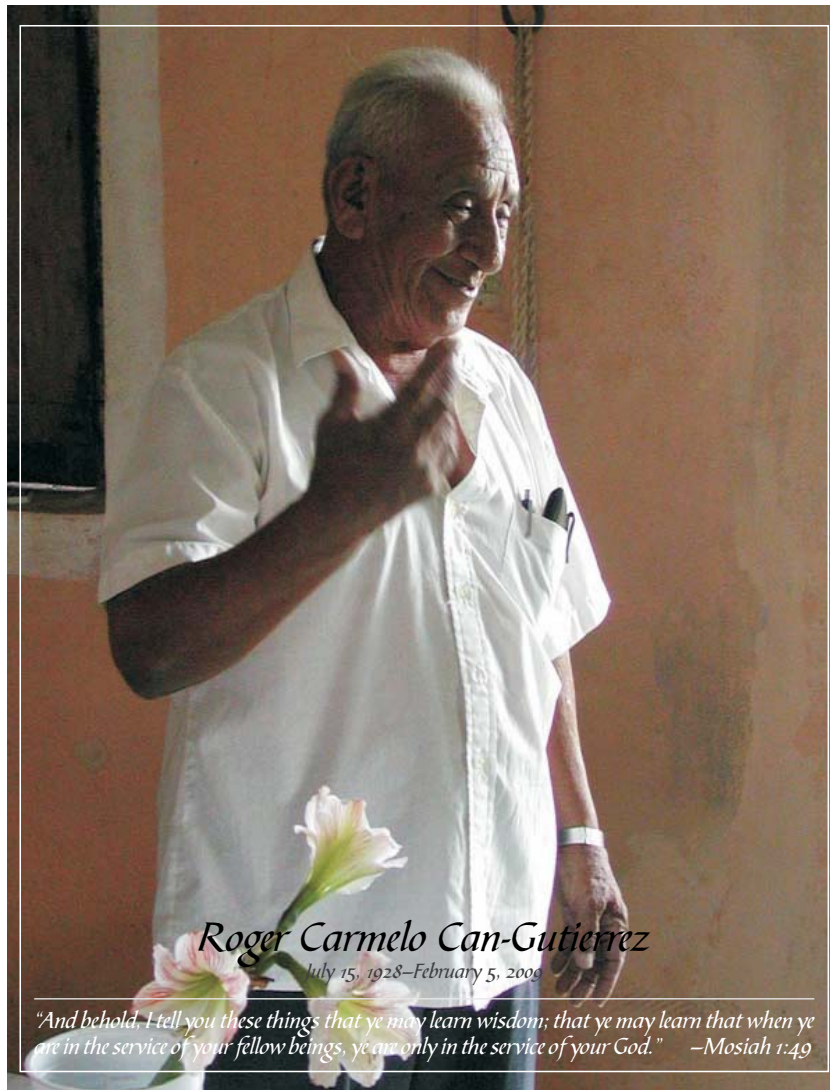
# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."  
1 Nephi 3:187*

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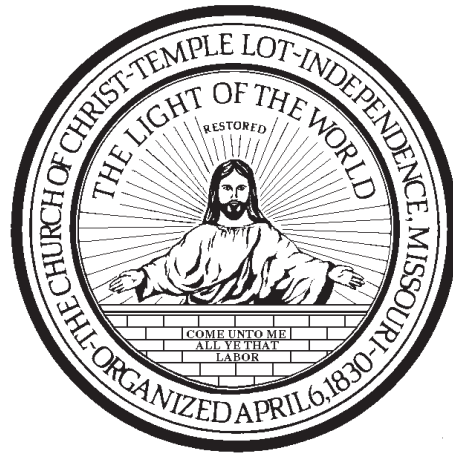
*Roger Carmelo Can-Gutierrez*

*July 15, 1928—February 5, 2009*

*"And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God." —Mosiah 1:49*

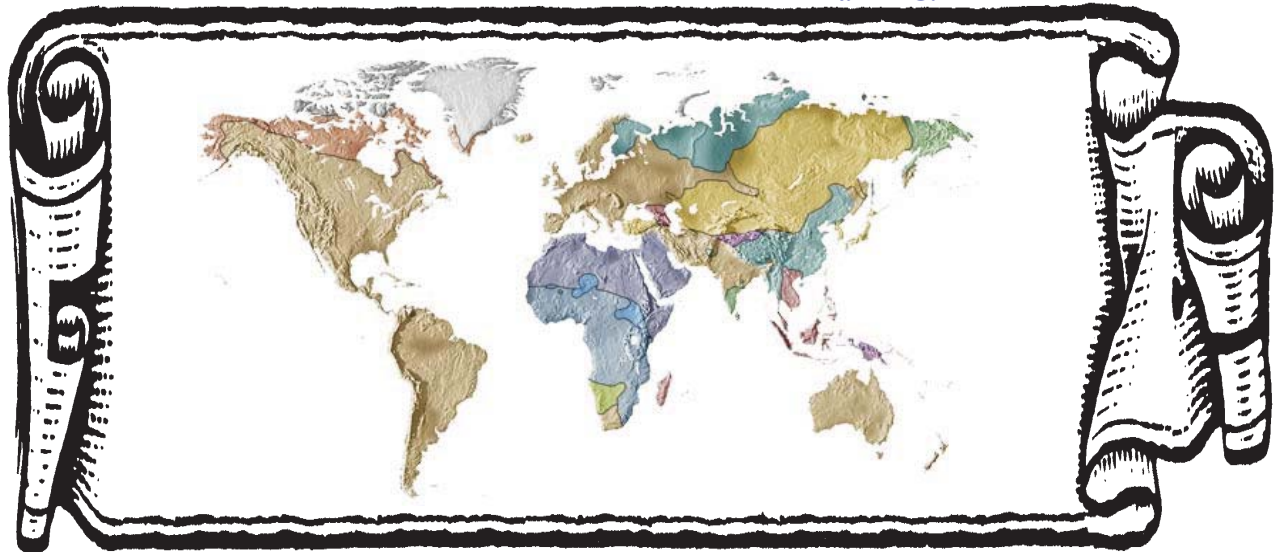
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

# What About Easter?



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

**T**he general Protestant Christian world celebrates the Easter period from what is referenced as Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday is in recognition of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem a week before His resurrection. That entry was heralded by Jewish believers in Jesus' messianic mission, as a savior in Israel, but believing it as only a physical deliverance from bondage. He was to ride upon an ass's colt:

*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the*

*chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth”* Zechariah 9:9-10.

*“On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt”* John 12:12-15.

The word Easter is really a misnomer to say the least, and is actually an English mistranslation for the ancient Greek term *pascha* and the ancient Hebrew *pesah*, both terms meaning *Passover*. The Passover was initiated by the Lord God of Israel in leading the Israelite nation from their captivity in Egypt under Moses. The Pharaoh or king of Egypt at the time rejected Moses' pleas, given through the Lord, to release the Israelites from that bondage so that they might go

and worship their Lord. He was so adamant in his rejection that God brought several of the most terrible destructive plagues upon the land, and finally with death to all their first-born children including one from the Pharaoh himself. This was the “straw that broke the camel's back,” so to speak, and the pharaoh commanded Moses and his people to depart.

God knew that Pharaoh would later pursue the Israelites to recover them into bondage, and so He directed the Israelite families in a symbolic and prophetic representation of the death of Jesus Christ His Son to kill a lamb without blemish and to take of the blood and place it upon the door frames of their homes; that they should eat the lamb with bitter herbs on the night before their departure. It was to be roasted by fire and none left to the morning. They were to eat it in haste, with unleavened bread, and the Lord would spare those families, but no first-born of the Egyptians would be spared because they did not display the blood. It was termed of God as His Passover. He passed over the Israelites, saving their lives by the application of that blood. Can you now see that we of the Church of Christ should observe the Passover rather than “Easter”?

But why does our society observe Easter? In general, non-Christians love one more holiday; not a "holy day" but a time to be free to do their own

when they should be given to pure worship and glorification of Jesus Christ in remembrance of His sacrifice of pure love in the **passover** from our sins; in

made claim that Nimrod was the Sun-god. She later had an illegitimate son named Tammuz, and she claimed that this son was Nimrod reborn, that he was supernaturally conceived. Semiramus (also Ishtar, as called by others) assumed to be the mother God (the "queen of heaven," see Jeremiah 7:18). It was evidently a devilishly conceived plan to deceive the nations from the true religion (which was in the coming of the Son of God, Jesus Christ), being understood from earliest times in that the serpent as an agent of Satan deceived Eve; and God spoke concerning her seed through Abel, but more especially through her third son Seth (see Genesis 3:14,15 & 25, 26). This resume is initiated from *Babylon-Source of False Religion*, by Ralph Woodrow, in my private library.

Resulting from Nimrod's rebellion, there developed many religious cults. An example: many years later the Israelites went into apostasy and worship of false gods: "*And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth*" Judges 2:13. Baal was the god of the Zidonians (their Sun-god) and was the equivalent of Nimrod. His wife Ashtoreth was another name for Semiramis, and was the mother goddess of the Zidonians. In those female names (and there was similarity in all those ancient idol worshippers), we have a mother worship to which Catholicism has adhered in a worship of Mary the mother of Jesus, and as a means of outreach to the

"The word Easter is of Saxon origin, Eastr, the goddess of spring, in whose honor sacrifices were offered about Passover time each year."

thing; a time for children to hunt Easter eggs and to find an artificial bunny; a time to go to or watch on TV the Easter parade, and/or go to the ball game or watch/engage in any number of frivolous or recreational activities; no religious function at all; a time to adorn self, dress and glorify the body for human admiration. Clothing merchants push their products for males and females, young and old, which appeal to human vanity. Candy and other sweets are very much a part of the celebration.

The so-called Christian community not only engages in the above holiday activity, but is more reprehensible before God by engaging in activity and vanity in the name of Christ and supposedly in honor of His resurrection by the practice of matters with no scriptural basis at all. There is a spiritual basis, but not that of the God of Israel; rather, it is ignorantly based upon heathen, idolatrous practice from ancient times. What is reprehensible is the vanity, frivolity and pride of the human

divine grace and mercy for that forgiveness.

Consider these historical and biblical facts which are the real basis for observance of Easter: Following the flood in Noah's time there was a man who was a mighty hunter named Nimrod. His animal hunting prowess was used to elevate himself over the people as their king. He was basically responsible for the building of a huge tower in the vain hope of his followers getting so high that it would be impossible for another flood to destroy them. God was incensed for such vanity and human exaltation and unbelief in Him that He confused their language so that they could not understand each other. The city and tower became known as Babel (later called Babylon) because of this confusion, and all men were dispersed upon the earth (*Antiquities Of The Jews*, by F. Josephus, chap. 4) forming the multitude of nations that exist today.

After the death of Nimrod, his wife Semiramis, who was the queen-mother of Babel,

heathen.

Humanity today, as anciently, has Buddhism (followers of Buddha; the main religion of China); Hinduism [Hindooism] with a myriad of idols in India; Shintoism (in Japan, at least 5); Islamism (followers of Mohomet [Mohammed] who claimed to be a greater prophet than Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Jewish of Israelite faith; that impact is mostly among Arabic nations, but also upon many Afro-Americans). The divisions from most of these (and there are many others as well) are numerous in idol and nature worship, also in American Indian culture.

*“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in them-*

*selves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” Romans 1:22-32.*

The religious “parents” of these was Nimrod and Semiramis, and their elder “brother” was Tammuz. See Ezekiel 8:14 for the impact of Tammuz as the Sun-god (the reincarnated Nimrod) upon the nations. He was killed by a boar and wept over by his mother. As the mother of Tammuz, Semiramis assumed herself as queen-mother, and this initiated a godhood for herself, and similarly among all the ancient religions. It came also into Roman Catholicism as they adopted pagan practices following the times of the apostles of Christ. Our principal concern, however, is to reflect the impact of pagan worship on our worship of Jesus Christ as the Son

of God; that Nimrod or Baal, Tammuz or Ashtoroth (etc., etc.), with their Sun-god philosophy are idolatrous, and clever Satanic impositions upon mankind to offset the divine plan of God through His Son Jesus Christ; and thus to destroy God’s plan of salvation. This has been carried on in early Christian celebrations after New Testament days, and the biblical term “easter” was an ignorant translation into English from the original Hebraic and Greek forms as before mentioned. It was in consideration of the intended sense and observance of the ancient Passover.

“The word Easter is of Saxon origin, Eastr, the goddess of spring, in whose honor sacrifices were offered about Passover time each year. By the 8th century Anglo-Saxons had adopted the name to designate the celebration of Christ’s resurrection” *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*. In this we see its ancient pagan origin. It was otherwise claimed: “Easter is but a more modern form of Ishtar, Eostre, or Astarte. Ishtar, another name for Semiramis of Babylon, was pronounced as we pronounce Easter today. And so the name of the Spring Festival, ‘Easter,’ is definitely paganistic, the name taken from the name of the Goddess” *Babylon – Source of False Religion*.

# A CALL TO LEADERSHIP



By Apostle Don McIndoo

Great are the lessons of leadership we can learn as we examine the life of the greatest leader of all time, Jesus Christ. In a relatively short period of time, the Lord had gathered together a team of disciples, and future leaders, from diverse walks of life who would carry His Gospel to half the world. In Deuteronomy 32:9 we read, *“For the Lord’s portion is his people;...”* The Lord has a unique and peculiar possession which He claims for His own. That portion is His church, and within its members He makes His dwelling place. They comprise the instrument called to carry out His holy purposes.

## Part 5

Solomon recognized the importance of people to successfully complete any task. He wrote, *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up”* Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10. Businessmen and CEOs have long realized the importance of putting together a cohesive team to be successful. For instance, consider the motto of Walmart: *“Our people make the difference.”*

King David knew the advantage of appointing men to positions of leadership who were aware of the benefits of teamwork. He appointed Joab as leader of the host. When his enemies appeared too strong, Joab and Abishai made their plan for victory: *“And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee. Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth him good”* 2

Businessmen and CEOs have long realized the importance of putting together a cohesive team to be successful.

Samuel 10:11, 12. For small armies like those of Israel, always opposed by greater and stronger foes, teamwork and cooperation were essential to victory.

The Lord, Jesus Christ, has put together the ideal organization to accomplish His purposes. He has called men and women into His service, *“and gave gifts unto men.”* He has placed within His church the several gifts of the Holy Ghost, *“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will”* 1 Corinthians 12:11. He placed within this body those whom He has called into His ministry, each with specific responsibilities. *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”* Ephesians 4:11. Yet, like Israel of old, His servants are small in

number. *“And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard sent his servant; and the servant went and*

*“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that*

leader must realize that it is by your example and cooperation that Christ’s purposes will be fulfilled. Consider the example set by David and other leaders when the Temple was to be constructed: *“Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house. Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes*

**Each of you who would be a leader must realize that it is by your example and cooperation that Christ’s purposes will be fulfilled.**

*did as the Lord had commanded him, and brought other servants; and they were few. And the Lord of the vineyard said unto them, Go to and labor in the vineyard, with your mights”* Jacob 3:136, 137.

And the Lord has admonished His people, *“...that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism; having their hearts knit together in unity and in love, one towards another”* Mosiah 9:54. That love, unity and cooperation bind each member of His church into an effective instrument for good, but it takes true leadership and effort to achieve it. If our unity should be lacking, we would find ourselves in danger. *“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit,”* Galatians 5:14-16).

The Apostle Paul depended upon lay members who never left their homes to assist in the world-wide missionary endeavor:

*God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in*

*bonds.”* Colossians 4:2, 3. Being a good leader, he was quick to make them aware of their helpfulness: *“Ye also helping together by prayer for us...”* 2 Corinthians 1:11.

There is a vast difference between the administration and leadership within the Church of Christ and that of every other organization. No one in the Church of Christ is in it for self-interest or financial gain. Every commercial organization in the world would think there is no price too great to pay in order to obtain a CEO who could motivate and lead his team into a relationship like the one which exists in this church, where every member strives with his/her utmost to obtain the goals set by our Leader, Jesus Christ.

Each of you who would be a

*of Israel and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king’s work, offered willingly, And gave for the service of the house of God.... Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.”* 1 Chronicles 29:3, 6, 7, 9. David led by example.

The Lord is calling you to step forward and be a leader in His great cause.

**We lead best by example!**

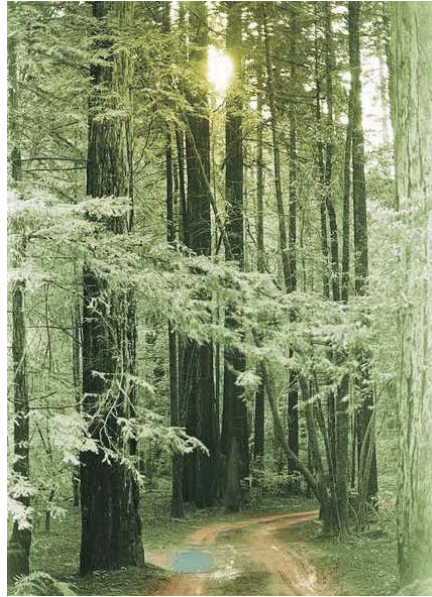
## PATHLIGHTS

# “Compelled to be Humble”

## Testimony by Br. Bruce Haines

*“And now because ye are compelled to be humble, blessed are ye; for a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance; And now surely, whosoever repenteth shall find mercy; and he that findeth mercy and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. And now as I said unto you, that because ye were compelled to be humble, ye were blessed, do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly humble themselves because of the word? Yea, he that truly humbleth himself and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed; yea, much more blessed than they who are compelled to be humble, because of their exceeding poverty; therefore blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble; Or rather, in other words, Blessed is he that believeth in the word of God, and is baptized without stubbornness of heart; yea, without being brought to know the word, or even compelled to know, before*

*they will believe” Alma 16: 134-138.*



## PATHLIGHTS

Like Nephi of old, I was born of goodly parents...not perfect parents by any means, but most certainly “goodly” ones. I also remember my grandparents on both sides as being plain and humble people with a great love for the Lord! They, too, were goodly people.

I was blessed to be raised with at least a rudimentary understanding of the restored Gospel of Christ. Though my family didn’t live close enough to a Church of Christ local that we could attend services regularly, I nevertheless was given to

know in my youth that this was God’s one and only true church on the earth. I never questioned this understanding I was given about the Church of Christ, never doubted the manner in which His church was restored in these last days (through an angel), and always knew that the Book of Mormon was every bit the inspired word of God as was the Bible. The story of how and why Christ’s Gospel was restored just always made sense to me...due, I believe, to the working of the Holy Spirit, even at such a tender age.

My great-grandfather, Lewis E. Welch, was an evangelist in the Church of Christ, and labored tirelessly in the state of Michigan for most of his life, bringing the truth of this everlasting Gospel to many spiritually-hungry souls. Although I have only a handful of memories of Grandpa Welch in his later years, I know that he, too, was convinced of the truth of this Church of Christ, as he searched diligently for the true Gospel when he witnessed the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (now the Community of



Christ) sinking deep into apostasy. Grandpa Welch was a humble servant of God, was interested not in social station but the Lord's truth, and knew that the true Church of Christ restored would be found somewhere on the earth (see Daniel 2:44). Seeking the truth, the Lord indeed led him to it (Luke 11:9-10).

Upon reaching my early adolescent years, like many young people I began to distance myself from the church. The Holy Spirit had convinced me of where the true church was, but because my family rarely attended Church of Christ services (the nearest Local was over 100 miles from our home), I was not firmly grounded in the Gospel. Although we often attended RLDS services in a nearby town (our small town had only a Catholic church and a few mainline Protestant denominations), I knew this church was merely a substitute for the "real thing," and I disliked having to go there. In addition, at this time in my life one of my biggest needs was to be just the same as all my adolescent friends in the peer group I had attached myself to...the last thing I wanted was to appear the least bit different, or "peculiar." At that time, if we had to attend church at all I would

have much preferred one of the mainline Protestant churches in our small town to the little Church of Christ with its strange beliefs (strange, at least, in the eyes of the world). Thus, during these high school years, my selfish, immature response was to be ashamed of the restored Gospel and the Church of Christ, and to avoid any discussion of my religious beliefs whenever possible.

As I entered into adulthood, married and had three beautiful daughters, I continued to live a sinful life of worldliness, church-avoidance and denial of my true religious beliefs. My wife and I had important religious differences (she is Catholic), and I lacked the courage necessary to insist that we consider uniting with the restored Gospel as a family. As a result, we eventually reached a largely unspoken agreement that our family would attend no Church, and that our daughters could "decide for themselves" when they reached adulthood.

As the years rolled by, my life continued to be filled with worldliness, pride, and a wide variety of soul-destroying sins. My prideful self remained on this destructive path until at last my hardened heart caused the breakup of my marriage and family after 21 years. Because

of my sinful lifestyle, my prideful, worldly attitude, and my lack of honesty and courage concerning my religious beliefs, I was guilty of failing to provide the Christian leadership in my family commanded by God (Ephesians 5:22-33). Due to sin, pride and disobedience, I permitted the destruction of my family, with all of its attendant pain and heartache.

In spite of my knowledge of where the true Gospel was to be found, in my hardness of heart and rebellion I continued on in a life of sin and worldliness until one day the Lord, in His infinite patience and mercy, decided it was time to humble this wretched, prideful soul. Though I had been strong and healthy all of my life, in 1995 I was diagnosed with cancer... non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Following the devastation this news brought to my prideful self, and with the realization that, indeed, I was not going to live forever (perhaps not even another five years), I finally turned to the Lord for His help and forgiveness.

Following a 6-month course of chemotherapy and radiation treatment for my cancer, I began to attend church regularly at the Ravenna, Michigan, local Church of Christ, and to open the Scriptures once again. It also was be-

coming easier for me to openly discuss my belief in the restored Gospel with family members and others. In October of 1997, at age 51, I finally made my covenant with the Lord and entered the waters of baptism.

*"...Notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in shewing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth, O wretched man that I am; yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh. My soul grieveth because of mine iniquities. I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which doth so easily beset me. And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted" 2 Nephi 3: 31-34.*

Throughout my life I have been greatly blessed of the Lord, and some of His greatest blessings have been bestowed since my diagnosis of cancer more than 13 years ago. Upon calling for the elders of the church (James 5: 14) and receiving the laying on of hands at the 1995 Michigan Church of Christ Reunion, I have been blessed with no recurrence of the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Another health blessing of the Lord was bestowed this past year: After being diag-

nosed with prostate cancer and undergoing a prostatectomy in December, 2007, I have been pronounced cancer-free at every subsequent follow-up. There have also been numerous smaller blessings associated with my whole prostate cancer experience, but time and space constraints do not permit their detailed description here... suffice it to say the Lord's ways and timing are always perfect and awe-inspiring!

Of the countless other blessings the Lord has seen fit to bestow upon me in recent years, the one I will mention is His bringing my wife of the last ten years, Debra, into my life. For one so undeserving as myself, I will always be thankful that He gave to me a companion for my "later years" who loves the Lord and this restored Gospel as I do, and that we have His love to share.

Perhaps the blessing I am most thankful for is the Lord's longsuffering and striving with me through half a lifetime of sin and wandering in the "wilderness" of this world. I am even thankful for being "compelled to be humble" through a cancer diagnosis, although I do regret the many wasted years and that I was unable to joyfully humble myself because of the hearing of His word.

I also thank the Lord for

the workings of His Spirit in the lives of my adult children, despite my neglect of their spiritual upbringing during their growing up years. Though none of my three daughters have united themselves with this restored Gospel and Church of Christ, my hope remains strong, as do my prayers... "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" Mark 9: 23.

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3: 9.*

## NEWS

## PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Things as always have been busy here in the Phoenix Local. Some events that make us rejoice and others that cause us sadness, but in all of them we can see the Lord's hand working in the lives of His people. In the past few months we have celebrated birth, and mourned the loss of loved ones among us. Stephen and Amy Kimball's twins, Jacob and Maria, are now five months old and everyone is so excited to have them here. Another baby, or two, to pass around at church is always fun. Of course there is no shortage of those here. We have 11 little ones two and under to share, not to mention all their older brothers and sisters. It's wonderful to know we have the opportunity to raise our children in a place where they are surrounded by more aunts, uncles and grandparents than they know what to do with. Perhaps not technically related, these children all feel they are family.

The week of Thanksgiving and the Phoenix Reunion were a little harder for us this year. We all mourned the loss of our Sister Bettye Brown of Payson, Arizona. Although her family and friends were saddened by her passing, we know she lived a life that was dedicated to God and to her family. He was with her to the end and we take comfort in that knowledge.

The Lord has been faithful in his promises to us. He tells us that when we come before Him in humility, seeking His wisdom and direction, He will give it. Our local throughout the last year has spent one Wednesday each month in fasting and prayer for the various needs of the church. One of the focuses has

been the calling of ministry who are willing to serve and take part in the spreading of the gospel. Our congregation has met together several times to pray for this specific need. On November 2, 2008, during our sacrament service, Aadam Yates was called to the office of a Priest. We are all thankful to the Lord for hearing and answering our prayers, and go on with a renewed faith that He will continue to do so.

Whether it is the hour and a half drive to Payson, or an all day flight to Kenya, the members of our local are always on their way to some destination to hold services with our members. Elder Andy Brown and his wife Debbi recently made a trip to Alaska to visit our brothers and sisters living there. Apostle Brian McIndoo and his wife Becky were in Kenya with our members there. While we know their heart's desire is to see the people there and fellowship with them, it's a little harder for them to leave home these days. They are the proud grandparents of Alexis and Jeremiah Bartlett and leaving those babies behind isn't easy. Brian was later joined by Apostle Duane Ely when Becky returned home to Arizona. Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Ken Oar recently made their first trip to Jamaica to visit some individuals there. The trip was short, but hopefully proved fruitful. They came home with more names of those who are seeking the Lord in their lives. The two were also joined by Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam as they made a trip to Argentina shortly after. We know all things are in God's time, but He is calling out to His people throughout the world and I am grateful that

I'm living to see the time when the gospel is going out to so many places. Apostle Joel Yates also made a trip to the northwest region of the United States to see some of our members there. Ken and Marlene Oar spent a few weeks in Honduras, where Ken was later joined by Elder Randy Sheldon and his wife Becky. Also Apostles Don McIndoo and Jay Moser have left us for a trip to Mexico. We know Don was very happy to be able to return to his brothers and sisters there after having to stay home for awhile to take care of some health issues. He has since recovered and is ready to share in his part of the work there in Mexico.

The young people here recently were able to enjoy the fruits of a year of hard work on the Young Peoples ski trip in December. They spent 2008 raising money to host a ski trip for the youth of the church to enjoy. The youth from the Missouri locals also helped to fund this winter retreat. Those from Arizona were joined by youth and ministry from Iowa, Missouri, and New York. The skiing and snowboarding were fun, but the most enjoyable part of the short time together was the time spent fellowshiping with one another. It is so important to take time away from the cares and concerns of life to study God's word, and spend time building those friendships we pray will be lasting.

As the weather warms quickly here we hope those of you in colder climates (or warmer ones!) know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Rebecca Yates*

## NEWS

## AVA, MISSOURI

February 18, 2009  
Greetings from the Ava Local.

We have made it through the holidays and so far the ice, sleet and snow. It will be nice when the warm sunny weather arrives.

Our local has started meeting every other Sunday and we have been blessed with good meetings and good attendance. Our meetings are at Lester and Barbara Burgin's home.

In our services we have been shown where we need to stay the course in our faith and hold tightly to the Rod of Iron so that we can have that beautiful reward and be with our Heavenly Father.

We are so glad to have our Pastor Elder Joe Smith and our visiting ministers to bring us the teachings of Jesus Christ. Elder Bob Oldham was here on January 25, and we had a very good Sunday School and preaching service, and we are looking forward to this coming Sunday, February 22, when our brother Apos-

tle Roland Sarratt will be with us.

So if you are in our part of the Ozarks come and worship with us. Services are Sunday School at 10:00 am and preaching service at 11:00 am. After services we have a dinner where everyone can visit with one another.

Till next time may God bless and keep you all.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Sharon K. Smith*

## INDEPENDENCE EAST LOCAL REPORT



**By Sr. Deb Haines**

We send our love and greetings to you all from the East Local. As we look forward to the New Year we remember the blessings of the year gone by and our hearts are warmed in thanksgiving unto the Lord.

On August 17th the blessing of baby Austin Josiah Gahner was offered by Apostle Frank Fann, with Elder Larry Beem assisting. Parents are Sr. Elizabeth and Br. Matt Gahner, with big brothers Alex and Andrew also attending. Grandparents in attendance were Br. Mike and Sr. Belinda Smith.

On August 26th, baby Braydon Thomas Sarratt was born to happy parents Eric and Sheila Sarratt. Grandparents are Apostle Roland and Sr. June Sarratt. On September 28th, little Braydon's blessing took place, with Grandfather Apostle Roland Sarratt giving the blessing and Elder Rick Olson assisting. Grandmother Sr. June Sarratt attended as well as other family members.

On September first, Sr. Anna McGhee entered the waters of baptism, led by Apos-

tle Frank Fann. Sr. Anna is the wife of Priest Kevin McGhee and the mother of two sets of twins: Amelia & Lilian, age 4, and Cameron and Olivia, age 2. Welcome to the family of Christ, Sr. Anna!

On September 15th, Sr. Pamela Olson had gallbladder surgery, and Apostle Buzz Brickhouse underwent prostate surgery. We are very thankful for their speedy recoveries.

On September 16th, a baby shower was held for Sr. Jenni Lomonte at the East Local annex, given by Sr. Carol Brantner and Sr. Wendy Granger.

On September 25th, baby Enza Jeanne Lomonte was born to happy parents Sr. Jenni and Jason Lomonte. Grandparents are Br. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines. Great-grandparents are Elder Charles and Sr. Jeanne Brantner. On October 12th her blessing took place, with Great-Grandfather Elder Charles Brantner giving the blessing and her Great-Uncle Elder Andrew Brantner assisting. Attending were her parents, Sr. Jenni and Jason Lomonte, her grandparents, Br. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines, and Great-Grandmother Sr. Jeanne Brantner. Also attending were Great-Grandfather Anthony Lomonte, Grandparents Ralph and Tracy Lomonte and other family members.

Also in September, our brother Sam Kidd underwent hip replacement surgery. We are very happy to report that the surgery was successful and our brother is getting around very well.

In November our Apostles Frank Fann and Michael McGhee made another trip to our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. There were 19 baptisms and our brothers spent much time in teaching with the ministry.

Sr. June Sarratt underwent cataract surgery Dec. 16th. We pray for her speedy recovery and improvement of her eyesight.

On December 28th, the blessing of Christopher Chung Seibel was given by Apostle Buzz Brickhouse, with Elder Randy Sheldon assisting. Fourteen-month-old Christopher was accompanied by his parents, Br. Nathaniel and Gina Seibel. Grandparents are Br. Harvey and Sr. Irene Seibel.

We ask for your prayers for all those of our local with continued health difficulties: Sr. Ruth Brockman, Sr. Jeanne Brantner, Sr. June Sarratt, Sr. Melissa Seibel, Sr. Lorraine Welton, Br. Sam Kidd, Br. Bob McCubbin, and Br. William Sheldon.

May God bless you all is our prayer.



# ARE YE ABLE?

By Apostle Alvin Moser

In Mexico our brother Roger Can passed away in February, 2009. Roger was permitted to leave this life while still, as they say in Mexico, *in the way*. He worked preaching and teaching the gospel until the end of his life. It causes me to reflect upon his life and contribution to the Church. I want to consider Roger's life, a man who labored spreading this Gospel as much as any person I ever knew. He visited towns and established missions until the last. I want us to consider our own service to God and what that service means in our individual lives. This last fall (2008) Brother Roger had a spiritual experience in which he was given several scriptures and told by a messenger that we needed to reconsider them. I have been looking at one of these scriptures (Matthew 8:5-16) repeatedly in recent months and want to share my thoughts with you today.

Roger was a man who made great changes in his life. He was naturally physically strong and passed his athletic ability on to

From that day to the end of his life, Roger preached repentance and the need to keep God's commandments.

his children who each played on the town's soccer team. He was afraid of no one and made friends easily. During his life he worked in politics, was a policeman, a bodyguard, a land owner and small businessman. He talked to everyone and was fearful of no ones worldly station. He himself had little education. He spoke with poor grammar, but was known to preach eloquently. When we traveled around the state of Yucatan, often meeting other people from Motul, they frequently knew this man Roger Can and knew he was the pastor of a local church there. Roger was the *go to guy*. He could get things done, and did. Yet there is a part of Roger's life that is really remarkable.

Roger could have been a powerful man in his community, wielding his weight with ease. At one time in his ministry he surrounded himself with people who were somewhat

shallow. I recall an evening, when attending his local, a man was present dressed in nice clothing, shirt unbuttoned half-way down his front, gold chains hanging for all to see, who went in front of the congregation to sing a special. He looked from his appearance to be, well, a man of the world in every way, just enjoying the fact that all eyes in the room were trained on him. Brother Don McIndoo preached a sermon that night on living a Christian life and he enumerated various sins to repent of. Afterward this man ran up to Roger and said "that guy is preaching about me" and against my way of living. Roger said, "In truth he is talking about you." He wanted Roger to do something about this preacher, I guess to explain that some of the people attending here were guilty of those sins and that Don should back off. Well Roger did do something about it.

From that day to the end of his life, Roger preached repentance and the need to keep God's commandments. Those people who didn't like repentance sermons stopped coming around Roger's local. However, around him there formed a small group of poor humble people, who could hardly read and write. They came to him for guidance and help with all their problems, spiritual and temporal. They camped at his home on his doorstep. They were part of his life nearly everyday from that moment. He took some of them with him to most of the places he went to hold services. His life causes me to reconsider the scripture that says, "*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head*" (Mat 8:20). Roger labored preaching and teaching almost everyday of his life. This brings me to the scripture that Roger was told we need to reconsider: Matthew 8:5-16.

After Jesus was baptized, led into the wilderness to be tempted, returned to His home town of Nazareth and forced to leave there, He went to the city of Capernaum. Capernaum is known as the *town of Jesus*, because He made it the center of His ministry. Not a large city by worldly standards, according to historians and archeologists it had from 600 to 1500 inhabitants. It was, however, the largest city in the immediate area and located on a main road to Damascus, or to Egypt in the other direction. World trade was active here; taxes were col-

lected by the Romans and government agents were everywhere. Here Jesus called Matthew a tax collector. Here politics and religion collided. Oh to have been there then would be the dream of the ages. How many wondrous works were done by Jesus there! So it is written, "*And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee* (Mat 11:23-24).

Capernaum is known today as Tell Hum, where there are many ruins. The mounds there show an active community with gardens, market places, trees and nearby the shores of the Sea of Galilee. In this place Jesus came and went, called most of His apostles, slept and ate with friends. Within walking distance from here was the place of His baptism beyond Jordan. The headwaters of the Jordan itself are not far off, where there is a great rock mountainside near which He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church," referring to Himself as that Rock. On the crowded streets of this town a woman drew close to Him and reached out to touch the hem of His clothing and was healed. From this vantage point you can see where Jesus walked on water and where He preached the greatest sermon ever

preached, the *Sermon on the Mount*. Here there was found the ruins of an old synagogue from the days of Christ. Many believe it was the one He visited and taught in. The records show that synagogue was built by a Roman Centurion alive at the time.

In the town of Capernaum Jesus was approached by a Centurion. A centurion is the captain of 100 Roman soldiers. There was a garrison on the outskirts of town that represented the power of Rome and all its might. This centurion answered only to his superiors. In the garrison on a daily basis these soldiers would have been training in a manner described in history as more vigorous than soldiers of today. They were always ready for war, battle and to police or enforce the will of Rome upon their subjects. If they marched down the street in Capernaum and you were an Israelite you would move out of their way. This Centurion was responsible for law and order in Capernaum. He took no orders from anyone other than Roman authority. He was probably the most powerful man in that region. We read from Matthew 8:5, *there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him* on behalf of his servant.

The Centurion could easily have forced Jesus to come visit his home and bless his servant. This is not the case though. The Centurion respected Jesus as a teacher among the Jews and as a Jew did not associate with Gentiles. Jesus was not sent to

the Gentiles but only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. This man respected the custom and perhaps unknowingly kept Jesus from going to the Gentile home and breaking the prophecy. Jesus was apparently willing to yield to this man of authority, yet this man yielded to him. I am caused to reconsider this man in scripture.

Often when a soldier goes far from home, he may say and do things he should not because he is far from home, from family, from those who would call him into question for his activity. The integrity of this leader of men, the most feared army of that day and many other days, causes me to reconsider. No one is exempt from coming to the Lord. No one should say, because I am far away from my homeland I can not serve God. No soldier can say, "I can not serve God until I return home." We are all under the authority of a just God. Let no politician, policeman, captain, school teacher, boss or manager ever feel justified in abuse of his authority. If they do, the Centurion from Capernaum will stand to testify against you on that fateful day when all are brought before our Lord in judgment.

Here in Capernaum Jesus lived out so many lessons. He taught His disciples to think differently than the rest of the Jews. He taught them to respect Rome without worshipping it or trusting in the arm of flesh. He taught Peter to pay the tribute money (taxes) and miraculously supplied enough

money, no more, no less, to pay that debt (Matthew 17:24-27). His example must have been very plain to the Centurion. Jesus did not challenge his authority as so many other Jews would have done. He felt free to come to Jesus with a request. Do people feel free to come to you?

that even He could not grant. We all want good things for our children and many times can not provide them, at least we can provide that which we feel is best.

He said, "*Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism*

**Those that die in Christ rest from their troubles, but those that rest today may find their trouble just beginning.**

Now I come to the title of this article. Are ye able? Once again we find Jesus in Capernaum with His disciples (Matthew 20:20-26). The mother of James and John comes to Jesus seeking a blessing for her sons. In the scriptures we find that kings had their confidants near them, often on the right or left of his throne. I don't know what she was thinking; perhaps she was like so many of the day who thought that Jesus was the Messiah and was about to establish His kingdom in Jerusalem with might and power. If that is the case she was indeed bold. I can see most of you mothers doing the same thing for your children. Parents will go to work for their kids, look for the best and try to get it. Like so many parents she had to be told that it could not be done. Jesus said that she was asking something

*that I am baptized with?"* That is so true of so many good things. When we are young adults we desire to be married. I know mothers who wanted children for many years and did everything in their power to have a child. Marriage is good and children are good; however, to be married or to have children are both like drinking the *whole cup*, even the sediment at the bottom, and like being baptized (immersed completely). Marriage and children become your whole life and can take all your strength, all your time and not until afterward do we understand really what it is all about. They said, "We are able."

The cup of Christ was bitter. Jesus said, "I have drunk out of the bitter cup which the Father hath given me" (3 Nephi 5:12). He "suffered" His father's will. The cup and bap-

tism of Christ is one of serving others, of living and dying for someone else. Are ye able? There are consequences to privilege and being His disciple. Are ye able? Jesus sought to be free of His cup, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Everything to do with God is not convenient or comfortable. We read that God did not spare His own son, "but delivered him up for us all." This avenue of service and sacrifice is always before us.

What then happened to those two servants whose mother sought great favors on their behalf? It is written, "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword (Acts 12:1-2) and written, "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9). So we see they did indeed drink the cup and were baptized with the same baptism. One brother James was killed and the other suffered tribulation and was imprisoned.

A follower of Christ must look to the future past this life, when Jesus comes in His glory as the hour of vindication and the time when trouble will be forgotten. Those that die in Christ rest from their troubles, but those that rest today may find their trouble just begin-

ning. We must see that there is a great joy in service and in looking beyond the moment as this scripture shows: "*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world*" (John 16:21). We must worship God in Spirit and in Truth. We must be changed to Spiritual beings, living and walking in the Spirit, sustained by the Spirit.

There is a sense of well-being that comes to those who permit their lives to be fulfilled by saying to God, "Thy will be done" and "We are able." What is ahead I know not, except what is far ahead I can see in the great vision of faith. Christ's reign and that perfection of a *face to face* reality.

When we finish the reading of Matthew 20:24-28 we see that the other disciples were angry with those two brothers, yet there was no need to feel that. They didn't even ask the question of the Lord; it was their mother. So it is in life too, there are all kinds of reasons to be upset. But Jesus taught them differently, taught them not to seek power or position like everyone else was doing, but to be accepting of things like the Centurion and like Roger in Mexico who respected those who had authority over him and sought the well being of those he was responsible for.

Jesus taught His disciples to be the servants of all. In these verses the word Servant

and Minister were the same word that *deacon* comes from, which meant a person who runs errands, a waiter, to be an attendant or wait upon menially like a servant or host. This is what His people were to be and what His priesthood was to do, that is, to live for the express purpose of serving others.

Yes, sometimes we ask for things, not comprehending its full burden if received. That should not stop us from asking nor from saying, "We are able." We should ask just as little children ask in complete trust of their parents to save them from all bad things. However, as adults in Christ we must realize that it may require everything we are to carry the sought for gift. We must say, "We are able Lord." In order for Your work to be accomplished and Your kingdom brought to the forefront, let *thy will be done!*

But Jesus answered and said, "*Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with...*" (Mat 20:22-23).



## OBITUARY

# Roger Carmelo Can-Gutierrez

July 15, 1928 - February 5, 2009

**E**lder Roger Can passed away early February 5th after suffering a massive stroke the previous day. While Paradise has gained another soul awaiting the resurrection of the dead, the Church of Christ has lost a valiant warrior. Roger was born in Motul, Yucatan, Mexico, on February 15, 1928. Roger was happily married to a devoted member of the Church of Christ, Gumersinda Pol. They married on February 28, 1959, and their union was blessed with three sons and one daughter. Roger is survived by his wife, their four children and their companions and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Although Roger worked in several capacities during his working career, his principal occupation was in agriculture. He owned an orchard of tropical fruit trees in the neighboring town of Kopté, where he and Gumer lived for many years, and he had several parcels of land on which henequen was grown.

Roger was baptized by Apostle Leon Yates in the baptismal font behind the first church building in Dzán, Yucatan, on Christmas Day, 1955. Roger was called to be an elder in the Church of



► Elder Roger Can, Apostle Don McIndoo

Christ and ordained on March 13, 1959. During the last twenty-five years of Roger's life all his labors were for the Lord. He was a valiant and fearless witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the restoration of the Church of Christ.



► Gumersinda and Roger Can

I have known of no harder workers for the Gospel than Roger and his wife. They have visited dozens of villages throughout Yucatan and in the state of Campeche. Roger had an old car that carried him and his wife someplace every day. Upon his death he was the pastor of five congregations. One of them was visited each day of the week and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays found them holding services with at least two congregations. After the service was opened with songs and prayer, Roger would preach to the adults while his wife, Gumer, took all the children elsewhere for a Sunday School class. I will have to admit that her congregation was usually three-fold that of Brother Roger's. After the service, as all visited, Gumer would serve a meal which she had prepared at home and brought with them.

Every "gringo" from the States who has enjoyed a visit with the saints in Mexico is a witness to the fact that they have met no more loving and hospitable people than Gumersinda and Roger Can.

## NOTICES

## CAMP TIME IN 2009!

The way I see it, getting together with a bunch of good folks, friends and family is a very good thing. One thing is for sure, a camp sure beats the proverbial "honey-do" list. Most of the time when church people come together you'll find wholesome activities for the kids, yummy things to eat and old timers recalling embarrassing stories of you as a kid and other delightful memories of days past.

Church camp-outs are basically church and camping put together. Church is good by itself and camping is good by itself. However; one drawback on camping is church goers can have a tricky time finding time to camp since we would all like to stay out the whole weekend - and that would mean skipping church. So, since we don't want to do that somebody invented church camps.

After minimal research, I have concluded that probably Adam and Eve started the first church camp. Then, generations later, Noah made a petting zoo cruise liner and took his family camping for 40 days. Unfortunately for Noah's family, it rained the whole time so most of the on-deck activities were cancelled. After that, families learned to camp on dry land, and in drier weather when possible.

In modern church history we have carried the torch of our ancestors. Fifty years ago, Frank and Carol Fann organized the Missouri Camp for All Ages and held a canoe trip. In fact, they enjoyed using their canoes so much they even cooked on them. Frank remembers making a fire - setting the canoe on top of the flame and cooking pancakes with the canoe being the griddle. (I think he might have learned that trick from Noah.)

Camps have come and gone, but the memories remain. To this day, families and friends arrive on Friday nights to put up tents in the dark just to make those kinds of memories.

If you are the kind of person that does not enjoy world-class kick-ball and s'mores, you may not get excited about church camp-outs. If you would rather stay at home to organize your sock drawer, you probably wouldn't miss running around with your kids in the mud making truck noises and playing with birdseed.

But, just in case you are the kind of person that likes to display interesting bed-head hairdos and watch the morning fog disappear as the sun rises on your march to the shower house...be sure to make time for this year's camping memories. As I reckon, you might just enjoy yourself.



## OBITUARIES

# Katherine Rose Moyer

February 26, 1916~October 15, 2008

**K**atherine Rose Moyer passed away October 15, 2008, in Center Point Medical Center in Independence, Missouri, of complications a month after a heart attack. Better known as Katie, she was 92.

Katie was born February 26, 1916, to Levi and Loretta Maley in Perry, Iowa. One of six children, all have preceded her except the youngest brother, Robert of Lafayette, Louisiana.

She belonged to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Independence, and loved working with children, having taught Sunday school to children in the primary age group for 31 years. Another love was music, since she started playing on keyboards from the age of four, composing and improvising music on the piano and organ. She also played piano with a band, after retiring from the Bell System in Kansas City, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her husband Ersel F. Moyer, of Lamoni, Iowa, and son Larry, of Hialeah, Florida. She is survived by Carole Adams and husband Ray in Lee's Summit, Missouri, and Jim Moyer and wife Peggy in Portland, Oregon. Katie had



six grandchildren and 11 grandchildren. Final services were held at Speaks Suburban Chapel, 18020 East 39th Street. Burial was in a plot next to brother Forest Maley.

Katy moved to Independence from Toledo, Ohio, in the early 1950s to be near brother Forest and to be able to attend Temple Lot church services. She moved

here with sons Larry and Jim, daughter Carole, and father Levi Maley, who died in 1972.

According to surviving brother, Robert Maley:

I would be remiss in failing to mention Katy's faith which she acquired from her mother's devout spirit. She loved discussions about Scripture and the spiritual values that had sustained her through the tough times she experienced. And her joy of joys was teaching Sunday school class and sharing with children the great Gospel she loved in terms youngsters could understand. She has now gone to claim the Great Hope to which she devoted her life and labored to share with others.

*"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her bands; and let her own works praise her in the gates"*  
Prov. 31:30, 31.

I am proud to say with all brotherly affection, that she was my sister.

## NOTICES

## AVA WEBSITE

The Church of Christ AVA 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. The site is [cofcavva.net](http://cofcavva.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 (Available to Church of Christ Membership Only)

As a fundraiser for the Philippine 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](mailto:debruhaines@juno.com)

**Barbara Kimball** (816) 252-5829

[michael.and.barbara@comcast.net](mailto:michael.and.barbara@comcast.net)

**Pat McGhee** (816) 796-6255

[mcgheeme@msn.com](mailto: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.



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