

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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*"And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he
that is called of God, as was Aaron." —Hebrews 5:4*

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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.

STATEMENT

A Statement from the COUNCIL of APOSTLES

“The primary function of the general church, of which each local church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all the world” #14 *Articles of Faith and Practice*.

The world is changing as always. Perhaps each of you ponders the future course of the Church of Christ. If everything changes tomorrow what is your duty as members of Christ's Church. If persecutions arise, if the dollar fails, if you loose your job, if there is more war or great political earthquakes, will your mission change? The world will not help us serve God. We should do as Nephi said, *but we heeded them not* (1 Nephi 2:83). The duty of the Church is best understood by the actions of Jesus Christ. We know what should be done through the gifts and callings of God unto the Church (reference 1 Corinthians 12:20-31).

“*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*” Acts 2:47. The measurable success of the Church is determined, as it always has been, by the fact that souls are added daily. *First apostles* is not only a description of the organization of God's Kingdom, but also a description of the Church's chief duty, which is missionary. In Acts 10:9-20 a story is told of Peter, who is prepared by God to receive the gentiles into the fold of Christ. The gentiles were also called by the Spirit, causing them to inquire after Peter. This scriptural model is still true today. Our greatest joys and successes have been af-

ter this same manner. New openings did not come to us because of any work which we have done. We had no televangelist or radio show; no concerts or best selling how-to-books; we did not go from door to door or blanket other countries with advertisements; the Spirit prompted them to seek us out and we just responded. We can not claim lofty efforts for our part. Our duty is to continue to go when we are sought.

Secondarily prophets: The secondary duty of the church is to be a warning voice. Prophets were called, not to express their own anxieties or to preach a drive-by sermon, but to express thoughts of God's heart to a people. They were sent through hardship with a bittersweet message carrying the two-edged sword of God which cuts to save or to condemn. We should pray that the Lord would send prophets into the world to call back mankind once again. We should be prepared to receive prophecy as a warning voice in God's house first, for surely His judgments will begin with us. Sometimes this work of the prophets may be the main thrust of our work in a nation and we should not think that we have failed if there are no converts.

Thirdly teachers: One of our greatest responsibilities is to endure to the end and to hold up the light of Christ in the local Church. We live in a dark world and in a time when the lights of the world will be darkened further. The local Church will become more relevant to the needs of God's people and the mission of the Church of Christ. We can be content

in fulfilling our duty to provide continuous teaching of God's word. Jesus said, “*therefore hold up your light that it may shine unto the world*” (3 Nephi 8:54). This light, of course, is Jesus Christ. The local Church is commanded, in the full reading of this text, to hold up their *light* by meeting together often and praying for the non members that come in their midst.

After that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. We should not look upon the gatherings of the Church as unimportant events. God makes provisions for us to continue on through changing conditions and problems. He makes provision for the temporal circumstances of His Children. We should make ourselves available to God to be instruments in His hands. He is a God of miracles, healings and angels. He uses conferences, reunions and local meetings to call servants, provide aid, establish His doctrine, and govern the affairs of His Church. These provisions from God to the Church are given to nourish the Church. They are given to help accomplish His purposes. Let us pray that our hearts be pure and united in His will.

*Council of Apostles
April 2009*

FROM the ARCHIVES

Turn All Ye Gentiles From Your Wicked Ways

Sermon by Apostle William Sheldon in Phoenix, Arizona

(Note: This sermon was submitted by Apostle William Sheldon for reprint. The original can be found in the *Zion's Advocate*, the May 1964 issue, pages 69 & 73.)

The warning as quoted in the above title is applicable to you and to me. It is from 3 Nephi 14. Read it all.

Among the many facets of the gospel of Christ is one which I believe to be of paramount importance today. It is the principle of repentance. Today we have the same old story of man's disobedience to the commandments of God and, as of old, the result is the same. Man still must suffer for his disobedience.

Most of us will agree that the time of Christ's second coming is near, but how near? Some say ten years. Some say twenty years, and some say even longer. Can we afford to take a chance and be caught unprepared? Read Luke 17:26-37. Here are some important words about Christ's coming, and the need of preparation.

We as a people were told as recently as 130 years ago by the

To prepare our own way of escape we must develop our understanding of the gospel, obey all God's commandments, and be prepared and willing to do as He tells us.

warning voice of Joseph Smith to prepare ourselves. All the world needs to prepare.

As we care for our bodies, so we should care even more for our souls; for it will be the spirit that will stand and be judged at the last day. This spirit within us is vital to us and it is this spirit that must heed the commands to be prepared for Christ's coming.

We are told to make preparation for the land of Zion—to build up a temple where the word of God can go forth to all the nations that the people may heed and prepare themselves. I speak of this because of the nearness of the establishing of God's final work of the kingdom here on the earth.

God will not long stand for man's continued disobedience. The wicked will surely be destroyed. The righteous will surely be saved. Satan will

surely be bound and Christ will surely reign on the earth for a thousand years!

We must prepare the soil; we must plant the seed. We must cleanse and purify our lives and perhaps we will see the fulfillment of Christ's second coming in our time.

As in the days of Noah and Lot (citation above) both were warned and the wicked were destroyed and God prepared a way of escape for His people. They did not sit still, but did as the Lord desired and prepared (from His directions) a way of escape. To prepare our own way of escape we must develop our understanding of the gospel, obey all God's commandments, and be prepared and willing to do as He tells us.

In Luke 18:17-27 we read of a young man unwilling to do as God bade him, because riches were so dear to him. He had

kept the basic commandments all his life but he could not give up his wealth. Do we keep the principle commandments, and yet have something unpleasing to God which we cannot give up?

Christ Jesus...," and "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," and "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

We in the church are not

whole world, and we must endure to the end of our days in the gospel of Christ. We must help each other and keep in tune to God's voice. Many live by God's word and have the blessings of the good spirit, but many do not. Because of unbelief they have departed from the faith. Even in the Church of Christ, and in our own day and time, we neglect the fullness of the gospel by refusing to receive it.

I would rather be a believer than a non-believer, but is true that many believe too much that is false. Is that worse than to refuse the word of God? I wonder.

There is need of repentance—of purification in the souls of men. In the last days the heathen nations will rise against the other nations. This will be God's plan of destruction. But He knows His own, and wonderful are His promises to them! Read Ezekiel 34:11-13, a story of God's power to be shown forth, and one of His wonderful promises.

Let us give ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of the Master of men, for now, better than ever, we can set our course and live fully in the service of God.

Read Psalms 91 and rejoice in God's love for His children who serve Him.

If we sin against what we have by our failure to keep God's commandments it is equal to, or worse than, the revelries of sin in the old days.

God has destroyed the wicked in many ways in the past. Perhaps we are not as bad as to be classified as wicked, you say? Don't you know that inasmuch as we have received the richness of God's word, more is required of us? If we sin against what we have by our failure to keep God's commandments it is equal to, or worse than, the revelries of sin in the old days.

Judgment must begin at the house of God. What shall be the end of him who knows not? That is for God to judge. Just being a member of the Church is no guarantee of escape. We must keep in touch with God by living close to Him and keeping His commandments which we know so well. But we cannot qualify for His protection just because we are baptized members of His church.

Read 2 Timothy 2nd chapter. In these words of Paul to his young brother, Timothy, we can find wonderful advice for ourselves as well, such as: "...be strong in the grace that is in

immune to wrong doing; we must be ever on vigil, and we, as parents, must not neglect the training of our children, for if they do not learn to obey us, how much harder it will be for them not to respect the laws of our land and how much harder it will be for them to obey God.

Pleasure and idleness are two great idols of our times. Since the time of Adam until our own day man has resisted God, and yet God only wants to draw us near Him that we may have a happier life.

Men have broken and changed the ordinances of God. It is easy to get caught up in the daily struggle of life and to think there is no time to devote to good deeds and the study of God's word. If we get too tangled up in the unimportant things of life to give heed to the Lord's work, we need to change our way of living and go back to God's way. We must let our light shine and strengthen each other. We must give our testimony to each other, and to the

PATHLIGHTS

100 Years of Blessings

—A Testimony by Sarah Elizabeth Hoskins Brantner, born December 11, 1910.

My parents had a farm between the small towns of Rockford and Cedar Springs in Michigan. They raised a large family in a log cabin, and I was the middle child in a family of nine children. There was John, Seymour, Willard, Clifford, myself, then Richard, Vera, Frederick (Teddy) and Fanny. My older brothers picked on me, and I had to help with the younger children, so the middle child was not a good place to be. They are all gone now.

When I was twelve or so my father was hurt real bad when a cart of shingles fell on him while he was working high inside building a silo. He wasn't expected to live. He did but was never strong enough to do any hard work again. My family went to church only occasionally, as transportation was a problem back then. My parents believed, and they corrected us children towards God. We kids wanted to go to church. I remember carrying my shoes and socks and walking barefoot across the fields to keep my shoes clean for church. Then when we got near, we'd wipe off our feet and walk the rest of the way to church."



George and Sarah Brantner—1951

I asked how she met Grandpa. She smiled big, a sparkle came into her eyes and she replied: "I remember I was to go out with a boy and another couple. At the last minute my date backed out. My friend's date went in to a place where the boys hung out and found George. He was asked to fill in, so it ended up being a blind date. When I saw him I knew he was the one! He won me over right away. George told me some time later that he had seen me one day at the post office. I was dressed in a silk dress which I had

made and wore a large brimmed hat I had borrowed. He told me he had thought to himself then, "I'll marry her." We went together for a year and one week before we were married on January 4th, 1929, in George's parents' living room in Rockford. I had turned 18 just the month before.

In November of that year our first child, Charles, was born. In April of 1931, our daughter, Jeanette was born; in November of 1932 another son, Gale was born; in June of 1934, Richard was born; then Danny in October

of 1939. It was the depression; George drove truck and I worked when I could. It was a real hard time.

When able we had attended several churches in the area, and became members of the Baptist Church. Later, we started to attend the Christian Reformed Church; our membership hadn't yet been transferred when God revealed other plans. In the late summer of 1941, a Church of Christ minister, Elder L. E. Welch, came to that part of the country. My brothers, Dick and Teddy, learned of the Church of Christ and heard Elder Welch preach. Plans were made for us to go and hear this preacher, then George decided he didn't want to go to the service. I'll never forget, my brother Dick spoke up and said, "George, you'd better go." So we went, and when the preaching by Elder Postma turned to the Book of Mormon, the Spirit of God opened my understanding and I knew this was the true church. We invited Elder Welch to come to our home for studies, and God's word became a full time interest.

Later on the ministry from the Christian Reformed church met at our home, trying to get us to come back. Br. Welch was

there and a debate ensued. When it was time to part, the Christian Reformed minister offered a prayer. At the end of the prayer, Br. Welch wouldn't say, "Amen." When questioned about it, he told

ing baptized before I was. When he was baptized the sun came out and laid a path of sunshine into the water, and remained there until the baptism had taken place and the final prayer was said. Because I had left the clothes at home, he had to borrow clothes. As our children grew older they, too, were baptized into the body of Christ.

On May 21, 1944, a fire destroyed our garage home and took the life of our 4 ½ year old son, George Daniel. Being almost too much to bear, it was through the help of friends, brothers and sisters in the church and God's promise, "I will never leave nor forsake you" that brought us through that time. In December of that same year, we were blessed with the birth of another daughter, Jeanece. We eventually rebuilt on the property but not on the

same spot. We built a basement home, and lived there for quite a few years before the upper level was finished.

George helped build the church in Maple City. Elders Gould and Winegar would come and stay with us. In 1950 George was still driving truck when he was called into the ministry by Apostle Leon Gould. He was ordained October 10th, 1950. Some time later we began using part of our basement for church meetings



George & Sarah Braniner,—around 1960

the other minister that he'd never say Amen to a lie. I soon asked for baptism, and it was Br. Welch that planned the baptism service. November 9th, 1941, was a miserable day, very cloudy and cold. I thought George might be baptized then too, so I had his clothes laid out. Then it looked like he wouldn't, so I left them at home. We were all there when I learned that George had changed his mind; I was so happy! It was the custom that the men were baptized first, so George ended up be-



George and Sarah Braniner—1983

with members in the area. That was the beginning of the Cedar Springs Local of the Church of Christ. When a nearby schoolhouse came up for sale, we bought it and met there through the 1960's. The first marriage he performed was for our son Charles and wife, Jeanne; the first baptism he performed was the baptism of our daughter, Jeanece; the first funeral he performed was for a tiny granddaughter, the baby of Charles and Jeanne.

On March 29th, 1969, we moved to a farm near

Warrensburg, Missouri. We caravanned with Jeanece and her husband, Ross, and their two little daughters. Sarah was 18 months and Heather was 4 weeks old. It was a long, icy drive. Ross and Jeanece lived in the farmhouse for a year, until they had their home built. George and I lived in our pop-up trailer out in the yard, and began raising Charloais cattle. In the years following our move, our daughter, Jeanette and her children moved down, as well as our son, Charles and wife Jeanne and their son.

On March 29th, 1984, George passed away suddenly, after 55 years of marriage. He and I were in the barnyard when he collapsed. The Lord took him swiftly. His funeral was during conference time, and meetings were closed so all could attend the service. Since then, I've kept myself busy. For thirteen years I managed the SOS (Senior Opportunity Services), supervising in seven towns with their monthly meetings. For about ten years, I have grown Daylilies in my two gardens and sold them at the Farmers Market. I've been pulling weeds ever since! I've made at least nineteen quilts, with one yet to be completed. I've taught Sunday School for many years, both for children and adults, and I am still teaching. I'm a collector of church books, buttons (19 gallons so far), dolls, and clothes for the needy. I go to the Hoskins Family Reunion in Michigan every year. I burn wood in my woodstove off and on, as burning wood keeps me warmer than the furnace. My eyes are failing from Macular Degeneration, but I don't take any medications except for vitamin B-12, vitamin D and vitamin C. I have some arthritis, but I keep moving.

The best thing I ever did in my life was to hear and accept the gospel. In recent prayers I have been asking— "Give me a few more months so I can reach 100."

FROM the ARCHIVES

In future issues of the *Zion's Advocate* we will be publishing photos from the past. This first edition is a reprint from a 1938 *Zion's Advocate*. We hope you enjoy seeing photos from our history.
The Church of Christ Archive Committee

The First Church that was Built on the Temple Lot: 1887-1898



The little meeting house shown in the picture above was built in 1887, and was the first building ever erected on the Temple Lot. *The Searchlight* tells us—"For almost fifty years" the surrounding ground or lots were bought and sold and houses were erected upon them, "but for some reason no one ever built upon the Temple Lot" (Vol. 1, No. 2, pg 5).

For eleven years the membership worshipped in this little building and held their conferences therein, but on September 4, 1898, a demented individual burned the building. Four years later it was replaced.

In this picture were: James A. Hedrick, the tall man standing in the back row center; just to the right of him is George D. Cole with the long

gray beard; further to the right is Richard Hill, who also has a gray beard and is holding his hat. Further to the right in the back row is George P. Frisbey with a balding head; and, we believe, directly in front of him sitting on the ground is Charles Hall, who is wearing a bow tie and a bowler style hat.

FROM the ARCHIVES

GOD'S MERCY In Time of Trouble

*LETTER TO THE CHURCH
OF CHRIST WRITTEN BY
APOSTLE JAMES E.
YATES IN FEBRUARY,
1939.*

On Monday morning February 6, 1939, in Phoenix, Arizona, a terrible accident occurred which put our young Elder E. Leon Yates, age 31, in the hospital here with a broken back. Leon was helping his father and we were putting a rear spring in my car. The car slipped from the jack and blocks and fell with its weight across his back under the edge of the fender. I saw at once that if he had to wait there in that condition until another jack could be arranged to hoist the car—it would be too late to save his life. So, without wasting an instant I took hold of the car with my hands and by exerting my physical powers in a desperate lift I did succeed in lifting it and releasing him.

The first five or ten min-



Leon & Francis Yates

utes after being released from under the car the poor sufferer seemed to be dying. A good neighbor came and helped to get Leon into the house and to a

bed. Then paralysis of the limbs and of the neck in loss of power to move the head began. The pallor as of death settled upon his features and we could not keep the hands and feet warm even while bathing them in hot water. It was then that we administered with prayer and the anointing with oil, according to the instruction given in the scriptures.

Those who were in the room at the time will give their names in testimony to witness that what we here relate is verily true. Within five minutes after the prayer of administration had been offered, with the anointing, the condition of paralysis ended; the color returned to the face, the hands and the

feet became warm again and the circulation returned to normal in but a few moments. These three witnesses, aside from the writer, who were in the room at

the time of the administration, here give their names in testimony that these things are true.

- Frances Dexter Yates, Leon's wife
- Evalena Yates Campbell, Leon's sister
- Mrs. Dorothy Hogan, neighbor

I, the writer, also verify this testimony, doing so with thanks to God, and with humility remembering that all honor is due to Him for every mercy and blessing given to us; and that we are all as nothing, except it be by His power.

When the ambulance had taken our patient to the hospital, I was there when the X-ray was taken. I saw the plate. It showed one vertebra crushed and telescoped onto another. When Dr. Greer, who is in charge, saw the plate he shook his head to indicate what he thought of the seriousness of the injury. When asked whether there was hope of restoring such a case, his only reply was, "Well, it has been done." This, to us, was not a very hopeful response. The technician, Mr. Duffy, who does the X-ray work, said, "According to all known human laws governing in a natural way in such a case, this man would be paralyzed." He then stepped to the stretcher and asked Leon whether he could move his toes. The patient not only moved his toes, but his ankles and limbs. The technician responded, "That is like music to me."

On the hospital cot they

placed the patient on his back. He was left in that posture till Wednesday the 8th. He was then placed in a plaster cast from his neck to his hips. On Friday morning the 10th, four days from the date of injury, he was then returned to the X-ray room for another picture. The purpose of this was to determine whether the cast would now have to be removed so that some kind of an operation could straighten the broken spine into place.

Imagine our gladness when this second X-ray picture was developed and one could not tell by looking at the picture which vertebra it was that had been damaged.

Was not that something for which to return thanks to God! It might be said that certain honor is due in such a case to the skill and understanding of the good Doctor and to those capable persons who are handling the case. Certainly, but who, after all, but God guides the intelligent mind of the learned student and the skillful touch of the practiced surgeon? Who but God, who is all in all? For without Him none of us would be anything. And in this case, many prayers were being offered that the power of God might be given to the minds and hands of those who were entrusted with responsibilities in the care of this young servant of God—for such this beloved son of mine and brother in the faith of ours surely is.

We believe that God has a spiritual work in the Church and among the world for this

young man to do. We therefore have faith to believe that God will spare his precious life to do that work. We ask for the prayers of all the Church for him, that his life may be preserved to fulfill his calling and ministry, and that if it may please the Master that the suffering may be alleviated or diminished and that health and cure may be given. It is but natural to expect that the Doctor will deem it wise that the plaster cast remain about the body for many weeks.

The people of the Lord are enjoined in the scriptures to pray for one another that the afflicted may be healed; and that the earnest, fervent prayers of the righteous avail much. So we ask the Church for prayers in this case and we are thankful to our Lord for the wonderful blessings already given.

*Sincerely, your brother in
the faith of Christ,
James E. Yates*

P. S. Leon was brought home on the 22nd in a wonderful condition.

REPORT

PHOENIX REUNION

The 2010 Phoenix Reunion has come and gone, but left those who attended with many wonderful memories. We were blessed to have several of our usual visitors with us, as well a few new faces we haven't seen in awhile. Our church was filled with friends from California, Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, and even Mexico. As always, it is so nice to have the opportunity to visit with brothers and sisters we do not get to see on a regular basis.

Although our reunion officially begins the Friday following Thanksgiving, many were already with us as early as Wednesday, so they were able to be a part of our service that evening. For the past few years the Young Peoples group here has taken charge of the worship service the Wednesday before reunion. The youth of our local sing specials or share testimonies, along with singing songs with the congregation. It's a great way for the young people to participate, and starts the weekend off with an attitude of service and praise.

This attitude continued on into our Thanksgiving Program, a tribute to our military service members both past and present. We met that evening to see pictures and share in memories of service men and women of our church and their families. It was an inspiring tribute to the service given to God and country



throughout the years.

Friday morning began our reunion with a prayer service led by our Pastor Elder Gordon McCann and Priest Aadam Yates. Gordon welcomed everyone to the reunion and reminded us of the reasons in which we were gathered together. The reunion was an opportunity to grow closer to God, and learn of His will for us as individuals and as a church. As always, the list of needs is long, but we joy in the knowledge that nothing is too great for God. The theme throughout the reunion often returned to the fact that God is with us throughout our greatest trials, and it is at those times that He strengthens, comforts and teaches us. The day continued with sermons by Apostle Smith Brickhouse and Apostle Joel Yates. The message in

each sermon reminded us that there is only one path to salvation, and that is through Jesus Christ, and that He is the source of living water, and without Him we have no life in us.

Saturday we met again to start the day with a prayer and testimony service, opened by Elder Andy Brown, with comments given by Elder Dan Lawrence. He continued on along with what was given to us the day before with reminders to seek the Lord in all things. Later in the day we were blessed with sermons by Apostle Roland Sarratt, and Apostle Mike McGhee. Within these sermons we were reminded of the holiness of the name of Jesus Christ, and that God has a path planned out for us to take. Sometimes we take wrong turns, but He can help us find our way if



that was felt throughout each service of the reunion. It is a delight to see that music is a way for all ages to participate in the reunion. We enjoyed music from those as young as age two and on up from there. Our Kid's Choir and Junior Choir shared their gift of song with us as well. The children in these choirs practice every week to be ready to share their songs with us. God has given his people many talents and we are so thankful they are willing to use them for His glory.

For all who attended the reunion we thank you for making

we trust in him and follow His commandments.

Sunday morning began our sacrament service with Apostle Duane Ely and Apostle Frank Fann in charge. We were given words to remind us of the service before us and our opportunity to praise and worship God, as well as remember our covenant to serve and follow him. The service was filled with many prayers and testimonies. During the service our Brother Gary Jacobsen was called to the office of priest. Several stood to bear witness to the truth of the calling. The witnesses continued into the Wednesday evening prayer service following the reunion. Gary has testified to the peace he feels and of God's presence in his life, and appreciates the prayers of his brothers and sisters concerning this calling.

The reunion was a spirit filled weekend. The Lord guided his servants to give words of guid-



ance to strengthen and reassure his people. We left our time there with the oil in our lamps refilled. As always, we are not only blessed by the sermons, prayers, and testimonies heard throughout, but by the musical offerings given by our brothers and sisters. There were many songs prepared that added to the beautiful spirit

the effort to be with us. We are so grateful for the bonds of friendship that span the miles, and for the time we get to spend with our brothers and sisters no matter where they may be.

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS



We have enjoyed a beautiful fall here in our area of Missouri. It has been warm and nice, for the most part. But now there is a chill in the air and frost on the ground. The once colorful trees have lost their leaves and are bare and somewhat forlorn looking. We're headed for the midst of winter with the crunch of snow under foot and the bite of the north wind. Time just keeps moving us along—whether we're "ready" to go or not.

I hope this little message from the Collins Local finds you looking forward to the coming of our Savior and not to the loss of the beauty of summer. I get so caught up in the things and times of life here and fail to realize that I am only here for a probationary time and that my focus is to be on God and His goodness and not so much on the "things" of this life that often weigh me down. Lift up your head—your redemption draweth nigh.

It is deer hunting season in Missouri and my granddaughter, Sheala Herd, is out perched in a tree stand waiting for a deer to come by. She has been hunting ever since she was old enough to go with her dad, Dale, beside her to teach and look after her. She has brought home a deer every year so far, I think. This year she is old enough to hunt alone. Her dad has already gotten his deer so we will see how she fairs on her own.

Paul and Sharon Liekness have headed for their winter habitation in Texas. We will certainly miss them while they are away, but can't blame

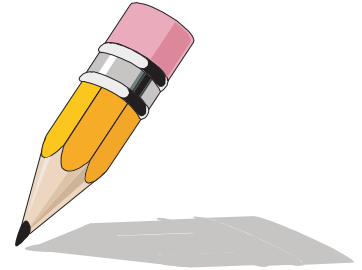
them for enjoying the warmth of Texas compared to the unruly weather we often have here during the winter.

Jack and Betty Martin have just returned from a short stay with their son, Mike, and wife, Sheri, in Oklahoma. We were so happy to have them home again. We thought they were going to be gone a little longer than they were, but I think Jack missed his old friend, Tom (their cat), and wanted to come check on him. We had been keeping Tom company while they were gone—fed, watered and petted. They tell me that, although Tom was glad to have them home, he was just a little aloof toward them for a little while. It's all good now though.

We have had a series of accidents here. The first was Curtis Yates, whose hat blew off when he got out of his car one night and as he attempted to retrieve it, somehow he ran straight into the ground, scraping his nose, face and actually cracking a vertebra in his neck. Then, not two weeks later, Bob Eddy, not to be outdone, missed a step at his neighbor's house and also took a nose dive and plowed the ground up with his nose and face. A little while later Marjory Routh, while looking for her cows, got her feet tangled up on a vine or something and fell, pulling the ligaments in her right wrist. So she has been in a brace for a bit while her wrist tries to heal—which, for any of you who know Marjory, that is a hard thing for her to do—to leave that brace on and let her wrist heal without working. Also, Jimmy Routh, Marjory's son, fell several feet off some scaffolding, landing on his back and cracking a vertebra as well. However, all are doing much better now and, for those who might wonder, Curtis got his hat back! They were all a somewhat surly looking bunch for a while, but we were all so glad they were not hurt more seriously. God looks after us in spite of ourselves, doesn't he!

We have a new friend who has been attending services with us. Her name is Vicki Pitts, from the Preston area. She is a great asset to our little group. She knows her scriptures very well and participates in Sunday School, and we have also prevailed upon her to sing specials from time to time as well. What a beautiful voice she has! Vicki's father, Al and her son, Michael, have also visited, and we hope they will want to come again soon.

The Collins Rally was held October 17th,



2010, opening with a prayer service, followed by two sermons, lunch, and a sermon afterward. Our guest speakers for the day were Elders Matt Case, Donald Gill, and Jim Case. We thank each one for their efforts to bring to us the gospel of Jesus Christ—to help steady our feet on the straight path we have set out on.

I have a few quotes from some sermons to leave with you.

- *How does Satan deceive us? By our choice.*
- *This world is not "who" we must please.*
- *Jesus makes a promise to us that HE CAN KEEP—not like our leaders or businesses that have failed.*
- *Sometimes we learn the hard way that we have to follow the rules.*
- *We can't do what is "convenient" rather than what is RIGHT.*
- *We are not "all-knowing"—that's why we need God.*
- *God is patient—He says: That child has not learned a thing—I'm going to have to teach him all over again!*
- *Let us not be as the world and not know what repentance is.*
- *Liberty is not a right or a natural sequence—but a gift from God.*
- *The Title of Liberty: In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children....*

Your Reporter,
Czerna Kauffman
Collins, Missouri

OBITUARY

Duane Lee

November 4, 1953 – August 18, 2010

Duane R. Lee of Middleville peacefully went to be with his Lord and Savior on August 18, 2010, after a year-long battle with Glioblastoma (brain cancer). Duane was born in Cadillac, Michigan, to LJ and Evelyn (Sheets) Lee. He was united in marriage with Joyce Addington on August 16, 1980, and he was baptized into the Church of Christ in June 1980.

Duane was an active member of the church in Bradley, Michigan, serving as Sunday School Superintendent for many years. He installed and maintained the heating and air conditioning for the church. He was a friend to ev-

eryone he met; he always had a smile on his face and he had a great sense of humor. His family and friends miss him very much, but know that he is in a better, happier place, and he is no longer suffering or in pain.

He is survived by his parents, wife Joyce Lee; sons, Shawn and Leslie (Currie) Lee, Kevin and Shannon (Allen) Lee, Jordan and Emily (Porter) Lee, and Eric Lee; grandchildren, Hailey Jo Marie Lee and Cohen Lee; brothers, Jerry, Larry, Randy (Mary), and Ted (Carol), and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Duane enjoyed camping, deer hunt-

ing, and watching games of the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Pistons and the University of Michigan.

Thanks go out to all the brothers and sisters who kept in touch responding and/or sending thoughts and prayers our way via the Caringbridge website; Duane was very touched by how many people read and/or responded to the Caringbridge Journal updates. He was so touched to see how many people cared about him that he wept whenever he read the guestbook.

NOTICES

AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon, studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is www.cocsermons.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

THE HOPE OF ZION

The Board of Publications has made available a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The Hope of Zion*. Contact Elder Robert W. Oldham at rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net, or any member of the Board.

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



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Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	The Great Plan of Redemption
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