# Zion's Advocate

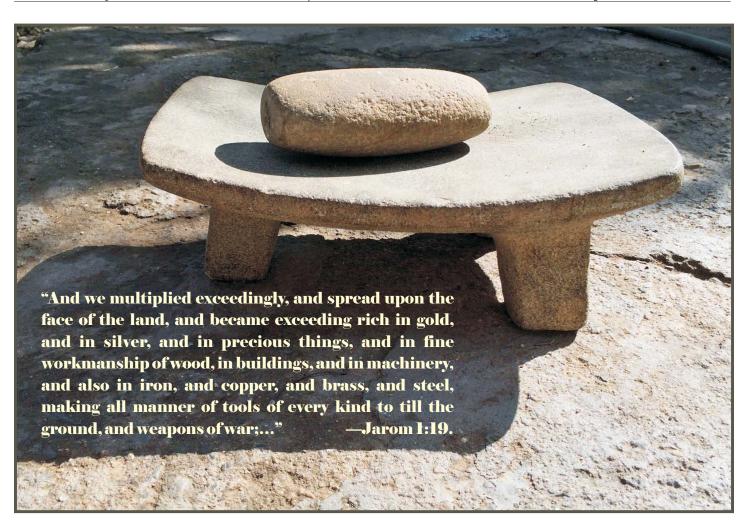
"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 92

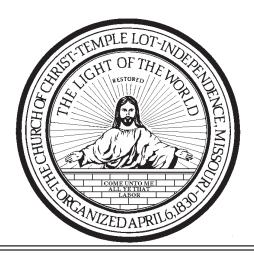
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### THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: <a href="mailto:smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com">smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com</a>
Duane Ely, 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1516; e-mail <a href="mailto:duanekathyely@aol.com">duanekathyely@aol.com</a>
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: <a href="mailto:ap.matu2@gmail.com">ap.matu2@gmail.com</a>
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: <a href="mailto:mcgheeme@msn.com">mcgheeme@msn.com</a>
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: <a href="mailto:mcindoo@cox.net">mcindoo@cox.net</a>
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050

Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: <a href="mailto:ajmoser3@cox.net">ajmoser3@cox.net</a> Jeffrey Oldham, 2609 SW Wintervalley Circle, Lee's Summit, MO 64081; 515-339-6226; <a href="mailto:jrocontact@gmail.com">jrocontact@gmail.com</a> Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: <a href="mailto:nsarratt@comcast.net">nsarratt@comcast.net</a> William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3995; e-mail: <a href="mailto:cofctl@sbcglobal.net">cofctl@sbcglobal.net</a> Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: <a href="mailto:jvates2@yahoo.com">jvates2@yahoo.com</a>



### GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Duane Ely

18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050

### SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case

8312 Lee's Summit Road; Kansas City, Missouri 64139

### **GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY**

Harvey E. Seibel

9800 E. 32nd Street S.; Independence, Missouri 64052

### **GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER**

Elder Gordon McCann

18808 N. 30th Street; Phoenix, AZ 85050

### **BUSINESS MANAGER**

Elder Alvin L. Harris Church of Christ

P.O. Box 472; Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

### ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

### **EDITOR**

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

### **ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

Apostle Placido K. Matu Calle 24 #99H x 17 y 19 Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico

Priest Bruce Haines 3904 Christopher Circle Independence, MO 64055

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

### STATUS of PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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

### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour; To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

Mano and Matate Grinding Stone, Honduras - Photo by Gordon McCann

### **EDITORIAL**



### By Elder Gordon McCann

ast year I dedicated the November / December issue to promoting the goal or mission statement for publishing the Zion's Advocate, which is to:

- Promote Jesus Christ as our only Savior
- Promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ
- Be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's Advocate

This issue will continue in that same format by espousing the pureness of the gospel contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

An invitation from our Lord God can be found in the book of Isaiah, which is the clarion cry of the Church of Christ:

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without

# Zion's Advocate

price. ...Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David" (Isaiah 55:1, 3).

The God that we love and endeavor to serve looks into the hearts of His creation and calls out to them by His Spirit, looking for the "true worshippers" of God.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

It is incumbent upon each soul to humble themselves before almighty God, our Creator, and without hypocrisy seek Him who "...is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

That is why Jesus made it very clear that "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Therefore those who approach God must do so in faith believing "...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is." By exercising their faith in God, desiring to understand what is required of them in this life, they will find favor before Him because "... he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Much care is required by those who are seeking the truth, especially in the day that we live in, "the last days" (2 Timothy 3:1; 2 Peter 3:3). We are told that many will profess to be the mouthpiece for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Reciting the words of Christ in the Day of Judgment, "...Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thu name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Jesus was careful to answer those individuals by saying, "... then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22-23).

That is why the Apostle John warned the believers in Christ in his first epistle not to summarily believe everything that is being taught or espoused by others concerning the Gospel of Christ, but were admonished to, "...try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

To that end, I would like to speak somewhat about our belief in the Church of Christ that God, by way of the Holy Ghost, speaks or manifests Himself to us from time to time; we define it as the "Principle of Continuous Revelation." The purpose of these manifestations from God is for direction, correction, and consolation as found in the Word of God and professed as one of our beliefs in Article #10 of our Articles of Faith and Practice (http://www.churchofchrist-fl.org/basicBeliefs.html).

The scriptures verify that God does not change (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17) and that "...the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil..." if they will avail themselves of that Spirit of Christ to "...search diligently in the light of Christ..." (Moroni 7:18). There is counsel given by the Apostle James, the half brother of Christ, to those who lack and desire to seek wisdom in this life, found in James 1:5-7:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

"For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." It is the responsibility of each of us to be aware that from the beginning there have been false prophets and teachers which are used by Satan to ensnare and destroy the works of Christ. We are forewarned in the scriptures to not trust in the arm of flesh" (Jeremiah 17:5/2 Nephi 12:39) we are instructed to:

- "... Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matthew 24:4-5).
- "... Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:" (1 John 4:1).

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things" (Moroni 10:4-5).

Thus we see that we are instructed in the Word of God that the manifestations of the Spirit of God come according to our faith and diligence, with a true desire to understand the perfect will of our God in all things.

Once God has spoken, it is incumbent upon us to heed what has been delivered. The reason is simple, because the scriptures are plain concerning the nature of our God.

"For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little:" (2 Nephi 12:36; Isaiah 28:9-10).

With that said, a promise and a warning is found in the scriptures to those who are recipients of those manifestations from God found in 2 Nephi 12:37-38.

### The Promise

"And blessed are they that hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; For unto him that receiveth, I will give more..."

### **The Warning**

"...And them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have."

The following articles will speak to the power of God manifesting Himself to the children of men in the last days.

I invite you to make it a matter of prayer, asking the Father in the name of Jesus Christ as you consider the things that you are about to read in this issue. If you will do this, acting no hypocrisy before God, but with real intent desiring to know the truth, the God that we both worship will manifest the truthfulness of these things presented by way of His Spirit. It will be no different than when Jesus walked with His disciples after His resurrection, "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

May God bless you and may He fulfill His promise to you in your quest to know the truth, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

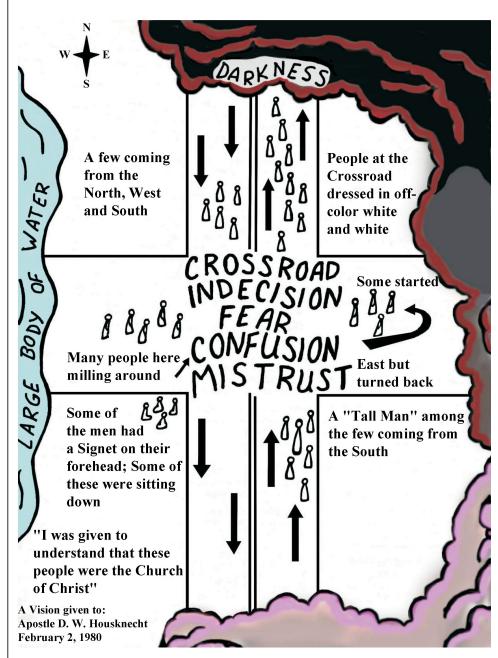
# A CROSSROADS VISION INTERPRETATION

### Sermon by Apostle Don Housknecht (condensed)

(Reprint from Zion's Advocate Vol. 63 #7 July 1986)

'll be referring to the picture. You will notice that there is a highway going up and down, and one going across, making a crossroads. This was a vision that was given to me in the night some time ago. I want to point out that the crossroads represents the Church of Christ, indicating that we are at a crossroads, and a crossroads might be quite bewildering sometimes. There are dark clouds underlined with red, and as the picture goes down to the bottom, the darkness of the clouds diminishes until it becomes a gray outlined with pink; the red has faded to some degree. This does represent communism; this is war and sometime coming out of this darkness will be war. In other words, these are war clouds.

In this two-lane, two-way highway going north and south and east and west, there are people both going to the south and coming out of the south, going to the north into the darkness and coming out of the darkness, all towards the Church of Christ;



east and west the same thing. Here I witnessed people, and I expect some of them must have been some of the servants of God. or maybe they all are; I'm not able to identify that, but they were going toward the east and they got so far and turned around and came back. And there were people coming from the west, coming in towards the Church of Christ as it were; and from the south, and among those coming from the south was an extremely tall man. Now that doesn't mean. he was tall in stature, but he was tall in the strength and power of God. Off to the left is water, and when I first saw this I didn't understand the waters, but as I have meditated upon them more and more, finally a very strong spiritual impression came to me that these are troubled waters. Now it doesn't mean that they are necessarily just on the west, but that there are troubled waters in this picture.

We have at the crossroads great large letters, easily distinguished, and the words were: crossroad; indecision, fear, confusion, mistrust. These hovered up over the people gathered there. Here are indicated a few men. and I saw these men had a signet in their forehead which identified that they had priesthood authority, and among these men I witnessed that there were several, quite a few, that were sitting down. The rest were standing up and milling around and were uncertain as to what to do, because of conditions that prevailed hovering over the Church of Christ. People were heading into the darkness, others were coming out of that, coming to the Church of Christ expectant and full of hope, but when they arrived they found at the crossroads indecision, fear, confusion, and mistrust. The whole story of that vision is very astounding, and there are others that have had dreams and visions after the same manner, indicating that there is a time of turmoil and strife. and that is the Church of Christ as it is presently standing.

As I said, some were sitting down, meaning inactivity; they were doing nothing. Now this is a shameful story for one of your ministers to have to stand up and tell you, who are members of that congregation, a part of that Kingdom of Heaven on earth, to have to tell you that there are these conditions prevailing. I only say so because I had that very strong spiritually overcoming power of God give me the picture, and I pass it on to you.

With this in mind I would like to talk to you about God. I'll turn to Malachi 3. I want to emphasize particularly the 6th verse, but I'll start reading at the beginning of the chapter:

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

"But who may abide the day of

his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?" There is a good question that we should examine very carefully: Who shall abide?

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:" Do you know what fullers' soap is? It's a cleansing agent and it absorbs dirt. Now that's a peculiar thing for the Lord to reveal to us, that he's like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap. He shall be like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap: he will cleanse. The power of God will cleanse, the Gift of the Holy Ghost will cleanse and it shall absorb a lot of those things that we would otherwise fall under were it not for that great power and authority and compassion that God has given.

"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."

"Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years." A change had apparently come into effect but now things are going to return to their former condition.

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers,...." We don't have any of those today do we? You can't go anywhere, you can't read

anything in the paper, you can't hear anything on the radio, you can't see anything on the television but what it speaks of these things. Everything has been adulterated. As I understand, never has there been such an adulterous condition as there is today. Adulteration is in practically everything, from politics to the Christian world.

"...And against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts." That's the kind of people that we will be meeting more and more as we go out and fulfill our obligation which we have accepted of God. Now this is the one that I want to emphasize:

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." I'm going to base my talk on the fact that God does not change. I think you will agree with me that there have been some changes made, and if there are changes made and we say God didn't do it, then who did? We did. I'm sorry to have to say that over the years we have done that very thing. We haven't necessarily changed the law, but we gave no respect to the law. It is still there, but we did not abide by the admonitions that have come from this pulpit. I say "this" pulpit representing all the pulpits throughout the church. We have to recognize this fact because we've done the very things which have brought the indecision and fear, bewilderment, not knowing what route to take nor where to go, upon the Church. People coming into the Church of Christ have been bewildered when they have found these conditions existing, as they are today. And as we reach out to the good people who want to hear the word of God, they find not the completeness.

God has said through the prophet Jeremiah (17:5), "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm;" but it is done, and we have done so right within our own fold and kingdom. We've had disturbing doctrines; we've had those things that have set our people apart from each other, divided us. Though we come to church, and have our places of common worship, there is still a distrust. God does not change. We haven't changed laws, but when we fail to obey, fail to carry out laws, do not attend ourselves to them, we are without that law.

"I am the Lord God, I change not;" is repeated somewhat in Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" We say there's no reason for God to have to repent, for what He has said will be. And if it isn't brought forth with power by us, it is going to happen through someone else. Oh, it will be the Church of Christ, but it will be somebody else, unless we wake up to the realization that God has not changed, but we have. There are two testimonies that God does not change.

Are you happy? Why are you happy? There are any number of answers to why people are happy. But if I'm successful in bringing out what I feel God has presented me, I'm going to make you unhappy with your spiritual life, with the spiritual life that we have (in contrast) to that which has been promised. If there is any lack there is some reason for it. I'm going to turn to Moroni, 7th chapter, reading rather extensively from the 26th verse down through the 44th at least...

"And as sure as Christ liveth, he spake these words unto our fathers, saying, Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be done unto you."

Do you believe that? Doesn't that make you happy? Well it could make you ever so happy if the things that we seek were actually there. And we know they are there somewhere within our reach, but we haven't quite attained them as frequently (I'll have to put that in) as I know they can be had. We know they are there, we know you want them, but something has happened that we don't know just how to receive them. I've seen the dead raised, I've seen crippled hands straightened out; crippled bodies so distorted by arthritis that they had to remain in bed, walk out of the room with me, made whole. And we need this today, our youth need to

have it, to know it, not from some of us older men telling it to you, but you've got to have and know it for yourselves. And God has said we shall have it... I just read it to you.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased, because that Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath sat down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men;"

"For he hath answered the ends of the law, and he claimeth all those that hath faith in him; and they that have faith in him, will cleave unto every good thing; wherefore he advocateth the cause of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the heavens."

"And because that he hath done this, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased?"

No, you say, I can remember when there was a miracle. Miracles have not ceased, but they are not as frequent as they should be, not in the abundance of our necessity.

"Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither hath angels ceased to minister unto the children of men." Angels minister unto the children of men? That is how this gospel and the authority to establish His church again was restored. That's how it happened, through angelic administration. God will reveal Himself. He has done it all through the ages of time; but if it diminishes there is something wrong with us, not God.

Can you believe that, if we continue to just lay His counsel aside, He is going to continue speaking to us? Can you expect that He might say to himself, "Well, if they are not going to pay any attention, what's the use of me talking to them?" To say this is pretty brazen, I'll admit, but I'm not afraid of it being anything but the truth. It is true, and we must acknowledge it and reach out and grasp hold of that which can take us out of these doldrums; out of complacency, and remember our commitments, and, if necessary, make new covenants. But first of all we have to remember our old covenants to keep them. How can we expect God to keep counseling us and rebuking us unless we obey His commandments of the past? And if we don't know what they are, and the ministry have failed to tell you what they are, then it's time that we pray to God that He will enlighten and move upon His servants that they will move out and not be afraid to speak these things that are necessary for our soul's salvation.

In my estimation we're in a dangerous condition. Nevertheless, we recognize it because of other testimonies within the Book of Mormon.

For example, Mormon 4:83: "And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men, is because that they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust."

"Behold I say unto you, that

whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth" (verse 84). Who is left out? Only the unfaithful, those who are complacent about the condition we are in today. We must remove that cloud of those words: I call them clouds because when anything like that exists it is a cloud. We're clouded over and our thinking is not clear; we're bewildered, we're going around in circles if we are going around at all.

In Ether, chapter 1, I read verses 104 and 105: "And he that believeth not my words, believeth not my disciples; and if it so be that I do not speak, judge ye; for ye shall know that it is I that speaketh, at the last day."

"But he that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit; and he shall know and hear record."

I'd like to have you sing a song, page 263 in the green book, and out of this song will come a theme that I'm going to ask you to accept as being a theme that we're going to use from now to eternity if necessary: "The Fight Is On"

What is the theme? The last words of the song: "If God be for us, his banner o'er us, we'll sing the victory song at last." I want you to take that theme home with you, I want you to have it burning in your mind and in your heart; because we know it can be.

### IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But, he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
Ihere are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
Ihe dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.

—Edgar A. Guest

### GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS: HALLELUJAH!

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) will be providing portions of lessons (teasers!) for several age groups on a common topic. To see the complete lessons, please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at <a href="www.cocsermons.net">www.cocsermons.net</a> and click on the "Resources" tab to view all of the lessons and studies for children and adults. More information regarding Sunday School lessons can be found on <a href="www.edmodo.com">www.edmodo.com</a>. Contact Susan Porter: <a href="porter\_susan@sbcglobal.net">porter\_susan@sbcglobal.net</a>; home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333 for more information.

### Hallelujah! PRAYING WITH PURPOSE AND PRAISE

Heidi Jones: Bradley, MI

### Elementary:

### Read:

- James 5:16 "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
- Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
- Psalm 18:3 "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

### Discuss:

Discuss the verses above, and the importance of praying specifically for each area of your life.

- Introduce "My Prayer List" (printable available online).
  - o This list is for needs: spiritual, physical, any need at all. \*
- Introduce "Halleluiahs! Blessings and Answered Prayers." also available for print online.
  - This list is for answered prayers, blessings received- all praise for the Lord!! \*

\*Hint: It is helpful to fill these out ahead of time using some personal illustrations from your own life.

### Activity:

- 1. Give a copy of "My Prayer List" and "Hallelujahs" to each student.
- 2. Encourage kids to write at least one thing to pray for in each box on "My Prayer List." Let them know that they do not need to share what they wrote with anyone. It can be just for the Lord.
- 3. Encourage kids to write at least 3 "Hallelujahs" on their list.
- 4. Encourage kids to hang both of these lists on a wall at home next to where they like to pray. For example, I usually pray in bed, so I hang mine on the wall right by my bed so I remember to pray for the things on My Prayer List and I remember to praise God for the blessings on the Hallelujah list.
- 5. Discuss how these lists are meant to grow and change. Cross off things that God answeredand don't forget to praise Him for it! Put it on the Hallelujah list!!
- 6. Have students share their hallelujahs with the class. Also encourage students to bring them to a Prayer or Sacrament Service and bear testimony of these blessings.

### Praising My Lord!

### Middle School:

### Objective:

• To learn our Lord appreciates an attitude of singing and praising Him in our daily walk as a Christian.

### Memory verse:

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works." Psalms 9:1

### Read:

- Psalm 9: 1-2, and Psalm 147:1.
  - Psalm 147:1 reads, "...it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely."
    - o From the context, what does comely mean?
      - The phrase tells us that it is good and pleasant to sing praises, so comely must mean that it is something beautiful, lovely, delicate, a sweet noise unto the Lord.
    - In Webster's 1828 English Dictionary, comely is defined as: "Decent; suitable; proper; becoming; suited to time, place, circumstances or persons".
    - According to Strong's Concordance, the word *comely* used here means, "suitable or beautiful, becometh, seemly" (Strong H5000).
- 1 Nephi 1:7 and Alma 17:20
  - Both of these verses refer to Lehi's vision of being "carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God." Alma told his son, Helaman, he thought he saw the same vision as Lehi, and his soul longed to be there.

### Describe:

- Describe what you think of as you read these verses.
- · Use a blank sheet of paper; in the center write 'Praising my Lord' and draw a circle around it.
- On the rest of the paper, write adjectives describing what this looks like, sounds like and how it makes you feel when you know that you are praising your Lord with great intent.
- On the other side, jot down times that you are not the best at singing and praising the Lord (bad hair day, things didn't go the way you hoped, problems with a friend, etc.)
- We all have times that life doesn't go the way we want, especially as a middle schooler. The question
  is, how do we handle those unfortunate moments and not stray from our walk with God.

### Reflection:

- Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.
- Ask for feedback on when there are times that you may need to improve. Yes, this is the hard part, asking someone to help you reflect on areas that can use a change of attitude.
- People of all ages benefit from taking time to reflect on how they handle situations, good and not so good.

### Write:

 Write a personal plan for maintaining those good times, and improving the not so good. Put your plan in the form of a poem or song that worships our Lord, and then try to share it at a testimony service.

## REVELATIONS from GOD through the Years

Throughout the years the Church of Christ has had publications to share the revelations of God. These are some examples:

APRIL, A. D. 1865.

Tell the Truth : the Truth will tell. Truth will prevail, and never fail.

GRANVILLE BEDRICK. 7.

PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH.

The Truth Teller-Will advocate the Primitive Organization of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter Day Saints,) which was organized on the 6th day of April, 1830, and maintain the Divinity of the Bible and Book of Mormon, and also, that Joseph Smith was once a great and true Prophet of God.

SECTION IX.

counsel of your Lord and Saviour, Jesus tyranny and oppression will reignamong Christ, and give heed to the words given | the wicked, and liberty be trampled unto you by the power of His holy spirit. der foot, because of military rule. And Because of the great destructions that are coming upon the land. For thus it shall be unto your country, it shall be at- creed to establish her dominions upon the tacked by a mighty for on the South and once renowned land of freedom, and ter-fast, by a combination of strong nations, and the eastern cities of the coast shall but glory be to God! for the people of fall in the storm of battle, and the great the West will stand up in great Atlantic Ocean will be blockaded by a strength for liberty, for God will help combined fleet upon the coast, and all them. And He will stir up the Kings of vessels of the Federal government upon the eastern world in their anger, and the high seas will be endangered. Wo! they will be divided against each other, Wo! to the proud cities of the East, for and gather their armies together to battheir railroads will be torn up, and pov- tle; and that great and abominable erty and misery pervade the land; And church will be arrayed against herself, great consternation will spread through for God will pour out sore afflictions in the Northern States, because of war and bloodshed; and great political divisions will arise throughout the government will be established in the West by the true ment, between the states, and many will lovers of liberty and servants of the most set up for themselves separate govern- high God, upon the broad basis of equal ments, and great tumults will arise rights and privileges, in all truth and among the people; in the uproarious clam-righteousness and it shall increase in the or of dissensions and the financial crash favor and admiration of all good and will cover the land as the turbulent waves of the sea, and the proud, and the rich, as well as the poor, will feel the pangs of hunger, and the shame of nakedness and ald garments will be well as the poor. nakedness, and old garments will be rent become truly great; thus says the spirit to mend others, and thus shall the proud of the living God. Amen.

be humbled in the dust, and set down upon the ground hungry and naked or A REVELATION TO THE CHURCH. in other words in scarcity of food and raiment, yet men in unbelief of God's Hear O, ye people who call yourselves forewarning, will harden their hearts the Church of Christ. Hearken to the against the true light of the gospel, and

### THE SEARCHLIGHT

Devoted to the Interests of the Church of Christ in Zion.

Vol. I.

INDEPENDENCE, JACKSON COUNTY, Mo., AUGUST 1, 1896.

No. 7.

HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE LOT- Christ; afterwards in 1835 there was a change

1829-1896. -- CONTINUED.

TESTIMONY.

ILLIAM B. Smith testified "My age is eighty years; my father's name loseph Company and the state of the state Joseph Smith; I was a member of original church-now belong to reorganized church; great many of the church came from Kirtland to Far West in Caldwell county, Mo.; was recognized as one of the twelve apostles at that time, occupied that position up to my brother's death; after his death continued to preach doctrine 1 had received; preached at Rocky Ford, Lee county. Ill.; first I ever noticed of polygamy was in 1845; knew Edward Partridge: he was bishop of the church; I joined the reorganized church about sixteen years ago; turned over what following I had to Joseph Smith, my sephew, head of the reorganized church; I hold position of High Priest in reorganized church and held office of apostle in original church; holding these two positions I have had the right to preach and baptize under the order that I had received originally from the original church, and also under the order received from the Reorganized Church; Doctrine of blood atonement was introduced after my brother's death, also the doctrine of an Adam-god, also plurality of wives. The Utah Mormons hold to these doctrines. The name of the church before I came to Kirtland, Ohio, was the Church of Christ; the twelve apostles were appointed in April, 1835; knew several persons that gave Bishop Partridge money to purchase Temple Lot; I never preached or practiced the doctrine of polygamy; left Nauvoo in 1845 for fear of my life; organized branch of the Church of Christ as organized in 1830; was appointed president of the organization; it was called the Church

made in the name of the church; Doctrine of Baptism for the Dead was practiced in 1839-41. but was abandoned before my brother's death; has never been practiced in the Reorganized Church; never heard the doctrine of plurality of gods taught prior to my brother's death; never have made claim that I was ordained to be my brother's successor in office; knew Elders Zenas H. Gurley and Jason W. Briggs, at one time Elder Briggs acknowledged organization which I formed after my brother's death. My understanding of the law is that the priesthood descends from father to son. If the legitimate heir was an idiot, I should not consider him fit to govern the Church, also that the apostacy of the father would destroy the rights of the son to succession. The Salt Lake church claims the same name as was adopted in 1834. My brother, Joseph Smith, was not the oldest son of my father. Hyrum was 5 years older than los-

J. W. Brackenbury testified "I live at Independence, Mo.; was at Nauvoo at the time of building of Temple; it was never completed; have been in the Temple probably twenty times and know that it was never completed; never saw the ceremony of baptism for the dead performed in the Temple."

W. W. Blair testified "I live at Lamoni, Iowa; I am one of the editors of the Saints Herald; became a member of the church in 1857; was ordained by Zenas H. Gurley; was present in 1860 when Joseph Smith was ordained to the High Priesthood by William Marks, Zenas H. Gurley and myself; I was an apostle at time I assisted in ordaining Joseph Smith; it was understood that we ordained him an apostle. We claim the Reorganized Church to be identical with the original church. The doctrine of the baptism for the dead is a mooted question in the Reorganof Christ; the name of the church as first zed Church. We regard the Utah church as organized in 1830 was called the Church of heretical and usurpers; was present at con-

have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost." 1st Nephi 3:124

May 15, 1922

Number One

### ZION'S ADVOCATE

The Church of Christ at Independence, Mo., things that the Lord has promised in connection takes great pleasure at this time in issuing Zion's Advocate, for we believe that the time is at hand when all Latter Day Saints should have their minds turned toward the great work of Zion's Redemption. There is great responsibilities resting upon all that have taken upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ in these last days, for God is unchangable, he is the same yesterday, today and forever, therefore it behooves those placed in charge of the work here upon the earth to let their light shine as a beacon, to light the way for those that are grouping in this dark world of doubt and uncertainty.

For that reason we have decided to publish the Advocate, and place before the world the be-lief and doctrine of the Church of Christ relative to the gathering of the children of Israel and the redemption of Zion. The standard bearers of this latter day work have great responsibility attached to their work; in order that they may succeed in their work, they must be strong and courageous for their place is not only at the battle front, but to hold their standards high so that those who follow may continue to have courage to press on to the victory. Not only that, but when their standards trail in the dust then will the enemy take renewed courage, and have greater power to overcome those that follow.

The Church of Christ has taken the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the revelations given in these last days for their guide, and it will be upon this basis that the publishers of the Advocate will seek to establish the principles and means by which the restored Gospel will be effective in breaking down the cunning plans of the devil and his agents that have retarded the work of the gathering.

The Lord has said, "Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled." D. & Cov. 98:4., therefore we wish to affirm that the Christ among all people to the Church of Christ stands upon that position, and are looking forward to the fulfillment of all help you in your efforts.

If you are interested in the building up of "the waste places of Zion" and the gathering of the pure in heart," then we hope that our efforts in advocating the principles by which this work will be done, will not be in vain, but will cause a burning desire in your hearts to help us build up the Kingdom of God on the earth. For this work is not dependent upon any one man, but each and every person that has taken upon him the name of Christ has pledged himself to do all that is in his power to help establish righteousness in the earth, so we are safe in taking up the work of advocating the cause of Zion to all men that are seeking for that city whose maker is God. If this appeals to you as one of the means by which good can be accomplished in this direction, then let your friends and neighbors know it, let them read your Advocate; send their names to us that we may be able to send them, a paper too.

We have decided to print the Advocate at this time because of the fact that many saints from all factions of the Latter Day work are writing to us that they may receive an understanding of the ideals of the Church of Christ in regard to the perplexing problems that are confronting the world today. For they realize that perilous times are at hand, and that as yet no place of safety has been prepared. These inquiries are not confined to any certain locality, but have come from almost acvery state in the Union, Australia, England, Ger-18 many, and Canada. Therefore, we feel that through the Advocate these inquiries could more effectively be answered than through private cor-

Not only that, but often the questions are of such importance that the answers would be of general interest to all Latter Day Saints, also, it would give the members of the Church of Christ, a more regular way of being in touch with the schurch here at Independence, Mo.

To them we would say, take new hope, be a missionary in your locality, spread the cause of Christ among all people that you come in contact? with, and we will do all that is in our nower to's

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

# An Open Door Now Closed



By Apostle Don McIndoo

(Reprint from Zion's Advocate Vol. 63 #7 July 1986)

n the third chapter of Revelation there is an intriguing prophecy which fills me with great hope as I consider the immensity and scope of the latter-day work which unfolds before us (Revelation 3:7-8):

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Even though this message is addressed to the church in Philadelphia, there is within it a key that informs us that it is a type, or shadow, of things to come to the church restored in the latter day, for verse ten identifies the time-frame of the prophecy: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them

that dwell upon the earth."

We live in that era which shall endure "the hour of temptation (or tribulation) which shall come upon all the world." It is to the church of our day that the promise is given, and what is this promise? "... I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it...." To what does this open door refer? Several references by the Apostle Paul gives us a vivid description as to the significance of this promise:

"But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door, and effectual, is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:8-9).

"Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord" (2 Cor. 2:12).

"Continue in prayer, and

watch in the same with thanksgiving, Praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds..." (Col. 4:2-3).

Christ opened unto Paul a "great door of utterance," or spirit-filled preaching, and I marvel at the great work he accomplished in the few years of ministry allotted to him, opening all Asia and Europe to the gospel of Christ. Can you begin to imagine what would happen if in this latter day there were twenty or thirty ministers like the Apostle Paul who had opened before them such a door of utterance and who were ready to stride boldly through that open door?

But we do not accomplish the Lord's work by dreams or imaginations. We must come to grips with the reality of our condition as it exists today. A few years ago our church received another revelation which clarifies our position in the eves of the Lord. In this vision (seen artistically rendered on page 100, ed.), as seen by Apostle D.W. Housknecht, the ministry of the church were shown at a great crossroads. They had clear access to the roads in each of the four directions, but they were seen to be milling about the crossroads or seated at its side. Some of the ministry would travel out into the road a short distance, only to turn and rejoin those at the crossroads.

Above the crossroads appeared four words which seemed to be the elements descriptive of our little church today. They appear to be, as well, the elements which block the open door Christ has promised to provide for His church in the latter day. These four descriptive terms are as follow:

MISTRUST - CONFU-SION - INDECISION - FEAR

It seems obvious that such elements as these revealed could hinder the opening of that door of effectual preaching. That open door which no opposing force could shut or hinder has been effectively shut by our own choice or, perhaps more correctly stated, our lack of choice. This is the reality which we must face and with which we must come to grips if we are to have our part in the great "cause" of Christ in this latter day.

Whenever our efforts, or lack of effort, elicit criticism from a superior, several ways of responding to said criticism are always available to us. I can immediately think of four responses often seen about us. They are the following:

1. We all too often see people choose to ignore any constructive criticism and continue operating as before. Failure is

their determined end.

- A more natural response to criticism is indignation and anger, accompanied by a great deal of self-justification. No beneficial changes can be made by such a response.
- Some people respond to any criticism by falling into depression and defeat. In such cases effective effort soon ceases.
- 4. The genuinely perceptive and fortunate persons will realize that the criticism was born of concern. Recognizing this they can accept the challenge, though it may be difficult, and effect the necessary changes in behavior that will provide for success.

We have received such a concerned criticism from our Divine Head. Knowing its source we must conclude that the criticism is both true and just. Let us, therefore, evaluate the elements of His appraisal and determine what positive changes we can make in our service to the Lord and in our relationships, one with another, that will enhance our position before the Lord and open before the ministry of the church of Christ a great door of effectual preaching of Christ's gospel.

**Mistrust** is one of the elements the Lord has identified as hindering the Church of Christ in our day. I think I know my fellow believers well enough to state to anyone that the members of the Church of

Christ have placed great reliance upon the Lord, they trust in His word implicitly, have complete confidence in His love for us and depend upon Him in times of need. For this very reason I feel that the indicated mistrust must refer to the relationship we have with one another.

Mistrust, uncertainty and doubts concerning our co-workers are certainly negative feelings which elicit negative responses that will stifle our ability to work together. They lead us to be suspicious of the motives of our brethren and, thus, further the designs of Satan by increasing divisions among the body of Christ. Indeed, mistrust is the antithesis of love, for love is not easily provoked, believeth all things and hopeth all things. Such attitudes, unless checked, feed upon themselves and grow with a "snowball" effect. This appears to be the situation in our case—in recent years we have heard expressions of mistrust toward the ministry, directed toward the Council of Apostles and toward the laity, yet it is we who have been called out of the world to further the cause of Christ in this last dispensation of time and to go forth in unity, "the whole body fitly joined together," proclaiming the will of the Lord.

It is time we came to grips with this problem before we

are rendered helpless and ineffective by it. There are two aspects to the solution of this problem and both require a personal commitment. First. each and every member of the church must go to the Lord in humility and contrition, thinking of no one else but oneself, and beseech the Lord to remove from one's life the seeds of doubt, mistrust and suspicion. **Second**, if we are to be worthy of trust and confidence we must each strive to be trustworthy, open, honest and dependable; placing the Lord's work before our own interest. the Lord's word before our understandings. grounded in the faith and considerate of one another. Only then can we be of such a mind as were Paul and his coworkers of whom he was able to say, "I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things" (2 Cor. 7:16).

**Fear** was another of the elements seen by the Lord which hindered the church from fulfilling its purpose. Fear is expressed as uncertainty, apprehension or irresolution in one's life. God's time has now come full circle - the Gentiles are to be urged to repentance, the gospel is to be carried back to Israel and the heathen are to hear it preached as a witness against them. All these things are to be accomplished in a time when the hearing of many has grown dull, the love of mankind waxes cold, nationalism is rampant and the laws of many nations seem to make the fulfillment of prophecy an impossibility. Certainly it is a time for every minister of the Church of Christ to review the Master's counsel regarding the "cost of discipleship" (see Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 and Luke 14:25-27, 33).

The work to which we have been called is no less important nor less difficult than the work undertaken by the sons of Mosiah, who renounced a kingdom that they might participate in the cause of their Lord. Can we be as bold as these four young men? (Alma 12:21-22):

"And it came to pass when they had arrived in the borders of the land of the Lamanites, that they separated themselves, and departed one from another. trusting in the Lord, that they should meet again at the close of their harvest: for they supposed that great was the work which they had undertaken. And assuredly it was great, for they had undertaken to preach the word of God to a wild, and a hardened, and a ferocious people: a people which delighted in murdering the Nephites, and robbing, and plundering them:"

As we contemplate the difficulty of our calling it might

help us, as it personally has helped me, to remember the counsel of Paul given to a young minster: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

A third characteristic of the Church of Christ at the crossroads of active Christian service was that of indecision. This indicates a wavering of mind or will, a hesitancy to take a necessary action, the unwillingness to take a definite, though unpopular, stand or the reluctance to make a necessary, even if difficult, decision. When President Reagan made the difficult and dangerous decision to retaliate with an air strike against Libvan terrorism his decision was not liked by all, it was condemned by many, yet the whole world knows that the presidency of the United States will be decisive. choose this example of decisiveness deliberately because I think the culpability for indecision rests primarily upon the highest authority within the church and, for this reason: we have drifted through the years into a dangerous position. Many of our beliefs basic to the restoration of the gospel are now under attack from without and within. Vigorous and decisive leadership, even if unpopular to many, must be exerted if we are to survive and fulfill our high calling.

The final attribute of the church was stated as the existence within her of confu**sion**. As I try to honestly evaluate the church today I believe this confusion exists at several levels - there is an organizational confusion, there is doctrinal discord and confusion, and there seems to be a confusion as to our primary purpose, the very nature of our work and the burden of the message we are called to deliver. The Apostle Paul identifies for us the area of greatest culpability if, indeed, confusion exists (Ephesians 4:11-13):

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

It is not my intention to go into further detail about this confusion, nor the extent of it within the church. Suffice it to say that it is imperative that the ministry of the Church of Christ evaluate our condition and take positive steps toward reducing each trace of confusion. Perhaps of the four negative characteristics portrayed

in the vision of the crossroads, the existence of confusion in our midst is most important to remedy immediately, for unity, boldness and decisiveness are attributes not to be used by the Lord unless they are subordinate to the sound doctrine of Christ and utilized by a sound organizational structure for the express purpose of fulfilling His divine will, for which He restored the Church of Christ in this latter day.

In the parable of the ten virgins awaiting the coming bridegroom we are told that all were slumbering and sleeping. If the Lord has now spoken to us by means of this vision of the crossroads it is to awaken us to a lively sense of needed change. Let us give prayerful consideration to this matter that we might be found worthy to enter in when He shall shortly come.

# The Crossroads

### By Apostle Roland Sarratt

(Reprint from Zion's Advocate Vol. 63 #7 July 1986)

Oh, hearken, ye people!
 'Tis your day to decide
To follow the Savior,
 Or let Satan preside.

At the crossroads you stand; Clouds of darkness hang near To cover the path With confusion and fear.

Indecision and cares
Of this world prevail
Over the hearts of men—
In fear do they fail.

The day of the heathen
Overtakes the heedless;
The call to repentance
They have said is needless

Many come, many go
In confusion and dread;
The truth they've ignored—
God's word never read.

Must the blind lead the blind When the right is so near? Where have gone the prophet, Revelator and seer?

Oh, people, dear people!

Take this warning to heart;

Obey God's commandments

Or from Him you'll depart.

Why must this be your lot To wander in error? The full standard of truth Is your life to mirror.

Come out of Babylon!

Is the prophet's stern warning;
Partake not of her sins—

Great will be her mourning.

You stand in the valley
Of decision so great,
Give heed to the prophets
Lest you obey too late.

Seek ye out the right way,

There Christ will walk with you;
He's always by your side
To show you what is true.

Tho' your trials be many,
And time brings yet more,
Put your faith in Jesus,
This path He's walked before.

Faith, hope and charity,

These three open the way
To gain eternal life,

If you endure today.

When judgment day has come
And you've labored with your might,
You will stand before God
In garments clean and white.

# PHOENIX Local News



ello everyone from your friends and family in Phoenix. I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to fall and then the upcoming new year. It is really hard for me to start thinking about fall and winter when it is still 100 degrees outside!

As usual, much has gone on here in the valley. Our sister Pamela Olson is pregnant and having a difficult time. She can certainly use



Connor & Asher doing "special" at church



Scripture Theme Camp (taken by Sr. Karen Yates)

your prayers for the safety of the baby and herself.

Several brothers took the Phoenix Firefighter's Exam in September and are awaiting results. Please keep Br. Nathan Brown, Br. Jeremiah Case, Br. Chase Yates and Br. Zach Yates in your prayers that God will lead them in the direction they should take with their careers.

The Scripture Theme Camp was held in early September and was well attended.

On October 17th, a wedding shower was given for Sasha Gill. A large group showed up and a fun time was had by all. Sasha received a lot of very nice gifts to fill her new home!

It is always heartwarming to see folks do special presentations at church, mostly because I can't sing a tune. It is even more fun to watch when the youngest members of the church are willing to sing out their little hearts to God for all of us and Him to enjoy.

As usual, there are many within our group that need your prayers for various reasons that include health issues, employment, spiritual and other concerns. Please remember them all, including the following: Sr. Amy Moser, Sr. Marlene Oar, Br. Tim Oar, Br. Hubert Yates, Sr. Wanda Yates, Br. Don McIndoo, Br. Glenn Saracino, Sr. Suzanna Case, Sr. Kim Scher, and Br. Justin Yellowhair. Please especially remember Br. Andrew Brown who is once again in Afghanistan and in harm's way.

God bless you all, DiAnn Hedrick



Sasha Gill shower

# Collins Local Report



t's funny how time seems to rush along from season to season. Already it's fall and the trees are shedding their colorful leaves. Soon it will be cold and blustery outdoors, with threat of snow and ice. I can deal with the snow (in moderation), but the ice scares me when I feel it necessary to head for work in the early part of the day. I always need to park my car across the street so I can get out to work, as our garage is in a down-hill location and not very conducive to backing up-hill in snow or ice! Well, having said all that, I would like to draw a simple comparison to preparing ourselves (our lives-spiritually) for the "winter" that is

coming. We need to be getting our vehicles (souls) winterized and ready to face the cold blasts that will surely come our way. You can easily see the signs in world events—the rulings of the Supreme Court, and the candidates running for the office of President of these United States. The wickedness that is so prevalent is astounding. The things that flow from the mouths of our dignitaries cause many of us a great deal of shame and, in fact, wonderment! How did this people come to be as they are today? Could it be those flaxen cords the Book of Mormon speaks of? Will we be ready and able to withstand those "wintery blasts" when they come? You know, even though I park across the street in a level area, I still have to scrape the windshield and shovel snow away from my car. We still will have the trials and problems in our lives, even though we have made every effort to "winterize" our lives and be prepared for the days ahead. It is important that we take every opportunity to meet together for that strength that can be gained from sharing our thoughts and praying together. Remember, Jesus Christ is our refuge and can be found day or night. He is willing to protect us and give us sanctuary from the "elements" around us.



Our sister, Betty, and husband, Harvey Dunning, have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Several of us sent them our best wishes by way of cards and notes. What a milestone!

Our dear friend, Shauna Inglis, had a rough time with a cyst on her kidney and much infection in her body, and is much better, although she has some symptoms of it bothering her again and would certainly appreciate your prayers. She and her husband, Frank, and their kids, Katelyn and Payton, are such a part of us. We were invited to a special ceremony for Payton as he became an Eagle Scout. We're very proud of him and his accomplishments.

Al Lind, Vicky Pitts dad, had a little run-in with a piece of wire he was removing from the edge of his brush hog the other day. However, he failed to shut off the pto and it caught the wire and whipped it across his lower leg and cut him pretty bad. He had to have seven stitches, but is getting along good now, giving God the glory for looking after him when he wasn't looking after himself.

Our sister, Loretta Arnette, has passed away due to a long struggle with cancer. She is the daughter of Joy Summers, who is one of Curtis Yates' sisters.

Loretta was a kind and loving individual who will be missed by many. Her mother, Joy, has had a stroke and is in a nursing facility in the city. I can only imagine her sorrow at this loss.

We have a new member to our family! August 2nd, 2015, brought a priceless gift from God—Ethan Dale Herd. His parents are Niki and Aaron Herd from Phoenix, and his first-time ever grandparents from Missouri are Shawna and Dale Herd, and first-time aunt Sheala Herd. Shawna, Dale, and Sheala drove out to welcome his little hide and fuss over him (like grandparents and aunts do!) Allen and I, as great-grandparents, drove out a little later in the month and Allen was given the great honor of offering little Ethan up to our Heavenly Father for a blessing, assisted by Elder Gordon McCann. Ethan didn't seem to mind at all! The hard part was when we left. As you might imagine, it tends to cause a "seepage" around the eyes!!

We got word that our sister Betty Martin has taken a fall and broken her ankle, the same one she broke a couple of years ago. She has had surgery to repair it and is expected to be in a rehabilitation facility near her daughter and son-in-law, Laura Mae and MG Elwell of Oklahoma, for a period of time. Please remember Betty in your prayers—this is hard to handle.

Sharon Liekness and I drove up to Excelsior Springs for the Women's Retreat, held the first weekend in October. Vicki Pitts also was able to come for some of the services. Its main focus was on "worship." Consider what worship is and how to accomplish this in each of our lives. It was time well spent together with our sisters and friends in

the gospel. Also we were kept safe on our way back home Saturday evening as a deer ran out in front of our car. Prayers for safety are so necessary.

QUESTION: Have you ever tried to make wrong "seem" right? This thought came to me in the early night and I thought and thought on this—has this ever happened to any of you? This reasoning of error or mischief, a lie here and there, trying to defend someone who is deceiving and corruptive. You know, when we have a friend we enjoy and care about, it's hard to always see where they're leading and really don't want to admit the folly. I believe in discernment and the need for it in our lives—it helps the blurred lines become clear. We must pray for each other as the devil, like a roaring lion, walks about seeking those he can deceive and destroy.

I have some sermon quotes to share with you that perhaps you will find worthy of consideration.

- WE are being weighed-in the balance.
- A man could be too "big" for God to use, but never too small.
- Is it becoming too hard to be a follower of Christ?
- It's our choices that decide if we are the ones who will be looking for the wrath of God.
- It's not what we possess but what possesses us!
- How I choose to react to any given circumstance defines me.
- If we find ourselves doing what everyone else does, we probably are in the wrong place!
- Don't believe that the righteousness of the world is

sufficient.

- You'll be responsible for when you did NOT turn the other cheek.
- It's not about ME—our lives are to bring glory to GOD.
- For us to grow spiritually, its necessary to have adversity.
- We're held accountable for our choices. (Amendment of life is possible.)
- Do we repent in fear of punishment or do we repent because we have broken the commandments of a benevolent God?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Your Reporter, Czerna Kauffman

### **NOTICES**

### **CCEG**

The Church of Christ Email Group is a church member-only (and spouses, even if not a member) email communication group existing to keep the general church membership informed about prayer needs, blessings, and more. It does not have officially elected management (member volunteer only), although it regularly functions for the Church of Christ for missionary news and various announcements, like state rallies and reunions.

If you have email capability and are not a member of the CCEG, you may join by first visiting the Web site at <a href="https://www.cceg.net">www.cceg.net</a> and after reading about us on the home page, click the link in the left sidebar, "Join the CCEG" and follow the simple instructions.

If any existing members feel you are not getting CCEG emails as expected, contact the CCEG manager (below) so you can be verified.

### RHEA HOUSKNECHT

CCEG Manager ccegmgr@gmail.com

### 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 Oldham at <a href="mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net">rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net</a>, or any member of the Board.

### **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:

### MARLENE COBB (Chairman)

725 S. Pickwick Springfield, MO 65802

### **SUE PORTER**

9 Market St. Middleville, MI 49333

### **PAT MCCANN**

18808 N. 30th St. Phoenix, AZ 85050

### 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.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Church of Christ Library is now offering digital materials! We have "Church of Christ" materials in the Library that we would like to share digitally; check often, as we are adding to our file as we see things you may have an interest in!

Examples of those things downloaded are:

- Book of Commandments (Church of Christ 1833 edition)
- Church of Christ—A Few of the Differences, by Priest Bill Malone
- Revelation given to James E. Yates May 1, 1927
- Revelation given to Granville Hedrick April 1864
- Revelation given to Granville Hedrick April 1865
- Points of the True Church (Study)—Author unknown
- Points of Uniqueness to the Church of Christ (Study) by Elder Andy Brantner
- The Hope of Zion (study) done by the Zion Committee
- Vision given to A. M. Smith 9-7-1964
- Vision of the temple given to Apostle T. J. Jordan 1931

Please go to the AVA Website at http://www.cocsermons.net. Go to the "Resources" tab, then the "Library Resources" button. There you will find a button labeled "Book and Document Library." Click on it. Go to the "Online Library Documents," and it will take you to an alphabetical listing of materials.

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### Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT 200 S. RIVER BLVD. P. O. BOX 472 INDEPENDENCE. MO 64051-0472

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 2005 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1, 2 and 3, at Independence, Missouri.

The 2006 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 and April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

### 2005 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

### MAY

### **Scripture Theme Camp**

- May 13-15, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Camp Shawnee Camp Area at Knob Noster State Park.
- ▶ For information contact: Mark Hill, Jesse Lawrence, Randy Sheldon, Dan Lawrence,

### JUNE

### **Idaho Reunion**

June 3-5, Friday-Sunday

Dan Malone.

- ▶ The Southwestern Idaho Senior Citizen's Recreation Association, Inc. (S.I.S.C.R.A.).
- For information contact: Roy Coon 3995 County Line Road Emmett, Idaho 83617 (208) 365-34109 racoon21@juno.com or racoon21@eathlink net

### Colorado Reunion

- June 10-12, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado

For information contact:

Karen Bell PO Box 1137 Palisade, CO 81526 (970) 464-4624 kbell@gvii.net John Bell

572 34 Road Clifton, CO 81520 (970) 434-7100 jeeb54@gvii.net

Allen Downs 515 28½ Road Grand Junction, CO 81501 (970) 245-8344 addowns@hotmail.com

### Michigan Reunion

- ▶ June 25-26, Saturday-Sunday
- Bradley Local, MichiganFor information, contact:
- Duane Lee 2053 Fawn Ave. Middleville, MI 49333 (269) 795-7420 Randy Lee 2953 Wing Rd.

2953 Wing Rd. Hastings, MI 49058-9537 (269) 948-8971

### **Springfield Rally**

- June 26th, Sunday
- 2251 N. Golden; Springfield, Missouri.
- For information contact: Elder Matt Case (417) 832-8349 tabianhdmatt@hotmail.com Priest Martin Addie (417) 862-2255 ec05959@earthlink.net

### **JULY**

### Wake Up Camp 2005

- July 1-3, Friday-Sunday
- Bemidji Local Church, Bemidji, Minnesota
- For information contact: Hannah Gould (218) 586-2774 Sam Gould (218) 586-3759

### **New York Reunion**

- July 8-10, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Hogansburg, New York
- For information contact:

Wayne and Susan Miller 868 Tollgate Road Cornwall, Ontario Canada K6H5R6 (613) 933-5469

In the United States:
Eli and Gretchen Tarbell

PO Box 21 600 State Route 37 Hogansburg, New York 13655 (518) 358-2911 egtarbell@hotmail.com Dale and Terry Waldruff

429 Country Road 34 Canton, New York 1 13617 (315) 265-1221 terrwald@slic.com

### **Church of Christ Teen Camp**

- July 24-29, Sunday-Friday
- Camp Far Westa, near Stewartsville, Missouri
- For kids ages 12-18
- Camp Cost: \$115.00
- ▶ For information contact: Michelle Oldham 5811 Duggleby Davenport, IA 52807 (563) 359-1693 jnmham@mchsi.com

### **Scripture Adventure Camp**

- July 28, Thursday
- ▶ Independence, Missouri
- For kids ages 5-11
- ► For information contact: Randy and Becky Sheldon

(816) 229-6712 r-bsheldon@juno.com Jennifer Yates (602) 569-9296 a2zyates@cox.net

### Missouri Reunion

- ▶ July 29-31, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri
- For information contact: Roland Sarratt
  15910 E. 36th Terr.
  Independence, MO 64055
  (816) 373-6605
  r.sarratt@earthlink.net

#### Michael McGhee 18907 F 6th St North

18907 E. 6th St. North Independence, MO 64056 (816) 796-6255

### **SEPTEMBER**

### **Camp for All Ages**

- September 16-18, Friday-Sunday
- The Pinnacles, about ten miles north of Columbia, Missouri
- ► For information contact: Jesse Lawrence jesselawrence@earthlink.net

### Women's Retreat

- ► September 30-October 1, Friday-Saturday
- Lake Mauer Retreat Center in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- For women ages 18 and up
- Cost: \$45.00/person (includes one night accommodation and 3 meals)
- For information contact:
  Carrie Geier
  14609 E. Phelps
  Independence, MO 64055
  (816) 836-0035
  geiers@kcnet.com
  Geri Adams
  2804 Westbrooke Circle
  Blue Springs, MO 64015
  (816) 228-8283
  admsgeri@cs.com

### **NOVEMBER**

### **Phoenix Reunion**

- November 25-27, Friday-Sunday
- Phoenix, Arizona
- For information contact:
  Pastor Bob Hedrick
  2908 E Rockwood Dr
  Phoenix A7 85050

Phoenix, AZ 85050 (602) 494-9661 bobnliza@cox.net Assistant Pastors:

Duane Ely 18814 N 30th St Phoenix, AZ 85050 duanekathyely@aol.com Gordon McCann 18808 N 30th St Phoenix, AZ 85050 gpjmccann@cox.net