

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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No. 5

My Mother

I could never understand
How a Mother expressed love
With a switch in her hand
But as I often displayed my fear
In Mother's eye, I detected a tear
As she said, "This hurts me more than you."
I wondered how this could be true.

Then late at night as she sat in her chair
I heard her utter a little prayer,
"Please, God, bless my Sammy Boy
And throughout his life, give him joy
That he may know, though we disagree,
The things he learned at his Mother's knee,
For I love him, as well you know
But I must point him in the way to go."

Now Sammy Boy is growing old
And his escapades are not so bold
And he thinks back on that certain night
When his Mother showed that perfect light
Of love towards him that Mothers can
And now he begins to understand
Why God made Mothers as they are
And granted them a special star — In heaven

Whatever I am or hope to be
Was surely learned at my Mother's knee.

Sam Kidd

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 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472
 Phone: (816) 833-3995 - 833-3914

EDITOR

Elder Gary Housknecht, 2901 S. Norwood, Indep., Missouri 64052
 Phone 816/252-8702

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Diane Brockman, 201 S. Crysler, Indep., MO 64050 — 252-0320
 Michael McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street, Indep., MO 64056 — 796-6255

BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

Alvin L. Harris, 3405 South Leslie, Independence, MO 64055

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 Attn.: Alvin L. Harris, Business Manager
 200 S. River Blvd.
 P.O. Box 472
 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Secretary, Council of Apostles: William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050.

Secretary, Council of Bishops: Leslie P. Case, 8312 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, Missouri 64139.

General Church Representative in the Office: James M. Case, 1106 E. Gudgell, Independence, Missouri 64055.

General Church Secretary: Robert W. Oldham, 5709 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136.

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Articles, sermons, poems, news items, letters, notices, etc., which are appropriate to be printed in this paper are requested by the editorial staff. If possible, they should be typewritten on one side of a sheet only, double spaced and grammatically corrected. Send all material to the Editor (see address listed above). The deadline for each month is the 5th of the previous month.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

All individual articles published in this paper are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church or the opinions of the Editorial Staff. All authorized declarations and notices coming from the General Conference, the Council of Apostles or the General Bishopric reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

ATTENTION NEWS REPORTERS AND ADVOCATE READERS

Mike McGhee has replaced David Rudd as Associate Editor of Zion's Advocate (see address and phone number above). David provided a year of invaluable help on the paper. David is busy on a new job and helping raise a newborn child.

News Reporters, please return to sending your reports to the Editor (see above) until advised otherwise by letter.

Diane Brockman continues, also, to serve as Associate Editor, lending her indomitable enthusiasm to this work. Melissa McGhee will continue her editing of Path Lights, a popular Advocate feature.

As a reminder, please send in photographs with your reports or articles when possible. And I would sincerely appreciate comments about Zion's Advocate; good, bad or indifferent.

We will be using a mail service for mailing the Advocate, starting with the April issue (last month). IBS Industries is a non-profit sheltered workshop utilizing the labor of those physically or mentally handicapped. In my first appraisal, they all seem like very fine people pursuing a good cause. If you have irregularities in receiving your Zion's Advocate, please let me know.
 G.H.

Guest Editorial . . .

ASK OF GOD

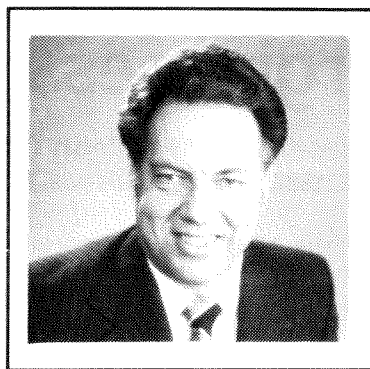
Unknown to the great majority of peoples on the American continents are the promises that God has made to them. We are aware of these promises because of our acceptance of the Book of Mormon. It is the only record of which we know that has been made public which contains the specific promises

to both the Gentiles and the natives of this land, the American Indians. These promises that God has given to those who inhabit this land have definite consequences: Blessing and prosperity through obedience to God's commandments, or cursing and destruction through disobedience.

The citizenry of this nation (USA) has an exceptional heritage through God's blessings. The founding of the nation itself was through divine guidance and intervention of God. As we follow the events of history, we can see the outpouring of blessings upon this people. But time has brought us near to that day of great destruction as prophesied would come upon the Gentiles when they ripen in iniquity.

A most significant blessing came to this people in the early 1800's: the fulness of the gospel of Christ was restored to the earth. Again the condition had a definite consequence: Accept the gospel and receive more of God's truth, or reject it and have that which they have taken from them. Now, over a century and a half later, we can see that the ever sweeping trend is rejection. Only a few strive to retain the truths as they were given of the Lord.

A necessary quality that seems to be lacking in many people today is faith — the kind that Joseph Smith had when he read the scripture: "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." (James 1:5) It is the kind of faith of which Moroni wrote: "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) It



is the kind of faith that when a person asks God a question and receives an answer, he does not try to qualify it through his own intellect and reasoning, but accepts it as a child accepts its parents' teachings.

Some of what is happening in this nation is happening within the Church of Christ. Change and reform is a means by which the adversary has tried to strip the citizens of this country from their liberty and the true heritage for which their forefathers died. It is difficult to find integrity and dedication for the good of all among those who claim they have answers to our national problems. Many vain promises are made for political power and influence.

Similarly, we are often confronted with various causes which claim to be the answers for the problems in the Church of Christ. Usually these causes are held forth as cure-alls and shortcuts to our longed for goal: Approval of God. The premise of rightness is based upon rejection: if we get rid of this and that, we will gain the favor of God.

Many works of our church fathers have been

searched out and dogmatically declared to be in error. We have to acknowledge that there were reasons to reject certain doctrines and practices that were known to exist in the early church that were not in accord with the scriptures. However, the unearthing of the mistakes of our progenitors can become a cause based upon the false assumption that we are justified in the eyes of God through identifying the errors of others. To the more conservative members of the church, the sources of personal guidance in such causes have become questionable, especially when these causes would alter the church in doctrine and practice.

The possibility of a runaway reform effort within the church is a threat that looms ever near. To surrender to the attitude of rejection and change at the whims of self-willed individuals would be suicidal for the church. But those who try to control such elements face accusation and rebellion in varied degrees for any hard-lined stance that they take. The continual clash of wills between the two forces creates a seesaw effect that in itself causes spiritual destruction.

This may sound very depressing, but I am convinced that God is fully aware of our situation, so much so, that He is allowing these things to happen for His own purposes. One such purpose is to prepare us for a time of great events, even the coming of Christ and the New Jerusalem. But first we must become founded upon the truths that God has given us already. Therefore everything that has a claim of divine origin will be

tested to determine its validity and we are the testing ground. We are to learn through our own trying experience whether it is of God or not. And if we fail the trial, we will be disqualified through our lack of faith and trust in God.

As we face this momentous time, it would be well to consider some fundamentals of our attitudes that have to do with our hope for success. One such fundamental is our awareness of purpose. We are called out of the world and separated from other organizations with a special commission: Proclaim the fullness of the gospel of Christ in word and in authority, and to maintain the Church organization. Our sense of purpose as an attitude, should be reflected in word and action by us as individuals and by us as a church body. This attitude, if inspired by the Spirit of God, would ultimately bring us into a oneness with God and with each other as we set our priorities in order by putting God's will first.

Another fundamental of our attitudes that cannot be separated from our awareness of purpose is

our thankfulness unto God for His calling us out of the world into the service of His only Begotten Son. This appreciation creates in us a willingness and dedication that cannot be engendered in man through any other means. But there is a part of this attitude that is a bitter pill for some to accept, that being our heritage.

Some want to close the door on that which has gone before us to disassociate ourselves from the stumblings of our progenitors. I, for one, have to take exception to such a motivation, for I discern as I read from the pages of history and latter day revelations, the evidence of the hand of God striving with His people in consequential reactions, both to bless and to chasten them, even from Joseph Smith's day to the present. To try to hide this evidence from our eyes is like being the proverbial ostrich in burying our heads in the sand. We, of all people, need the lessons that history unfolds before us. This is not to say that we can perfectly determine all the rights and wrongs that our progenitors have done, but if

we have charity in our hearts toward those who have gone before us, we can learn the value of their experiences and profit from them. However, if we give way to a judgmental and condemning attitude, allowing our own human reactions to guide us, we lose the good that we might otherwise gain. When the grip of our own stubborn wills takes control, we go the full circuit of rejection leaving the empty shell of doubt as the evidence of our failure.

So we must go back to the faith exemplified by young Joseph Smith and as admonished by James and Moroni. Here we meet the challenge: Will God let us become deceived by accepting something that is wrong when we ask Him in fervent prayer? If our faith is in God, He will not let us be deceived; just as He would not let Joseph Smith be deceived when the Lord told him to join none of the churches that he had contemplated joining. We must learn to accept what God reveals to us through His Spirit if we are to become His people and be prepared for the return of His Son to the earth.

Apostle Roland Sarratt

The Church, Forgiveness And Salvation

Sermon by Elder Glenn Gill

August 24, 1980 — Independence, Missouri

The words of Mosiah, chapter 11, verses 133-142, are important to members of the Church of Christ. We claim the name of Christ before our community, neighbors and acquaintances. Since we make that claim, we must remember, Christ is the one in charge. It isn't me, nor your pastor. It isn't any person in any of the quorums of the church. It isn't even the whole group that comes together for conference each year. It is Christ who is the head of the true Church. When we fail to recognize that and follow the words or leadership of man, deciding not to follow his word, on that day we are not his church. It is a simple fact. Nothing we can do will nullify it. If we are not followers of His word, people who do as He said we should do, and as He said in the scriptures we should do, then we are not His church no matter what name we collectively give ourselves. This one underlying truth must be with us in everything we do as a church. The Lord made this clear to Alma as recorded in verse 136 of Mosiah chapter 11, "Therefore I say unto you, that he that will not hear my voice, the same shall ye not receive into my church, for him I will not receive at the last day."

The Lord advised Alma on how to judge the people with an eye toward repentance and forgiveness (verses 137-141). He did this, of course, because Alma was a judge of the people as well as

God's servant. That was his position in the government. The situation with us is different. Jesus has been in the world. His teaching and sacrifice fulfilled the Law of Moses. Alma was told to judge carefully. We are instructed in Jesus' words how our judgments should be made: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." (Matt 7:1-2) We, being man, cannot judge who should or should not be counted a follower of Christ. Christ himself will decide that when he receives his own "at the last day." You and I cannot make that determination. Our mission in life is to make righteous choices ourselves. It is not our mission to judge how others stand with God.

To be His Church we must live under the gospel and commandments of Christ. This is different from life under the Law of Moses. We have "power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12); to be one with him, with our sins covered by the plan made available to us that we may be one of his on the day of judgment. This can be the end result of our days of choosing, if we follow in the way Jesus taught. We must learn of Christ through his word and daily look to God for direction, using the communication link we have through prayer.

Jesus summed his commandments up in his statement in answer to the question "Which is the first commandment of all? . . . And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (see Mark 12:28-34)

Love is at the center of the gospel of Christ. A very clear explanation of this fact is in I John 4:12-17 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world." These scriptures clearly stated the conditions for obtaining that state of perfection:

1. That we have love for one another.
2. That we confess that Jesus is the son of God.

They show us the condition in which we want to be in eternity. God is without beginning or end. Our lives are a gift from him. To have his love perfected in us and to dwell in him is eternal life.

Jesus became the last great sacrifice, fulfilling the old law. He began a new thing which we call the Church of Christ. We, here, are part of that Church of Christ only if we believe in this Son sent by God to do his will; only if we follow the teachings of his gospel and doctrine in our lives; and only if we have love one for another. The world can be destroyed and all material things in it, but if we have attached ourselves to his gospel so completely that we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we have attached ourselves to something eternal. It will stand.

The Church of Christ can be located by the presence of that love which comes from God. No matter where we go, or who we're with, if we have been obedient to the doctrine of Christ and possess God's love within us, the Church of Christ is present in that place. To have this spirit of love we must believe that what he taught is true. We must believe it so completely that we are willing to do all that he taught. He said that he and his Father are one and that he spoke no word except that which the father gave him. Love is both a key to success in living and to our understanding of his gospel and thus to our acceptance as members of the body of Christ on

judgment day. He gave us choice and taught us to repent and come unto him. He taught us to leave our animal (carnal) ways and animal instincts and use the will he gave us to change from the carnal to something higher. Those who truly believe go to this one who came as a sacrifice to wipe out sin and are buried with him in the way that he specified, leaving behind the old person and coming forth a new person. Those who profess to be church members need to ask themselves if that process has been completed in their lives.

Repentance leads to forgiveness. We need and will need forgiveness from God all our lives. It is a thing of continuing importance because if I must carry the burden of my sins to the day of judgment I am a lost soul, having no advocate with the father. Whenever we have fallen, been incomplete in our service, failed to act in love, or stepped out of bounds doing things he has taught us not to do, we need forgiveness. Forgiveness comes through repentance and repentance is possible because there was a Christ who dwelt upon this earth and died for us. If we do not practice these things we are not his church.

Forgiveness is not only something we need from God. We are told that if we do not forgive others God will not forgive us (Matt. 6:14-15). God chooses whom he will forgive (because he's in charge) but we must freely forgive without making any requirement of others. We owe it to our savior to do so — he paid the price — we could not pay it. If we don't forgive and thus go unforgiven to judgment, Jesus will not claim us as one of his — he'll say, "I never knew you."

If we are going to be his church we must always remember that the burden of forgiveness is on us, individually. If we do it for each other God will do it for us. Among the people I walk this earth with, the burden of forgiveness is on me. I must have enough of God's love within me to accomplish that requirement no matter how the other person feels or how that person reacts to me. That's why Jesus said that when "thy brother hath aught against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matt. 5:23-24) This allows our love to work for forgiveness. It's such an important admonition to us. We have a great need to practice this simple instruction. If we placed proper importance on it we would see that it directly affects whether, in judgment, we will face the prospect of the fires of eternal damnation or be called into that realm of eternal love with God! It is that important.

We know from the scriptures that we are not accepted of Christ just because we have read or heard the word. It is believing the word that counts; and believing is action. You and I cannot really

believe in something without that belief leading to our doing something. If you can read the word and hear the word and just sit back and do nothing you do not believe. Those who believe will take the action they know must be taken or they will find out what should be done and do it. Believing in God is doing something. How does one find out what to do? That's why the written word has been preserved for so many centuries. To find out we should listen, read God's word and do what we are told in James 1:5-7: Ask of God.

We must not languish in procrastination after knowing what action we should take. "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17) This statement applies to any action the word requires of us. It applies with great

urgency to love and forgiveness. We know that we must love and forgive each other. We know that we must be forgiven of God through the sacrifice of Christ to obtain eternal life. And we know that forgiving begins with us; as we forgive we will also have forgiveness from God.

Let's resolve to take action as true believers wherever forgiveness is needed and where love has been in short supply so that we can feel a good spiritual warmth in our hearts. Let's turn each day of our future into one that is full of the love of God so that he will dwell in us and so that we can dwell eternally in him. When we can do this we can say, in truth, that we are members of the Church of Christ, those that believe on his words, and Jesus will confirm it in the day of judgment.

Path Lights

My Heart's Desire

I wish to share a beautiful experience that happened to me during the Phoenix Reunion. I had invited Ron Church and his family to stay with me during the reunion but their car had broken down and they couldn't come.

This left me a little down since I was looking forward to sharing our gospel experience during the evening and now I was going to be alone. I remembered last year several of the Apostles had visited some of the members' houses and talked about some wonderful experiences they had. In my heart I desired that I could spend an evening with them to hear of their experiences and enjoy the spirit I always feel around them. I didn't consider myself worthy or important enough to ask them as I was sure they had more important things to do, and I didn't even consider praying about it.

During the first service I was up front running the tape deck and Apostle Housknecht noticed my symptoms of the flu and offered suggestions on how to relieve it, one which was to set a vaporizer by my bed. Since I didn't have one he offered to loan me his after the service. I followed him home and got the vaporizer and they were having tea and donuts. They invited me to join them with Apostle Sheldon and his wife. The whole evening was just marvelous. Two days later I was invited for dinner with Apostle McIndoo, Sarratt, and Jensen and their families. It was a kings feast. I do not worship His Apostles but I always receive spiritual strength and guidance from them. It amazes me how the Lord knew my desire and gave me double.

Mike Kelly
Phoenix, Arizona

A Yield of Faith

In years gone by, their children had attended our Sunday School but now, with those children already parents on their own account, James and Alice were still dear friends and old time neighbors.

I was alone one morning at home when the phone summoned me and I found James to be the caller. "I'm going to lose Alice," he said. One could tell he had a lump in his throat.

I questioned and he told me that surgical treatment of extended trouble internally seemingly reached a fruitless end, and that Alice, in the hospital, was expected shortly to leave the earthly scene.

What to do? The best resource was that God who I had come to trust and had been talking to their families about for years, so I proposed that he go, immediately after using the phone, to his bedroom and pray to God for help, and that I would do the same.

That night James sat late with Alice in her room at the hospital, facing an end, which except for God's help, was not far away. Before dawn lit the sky, the matter was settled; a change had occurred. And the morning tour by the doctor found that conditions had reversed and that Alice was on the mend. In short days she was home. Her bright "hello" in answer to the phone is a witness to the power of faithful prayer.

To this day, when I need prayer help, I call James and hear a ready "OK"!

Thomas S. Maley
Minnesota

Mount Zion

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all the nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:2-3

This dream took place at a time in my life when I was not particularly active in the Gospel, approximately 1978 or 1979. Since that time, it has been on my mind quite often, although it's total meaning has eluded me. I do not know if it is literal or perhaps only meant as an admonishment for my own personal life. I do know that this sequence of images is just as vivid today as the day I had it. I can see everything as if I was there once again.

"And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire;" IIN 11:117

I believe I was alone at the beginning of the dream; I do not remember that there was anyone with me. I was young, about the same age I am now or not much older. I think it was spring or summer. I was in what seemed to be an airport terminal. I have been in many airports across the world, but I do not recall ever being in this particular one before. As I sat in this terminal, possibly waiting for a flight or someone's arrival, I looked out in front of me through a wall of windows. Through the glass I could see a great plain and beyond in the distance were large mountains. Suddenly the earth began shaking violently and started ripping apart in giant fissures. People were screaming in panic, and confusion was everywhere as the earth tore asunder. The next thing I knew I was running across the plain while all around me people were being swallowed up into the earth. I ran towards the mountain and as I came closer to the base of the tallest peak, I found many others were doing the same.

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which is in Judea flee into the mountains. Matthew 24:7, 15-16

As we approached the bottom, a large band of

people had formed. When we started to ascend the mountain, a man, whom I can not describe in great detail physically, became our leader. He was someone I did not know previously but I immediately put my unconditional trust in him. He did not proclaim himself the leader but seemed naturally to be in this capacity. He exuded a calm and sure spirit that gave each of us the strength to endure all that we were going through. We proceeded up the face of the mountain — why I do not know. Only we had the impression that our goal was the mountain top. There, for some reason, we believed we would find peace and safety.

After a time, perhaps a day or two of continuous climbing, we came to a level place where a building resembling a cabin stood surrounded by a grove of trees. We rested there before continuing with our journey. As we rested, a faction of the group began protesting and set up a cry that our leader was leading us to destruction. They decided to cease following him and split from us. We watched sadly as they left, for they had become our companions. They did not go upward but took a horizontal pathway. Just moments later we watched horrified as the mountain path they were on gave way and they were all destroyed.

Our group resumed the upward path and as we did, the climbing became more difficult. We were sometimes scaling almost sheer cliffs of rock. There was a cross section of ages — some young, middle-aged, and some elderly. The younger people assisted the others as we strove to reach the top. It was at this time that I saw Andrew Brown teaching, helping, and encouraging the people. It seemed to me this had become his calling in life. (This was also my witness to his calling as I told him he would be in July of 1983. He was actually called later in the same year and ordained during the Phoenix Reunion in November, 1983.) This is the only portion of the dream that has been fulfilled to this point.

Though many times we struggled and nearly fell, through helping one another, we finally achieved the summit. We marvelled, for it was a place of beauty and yet a fortress of sorts. Atop this mountain was everything our band of people needed to survive. We were not in need of shelter but it appeared we lived out in the open with no worry about weather conditions. Although I did not see that we were growing food or tending gardens, we were somehow fed sufficiently; this sustenance provided by means I did not know. To quench our thirst was a beautiful fountain. The water was so clear and pure, and sweet that it seemed the most delicious liquid I had ever tasted. Even though the

dark clouds now covered the world below, our place of refuge was sunny. The breeze blew over us but the air was not contaminated with the filth from the atmosphere below.

"And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.

And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." Isaiah 4:5-6

"He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly: he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." Isaiah 33:15-16

From time to time we would question our leader concerning the condition of the world. To answer our questions, he used what resembled a giant calendar. This calendar lay on the ground near the gathering place and was round in shape, perhaps four or five feet in circumference. It was multicolored not bright colors but earth tones as if its pie-like sections were made up of different colors of earth. By studying the calendar, this man could tell us approximately where we were in time sequence and what was happening around the world. He often told us that it was not yet time to journey back down the mountain.

By now the world was engaged in a tremendous war — perhaps even the "war to end all wars". The destruction was incredibly vast and was not caused by natural disasters but by man made weapons. No one below us was spared; there was no place of refuge in the world to be found. There was more than just hand-to-hand combat and bombing. I believed even nuclear was devastating parts of the earth. And yet we were in this place where it seemed no one in the world could detect us. I felt as if this place had never been discovered by mankind.

At times we could look down the mountain and somehow view the events taking place. I can remem-

ber watching as people I had known and loved in my lifetime were killed. Others with me witnessed similar events and it always deeply saddened us. We somehow thought that they might have been saved from these terrible atrocities if we had done more.

Although our group was fairly large, our number was insignificant in comparison to the billions of inhabitants of the world. This also saddened us greatly. Because of this we inquired of the leader if we were the sole survivors of this great battle. He replied that we were not the only ones but that there was another place of refuge. He did not disclose the location of this place, but it was our understanding that we would all be together one day.

These conditions persisted for quite some time, perhaps even years, until the world was in rubble. There were no more to kill and nothing left of our previous civilization to destroy. It was then we were told to prepare ourselves for the journey back down the mountain to begin life anew. As we journeyed downward, I awakened from my dream singing, "Dwelling in Beulah Land." I ran to the piano in my parents home and turned to the song. I stood amazed and tingling all over as I read much of what I had just seen.

To this day I do not know what bearing this is to have on me or anyone else. I do perceive that this was not a dream but that it has some meaning that I have not been able to completely interpret. However, the hope and joy of those people on the mountaintop was undeniable. I pray that if these are the events to come, I can lead a righteous enough life in the eyes of the Lord to be counted among the few of those saved from destruction. Moreover, it is my prayer that this would be the desire of my loved one's hearts.

"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; And if they endure to the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be." I Nephi 3:187-189

Debbi Biringer

Phoenix, Arizona

Answer To April's Question

Evil societies such as the followers of Akish and the Gadianton Robbers can be traced as far back as Cain, the murdering

son of Adam and Eve. Read Ether 3:86-93. Such societies exist even today.

G.H.

A Great And A Marvellous Work

By Apostle William A. Sheldon

PART SEVENTEEN



William
A.
Sheldon

The scope of that which lies ahead, as God proceeds with His work upon the earth, is so extensive that it is impossible to attempt a consecutive delineation of it. In fact, there are, and will be, simultaneous occurrences as the Lord shapes it all according to His divine will, and this, too, without having denied man his free agency. Thus, we have been forced to touch upon certain elements of the picture in a sequential manner, and then go back to other phases.

Now, I wish to consider the build-up of the New Jerusalem; note the term "build-up." Some confusion has come because of the new Jerusalem referenced in Revelation 21:2, which is to come down from God out of heaven upon a "new earth" (verse 1). We are not concerned with *that* New Jerusalem, but rather with the one recorded in III Nephi 10:2. This is also spoken of in Ether 6:6. Perhaps the confusion is engendered by a failure of some to differentiate that which is to be literally built by men, as in verse 6, from reference also to the new Jerusalem of Revelation 21:2, as found in Ether 6:3. In both these references, the city is to come from heaven, and in time sequence it follows the humanly built New Jerusalem by over 1000 years.

Let us return to III Nephi 10: It is important to notice that this chapter follows in sequence the events of chapter nine, which depicts the Lord's fury upon the wicked, when "the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day." (III Nephi 9:56) "...and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them (the gentiles, W.A.S.), even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard." (ibid 106)

This divine wrath is upon those who will not repent.

III Nephi 10:1-2: But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem;"

These events are future to our time, and yet we have the statement in verse one, above, that God is to "establish my Church" among those who repent. This will be well over 150 years *after* this Church of

Christ was established by the will and command of God, I.E., in 1830. How can this be? Does this mean, as some who believe the Book of Mormon say, that there is no Church structure at this time? No, this is not true.

The meaning of "establish" is: to show beyond dispute; to set up permanently. Now, we admit that the course of this "restoration" has been such as to generate doubt as to its divinity, with great confusion and susceptibility to ridicule; this, because of the many human innovations and departure from the "bold paths." Yet, the Lord *has* cut a "stone" from the "Mountain," which will still roll until it fills the earth, "and the kingdom shall not be left to other people" (see Daniel 2:34,35,44). There would be a "remnant" whom the Lord would use in this, yet to be perfected, but to serve as a nucleus for the gathering of the saints to stand upon mount Zion: this Church of Christ!

So, the Lord is yet to *establish* the Church; to show beyond dispute that it *is* His Church. See Mosiah 11:166 in this regard. When the power of heaven comes down (III Nephi 10:4), then it will be known without equivocation.

The New Jerusalem is to be built on this land (and latter day revelation tells us it shall be built in Missouri, and that Independence is the place for the city of Zion (New Jerusalem). See Doctrine and Covenants 57:1. It is my opinion that it shall be built by repentant gentiles, who shall be assisted by the remnant of Jacob (the Indians).

Because III Nephi 10:1 informs us that gentiles are to "assist my people, the remnant of Jacob" in this, some assume this to mean that the Indians are to take the lead, while gentiles play a secondary role. Remember that the Indians are to come to a knowledge of the gospel through a ministry of the gentiles; the gentiles will *assist* the Indians to come to Christ. Though the gentile nations are to be made low, yet repentant gentiles will still be used, and these, together with repentant Indians, will build the city New Jerusalem. There is no superiority in the kingdom of God, save that of our Master.

Now, we will discuss the building of the temple

here in Independence, which will be an integral part, in fact, the beginning of the New Jerusalem. In the passage of over 150 years since this was revealed to the Church, and because others have "gone to seed" in building temple after temple for purposes which are not compatible with the gospel of the kingdom, there are some, even within the Church, who doubt the validity of an holy temple to be built in Independence, Missouri.

Such may use scriptural reference of our bodies being the Lord's temple (see I Corinthians 3:16). This cannot be denied. However, does this obviate a literal building of human hands, constructed to honor God? Certainly not. Did God honor Solomon's temple by His presence? He did. Now, if any will take time to read Ezekiel, chapters 40 through 42, and then read further, you will find there a detailed description of a temple of the last days; it may be constructed at Jerusalem, or possibly in the New Jerusalem. Concerning this temple we read (Ezekiel 43:7):

And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.

Without further to say (and we could offer several more Biblical references to a latter day temple), we will now quote from Isaiah 2:2,3:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

The Lord will have a "house" in His "mountain" (kingdom/government), and many will desire to go there for instruction. "... for out of Zion shall go forth the law (the seat of Christ's government, W.A.S.), and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

There are to be two areas prepared for the gathering of all Israel: to Jerusalem and to Zion (the New Jerusalem). In each of these cities will be found an holy house erected to the glory of God. Isaiah 4:3-6:

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall

be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flame fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle (the Lord's temple, W.A.S.) for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

A final note to this abbreviated account of the building of the new Jerusalem and of the temple: If we are correct relative to the fall of Babylon, including a general collapse of the international monetary system, the future temple and city of New Jerusalem will not be built by any existing or projected currency medium. However, we are informed that the Lord is not limited in this, no more than in anything He chooses to do.

"Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth." (Micah 4:13).

We are content to leave this matter with Him.
(to be continued)

SIN

by Elder John J. Schut
(Missionary to The Netherlands)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you your trespasses." III Nephi 5:107.

When the Lord created Adam in the garden of Eden, he was in the mental and moral image of God. He had the ability to obey God's perfect law. But when he was put to the test, he failed and the penalty for disobedience and sin was passed upon him: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust thou return." Genesis 3:19.

The Apostle Paul in I Timothy 2:14 tells us:

"Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." Therefore, Adam's sin was a willful sin and he received a just sentence. The world of mankind is affected by this sentence because Adam is the father of the human race, and therefore, his offspring inherited this sentence of death. The Apostle Paul, in Romans 5:12-14 states, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: . . . Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." So as a result of Adam's transgression, the entire human race is under the sentence of death—the penalty for sin.

But through keeping God's commandments we may obtain, through Christ, eternal life. ". . . if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." Exodus 19:5,6. In addition, the Lord promised that anyone who could keep the law perfectly would demonstrate his perfection, and thus being perfect he would no longer be under the Adamic condemnation, and would have everlasting life. The promise reads: "Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord." Leviticus 18:4,5.

But no one has been able to keep God's law

perfectly except Jesus the Christ. The Apostle Paul expresses the matter this way: "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law (that is, the Jews. JJS): that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:19,20. Because Christ was perfect, and this He demonstrated by keeping His Father's perfect law, God designed in His great plan of redemption to have the perfect man, Jesus the Christ, take Adam's place in death. And thus Christ provided a ransom for Adam and all who were condemned in Him. The Apostle Paul states the matter this way: "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:18,19.

The world has not yet accepted the sacrifice Christ underwent for mankind. It is not yet the Lord's due time. In I Timothy 2:3-6, we read, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who have Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." The Lord's due time will be the kingdom after the way has been prepared for its establishment (Zion).

NEWS

Collins, Missouri

(Reporter Czerna Kauffman)

Hello! I'm about a month tardy, but thought I'd pass our bit of news and happenings along anyway. First of all I'd like you to notice that it's spring and it's just beautiful! The air, the sunshine, the teeny little new green leaves — there's no other time of year like spring.

Our Brother Loren Bryant of Cowgill, Mo. came to speak to us in January. He spoke to us of making choices and the care that must be taken. We know not what may take place tomorrow.

In February Brother Glen Gill of Independence was our guest speaker. He used for his text Matt. 5:1-20 with particular emphasis on verse 13 where it says, "Ye are the salt of the earth . . ." Then he asked, do you feel like you can go out and "flavor" the earth? We must teach His words to the world, but not

as found in Matt. 23:1-9 where Christ tells of the Pharisees and how they taught the law, but didn't live it properly. Then Brother Gill asked "Do you know any scribes or Pharisees? Have you ever been one? Do we do things to be seen or heard of men — to be sure we get the credit for what we do?" Then he asked us to make a re-doubled effort within ourselves that the things we cling to are of God. Do things in love. The Devil would have you do things in contention.

Brother Bob Eddy of Clinton, Mo. came to speak to us March 9th, but I was not there so have no report except that his sermon and visit was very much appreciated and we're looking forward to he and his wife coming again soon.

Brother Leslie Case of Independence was our guest speaker March 16th. He spoke of the straight gate and narrow way that Christ taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Then he spoke of the works of

the flesh vs. the fruit of the Spirit, as found in Gal. 5:14-26. He told of a game we often play called "put down" and said it is a fore-runner of the works of the flesh. Satan is cunning and leads us with a silken cord and binds us down. When we see these things (works of the flesh) taking root, then is the time to take them out.

The following Sunday Brother Don McIndoo and Brother Jim Yates of Phoenix, Arizona visited after having returned from a 9 week missionary trip to Yucatan.

Brother McIndoo was our speaker that day. He took his text primarily from II Nephi 6:1-4 and 45-50. He said we, a few humble people, have been called out of our little walks of life to follow Christ, to be a part of the covenants God has made. We should rejoice and be looking and searching out ways for this work to take place. We feel sorry for those in foreign countries who are dying without food, without water, but need to feel sorry (be concerned) for those who are dying without HOPE.

The path is hard to follow once you get your feet on it. We find ourselves getting away from the beauty, the fundamentals of the gospel. If these fundamentals are not foremost, we're getting off on other little trails (not on the Path.) The measuring stick is the word of God, come judgment day. If our lives are not aligned exactly with God's plan there is room for repentance.

Many more things did Brother McIndoo tell us, But I will let this be enough. As I have read over my chicken scratches I call notes, I have "heard" again several wonderful sermons. They all told the same story — those things we NEED to live a better life that we may be accepted into that place that Christ has gone to prepare for us.

Until next time — pray on.

Cowgill, Missouri

(Reporter Karen Claypole)

We have been abundantly blessed in recent months with many visitors and guest speakers. On November 24, 1985, Leslie Case brought us a message from God's Word. Afterwards we had our Thanksgiving dinner with Mildred Adams and Karen Claypole celebrating birthdays. Also, Glen and Mildred Adams told us of their newest grandson born early the same morning: Larry Aarond Warner, whose parents are Ron and Penny Warner of Marshall. He joins a brother Robbie, six years old.

Our Christmas programs are probably not like any other. It has become our little local's "tradition" that the congregation put on the program. As individuals or groups, they contribute whatever they wish. Many original readings, songs and various creative talents have surfaced in these programs.

Often poems, scriptures or other readings are delivered. It is truly a joyous experience, as you gain so much from others. Each one present participated. Glen and Mildred Adams and Max and Elaine Lee were visitors that day, and Brother Max delivered the sermon. Later we all gathered at Loren and Mary Lois Bryant's home for dinner.

The last Sunday in December, several of Sister Lois Harris' family were here, and we were blessed with a beautiful special sung by the (former) Harris sisters. Glenn Gill was the speaker that day and we all witnessed one of God's Holy ordinances: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Little Larry Aarond Warner was blessed by Brethren Gerald and Loren Bryant.

In January, Rodger and Martha Bruner were here and Brother Rodger spoke to us about the Church of Christ, and we, as it's members, from an auditor's viewpoint. The next week Bob, Jo, Sharon and Tim Eddy and Harold and Dora Adams visited, and Brother Bob was asked to speak during the worship service. The last Sunday in January, Frank and Carolyn Fann and Bill and Gladys Nast were here. Brother Frank spoke to us on faith, hope and charity.

Our visiting minister in February was Leslie Case. We enjoyed him and Sister Irene being with us. We have basket dinners on the fourth Sunday of the month, when the visiting minister is here.

The first Sunday of each month is set aside for our Sacrament Service. Brethren Gerald and Loren Bryant alternately speak to us when we do not have guest speakers.

My prayer is that we be obedient to our Master in all things.

Houston, Missouri

(Reporter Mary Jane Medders)

Greetings from Houston in southern Missouri. We are enjoying signs of spring everywhere. It is a joy to see new life beginning all about.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 tells us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn . . ."

We here in our local mourn the passing of our dear husband (to one), father, grandfather and great-grandfather (to many), Ernest Keeney. We must continue to say, "Thank you, dear Lord, for all our blessings." Granddad prayed many prayers that he could go on to Paradise and be at rest. He went to

rest on March 7th in the Texas County Memorial Hospital, Houston, Missouri. Brother Tony Grzincic had as his theme at Daddy's funeral, "spring is coming." We are looking forward to that wonderful spring when all the saints in Christ shall rise again.

We have had many visitors over the past year. I'm sorry that it is impossible to remember them all. Some of the visitors that were here for their first visit were Sister Janice Moore from Denver, Colorado; Brother and Sister Wayne Rogers from Idaho; Rose Adams and children, Heather, Leslie and Don, from Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Sister Wilda Jones has sold her restaurant, so we hope she will have more rest and will be able to enjoy some leisure time.

Our Sister Sandy Smith is working in Springfield, Missouri. It is Houston's loss and the Springfield Local's gain. We miss her so much, but we must share her love and talents with others.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Oklahoma

(Reporter Alzada Massey)

Easter Sunday dawned bright and beautiful! The early flowers were in bloom, the tiny, new leaves gave a green cast over the landscape, and birds were singing. The return of springtime is upon us. What a glorious day it was!

On this special sabbath day, we met in the Beem home in Moore. After our Sunday School hour, Brother Larry gave the sermon. After the sermon, we gathered around our Easter dinner, held hands in a big circle (eighteen of us), and Brother Larry asked the table blessing. We enjoyed the good food, asked how this or that dish was prepared, but most of all, we enjoyed each other. The children played in the yard and not one child came crying and running to mother. They enjoy each other, too.

Our Sunday School hour has been interesting. There are questions asked and opinions are given. You can almost see "the wheels-go-around" in all the heads present. We are deeply involved in the subject at hand. We discuss freely. We do not argue and neither are we inconsiderate of one another in remarks we make. It is beautiful to be a part of a class where people can interact with one another with love in their hearts.

Brother Larry's sermons are well prepared. He is considerate of those present in what and how he says what he wants to say. (You see, we have others besides our own church people.) Some of the many thoughts he has expressed to us are such things as: "Be an effective teacher of the family of God. Walk as children of light. Help others. My desire is that the

Lord will help me gain strength and be a good example to others. Eastertime is a time for rejoicing, for Jesus Christ prayed for us as well as the people of His time. He wants us to live our lives according to His teachings."

Elder Marvin and Sister Edith Case were with us in March as we assembled in the Kimball home in Shawnee. We think we will see them again in April, too. Also, we are looking for Elder Frank Fann and Sister Carol again soon. Our visitors are like a blood transfusion. They give us new energy, new hope, and help our faith to grow.

Some bits of news about some of us are: The Beems are happy about their daughter Cherie Doesburg who is beginning a new job in Washington, D.C. She works at the White House. Larry, Jr. is graduating from high school on May 29. He plans to go to O.U. next year. The Beem family is busy planting a large garden and caring for their baby animals.

The big news from the Elwell family is Greg. He plays soccer and baseball. He keeps his family involved and on the go.

Dorothy and Dolly Deewall continue to be faithful to our little group. Dorothy goes home to Ava to visit her father every opportunity. She is attending the university in Edmond and will soon earn a degree in elementary education.

The Martin family (Norman) stay very busy with two teenage, talented daughters. The Kimball family (Shawnee) are like the Martin family except they are involved with two teenage sons. All these teenagers are fine young people and we are proud of them.

The big news in the Massey household is the approaching marriage of their daughter, Marilyn. Marilyn and Danny D. King are to be married August 8.

In the words of Paul, "The Lord Jesus Christ be with you, and grace be with you all."

Phoenix, Arizona

(Reporter Evalena Sills)

Sunday, March 23, 1986, was a very happy day for the Phoenix Local. That afternoon we all gathered around the baptismal font outside the church building to witness the baptism of Debbie Vogel, wife of David Vogel, and mother of two small children.

Debbie and her family had been attending services with us in worship, study and fellowship for about three years. In a beautiful testimony at the water's edge just before the baptism, Debbie told of her concentrated study during those three years; of her conviction that the more she studied the more truth she found in the Church of Christ, and the mental struggle it was for her to disassociate herself from her dear friends of the RLDS back in Missouri. "I feared what they might think," she said. But her

deep desire to do right and to be right, according to the leadings of the spirit, were responsible for the decision she had made to take the step she was to take that today.

Then she was led into the water by Elder Jay Moser, immersed and raised from the water, symbolic of a new birth. At an early evening service, Elder Jay Moser, after reading appropriate scriptures, called for a season of prayer for Debbie that God would especially bless her as she began her new life as a baptized member of His Kingdom here on this earth.

Following these earnest petitions, our pastor, Elder Gordon McCann, was called upon to offer a special pre-confirmation prayer. Then Elder Jay Moser, assisted by Elder Hubert E. Yates laid their hands upon Debbie's head as Brother Jay offered the prayer of confirmation in this sacred rite petitioning the gift of the Holy Ghost, according to the promise of our Lord. Tears of joy were glistening on the cheeks of many as members of the congregation — men, women and children — filed by to welcome our new sister into full and precious fellowship with us. Our cup of joy was running over!

It had been our pleasure for several weeks during the past winter to welcome Sister Mary (Whitman) Johnston, of Lamoni, Iowa, at our church services and in our homes. She was visiting her son and daughter-in-law, James and Judy Johnson and their family here in Phoenix. Mary's sister, Rosella Fry of Miltonville, Kansas, joined her here in the Valley, and we enjoyed her also. They returned to their respective homes together in Mary's new car. We hope both of them will come back again next year and stay longer.

In late February, the newly organized young people's group enjoyed its first major outing. About thirty-seven people in all, including children, teenagers, young adults and several married couples serving as chaperones, left Phoenix on Friday afternoon and arrived at Bill and Karin Malone's mountain cabin near Flagstaff in time to bed down for the night, most of them in their sleeping bags. The next day, Saturday, they drove to the nearby Snow Bowl where they enjoyed riding down the snowy, icy slopes in regular and improvised sleds. That evening they arrived home to rest up and get ready for Sunday School and preaching services the next day.

I heard enthusiastic reports of the good time they had together. One young man said, when I asked him if he had enjoyed the trip, "O, yes! We had a whiz of a good time!" The young people's group is getting together regularly for varied recreational and spiritual activities. God bless them is our prayer!

Usually every other Wednesday night is devoted to Song Service, alternating with the Prayer Services, but beginning late in January, every Wednes-

day night was given over to Prayer Service, preceded by fasting, with special emphasis on the good of the April General Conference, particularly the revelation of names to fill the apostle's Quorum. "Thy will be done," seemed to be the common denominator of every prayer. There were two more special prayer services, with fasting, on Saturday, March the first — one in the morning and one at night, again praying especially for the spiritual success of the April conference, and the highly important issues to be resolved there.

May the God of Heaven hear and answer this medley of petitions in the Phoenix Local, together with the prayers of His people throughout the Church!

Warrensburg, Missouri

(Reporter Jeanne Brantner)

Greetings to all! I always delight in reading news of brothers and sisters in other locals. Happenings in their own lives as well as in their local, comments on and excerpts from sermons by their own ministry and also by guest ministry, testimonies of God's goodness as a result of placing one's self in his hands. These can all mean so much to someone who, on the day they receive the Advocate, could be having a particularly trying day. To some who live miles and miles away from a local, and can't attend Church regularly, or maybe not at all, this can be like a personal visit from other members of the Church. Even for those of us who can attend services whenever we wish, and enjoy fellowship with each other, the Advocate with all the spiritual help and encouragement that it contains, is indeed a much awaited blessing each month.

Because my last report was evidently lost in the mail and never received by the staff of the Advocate, I'll try to recall to memory some of the happenings in our area.

We were saddened at the passing of Laurie May Adams Bragg on September 13, 1985. Laurie was married to Keith Bragg and was the youngest daughter of brother Harold and Sister Dora Adams of Warrensburg.

On October 26, 1985, Laurie's grandmother, Sister Gertrude Adams, of Clinton, Missouri, entered her rest. Failing health had plagued Sister Adams for many years.

During the Sunday School hour on December 22, 1985, was the time set aside for our Christmas program. It was strictly a "voluntary affair" with the hour well taken up with offerings of music, scripture readings, poems, original compositions, testimonies, songs, and readings. All in praise and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Apostle Roland Sarratt was our preacher at the morning service, bringing us many words of inspiration. We always enjoy the sermons by Brother Sarratt, as he so humbly and sincerely bears witness of God's love.

We are very pleased and proud to relate the news of an ordination in this local, taking place on December 22, 1985. Brother Charles Andrew (Andy) Brantner was ordained an Elder by Apostle Sarratt and Elder Eugene Gould. May God guide and direct Brother Andy in his ministry is our prayer.

Following such a blessing-filled morning, a delicious and bountiful dinner and fellowship was enjoyed together by us and our many visitors from Independence, Kansas City, and Odessa, in Missouri, and also from Cedar Springs, Michigan.

Though sometimes the weather hasn't cooperated and sometimes there has been illness, the faithful in heart have continued to be in attendance here in Warrensburg. Our numbers may not be many, but we do feel the Lord is watching over us and directing us in our lives and in our endeavors. We ask for your prayers that we remain humble and dedicated to serving Christ.

May God's richest blessings come to each and every one of you.

Missouri Reunion Notice

The date for this year's reunion is tentatively set for the weekend of August 1 through 3 in Warrensburg. However, please watch for future announcements as attempts are being made to locate a facility such that the dates may be changed to coincide with the August Ministers' Conference.

Michigan State Reunion

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 14 and 15, 1986, at the Bradley Local, Bradley, Michigan. As usual, meals will be pot luck.

Anyone needing housing, information on camping facilities, or any other information regarding the reunion may contact:

Elder Laverne Lussenden
204 Oak
Hopkins, Michigan 49328
Phone: 616/793-7245

Please make a note of the dates and plan on attending if at all possible. We would ask that you approach this reunion in solemn prayer that we can all come to a unity of faith and have that abiding love for another that we have always had in the past.

Michigan Reunion Committee—
Norman Trudgen • Jeff Butts • Jay Lee

Colorado Reunion Notice

Welcome once more to beautiful Western Colorado. Come and worship with us on June 13, 14 and 15, 1986, at the Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

If you make it a vacation trip with your camper, we'll find a place to park with one of our local families. If you need accommodations in our homes, we will be happy to have you.

Please let us know you're coming by contacting one of the committee:

Bob Ely
3201 B½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone: 303-434-8090

Marvin Ely
236 - 32 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone: 303-434-8149

Ron Church
322½ - 27¾ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Phone: 303-241-5372

We look forward to having your voices raised with ours in worship to our Heavenly Father.

Houston Local Rally

A rally will be held at the Houston, Missouri, local Church of Christ on Sunday, May 25, 1986, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Everyone is invited to come to fellowship and bask in the Holy Spirit of God.

This is Memorial Day weekend and anyone desiring to stay overnight and return home Monday is welcome to do so.

For further information write:

Sister Margaret Keeney
213 Bryan
Houston, Mo. 65483

The Tri-State Reunion

The Youth Camp at Whitewater State Park, Altura, Minnesota, is being reserved for the Tri-State reunion, August 29-September 1, 1986. (Labor Day Weekend).

Located about ten miles north of St. Charles, Minnesota, the site and facilities are ideal for a spiritual tryst of the faithful. Come and enjoy them with us.

Address your inquiries to Merlin Eddy, 12115 Rich Valley Blvd., Rosemount, Minnesota 55068.

The Minneapolis, Minnesota
Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1987 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 5. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 6. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, April 3 and 4.

The 1986 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 20 through 22 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	6.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
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The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony	
(Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
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Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage and printing costs. Lot prices of tracts exclusive of postage are in packs of 6-50¢, 100-\$5.85.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send all orders to the General Sunday School Association c/o Becky Sheldon, Rt. 1, Box 315, Grain Valley, MO 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as indicated. Write for more information, or see Synopsis in June, 1985, Zion's Advocate.

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Slide Programs with Taped Narration

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence area.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the Zion's Advocate, page 47.

"Mexico, Land of Contrast" (39 minutes) — Illustrates how modern archeological finds in North and Central America lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continent's former inhabitants.

"Out of the Dust" (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon. Also available is a 35 minute version directed toward Indian viewers and entitled "A Lamp Unto My Feet."

"Light at Evening" (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

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Write to Joel Yates, AVVAA Committee, 18819 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.