

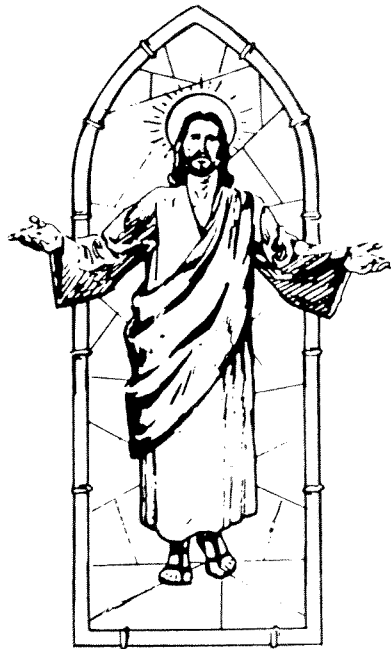
Zion's Advocate

*"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*

Vol. 64

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No. 4



Easter

The darkest day of Time's full way
Nailed Virtue to the cross;
But the empty tomb in a stone-kept room
Gained Victory from loss.

Our Heavenly Guide was crucified,
Deep guilt at Treachery's door;
But the loosened bands from feet and hands
Bring life forevermore!

—Evalena Sills

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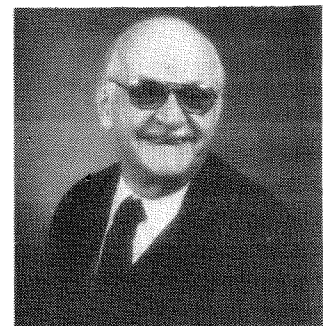
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Guest Editorial . . .

Living Up To And Defending Our Heritage

In these the last days we can see and understand more fully the statement that God is not the author of confusion nor the arbitrator between the ambitions of men. Webster defines the term, "heritage" as, "an estate that passes from an ancestor to a descendant; a birthright or inheritance; the people of God." Under this interpretation we find ourselves in reality the "heritage" of latter-day Israel. With our inheritance, we have accepted the great struggle to preserve the faith once delivered to the fathers. It is a struggle that has been fraught with man's ambitions as well as the devious methods used by the adversary to destroy and bring the work of the Master to naught; that great struggle having been initiated in the Restoration of his Gospel in these last days. We have received our duties and responsibilities with a definite knowledge that we have been warned of the conditions and signs of the times by good men of old, as recorded in the scriptures. Paul, the great Apostle, spoke plainly of some of these conditions

and signs to Timothy, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (II Timothy 3:1-5)



Elder Kenneth Smith

When we consider the conditions existing in the framework of the church, our communities, our

nation, and our world of today, we are sure the time is now when we should issue the call to all believers in the great "Restoration Story" to stop and consider the conditions that exist; the great downward spiral of the basic laws of decency and morals in our civilization.

This is a situation that in past history has been largely responsible for the downfall of all great civilizations of the past. The peoples of this land when wickedness and abominations become so intense, black, and degrading became divided into two camps and utterly destroyed themselves from off the face of the earth. This fulfills the warning of the Lord, "And thus the Lord did pour out his blessings upon this land, which was choice above all other lands; and he commanded that WHOSO SHOULD POSSESS THE LAND, SHOULD POSSESS IT UNTO THE LORD, OR THEY SHOULD BE DESTROYED WHEN THEY WERE RIPENED IN INIQUITY; FOR UPON SUCH, SAITH THE LORD, I WILL POUR OUT THE FULLNESS OF MY WRATH." (Ether 4:22) (emphasis K.J.S.) This is not only applied to the people at the time of the Jaredites, but it applies to all people who shall be permitted to occupy this land. For indeed it has been a "choice land" above all other lands, and is so recognized today by all the world. But sin and degradation of morals are increasing on every hand from the common man on the street to the highest echelons within the framework of the government itself. As we study ancient secular history, we find the same was true to a large extent of the great and mighty empires of Greece and Rome. Many of the mighty nations of the world in modern history, because their peoples became weakened by the breakdown of the moral standards of life itself, have toppled and fallen to their destruction as nations. This also was foretold beforehand by the prophet of old. A careful and minute study of the dream of the old King Nebuchadnezzar reveals the rise and fall of civilizations of the earth from his time to ours. In the consideration of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES and of existing conditions of the world and communities in which we live, let us return to the old paths and let us labor together and seek to bring about the "Cause of Zion".

History often repeats itself, and the Peoples of latter-day Israel may find themselves in circumstances not unlike Lehi and his four sons in the Book of Mormon, when they found themselves in the firm grip of society in which they lived. That society was given to much drunkenness and merry-making, with customs of the times moving in upon family life and demanding consideration from all, both young and old. It was a society that ran faster and faster with the sins of the people and the great downward spiral of the moral standards of the government under which they lived. Until such time as weakened and

staggering under the forces of the influences of the wicked, they could no longer withstand the enemies from within and without. The society crumbled under the heel of the mighty conqueror and Jerusalem was taken captive. Lehi, a righteous man, was told in a dream to flee into the wilderness for safety. This thing was inconceivable to the human mental conceptions of some of his children, and they failed to grasp the real basic wisdom behind this extraordinary event. They rebelled and the Lord was forced to use stern measures to bring about his purposes.

Latter-Day Israel has sought for many years to bring about the establishment of Zion as a place of refuge from the fiery darts of the great devastation that is to come upon this land in the day of "wrath". Still, the establishment of Zion languishes because of man's lack of wisdom. Because man's human desires or ambitions have run ahead of the Lord many times and brought chastisement upon himself, when he has failed to comply with those conditions necessary to discern the will of the Master for his work in our day.

The "Time of the end" has arrived, and the words in Timothy are being fulfilled. Men have become "Lovers of their own selves." Covetousness is on every hand. Blasphemy is a common thing. The young have become unthankful for what they have, and in many cases have become unholy. The work of the Adversary continues to lead away and destroy those that will heed his urging, "to deny the power of Godliness."

But the failures of the past in no way affect the final outcome of the work of the Restored Gospel of latter day.

Even so, the struggle still goes on, and many times we find ourselves alone as we attempt to "defend our heritage" against the ambitions of men seeking to mar and deface holy ground by disregarding their own laws because of the passing of time. Seemingly we have lost, yet we have won because of the definite promises of our Lord and Master. **THE WORK SHALL BE DONE! THE TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT AND ZION, THE GREAT CITY OF OUR GOD, SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.**

In our days of troubled peace, we have esteemed lightly his counsels; but in these days of our troubles we must feel after him. Perhaps, he may be slow to hear our pleas because of our seeming lukewarm faith.

So come one and all, with righteous desires and let us reason and pray together. Let us return to the old paths that we may be ready to meet the conditions of our times that are so fast approaching upon us. Who will cling to that rod of iron leading our souls to the salvation so near and dear to our hearts?

Elder Kenneth J. Smith

The Cause Of Zion

Sermon by Apostle D.E. McIndoo, November 28, 1986, Phoenix, Arizona
(Condensed)

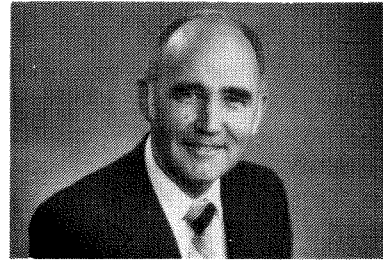
My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass. But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations. Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord. (Ps. 102:11-22)

I appreciate the beautiful special, *Zion Will Be Beautiful*, sung by Gary and Neva. I know this song is special to Neva. Not just because her brother wrote it, but because it is about something very special to her. That something is Zion. If you know very little about Zion, you don't know anything about Neva.

The historian, W.E. Stegner, wrote concerning a band of refugees who were encamped along the shores of a river. And they were like refugees any place in the world. They could have been Vietnamese fleeing the Viet Cong or Mayans trying to escape the excess violence in the Guatemalan jungles. They were cold, hungry and estranged. They were anxious about their future, but these refugees were Latter Day Saints in America, and of them he wrote:

"... the sun had dipped behind the sharp skyline of the Omaha hills. Silence was then called, and a well cultivated mezzo soprano voice (was lifted in) a little song."

Permit me to digress a moment to the year 1890, a year when dreams and visions came to an abrupt end. A great religious movement had been taking place among the Indian tribes of the Great American Desert. Many of the leaders, their elders, had received dreams and visions—visions of a Messiah. This Messiah, strangely enough, was not another Tecumseh, great as he was in his day. Their vision was of a man with nail scars in his hands. They were



Apostle McIndoo

perplexed and confused because he was white! The prophets spoke of restoration, of peace and unity.

There were only two kinds of white men to be found in the Great American West in this period, 1870-1890. There were the expansionists, the miners, farmers, buffalo hunters and adventurers who thought, "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" and there were the Mormons. Those were the only white men in whom the Indian had confidence, and so they sought the Mormons. Thousands of Indians sought baptism, others sought explanation of the visions.

At this same time another movement had caught up many of the Mormon people. There was a strong belief, held by many, that the year 1890 was going to see the Millenium ushered in, and the Zion of the Lord redeemed. More importantly, they were going to be part of it!

President Woodruff (of the LDS Church) closed his diary on the last day of 1889 with these words:

"Thus ends the year 1889, and the word of the Prophet, Joseph Smith, is beginning to be fulfilled that the whole nation would turn against Zion and would make war upon the Saints. The nation has never been . . . so full of lies against the Saints as today. 1890 will be an important year with the Latter Day Saints and the American nation."

Indeed, it was an important year for our nation. The last few days of that December saw the terrible massacre at Wounded Knee as 300 Indians lay dead in the blood-stained snow. It was to be an event which not only terminated the "vision" of the Indian elders but also forever estranged them from the white man. During this same time President Woodruff dashed the hopes and dreams of the "Zionists." "The millenium," he declared, "will wait for another time and another people."

And so, as the smoke from the cooking fires drifted out over the river, that unnamed soprano lifted her voice above the encampment of the saints and touched their heartstrings as she sang:

"By the waters of Babylon, there we sat us down — and wept when we remembered thee, O Zion."

Remember the words, for they are important to us each. The concept, the dream, the vision of Zion is basic to the restoration of the Gospel. But it *can* be lost! Brother Oren A. Caviness, in a sermon preached in Independence, warned us that "Our dreams, our visions, our very beliefs are just one generation away from extinction." Let the reality of that warning sink into your minds, teachers, elders, parents.

My heart was made to rejoice the other evening when Brother Sam Gould called for one of the songs of Zion. I don't hear them sung as much anymore, and these were the songs that sustained our parents and grandparents. This was their basis for their zeal and labor.

Let us consider two scriptures that can give us an insight into the subject.

"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)

"Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, keep my commandments, And seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." (Book of Commandments XI:3)

In the first scripture quoted there is a promise made to those who shall seek to bring forth Zion in its appointed day. With the restoration of the Gospel the work had begun and we find in the second scripture an invitation to all those who have desires to fulfill the will of the Lord and a list of qualifications for those who would engage in this work. There is found, as well, a key word to understand the nature of this work of the Lord in the latter day. That expression is to seek to bring forth "the *cause* of Zion." I believe this term, *cause*, to be vitally important to our understanding about Zion. It refers to the *purpose of Zion* and it relates to God's purpose in bringing several distinct peoples to this promised land, and his purposes for Israel in days to come.

We have been enjoined to seek to establish the purpose of God, or the cause of Zion, in this latter day. I affirm that the task has at least six aspects, each different and each vitally important to fulfilling the will of God. As you read the prophetic language of First and Second Nephi about our day you can find many allusions to the purposes of God among His people. As in 1 Nephi 3:187 a blessing is pronounced upon His people as they seek to establish his purpose. Almost invariably this will be followed by a condemnation promised to those who fight against His purposes, and in each aspect these are identified as those "who fight against Zion." This gives us a larger, broader concept of Zion than

many have considered. Those six aspects of the purpose of God, or the purpose of Zion, are as follows:

1. *Personal righteousness.* One of the purposes of God in directing His people to this land was that there might be personal righteousness among them. It speaks of contrition, humility and obeying His commandments. To this end we have been called to preach repentance and show forth a goodly example.

2. *The establishment of liberty and democracy in this land.* The great leaders upon this land, from the days of Nephi and Moroni, to those of Washington, Adams and Lincoln, have been inspired by God in a struggle for liberty, independence and freedom. When our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence they were signing away everything they had in this world and placing their heads in the hangman's noose. John Adams said it for each of the patriots when he wrote, "All that I have and all that I am and all that I hope for in this life I am now ready to stake on this Declaration of Independence." What would be the result if we who are engaged in God's great purpose were willing to make such a commitment?

3. *The Restoration of the Gospel in this latter day.* This was a part of God's great purpose in leading our forefathers to this land and establishing them in freedom here. We have been fortunate to have called into this restored Church, and have a task to see it proclaimed among the children of men.

4. *The Book of Mormon.* A significantly important aspect of God's purpose in the latter days is the coming forth of the fullness of the Gospel as found in the *Holy Book* and the *Book of Mormon*. A part of our cross as we seek the cause of Zion is to promote an understanding of the word of God as found in this ancient record. In 1889 when President Woodruff wrote, "The nation has never been . . . so full of lies against the Saints as today," he inferred that the persecution had reached a zenith, but he did not live to see the "age of information" and the accompanying power of the media. We shall indeed need to rely upon the promised power of the Holy Ghost as we promote this aspect of the cause of Zion.

5. *The preaching of this Restored Gospel to Israel and Gentile.* The first aspect of this work will be carrying the Gospel to the American Indian. Here we need the direction and power of the Lord. Earnest prayer to Him about this aspect of the cause of Zion is one way we can be seeking to establish Zion.

6. Finally, *the building of a place of peace and refuge and the ingathering of God's people.* Today over 30% of the nations of the world are caught up in the throes of warfare, civil strife and terrorism. An

important aspect (but remember that it is just one aspect) of the cause of Zion, the purpose of God, is the establishment of a city of peace, while all the world becomes like that 30 percent today. David said, "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come."

Just as there was an appointed time for the restoration, an appointed time for the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*, there is an appointed time for that city to be built. We cannot run before it, but until that time arrives we are to be no less committed to, no less immersed in the cause of Zion. With God's help, can we bring ourselves to say (and really mean it) as did John Adams, "Everything I have, all

that I am and all that I hope for in this world" I am going to stake" on the cause of Zion.

Let us work at helping our children and grandchildren keep this vision of Zion alive. It is not something that happens just because they were born into your family. Let us sing the songs of Zion. Let us write of God's purposes, speak of it to one another, pray for it and, above all, labor for it. I pray that we shall be among those who come into Zion singing praises unto God. Then, with the afflictions, adversity and fire of this day behind us, we shall enter into the rest God has promised because we lost ourselves in a magnificent purpose, the cause of Zion.

The Cleansing Power Of Blood

*Adapted from a sermon delivered at the 1985 Phoenix, Arizona, Reunion
by Apostle Robert H. Jensen, General Church Historian*

(PART TWO - CONCLUSION)

The New Testament often refers to Jesus' blood cleansing us. And in Revelations it describes the multitude who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Does this frequent reference indicate primitive Christianity's remoteness from modern culture? No, to the contrary, modern medical science has shown that the symbol of cleansing conforms closely to the function of the substance as it performs within its intended orbit within the physical body, whether it be human or animal.

Matthew 26:26-29: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

In the 3rd Book of Nephi, half way around this globe, like emblems and a further clarification to the Biblical Scriptures was given. When we eat the bread and drink the wine we are in very fact taking of His body and blood into ourselves spiritually in order that it might cleanse us of our human sins.

3 Nephi 4:47-50: "And as many as have received me, to them have I given to become the sons of God; and even so will I to as many as shall believe on my



Apostle Robert H. Jensen

name, for behold, by me redemption cometh, and in me is the Law of Moses fulfilled. I am the light and the life of the world. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. And ye shall offer up unto me no more *the shedding of blood*; (symbolic of that which was to come. rj) yea, your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away, for I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings; and ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a *broken heart and a contrite spirit*, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost, even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in me, at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not."

3 Nephi 9:44: "And he said unto them, He that eateth this bread, eateth of my body to his soul, and he that drinketh of this wine, drinketh of my blood to his soul, and his soul shall never hunger nor thirst, but shall be filled."

3 Nephi 12:32: (Jesus said) "Therefore nothing entereth into his (God's) rest, save it be those who have *washed their garments (spiritually - rj) in my blood*, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end." There's that phrase again.

Again, at Jerusalem the Lord said: John 6:54-69: "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, *hath eternal life*; and I will raise him up (in the resurrection of the just) at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of Man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, *to whom shall we go? thou has the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*"

The Apostle Paul added his witness and testimony: I Corinthians 11: 25-29: "After the same manner also he (Jesus) took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *ye do shew the Lord's death* till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." Great caution urged unto all!

Romans 5:6-11: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare

to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but *we also joy in God* through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

Other confirming scriptures follow:

Mormon 4:65. Moroni: "O then ye unbelieving, turn ye unto the Lord; cry mightily unto the Father in the name of Jesus, that perhaps ye may be found spotless, pure, fair and white, having been *cleansed by the blood of the Lamb*, at that great and last day." The last day, toward which you and I and everyone else is headed, for our own days on this earth are numbered.

Hebrews 13:10-16: "We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might *sanctify the people with his own blood*, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer *the sacrifice of praise to God* continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Have you ever thought about your praise serving as a sacrifice unto God, your Heavenly Father? You presently hear many contemporary evangelists oft-repeat the phrase "Praise the Lord", but they don't do anything about it. King David often used the statement "Praise the Lord", but the difference was that he then proceeded to do it, and not leave it as an empty dangling phrase or slogan. Never once did he leave that empty phrase by itself to stand in its own shell. The sacrifice of praise unto God is to praise His Holy Name, His majesty and power and love and justice and mercy!

Ephesians 1:6-10: "To the praise of the glory of his (God's) grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved; in whom we have *redemption through his blood*, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;" (ability to regulate and discipline oneself through the exercise of reason. rj). "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself; that in the dispensation of fulness of times he might gather together in one all

things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him;”

Ephesians 2:10-21: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Wherefore remember, that ye were in time past Gentiles in the flesh, . . . That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now, in Christ Jesus ye who sometime were far off are *made nigh by the blood of Christ*. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, *and of the household of God*; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” What a blessed privilege it is to be a member of God’s household. “The household of God” - What a marvelous statement!

I John 1:7: “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, *and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

I John 5:5-10½, 11-12½: “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. (baptism and crucifixion - rj) And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the *Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost*: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, *the spirit, and the water, and the blood*: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: . . .” “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; . . .”

I Peter 1:15-25: “But as he which hath called you

is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons *judgeth according to every man’s work*, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation, received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; *that your faith and hope might be in God*. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, *by the word of God*, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you.”

Revelation 1:5-6: “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. “You remember the doctor’s statement? He is a faithful witness. He found out exactly what is the cleansing power of blood and he’s telling the world that it is from God. The analog is from God.

Revelation 5:9-14: “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, *and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood* out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne, and the beasts, and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”

What a glorious scene this depicts - can you imagine a choir of 104,000,000? all singing in perfect tone and harmony? Surely it would sound louder than all of the thunders of the earth that have ever clapped - but with divine grandeur.

John said further in His remarkable book (Revelation 7:9-17): "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And *all* the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: *Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might*, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and *and washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Some say that only a very few will be saved in God's kingdom - John says that there will be so many that no man shall be able to number them.

Revelation 12:10-12: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the *blood of the Lamb*, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death. Therefore, rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them . . ."

Ether 6:9-10, Moroni: "And there shall be a new

heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old, save the old have passed away, and all things have become new. And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they *whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb*; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel."

The Apostle Paul said so forcibly, Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . ." Romans 1:17: "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just *shall* live by faith." The mightiest wave of opposition could have come up before Paul and rolled over him, but he would have stood steadfast in its face, and when it had finished rolling over him he would still have been standing there.

Yes, indeed, the prophets of old desired to see our day and time to observe the culmination of all things pertaining to the world of today. One of the most profound statements and promises pertaining to our time is found in I Nephi 3:187: "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."

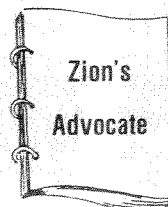
We are living in a special time, and something special is required of us in order to endure what is happening and what shall happen. And how is it that we are to seek to bring forth Zion? - To study and to pray, and to live for it. Listen to the remainder of that most glorious promise, I Nephi 3:188-189: "And *if* they endure unto 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, (the Gospel - rj) how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be."

My hope is that this treatise has brought to you a little knowledge regarding that most important phrase, "THE CLEANSING POWER OF BLOOD," which is a requirement of which we all must partake. And when we may read or hear it again, may we remember that there was a reason for it, and it has an analog - a symbol - a parallel witness in our earthly bodies, and remember that we are required to partake of it within our spiritual being.

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Sincerely,
Your Editorial Staff

The Mission Of Christ To The Dead

by Harvey E. Seibel

AS GIVEN BY THE AMERICAN INDIAN:

"The inquiries instituted by Las Casas revealed the existence of a trinity, the first person of which was Izona, the Great Father; the second was the Son of the Great Father, Bacab, born of the virgin Chibirias, scourged and crucified, HE DESCENDED INTO THE REALMS OF THE DEAD, rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; the third person of the trinity was Echuah, or Ekchua, the Holy Ghost" (Hubert H. Bancroft, *The Natives Races*, vol. 3, p. 462).

The tradition of the Pericues of Lower California related the whole history of Christ in a few words: Niparaya was their Great Spirit . . . one, who was called Cuajup or Tru Man, was born on earth in the mountains of Acaraque, and lived a long time among men in order to instruct them. He was most powerful and had a great number of followers, HAVING DESCENDED INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BROUGHT THEM THENCE" (P. DeRoo, *History of America Before Columbus*, p. 435).

Laurette Sejourne, in her book "Burning Water - Thought and Religion in Ancient Mexico" (pp. 69-70), quotes from a manuscript written in Nahuatl shortly after the conquest and published in Spanish under the title "Legend of the Sun." The following excerpt gives an account of Quetzalcoatl's descent into hell.

"But there went Quetzalcoatl; he came to the Kingdom of the Dead, to the Lord and Lady of the Kingdom of the Dead. Thereupon he said; 'Behold why I have come. Thou art concealing precious bones. I have come to fetch them.' But the King of the Dead told him: 'What wilt thou do, Quetzalcoatl?' And he answered again, 'the gods are troubled about who shall inhabit the earth.'

"The Lord of the Kingdom of the Dead said, 'It is well . . .'

"Again said the Lord of the Kingdom of the Dead: 'It is well, take the bones!' But he told his vassals the dead: 'Yet tell him, oh gods, that he must leave them behind!' But Quetzalcoatl answered: 'NO, I SHALL TAKE THEM FOR EVER.' But his double said to him, 'Tell them I shall come to take them!' With this he was able to return upward, and he took the precious bones. In one place were the bones of a man, in another of a woman. He gathered them up, he made a bundle, and he took them with him . . . (Emphasis throughout by H.E.S.)

"And when he reached Tamoanohan, Quilaztli ground them down again; he threw the ground

bones into a precious earthen pot, AND UPON THEM QUETZALCOATL THREW HIS BLOOD, . . . and then all the gods . . . said: 'Those worthy of the gods are born, since for us they did deserving penance.'

AS GIVEN BY THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS:

By Origen, A.D. 185-254: "As to the descent into Hades, we read in the sixteenth Psalm, 'Thou wilt not leave my soul in Hades,' and as for the journey in prison with the Spirit we read in Peter in his Catholic Epistle, 'Put to death,' he says, 'in the flesh, but quickened in the Spirit; in which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison, which at one time were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God once waited in the days of Noah while the ark was a preparing.' (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 10, pp. 367-368)

By Alexander, A.D. 273-326: . . . whilst the mystery of the cross was being perfected; what time our Lord trampled upon death, dissolved the enmity, BOUND THE STRONG MAN, and raised the trophy of the cross, His body being lifted up upon it. . . The lights of heaven were afraid, the sun fled away, the moon disappeared, the stars withdrew their shining, the day came to end; the angel in astonishment departed from the temple after the rending of the veil, and darkness covered the earth on which its Lord had closed His eyes. MEANWHILE HELL WAS WITH LIGHT RESPLENDENT, FOR THITHER HAD THE STAR DESCENDED. The Lord, indeed, did not descend into hell in His body but in His Spirit. He forsooth is working everywhere, for whilst He raised the dead by His body, by His Spirit was He liberating their souls." (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 6, p. 301).

By Clement, A.D. 153-217: "Wherefore the Lord preached the Gospel to those in Hades . . . But how? Do not (the Scriptures) show that the Lord preached the Gospel to those that perished in the flood . . . And it has been shown also . . . that *the apostles, following the Lord, preached the Gospel to those in Hades* . . . If, then, the Lord descended to Hades for no other end but to preach the Gospel, as He did descent; . . ." (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 8, p. 43).

As Given by Ignatius, A.D. 30-107: "For says the scripture, 'Many bodies of the saints that slept arose,' their graves being opened. He descended, indeed, into Hades alone, but He arose accompanied by a multitude; and rent asunder that means of separation which had existed from the beginning of the world, and cast down its partition-wall." (Epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians, The Ante-

Nicene Fathers, vol. 1, p. 70).

By Justin Martyr, A.D. 110-165: "And again, from the sayings of the same Jeremiah these have been cut out: 'The Lord God remembered His dead people of Israel who lay in the graves; and He descended to preach to them His own salvation.' " (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 1).

"It was for this reason, too, that the Lord descended into the regions beneath the earth, preaching His advent there also, and (declaring) the remission of sins received by those who believe in Him . . . But the case was, that for three days He dwelt in the place where the dead were, as the prophet says concerning Him: 'And the Lord remembered His dead saints who slept formerly in the land of Sepulture; and He descended to them, to rescue and save them.' And the Lord Himself says, 'As Jonas remained three days and three nights in the heart of the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be in the heart of the earth' (Matthew 11:40). Then also the apostle says, 'But when He ascended, what is it but that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth?' (Ephesians 4:9). This, too, David says when prophesying of Him, 'And thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost hell;' (Psalm 86:23) and on His rising again the third day, He said to Mary, who was the first to see and to worship Him, 'Touch Me not, for I have not yet ascended to the Father . . . (if all these things occurred, I say), how must these men not be put to confusion, who allege that 'the lower parts' refer to this world of ours . . ." (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 1, chap. 31, p. 560).

What say the scriptures? There can be little question but that Christ did indeed descend into hell for the following scriptures so indicate: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10). "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." (Acts 2:31).

But why or for what scriptural purpose did the Lord make this visit to hell? "To preach deliverance to the captives . . ." (Luke 4:18). Or as given in Ephesians 4:8-9, "When He ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)"

And again in Isaiah 42:7, "To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." Now consider Ezekiel 31:14-18, ". . . for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit . . . I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all

that drink water, SHALL BE COMFORTED IN THE NETHER PARTS OF THE EARTH. They also went down into hell with him unto them that be slain with the sword; . . . This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord God."

Can there be any doubt of the truth of what is being spoken here? These people have died and have ended up in hell *yet shall they be comforted!* How can this be so if there is to be no reprieve or hope or lessening of their punishment? What is this comfort and for what purpose is it given? And would such comfort be given to those who have become reprobate, having entirely cast God off and rejecting his mercies while the arms of mercy were extended to them while they were yet living? I personally believe this comfort is given to those who do have hope and who have not totally cast aside the Lord. These are those who have not become reprobate or entirely sold to sin but whose works were imperfect.

In Psalms 68:18 we have this word, "Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; YEA, FOR THE REBELLIOUS ALSO, that the Lord God might dwell among them." In Isaiah 14:9-17 we read, "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; THAT OPENED NOT THE HOUSE OF HIS PRISONERS?"

Though Satan would not open the house of his prisoners, another, greater in power, having received the keys of death and hell (Revelation 1:18) will do so by the victory of the cross and thus lead captivity captive. And so we are informed in Luke 11:21-22, "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted,

and divideth his spoils." Is not this so?

Consider: "And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited" (Isaiah 24:22). For what purpose? "... he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). "That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves" (Isaiah 49:9).

It is for this reason that these are termed *prisoners of hope* as we read in Zechariah 9:11-12, "As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. Turn you to the strong hold, ye PRISONERS OF HOPE."

If all who are in hell are consigned to be eternally lost, the terms "shall be comforted" and "prisoners of hope" make no sense. And if these are without hope, in what manner could they be comforted?

One cannot legitimately divide all mankind into two extremes in the classroom of life anymore than we can in the schoolroom. If we rate the level of achievement from 'A to F' we know that a few achieve a level of 'A' and a few fail altogether. But the vast majority will fall in the vicinity of the grade 'C' level. And so it is in spiritual matters. And that is the purpose for the prison of God. Those who are

made perfect go to paradise. Those who choose evil, willfully and deliberately, knowing whereof they do, will be consigned to that hell for which justice, not mercy, will have claim. The rest of mankind must go to the prison to be punished for their imperfections and to be taught. Why? So that they can live according to God in the Spirit, a thing which they had not learned while on earth. And so they receive comfort and thus become prisoners of hope.

A final observation may be made in regard to the dead: "Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit" (1 Peter 4:5-6).

The quick and the dead are the living and the dead. Does this refer to the spiritually living and dead? I don't believe so. For it is a fact undeniable that before we accepted the Lord we were *all* dead in trespasses and without one exception. Yet here we are plainly told that the gospel was preached *ALSO TO THEM THAT ARE DEAD*. Since we were all dead spiritually before we gave heed to the word and accepted, the term "also" makes little sense. The fact is that He also preached to the dead as well as to the living in the physical sense. Finally, what does the phrase "that they might be judged according to men in the flesh" signify if these dead are still in the flesh?

Calico (North Carolina) Local Studies Zion

The establishment of Zion is, or should be, constantly in our focus. As individuals and as the church we are commanded to study the prophecies (i.e. III Nephi 10:27) and to put into practice all guidance and commandments of the Lord, that we would not be found wanting in any thing.

Last month three dear sisters came to Tennessee from The School of the Ozarks in Pt. Lookout, Missouri to study with us, the subject of Zion; how it will be established; how to prepare; etc. We met each evening, with Elder Samuel Gould and Priest Peter Gould, ministers in charge, and after each evening we were to write a poem, verse, or paragraph about what we had studied. Allow me to share some of the points and a few parts of the resultant poems with you.

We began by having an overview of what would be covered in the coming evenings, "The Lord's Prayer" (Matt. 6:9-13) being given as an example that we should seek for the establishment of that kingdom in which our Lord rules and his will is done on this earth as in heaven.

**"Come ye people, come and hear;
The time of Zion draweth near.
Come and hearken to the Lord;
Learn of Zion from His word.
Begin now the preparation;
To become a righteous nation.
Ready now to serve the Lord
Ready now to serve the Lord."** Neta Snider

The following night we considered the personal and collective righteousness which we are required to obtain, following Christ's perfect example (Matt. 5:48), before we can dwell in that promised city, as found in Hebrews 12:22-23. In becoming holy, all will then see "eye to eye" (Isaiah 52:8, Psalms 133:1-2), living in unity, for if all have followed in Christ's footsteps then all must reach that same journey's end.

**"... As the coming of the King draws nigh,
watch ye therefore for those that deceive.
Sickness and desolation shall cover the land as
we well know. Be ye holy and ye shall be
among the elect that see the King."** Sarah Ferguson

The necessity for liberty was discussed on the third evening. Alma 21:37-39 speaks of liberty being for the sake of the righteous, "... the foundation of liberty which God had granted unto them, or which blessing God had sent upon the face of the land, for the righteous' sake". Showing a closer view of liberty's role is found in II Nephi 1:115-125, where it explains that men are free... "To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Law, at the great and last day..."

**"O Liberty, thy cries unheard
By thine own sons - their hearts unstirred.
Thy death nears with the "desolation";
Peace flees thy beloved nation;
Zion's daughters sit in dust,
'Til purged from sin, they put their trust
In the Almighty, then 'twill be
That he restores thee - Liberty!"** Peter Gould

The fourth meeting brought forward the commitment to God's monetary system, in which we "see eye to eye" (Isaiah 52:8, Psalms 133:1-3, as mentioned earlier), "dwell in unity", and have "all things common", an aspect noted in Acts 4:31-32, which is God's plan for his people. Too often we seek our own carnal gain rather than offering what we have back to Christ. We are given specific instruction concerning this perfect manner of living in the Book of Commandments chapter 44. Let us not forget that all we have belongs to God and that we are required to labor for the cause of Zion. (II Nephi 11:109)

**"To establish Zion's coming
We must learn to do our parts
By continued revelation
From the Lord to all our hearts."** Linda Gould

We then considered the restoration and advancement of the fullness of the gospel. We know that the Biblical scriptures were known long before restoration. With the restoration came the Book of Mormon and some latter day revelation, but there are yet other words from our Lord that have not yet been revealed. We are given admonition in III Nephi 12:3-4 that in order for these "greater things be made manifest", we must first believe all that has already been given by God.

**"The gospel will come forth and then,
The Book of Mormon will speak forth to say,
The days have come when the Church of Christ
is restored,
The prophet Elijah will come before the last
day."** Betsy Gould

Saturday was left to consider the things which we had searched through for the past week and for refreshment of rest and recreation. The following sabbath we loaded into two cars for the drive to Cherokee, N.C. to worship in that sabbath home, after which an afternoon filled with a peaceful spirit and joy was enjoyed. That evening, we held prayer service at Elder Samuel Gould's home.

We began the second week of our study observing that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world... and then shall the end come.", as found in Matt. 24:14. For thus shall the preaching of his word go forth as a "fire" and his ministers will "thresh" the nations: "Is not my word like as a fire?... (Jer. 23:28 & 29), and "... Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small... and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord..." (Is. 41:14-16). Thus the preaching of the gospel to every nation is the means by which the children of God are separated out of the world, that they may be gathered together to Zion according to the command to "come out of her (Babylon - E.G.)" -See Rev. 18:4, Jer. 50:4-8, and Jer. 51:6.

**"Daughters of Zion are ye proud and haughty?
Christ will come down to Zion when it's purged,
In the great day all will humbly know Christ,
And then I hope he speaks to me, a daughter
loved."** Betsy Gould

The seventh evening of study concerned the gathering of Israel, at which time the scattered people of God are "... gathered home to the land of their inheritance." (III Ne. 10:7) Not one "kernel" or soul will be forgotten among all nations, for it is a promise given in Amos 9:9. As for the greatness of this occurrence, in Jeremiah 23:7-8, we are told that the mighty works of God in bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt shall be eclipsed by the wonders of this sifting of them out of the nations.

**"As we observe the present signs
We sense the nearness of the time;
The time in which we'll gather near
To Zion that our hearts hold dear.
Yes, His people will come together
To inherit the earth forever."** Elaine Gould

We then came to the matter of Christ's coming, the beginning of the millennial reign. Christ describes the signs and conditions of the earth at that expectant time in Mark 13. At his coming "... the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:16 & 17) The blessings of his saints will, at that time, be great beyond comparison. But for now, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." (Mk 13:33).

**"Blessed are ye that live in Zion,
for ye are holy and wonderful."** Sammy Gould

Since the majority of those present at the meetings were women, the next evening was spent on learning the women's role in Zion and preparation for it. An example is given of what is to be expected of a woman, not only to uphold her husband, but also "... if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have

washed the saint's feet; if she have diligently followed every good work.", as found in I Tim. 5:10. We find that Proverbs 31:10-31 also gives an excellent description of a virtuous woman. The instruction of children in the words of God are shown to be a priority in Deut. 11:18-23: "That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers . . ."

**"With righteousness and virtue, they
Bring up their youths, teach them to pray
And serve the Lord with all their heart
To never from his paths depart.
These mothers of the sons of God,
Who long the path of truth have trod,
In Zion's hill shall take their rest
And raise their young in holiness."** Peter Gould

On the last evening we summarized the past two weeks of this study about our greatest hope, Zion. Let us continue to search these matters out. Certainly, this was not an all-inclusive study, for all the Lord's commandments, and all our efforts to keep them, are directed toward that goal - life with our Lord. Christ instructed the young rich man: ". . .

but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matt. 19:17). So, let us heed as commanded in Luke 21:36, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Also, "Wherefore, take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Eph. 6:13)." How many of us can examine our lives and know, before God, that we have indeed "done all"; that which He has given us to do?

**"Oh ye who do wait for me,
Will ye wise or foolish be?
Are your lamps now trimmed and bright?
Do your works show forth my light?
Shall they withstand the tempter's snare,
Til I shall come forth in the air;
In righteousness to judge and war,
In righteousness to judge and war?"** Neta Snider

Elaine Gould - Reporter
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OBITUARIES

Edith Hanes

Edith E. Hanes, age 90, of Sand Lake, Michigan, passed from this life Friday, February 6, 1987, in Cedar Springs, Michigan, following illness.

She was born Edith Ellena Atwood, April 20, 1896, in Indiana and married Ardy L. Hanes March 16, 1913, in White Cloud, Michigan. He preceded her in death on September 21, 1964.

Since her baptism into the Church of Christ in 1937, sister Hanes had attended the Ensley Center and Cedar Springs locals.

Surviving are her children: Margaret and Henry Scholten of Hudsonville, Michigan; Violet and Lawrence Reichelt of Cedar Springs, Michigan; Dot and Albert Lacic of Lowell, Michigan; Grant and Pride Hanes of Sand Lake, Michigan; Jack and Shirley Hanes of Sand Lake, Michigan; Edith and Don Kloe of Cedar Springs, Michigan; 45 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Also her brother, Everett Atwood of Sand Lake, Michigan, and her sister, Maple Hild of California.

A daughter, Bobbie Roberts, and 3 sons, Ted, Bud and Shockey, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held February 9, 1987, at the McKinley Funeral Home, in Grant, Michigan. Interment was in the Crandall Cemetery, Sand Lake, Michigan.

Officiating were Elders Gale Brantner and Charles Brantner.

1987 Colorado Reunion

The Colorado Reunion will be held on June 12, 13 and 14, at the Church of Christ, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

We want to invite all who can to come and worship with us. Please notify one of the committee members about your intentions, so we can plan for your comfort.

Allen Downs — 303-243-5777
299½ Holly Lane
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Robert Ely — 303-434-8090
3201 B½ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

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

We look forward to greeting you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CORRECTION: Your Editor apologizes for neglecting to list the Council Bluffs, Iowa, local Church of Christ on the map of local churches in the United States found in the March 1987 Zion's Advocate.

Phoenix (Arizona) News

To our brothers and sisters in Christ: Greetings from Arizona. God continues to bless the missionary effort here. Reports from letters to their families in February reaffirmed God's blessing upon the labors of Apostle Don McIndoo and Elder Jim Yates, Sr., in Yucatan. A three room building has been purchased in CanCun. There are stonemasons in the local who plan to remodel the building to be used as a church. One member who moved to a new location has been inviting others to meet with the two Elders that visit weekly and it is very possible that a new local may be started soon in that area. Plumbing has been installed for bathrooms in some of the homes and churches and Jim and Don were able to assist two men in establishing their own businesses so that they could become self-sufficient. During the last week in February, Elder Joel Yates and Teacher Andy Brown flew down to Yucatan to assist our brothers for one week. In March, an eight-local reunion is planned. By the time this is published, we will have welcomed our brothers home to the states. We look forward to hearing further of God's workings among our brothers and sisters in Yucatan. Elder Jay Moser, assisted by Elder Joel Yates and Teacher Andy Brown, has continued work among the Indians. Three more contacts were made in February at Clarkdale, Middle Verde and Camp Verde, among the Yavapai Apache-Tonto Apache tribes. Jay became reacquainted with a childhood acquaintance of the Yavapai Apache tribe and was able to share the gospel with him and to give him a Book of Mormon. Also in February, Elder Hube Yates and Ed Yates went to Las Vegas to hold meetings with Art and Teresa Gunther. Regular trips were also made to Payson where services were held in Elmer and Bettye Brown's home and in Show Low with the Jerry and Cathy Cloyd family and Mike and Kathy Moloy and their children. Hube recently told us that the brothers and sisters in Show Low desire another regular meeting each month. Elder Gordon McCann was able to meet with our sister Lola Haygood in Tucson. We rejoice that these dear ones can have contact with the church, being isolated

from the Phoenix local only by distance. Our prayers are always with them and with the ministers and friends who go to them to share the gospel.

Thirty-six young people and adults traveled from the 70 degree Phoenix valley to the mountains a few hours away for a snow party in February. Stan and Bertie Biringer opened up their cabin so that we could warm up by a crackling fire with sack lunches and hot cocoa, in between snowball fights and sledding.

Recently God blessed both the local and Pastor Gordon McCann when a full-time engineering position in Phoenix was offered to Gordon. For several years, Gordon's time has been split between Phoenix and Tucson because of his work. It will be easier now for him to continue to bring the ministry he has always brought.

We are pleased to welcome George and Luana Very from Washington to several services during February. They were visitors of Harold and Junella Polack.

On February 8, we sat under the ministry of Apostle Don Housknecht. We rejoiced in his words, and none could deny God's blessing upon our brother. He has continued through great discomfort to himself to meet with us regularly, but it has been a long while since he has been able to bring ministry from the pulpit. Apostle Housknecht spoke to us of the true meaning of fasting. When a fast is called, the group should join *unanimously* in separating ourselves from the world in thought - being able then to concentrate on the things of God. He added that fasting is more than keeping ourselves from food and drink: It is keeping ourselves from things of the world in order to fortify ourselves against the wiles of Satan. He reminded us that when we ignore the call for a fast and walk into the service with idle thoughts, not prepared in our hearts and minds, we can "break the spirit." The unity is not there. When we truly fast, we bring the Spirit with us.

May God continue to bless all of you.

Debra Vogel
5432-B Jemez
Glendale, AZ 85307

Michigan State Reunion

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 20 and 21, 1987, at the Bradley Local, Bradley, Michigan. As usual, meals will be potluck.

Excellent camping facilities are available at the Inglewood Campground, about 5 miles east of Bradley. For further information, contact Bernie Ritsema, 536 Irving Road, Hastings, MI 49058, Phone — 616/938-8335.

Anyone needing housing or any other information regarding the reunion may contact: Elder LaVern Lussenden, 204 Oak, Hopkins, MI 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 we have always had in the past.

Reunion Committee:
Norman Trudgen
Jeff Butts
Jay Lee

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 1987 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 19 through 21 at Independence, Missouri.

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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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