

# 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. 66

Independence, Missouri • January 1989

No. 1

---

**Every man is his own  
ancestor, and every  
man is his own heir. He  
devises his own future,  
and he inherits his own  
past.**

—H. F. Hedge

---

## IN THIS ISSUE

---

Brief and to the Point . . . . . p. 3  
Testify to the Truth of the Book . . . . . p. 4  
The Testimony of the American Indian . . . . . p. 5

The Fall of Babylon (Part Three) . . . . . p. 7  
Path Lights . . . . . p. 8  
Awake Ye Saints . . . . . p. 11

# Zion's Advocate

ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000)  
 Official publication of The Church of Christ  
 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd.  
 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472  
 Phone: (816) 833-3995 or 833-3914

## EDITOR

Elder Gary Housknecht  
 5631 E. Hwy 40, Lot 17  
 Kansas City, MO 64128

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Priest Michael McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street  
 Independence, MO 64056 — 796-6255

David Rudd, 413 Springwood Dr.  
 Blue Springs, MO 64015 — 229-2914

## BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE ADVOCATE

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 200 South River Boulevard, P.O. Box 472  
 Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid at Independence, Missouri

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Zion's Advocate  
 (USPS 6993-0000)  
 P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates for members  
 are paid from general funds. In bundles of twelve or more  
 for missionary purposes, \$2.00. Non-member rates: one  
 year-\$4.00; Canadian and all foreign rates-\$4.50.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the  
 Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings and  
 Subscriptions for The Advocate to:

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

## THE APOSTLES' MISSIONARY FIELDS

**Marvin E. Ely**, 236 - 32 Road, Rt. 4, Grand Junction, Col-  
 orado 81503: In charge of Washington, Oregon, Idaho,  
 Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Alaska, and  
 Western Canada west of a line between Saskatchewan and  
 Manitoba.

**Don W. Housknecht**, 1909 E. Grovers, Space 15,  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85022: In charge of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,  
 the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, and east  
 of the St. Lawrence River and the Maritime provinces,  
 Canada.

**Robert H. Jensen**, 2230 Clay, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005:  
 In charge of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Min-  
 nesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska and Iowa.

**Donald E. McIndoo**, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix,  
 Arizona 85024: In charge of California, Nevada, Arizona,  
 New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and the Republic of  
 Mexico.

**Roland L. Sarratt**, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence,  
 Missouri 64055: In charge of Missouri.

**William A. Sheldon**, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence,  
 Missouri 64050: In charge of all Atlantic coast states, and  
 Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky,  
 West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Europe, and is the  
 General Church Representative in the office.

## THE ZION'S ADVOCATE IS . . .

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

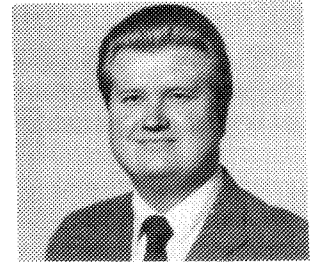
This, we believe, is an important work. Please  
 remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

## WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

*Priesthood articles and sermons, news items, notices, etc., which are appropriate to the editorial policy stated above, are requested by the editorial staff. If possible, they should be typewritten on one side of a sheet only, double-spaced and grammatically correct. 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.

**EDITORIAL . . .****BRIEF AND TO THE POINT**

If it be God's will, you will have a new editor of Zion's Advocate come next April. I have asked to be relieved of this responsibility for three years straight, and having stressed to those concerned that I am especially anxious to be free of this burden by this April, I am optimistic that someone will be found who will be willing and able to carry on this most important work. This Church office becomes, by nature, a very individualistic position, reflecting the desires and concerns of the one you elect each year. It falls victim to occasional criticism, but nevertheless is a very rewarding experience. The most disappointing aspect is having to experience a distrust by some Church members regarding editorial decisions and a "think bad intentions first" attitude by those who feel they have been wronged by one of my decisions. On the other hand, the glimpses into the resulting good some of an editors decisions have made, and the hope that, in the long run, other decisions made will result in a higher quality missionary periodical for the advancement of Christ's Church, make it all worthwhile.

Starting this month, two new series will be started. They both deal with similar subject matter. Another series was started a few months ago and will continue another few months. It is my hope that the new editor will feel inclined to continue these series as I feel that each one is very worthy of each Advocate reader's full attention. I believe strongly in the editorial goals established by myself and stated on the front inside cover of each Advocate ("The Zion's Advocate Is . . .") and *all* my editorial decisions are based on these goals. I believe these three series are essential to the educational and Spiritual development of each of us.

A few Sundays ago I had the responsibility to preach at the East Independence local of the Church of Christ, and in so doing I felt led to delete all other

material for the sermon other than that dealing "directly and to the point" of self-discipline with regard to a strict obedience to God's basic and straightforward laws — for the end is near, a "cleansing of the Sanctuary" is imminent, and **NO ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENDURING TO THE END, FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BUILDING AND EXISTENCE OF ZION, AND ETERNAL SALVATION, OTHER THAN YOURSELF.** The Priesthood of the Church of Christ has, for a long time, spelled out plainly the laws of God, and you readers and listeners of the Word are ultimately responsible for your own destiny. I, and others, have seen the need and felt the inspiration in the recent past to avoid the trivial and mundane and deal directly, briefly, and to the point about the plain and simple facts of God's plan of salvation. It is without complication or confusion and, for the most part, we are a negligent and unworthy people. If we are to meet each other in the end, and in the right place, we had better soberly approach life with a different attitude, make the changes in our lives necessary to meet the expectations of God's law, and prepare to meet our Maker.

God will accomplish all that He has said He will, and soon, with or without your individual compliance, and He will find a people willing if we are not. But, as at least one Apostle has admonished, God has not totally lost patience with us yet. But to test the Lord further, to delay action upon your faith beyond what you may have already done, is Spiritually lethal.

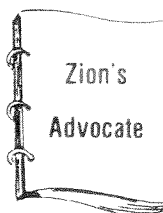
"Brief and to the point." I have strong Spiritual premonition that each of you will be subjected to the truth, without further beating around the bush. We, each, had better listen and respond.

—Elder Gary A. Housknecht

**Pass It On**

Would you like to be a missionary for Christ's Church? You can, it's easy!

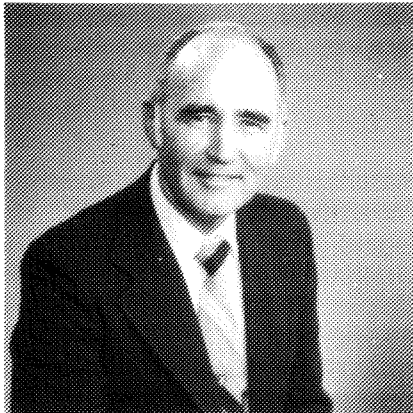
Pass It On. Yes, by merely passing on each issue of the *Zion's Advocate* to a friend not yet a baptized member of this Church, you will have greatly expanded the missionary potential of this paper.



If you need extra copies of any issue, write or call the Business Manager of the *Zion's Advocate* listed on the top half of the inside cover page before the editorial.

Sincerely,  
Your Editorial Staff

# TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH OF THE BOOK



by Apostle Donald McIndoo

## Part One of Twelve

Many exciting discoveries are even now taking place in the field of New World archaeology. Those of us who have placed our faith in the *Book of Mormon* anxiously await reports from such developing sites as the ancient Mayan city of El Mirador, situated near the Guatemala-Mexico border. Sometimes we are somewhat dismayed, however, when preliminary reports appear carrying dates that seem to fall well outside the realm of those dictated by the narrative of the *Book of Mormon*.

I was, therefore, greatly interested in an article that appeared in the February 1988 edition of *Natural History*. This article, entitled "Geofacts and Fancy", was written by an archaeological geologist named C. Vance Haynes. Dr. Haynes was equally dismayed by the way many archaeologists have been apparently deceived by natural phenomena and, hence, applied dates that were often misleading to archaeological finds. From his numerous experiences in the field Dr. Haynes observed, "...how often natural processes produce objects easily mistaken for the work of humans. For such products of geological processes I coined the term geofacts."

The more common problem encountered seems to be the misinterpretation of the data observed or gathered. Dr. Haynes was invited to participate in a study of Tule Springs, Nevada which has received a lot of attention as being the oldest site of human presence in the New World. Here archaeologists have reported the finding of bones of extinct animals and human artifacts found in the same level in charcoal hearths. Using radio-carbon dating techniques this charcoal was dated at 28,000 years. A blue-ribbon panel of experts, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, authenticated each find.

Upon investigation of the site Dr. Haynes made some disturbing discoveries. He writes "...as site geologist I was surprised to find that what had been interpreted as charcoal hearths were in fact black deposits of incompletely fossilized plants... And what had been interpreted as fire-reddened earth

turned out to be iron oxide stains produced by ground water."

Most importantly, he discovered "...that the bones of extinct animals whose fractures had been interpreted as the result of human work... were instead the product of trampling by animals that had been trapped in the spring feeders."

Dr. Haynes sums up his study of this area with a most interesting conclusion: "Much of the evidence for pre-Clovis human presence involves either questionable artifacts or their association with localized cave or spring deposits... Here the only criterion for age is radio-carbon dating. If I learned one thing in a quarter century of direct involvement in radio-carbon dating, it is that radio-carbon dates can be wrong."

It is reassuring to see such forthrightness as the expressions of Dr. Haynes. Let me be equally forthright. If there should come to light from time-to-time "well-substantiated" claims for settlement in the New World by peoples not chronicled in the *Book of Mormon* or outside the dates prescribed by it, this in no way casts a shadow over the divinity of the book nor the historical accuracy of its treatment of the Jaredite and Nephite migrations.

Remember the all-important prophecy of Lehi: "... it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; for, behold, many nations would overrun the land, that there would be no place for an inheritance (2 Ne 1:16-17)." Yet even while Lehi was revealing this promise of the Lord, another nation, unknown to him, was concluding 1600 years of brilliant civilization in the New World.

A key element to the promise God made to Lehi was that the land to which his party had been led was unencumbered by other people and they were free to make of their "new world" what they would. Another vital key to his prophecy was that those who were led here "... would be brought by the hand of the Lord (verse 10)." Who knows how many peoples the Lord has brought, and will yet bring, to this land

of promise?

Yet another element of God's promise concerning this land was that "... whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off. . . (Ether 1:31)." This vital part of prophecy certainly helps account for such temporary settlements as those of the Vikings in their New World "Vinland" and perhaps many another colony whose history is in no other way referred to in the *Book of Mormon*.

Yet another evidence of the divine plan behind the promised land as revealed by this marvelous record! We have every reason to be confident and no need to be narrow in our point of view.

(This article is to be the first of a series of short articles under this by-line which will endeavor to review archaeological, linguistic or historical evidence that attests to the truth of the *Book of Mormon*.)

---

## THE TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

**Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel**

(This is the first part of a series about the North, Central and South American Indian and the Book of Mormon, which will be published monthly in *Zion's Advocate* at least through the calendar year 1989. While it is lengthy, it will be well worth your attention throughout. Editor.)

### PART ONE

**"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established" (2 Corinthians 13:1).**

The following treatise is a collection of wonderful proofs compiled to aid the student of the Book of Mormon. I do not present all the material which is available on the subject, however, I do present a good cross-section of the material now available.

Since Christ is the central theme throughout the Book of Mormon, it would seem that there should be no want of evidence of this fact among the American Indian. And so it is. There is an abundance of traditions handed down by the many tribes of this land (both north and south) telling of the visitation among them of a bearded white God.

For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the Book of Mormon, we will begin by giving the record of Christ's visit among the early inhabitants of this land, followed by the writings of the various authors regarding the visitation of this great teacher among the ancestors of our American Indians.

According to the Book of Mormon, Christ made His appearance among the people of America shortly after His ascension into Heaven from Jerusalem.

He came to fulfill His prophetic statement of John 10:16 that He had other sheep which were not of this fold (the fold at Jerusalem) and that they, too, were to hear His voice. The following is a summary of His visit as it is found in the Book of Mormon.

In the fifth chapter of Helaman we find an account of a prediction which was to begin to have its fulfillment five years from then. The prediction was to the effect that Christ was to be born into the world to redeem all those who would believe on Him. Among many heavenly signs that were to be given to show His birth was that a new star was to arise. After this the prophet went on to give another sign, the sign of His death. A great and terrible storm was to arise and the earth to shake and tremble causing tremendous destruction. The sun, moon and stars were also to withdraw their shining for the space of three days. The whole face of the land was to become altered because of the greatness and severity of the destruction.

The fourth chapter of 3rd Nephi gives the account of the fulfillment of the latter sign, that is, the sign of his death. The prophecy was fulfilled in every detail. A great and terrible storm arose in the 34th year, in the first month, in the fourth day of the month, such a storm as never had been known in all the land. And there were many tempests and whirlwinds, terrible thunder and exceeding sharp lightnings and a shaking of the whole earth. Many of the cities took fire and burned, others sank into the sea and still others were covered by great heaps of earth. The whole face of the land was changed, the highways were broken up, the rocks were rent in twain and broken up upon the face of the whole

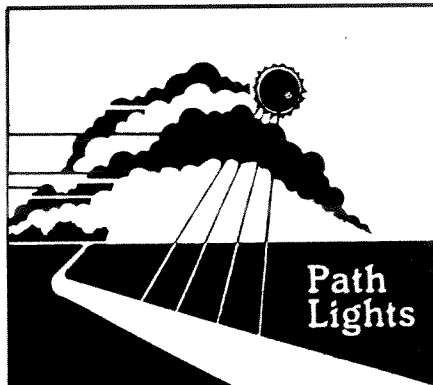
earth, inasmuch that they were ever after found in broken fragments, seams and in cracks. And the slain of the Lord were many. Then when the storm and quaking of the earth ceased there was darkness upon the whole face of the land. It was a thick darkness, a vapor of darkness so that there was no light seen for the space of three days, neither sun, moon or stars, nor could any fire be kindled. The people howled and lamented for their sins all across the land. And then there was a voice heard throughout all the land saying, "wo, wo, wo unto this people; wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth, except they shall repent, For the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice, because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people; and it is because of their iniquity and abominations that they are fallen. . . O all ye that are spared, because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you? . . . Behold I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. . . And the scriptures, concerning my coming, are fulfilled." And many other things did this voice speak unto the people.

The three days at length passed away and the darkness dispersed from off the earth and it was in the morning. Then in the fifth chapter of 3rd Nephi we find the people gathered about the temple in the land Bountiful wondering and marvelling one with another concerning the things which had just passed. And as they were doing so they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven which they did not at first understand. It was not a harsh voice nor a loud one, but notwithstanding it being a small voice, it did pierce them to the center, to the very soul. Then casting their eyes toward heaven they understood the voice.

And it said unto them, Behold, my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name, hear ye him. And it came to pass as they understood, they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold, they saw a man descending out of heaven; And he was clothed in a white robe,

and he came down and stood in the midst of them, and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them. And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand, and spake unto the people, saying, Behold I am Jesus Christ, of whom the prophets testified should come into the world; And behold I am the light and the life of the world, and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things, from the beginning. And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, the whole multitude fell to the earth, for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should show himself unto them after his ascension into heaven. And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them, saying, Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands in my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands, and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world. And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one, until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes, and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety, and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, should come. (3 Nephi 5:1-16).

The foregoing is a brief account of the visit of Christ to America as it is given to us in the Book of Mormon. Is it true or false?  
(Continued next month: "Did the fair God visit these people?")



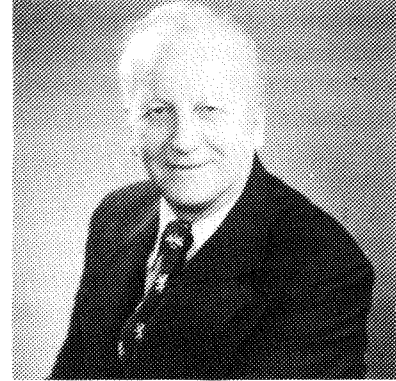
# PATH LIGHTS NEEDS YOUR TESTIMONY

Send to: Melissa McGhee  
2533 Glen Lane  
Independence, MO 64052

# THE FALL OF BABYLON

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part Three of Seven



## A Beast From The Sea

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power and his seat, and great authority".  
Rev. 13:1,2

In prophetic terminology, the word "beast" is an allusion to a nation. The particular nation is thus obscured, except as further described; the beast is Rome. Coming "out of the sea" alludes to the multitudes of the people of the world. This beast of Revelation 13 was like a leopard, yet had the feet of a bear and a lion's mouth. It had seven heads and ten horns. We are struck with the similarity of this beast to the four beasts of Daniel 7; in fact, the beasts of Daniel 7 describe a succession of empires beginning with Babylon and followed by that of the Medes and Persians, the Greek and finally, Roman. The beast of Revelation 13 was a composite of all these empires displaying the same characteristics, i.e., autocracy, idolatry and persecution. The latter kingdom (Rome) was situated on seven hills (the seven heads), and was later divided into ten nations (the ten horns) after its destruction as an empire. For an elaboration on this, see "A Marvellous Work And A Wonder", pp. 58-63. As Daniel considered the horns of the fourth beast (Dan. 7:8), he saw a little horn come up among the ten, which had "eyes like a man, and a mouth speaking great things". In the horns is the power of a beast, but Daniel saw that this fourth beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame", "because of the great words which the

horn spake" (Dan. 7:11). The beast was pagan Rome which became divided into ten kingdoms, among which another power developed. This power (little horn) was to "speak great words against the most High" and to "wear out the saints of the most High" (Dan. 7:25). It was the papacy, the man of sin, and is the beast of Revelation 13 which had "a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies" (some of which we have previously recorded); he is the head of modern Babylon. This "beast" of Revelation 13 is illustrative of both pagan and papal Rome.

## Persecutor Of The Saints

Just as Nebuchadnezzar of ancient Babylon persecuted and subjected the kingdom of Judah, so also has the "man of sin", or the papacy, as the head of mystic Babylon been responsible for the persecution, torture and death of millions of people - people who were innocent of crime except as they were accused of heresy.

The following from the writings of Rev. Scott in his Bible commentary will illustrate our point ("The Seven Kingdoms," p. 76):

"No computation can reach the numbers who have been put to death in different ways on account of their maintaining the profession of the gospel and opposing the corruption of the Church of Rome. A million of the poor Waldenses perished in France; nine hundred thousand orthodox Christians were slain in less than thirty years after the institution of the Jesuites. The Duke of Alva boasted of having put thirty-six thousand to death in The Netherlands, by the hand of the common executioner, during the space of a few years. The Inquisition destroyed by tortures, one hundred and fifty thousand Christians, within thirty years.



"These are a few specimens, and but a few of those which history has recorded; but the total amount will never be known till the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. These were put to death by the secular arm; by that power of which the empire was head, and which subsisted in kings and emperors as the executioners of its murderous decrees!"

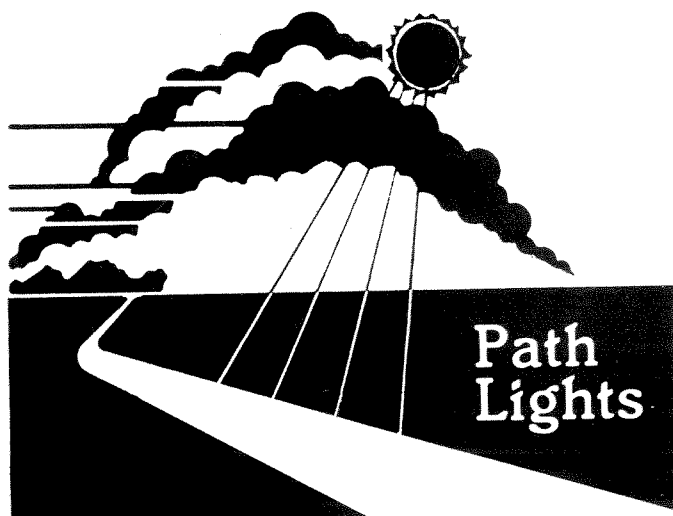
Motley, in his "Rise of the Dutch Republic" (part 3, chap. 3) informs us:

"Upon February 16, 1568, a sentence of the Holy Office condemned *all* the inhabitants of The Netherlands to death as heretics. From this universal doom only a few persons,

especially named, were excepted. A proclamation of the *king* dated ten days later, confirmed this decree of The Inquisition, and ordered it to be carried into instant execution, without regard to age, sex, or condition. Three millions of people, men, women and children, were sentenced to the scaffold in three lines."

These items of historical facts fulfill, in part at least, Rev. 12:17 where we are told that—

"... the dragon (devil, w.a.s.) was wroth with the woman (true Church of Christ, w.a.s.) and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."



Some years ago I was visiting in the home of my sister, Mrs. Evalena Sills. At that same time our late father, James E. Yates, was there also. As was his custom, he spent many hours visiting people of his acquaintance, and talking to them concerning the spiritual values of life.

On this particular afternoon it was my pleasure to accompany him on his visits. We stopped at the home of a man who had been an invalid for many years. He had been shut in with not much contact with the outside world. This gave him much time for reflection, which he had apparently used to good advantage. He had studied the scriptures and had truly attained to a high degree of spiritual perception.

This gentleman related several experiences of his own from which he had been permitted to gain remarkable insight into spiritual truths. He testified

to some wonderful things that had happened in his life—to some marvelous things. He had been permitted to see some real MIRACLES.

I had been sitting there listening intently, but not entering into the conversation myself. Suddenly our friend turned to me and asked, "Sister, what experiences have you had?" I was startled. At once I suggested that we would like to hear some more from him.

For the next few hours and days, I kept asking myself that same question. What experiences DID I have that would compare with his? I had to admit—none that would compare.

All of my life I had believed the gospel. I had been baptized at the age of eight. Since that time my faith had never wavered. I believe I can say, truly, that faith has increased with the passing of time. But why did not these wonderful, miraculous things happen to me?

As I went about my tasks, I kept thinking about it and questioning whether something in my life was lacking. I could think of no sin of commission. Was there one of omission? Had I neglected to DO something? What could it be? No answer came to my mind.

One evening I retired, still pondering the question. During the night this dream came. I was standing on the balcony of our home looking towards the mountains eastward. Those of you who have been in Oak Creek Canyon in northern Arizona, will visualize the high, beautiful, rugged red mountains that guard Oak Creek.

At first it was dark. Then the rays of the sun began reaching up and over the top. Increasing gradually, with more light and warmth the sun finally



It is true that these terrible persecutions were carried into effect by kings and nations, but these were under the direction of the papacy and the college of cardinals; of which more will be given later.

Dan. 7:25 tells us the "little horn" would "wear out the saints of the most High", and Rev. 12:17 speaks of the dragon (devil) making war with them. Remember that we have discussed the church of the devil; he uses human instrumentality in many instances to perform his wicked designs against Christ and His people. In this case, the tools for his labor began under direction of the papacy, or "one who sitteth in the temple of God (the acknowledged church of God among the nations, w.a.s.), shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:4). From the

church at Rome, as with the voice of God, came the edict, which was faithfully executed by the secular arm of his power, kings and rulers of nations.

Again: some of our readers may assume that we are only attacking the Catholic church. While we believe the Roman church, under direction of the papacy is the focus and the initiator of Babylon of the latter days, it is not the totality. Babylon is all that fight against Zion, as given so pointedly in 2 Ne. 7:23-25:

"Wherefore, he that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, shall perish: for they are they who are the whore of all the earth; for they who are not for me, are against me, saith our God."

burst forth in all its wondrous glory, in all its unspeakable beauty.

And Christ stood immediately behind it. I could not see Him. But I knew that He was there, watching His children, and extending to them (to every one—and missing none) the love and the deep all-encircling compassion that only the heart of Him can comprehend.

I was made to understand that even as the sun rising each morning is a daily miracle, so also is the steady, constant ray of love from our Heavenly Father a miracle. These miracles we receive daily. Each morning these rays come anew, as the day's needs confront us. A sweet peace came to me.

I awoke. Soon the bright rays of the sun came over the tops of our mountains. I remembered my dream. Yes, that is wonder enough. I am daily grateful for the promise of Christ's constant concern for, and care over us.

This is my miracle, and I am content.

Ruth Willard (Submitted by her daughter)

Dear Sister Joyce (Harris):

We just learned today that you had surgery again, and were so sorry to hear of it. Our most earnest prayers shall be in your behalf. I know that your faith in the Almighty is great and that He will see you through. It takes our greatest faith and belief in order to make it through the difficult things of life. I know!

Truly: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth them out of them all." (Ps 34:19). I believe that the Lord has a purpose in allowing certain things to come to us. Afflictions are the accidents or trials of "nature". So long as we are in this world as mortal beings, we are subject to them. Our hope is in the divine healing from God's power.

Formerly, life burdened me down so greatly with its multiple labors, disappointments and trials. Since the last 2½ years of so great affliction I have come to appreciate the gift of life so divinely given to us. A greater understanding of God's ways has enabled me to better accept what comes, and to trust that whatever is needed within my life for God's purposes will be given. I cannot number the times I've been administered to, and shall never know the number of prayers that have been offered in my behalf. Without them all I would not be yet on this earth today. Each day that is added unto us is for a purpose within God's plan. We may not be able to accomplish much some days, but whatever we can do we must. Sometimes we can only endure difficulties in faith to be an example to others, to teach them a valuable lesson. But there is never a day in which we do not accomplish something, whether we realize it at the time or not.

I am thankful to say that I am now able to walk 14 blocks a day, and just last February in the hospital they gave me up twice for dead. I was able to attend the August Ministers' Conference, though it was really too much for me to try. It took some days upon return home, even with Doris' help driving, to recuperate. I never know what I can do until I fall on my face, then I have to pick myself up, dust off, and go on from there. Two weeks ago I was able to take a short trip through the mission field in Southern Iowa and Northern Missouri for the first time in about 2½ years. I praise God's name for His great mercies.

I know that many people throughout the Church are even this day offering up their prayers in your behalf.

With our love in the Gospel,  
Robert Jensen

This text does not specify Babylon, but it says that those who fight against Zion are "the whore of all the earth", and this ties directly to Rev. 17:1 and 5, in which "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth" is also called, "the great whore that sitteth upon many waters" (nations, w.a.s.).

Who are the "harlots", of whom Babylon is mother? If we consider only the religious aspects, it should be evident that the harlots are those churches which originated in the "great whore" (Rev. 17:1): the entire Protest movement, or in other words, the protestant churches! These in turn have spawned a multiplicity of children (churches) and non-denominational sects, which continue to divide and sub-divide endlessly, or so it seems.

Joseph Smith was told to join none of those churches of his day as their creeds (doctrines) were an abomination in the Lord's sight. And what can we think of the increasing division within the Restoration, the latter day saint churches? God is no more the author of confusion in religious Babel than He is of political/economic Babel.

Remember: Babel (Babylon) IS confusion. The spirit of confusion, or division, comes through the father of lies, the devil. It basically reflects the underlying, greater spirit of rebellion, a rebellion against God. Its companion is pride and self-exaltation; and this goes right back to Lucifer in the beginning, who was consumed with ambition; he became Satan, the devil, and was cast down because of it; and not only he, but a third of the heavenly host. This same proud, rebellious spirit is possessed by multitudes of mankind, and is the reason why Babylon must fall.

The papacy and the Vatican is in the forefront, a conspicuous part of Babylon, but it consists of all systems and people which "fight against Zion", which are antagonistic to the saints of God, which would subject the nations to slavery, or bring them into bondage, whether temporally or spiritually.

### **The Second Beast**

We have seen that the "beast" of Rev. 13:1 was, firstly, pagan Rome, but with its dissolution, papal Rome continued as the city upon "seven mountains"; ecclesiastical Rome survived and supplanted civil Rome as the dominant force in Europe. The "beast" was a dual or composite creature, but to all intents and purpose, was only one being.

Following the appearance of this beast, John said—

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exer-

ciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." Rev. 13:11-16.

This second beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. The symbolism of a lamb and a dragon are significant: the lamb being a false representation of the Lamb of God, while the dragon represents the devil (Rev. 12:9), or an ambassador of Satan. The beast's appearance was that of peace and righteousness, while from inside the heart issued the voice, the purpose of the devil. This beast was a combination of civil and ecclesiastical authority (the two horns), whose intent was the implementation of the papal will by the sword, and was fulfilled by Frankish kings of Europe in support of the papacy.

The word "Franks" (as denoting a people which came to power in the eighth century A.D. against the Lombards who had finally overthrown the Roman empire) is the root word for France. Charles, the most notable Frankish king, seized all the Lombard possessions, made himself king and gave these lands, or much of it, to the pope, who in turn conferred upon him the title, "Patrician of Rome", and—

"For a period of nearly 1,000 years, the papacy or Holy See held temporal possessions over which it exercised despotic political control" (Lincoln Library of Essential Information, p. 1466.)

In 800 A.D., Charles (also known as Charlemagne) gave further military support to Pope Leo III, which resulted in that pope crowning him as "Augustus, crowned by God, great and pacific emperor of the Romans", and referred to him as the "successor of Augustus and Constantine".

This civil/ecclesiastical combination was the foundation of the "Holy Roman Empire", which at the behest of popes, imposed the papal will upon the principal nations of Europe, and great was the de-

struction of the innocents as previously described. This empire was what we have termed, the second beast. Remember that this beast had two horns as a lamb, and these are symbols for the "beast" (the papacy) and the "false prophet" (a succession of kings in the Holy Roman empire) as referenced in Revelation 16:13 and 19:20.

In regard to the great wonders or miracles performed by this beast (vs. 13,14): the ability to make fire come down from heaven and other miracles is a matter of conjecture, but it is noteworthy that the

appearance of comets in medieval times was superstitiously viewed by the masses as having significance in the affairs of men, foreboding signs of evil consequence, etc. However, it must be borne in mind that the devil has great power to deceive, and such celestial sights or other phenomena are within his realm of performance, and may have been exercised to a great extent in those times of the existence of the Holy Roman Empire.

(Continued next month: "Image of the Beast")

## AWAKE YE SAINTS!

Although a dark picture hovers over us there is hope shining brightly before us through obedience to the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ restored to earth again over one hundred and fifty years ago. Prayer reached our Saviour from a young boy seeking help. We must heed the warnings set forth for this nation's profit and learning or slavery will overcome us and utter darkness prevail. Even now the net is being drawn ever closer about us. We must earnestly pray for our heads of government that they be not deceived but return to the old laws and statutes which are not outdated and of no worth as we are being told. They are just as important, especially now, and as workable today as the day they were framed. The men who wrote those documents did so with prayerful consideration. The very wording proves that it was not just man alone, but men who were inspired by the Spirit of All Mighty God. Even our coins were inscribed with "In God We Trust."

God has always held this country in the hollow of His hand, for through His decree this was and is Joseph's land. The Joseph who was sold into Egypt and God blessed him for he was willing to do God's bidding. All down through the ages this land has held a place in prophecy and although God permits man to use his own free will and agency He also has told them what the outcome of their acts would be through the prophecies of the Bible and latter day revelation.

Those prophecies of the Bible weren't for those people alone, some were expressly for us in this day and time. So many of the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah have a direct bearing on us today. The peoples of Bible times could not comprehend what the prophets were prophesying about because the things they foretold had not come into being yet. The cars, electricity, airplanes, and the large cities had

not been heard of at that time. For us those prophecies have deep meaning for it is almost like reading of the events in our daily newspapers. I am sure that is one of the reasons for the clouding of events and happenings by the news media today, the force that is seeking to overcome our nation does not want the people warned. It is another subtle form of brainwashing and we as the American people are being duped and lulled to sleep by such tactics. We are being forced to believe it is better to be red than dead. No, it is slavery, not only to our bodies, but our minds and souls too.

Wake up America. Stand upon your God-given rights to be free under God's protection. Shake off the yoke of bondage seeking to destroy and enslave you, return to God and the Bible with your whole heart and soul, stop the mere lip service now indulged in and truly repent of your sins asking for God's forgiveness and protection from this evil around you. Stop the moral and spiritual decay directed at and killing our youth.

Our land is the most wonderful land upon the face of the globe. It was set up and the laws the greatest ever conceived by man, through God's help. Why else have we become the huge melting pot of the world, with peoples from all nations seeking refuge within our boundaries. Nowhere else can man work in freedom and peace. It did not just happen! This nation is because God ordained it so. The blessing of Joseph handed down through his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, is being fulfilled. The promised blessing to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is that in them and their seed should all the nations be blessed. That blessing came down through Joseph's two sons here to America. The name of Israel being conferred on these two boys by their grandfather Jacob when he said, "Let my name be named on them."

(Continued on next page)

The other eleven tribes were blessed also but not with such a blessing as these two boys received.

Look at your dollar bill - it has the pyramid of Egypt inscribed on it. Have you ever asked yourself why such should be placed there? Joseph was married to an Egyptian Princess. Therefore, naturally their sons would bring to the land of their inheritance some of their mother's teaching. This fact also is a waymark verifying the prophecies of the Bible and placing us in our proper place in God's scheme of things. Nothing is done by chance. All have a place and story to tell. Our country is wealthy, for all the precious things are couched here - gold, silver, oil, and the rolling, fertile hills. What an inheritance! What more could man ask for!

We have become a prosperous nation because God has richly blessed us in abundance. We have turned our backs on such a wonderful gift giver by our sinful slothful ways. Instead of heeding God's voice, we have hearkened to the satanic voice that is striving to tear this country apart and bring us under evil bondage. Why do you think that the communists are trying every means in their power to enslave us? They want to make us a Godless country - gain our wealth of precious metals, but most of all, the people. Satan is the father of such destruction. He is well aware his days are numbered and so he is working doubly hard to accomplish his purposes before

the end of his power is reached. He will not succeed for God is mightier than all the powers of Hell, but if we are to survive and be with God, we must beat back the onslaught of the satanic forces, we *must* fall on our knees and plead earnestly for forgiveness of our sins. 'About face' and become a member of God's army fighting for the well-being of all mankind. God only wants us to ask for His help sincerely. He does not force His will upon us for He has given man his own free will agency. So I say, dear saints, awake, repent, gird on the whole armour of Christ and fight for truth and justice under Jesus Christ's banner.

God is calling now for all to be earnestly working righteousness. Then the phrase "See What God Hath Done", can become the battle cry of millions to all "nations". See what God is doing now, not past tense.

If we who profess to believe and have accepted this wonderful Gospel Restored sit idly by and do nothing, we are shirking our responsibility. We must not sit by doing nothing! Through acceptance of the Gospel, we have shouldered a big responsibility to work for Christ. So I say ye saints of God, awake to your duty and privilege of being in God's army of faithful followers. Be ye doers and not hearers only!

Edna R. Smith

## **-NEWS-**

### **NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **AVA LOCAL REPORT**

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.—John 15:12

The Ozark hills enjoyed a spell of beautiful warm weather for the Thanksgiving holidays. Even now, a week later, the sun is shining brightly and the sky is a brilliant blue. While we must be thanking God daily for His goodness to us, it was good to spend some time to give special attention to thanking Him.

Just before Thanksgiving, the prayer-group in our local nursing home was asked to silently think of what we were most thankful for. Quickly it came to me that I am deeply thankful that my family needs not fear having to live on the streets, for we have so many people who love and would help us. For it seems to me that the greater plight of the homeless is not that they have no place to live, but that they are

without the love and help of family and friends.

In October, Brother Glenn Gill warned us in his sermon of the danger that we would leave behind the good things of God while trying to get the good things of the world.

In a nation that has not valued love to God, from God, and among each other, we see the results of such a choice in homelessness and other problems. True, we have prophecies telling us that such would happen, but what is our duty in these times?

Brother Leslie Case defined the words 'worship' and 'thanksgiving' when he was our visiting speaker in November. Worship, he said, is to express adoration, and thanksgiving is to express appreciation. While we express appreciation to God for His love surrounding us from family and friends, do we not have a duty to extend that love to those who do not know of it, no matter when the times? I feel that I have limited my loving others to just those I happen to meet in my daily life. Perhaps it is time I begin to

seek out opportunities to help others, to be active in loving.

In October, our local witnessed one of the most beautiful of all events—the blessing of a baby. The baby was Dallas Alaska Brech, the son of Danny and Dorothy Brech, and grandson of Earl Darlington. Dallas was Brother Darlington's twelfth grandchild in exactly twelve years.

We are successfully holding our First Friday socials, even when we must postpone the event until the second Friday of the month because of illness, as we did in November. On the first Friday evening in October we met together to eat, visit, and to play a trivia-type game about the Jaredites and the Nephites. On the second Friday of November we visited, ate, and gathered by the piano for an old-fashioned song service, singing hymns we love and even trying some new ones.

Come and join us in Ava when you can. Help us to express our adoration and appreciation to God on Sunday mornings and our love and friendship to each other with food, gentle teasing, and laughter on the First Friday evenings.

## **COLLINS LOCAL NEWS**

Babies, babies, babies! We have three beautiful new babies to show to the world. The first to make his grand entrance was Justen Lee Cook, son of Donna Cook. He was born September 27th, weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Next on the scene was Justen's cousin, Aaron Dale Herd, son of Shawna and Dale Herd. Young Aaron weighed in at 7 pounds, ¼ ounce on October 27th, and was 20 inches long. Last, but hardly least, arrived another cousin, only of the feminine gender, Miss Jody Sue Cook, daughter of Debbie and Terry Cook. Jody weighed a full 8 pounds, (part of which must have been her pretty black hair) and also 20 inches long and arrived early in the morning of November 2nd. All three of these little darlings are well and perfect and have been loaned to us by our Heavenly Father for which we thank and praise Him daily.

On October 17th, our sister Donna Cook brought her precious bundle and asked that he might be blessed at the hands of the Elders. Brother Allen Kauffman, assisted by Brother Jack Martin, held little Justen up before the Lord and through a choked voice, asked God to please bless and give angels charge over this little one's life.

So all our babies are delivered. Now comes the day to day living, loving, and teaching routine. Oh, that our young parents will stand before our Lord and ask His guidance in the rearing of these precious

children. Remember to pray for our young parents and the little ones they have charge of.

The Collins Rally was held Sunday, October 17th. We enjoyed a short prayer service, four short sermons, a lovely dinner together, and a sermon in the afternoon. We had a good number of people in attendance and a nice helping of the Holy Spirit. Thank you all for coming and sharing yourselves with us.

Guest speakers at the Rally were Brother Leroy Wheaton of Independence, Brother Arthur Smith of Ava, Brother Virgil Addie of Houston, and Brother Gerry Case of Independence. Brother Jack Martin was also one of the Rally speakers, but he wasn't a guest, as such.

Here are some lines from notes I've taken during sermons, before and during the Rally:

It's sad that God preserved His word and man doesn't use it.

The greatest joy a parent can have is to raise a child up to serve God.

An evil people will have an evil government. It's our responsibility to try to put these things in order.

Teach your child at an early age the stories of Christ.

We owe God everything that we have—from our breath, on.

Believe what God says—not man. Don't trust your faith to a psychic or self-ordained, well-meaning preacher, or man. There must be a sorting. Pray for discernment, for divine guidance, and for one another.

We are man—God is God.

"Happily ever after" starts with repentance.

Some trials you'll face will be "bigger" than you, but they're not "bigger" than God.

When we talk to one another, think of the word "entreat."

Don't learn your priorities by the world.

What is your purpose? Is it just to go to church on Sunday? That's the smallest part. It's when you're out in the world and faced with a situation and you take it to God and spread the gospel in the way you handle or react to that situation.

On October 31st, Clete and Nancy Wiley again hosted the Second Annual Harvest Celebration, held at Harold and Dora Adams' farm. There were games, singing around a big campfire, a weiner roast and chili supper, a hayride, and very good company. The purpose was to replace Halloween; to keep our children from participating in costumes of ghosts, goblins, witches, and the like. I know how cute some of the little "trick or treaters" are, but I also know how scary looking some of the others are, too. Allen and I were at our little three-year-old cousin's birthday party on Halloween night. That poor little girl was so afraid that when the doorbell would ring and

the "trick or treaters" would come, she would run and hide behind her grandmother or over by her mom. Now, do you really think that was right?

I've enjoyed writing to you. I feel like we're such good friends and that you understand my attempts to share "happenings" with you. I have felt a warm Spirit as I endeavored to tell you of the births of these three beautiful babies, one of which is Allen's and my first grandchild. But, also, as I read over my notes and picked out parts of sermons to send to you to consider, that same sweet Spirit brought again to my mind the sermons as they were that day. Here is one last thought from one of the Rally sermons that is catchy enough that it requires reading over more than once to get all of its meaning. "I'm not who I think I am; I'm not who you think I am; I am who I think you think I am."

If we obey with honesty the commandments of God, surely we'll be what God thinks we should be. God bless you.

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

## OKLAHOMA NEWS

This year, 1988, has been a good year for our local. We have had four baptisms. My last report told about the Kimballs being baptized in Phoenix. This report is happy to tell of Greg Elwell's baptism. This increases our membership to eight.

As I drove to the Elwell home on September 11, the haze of smoke from the Yellowstone Park fires was everywhere. I thought about this for I think of this beautiful park being so far away. Is it? It isn't with the help of the prevailing winds. I think of Independence being so far away. It isn't with the help of the automobile. Brother and Sister Grzincic didn't let the many miles hinder them for they were here to meet and share with us.

We began our service with a Sunday School lesson taught by Brother Tony. Our Sacrament service followed. Last, Brother Tony spoke one of his inspiring sermons. He reminded us to be honest and sincere in heart. Appreciate the small and simple blessings of life. Jerry Elwell saw Brother Tony at Missouri Reunion and Jerry put his arms around him. This touched Tony's heart. Gary, Gloria, and Carmen Bentson from Blossom, Texas joined us this day. We were so glad they did and hope they come again someday.

On October 9, visitors from Missouri made this beautiful fall sabbath a special day. This was the day that Greg Elwell's Grandpa Martin baptized him in

Lake Arcadia. The Frank Fanns, Mike Smiths, Isaac Brockmans, Steven McGhees, and Jack Martins joined us on this happy day. Preceding the baptism service was the church service in the Elwell home.

November 13 brought Brother Roland and June Sarratt to be with us. They brought Sister Edna Smith with them. We truly hope she comes again. The Kimball home was the setting of this worship service. When I walked into the Kimball home, there before me, stretched across the wall, was Brother Flint's old chart showing the descendants of Abraham. What a surprise! As Brother Roland taught our Sunday School lesson, he used this famous old chart. Our Sacrament service was a touching one. Greg prayed for his mother. "Help my mom," he prayed, "because when she comes home at night she talks about the problems she has with the kids in her classes." In Edna's testimony she asked an interest in our prayers that she would remain faithful until the end of her days. She was very thankful for her church family and remembered how they had helped her through a very trying time this past summer. Other testimonies, songs, and prayers followed. Last was Brother Roland's inspiring sermon. The one statement that I remember most of all was, "A hard heart or a stubborn spirit cannot be penetrated by God's Spirit." I thought about Brother Roland's statement. I even looked stubborn up in my dictionary. Stubborn means "unreasonably or perversely unyielding."

With a new year approaching, may we all have many blessings in 1989. We, in Oklahoma say, "Happy New Year and come and worship with us!"

Alzada Massey, reporter

## WARRENSBURG NEWS

May each and everyone have received a spiritual blessing this past Holiday Season. The birth of Christ is truly the most wonderful blessing we could ever have received!

Our Sunday School class has been studying the Outline History of The Church of Christ. It truly is a marvelous testimony of how Christ works in our lives if we allow him to do so.

I would like to introduce my husband Joseph and myself since many of you will not recognize our name. We were baptized into the Church of Christ on May 15, 1988. Elder Andy Brantner baptized us in Brantner Lake and on shore Elder Charles Brantner confirmed me and Elder Isaac Brockman, Sr. confirmed Joe. Then we went to Church for our preaching service and afterwards we enjoyed potluck and some great fellowship with our new



brothers and sisters. It was a wonderfully full day!

On October 4, 1988 we held our annual election. Voted to the offices were: Pastor, Charles Brantner; Assistant Pastor, Andy Brantner; Secretary, Carol Brantner; Treasurer, Jeanece Stephens; Reporter, Bonnie Grandchamp; Sunday School Superintendent, Sarah Brantner; Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Joseph Grandchamp; Primary Sunday School Teacher, Andy Brantner; Adult Sunday School Teacher, Charles Brantner; and Pianist, Jeanece Stephens. May this work we do be pleasing unto the Lord!

On November 9, 1988 Isaac and Ruth Brockman, Sr. and Charles and Jeanne Brantner went to Joe and Bonnie Grandchamp and children's home for dinner in Cole Camp, Missouri. We had a good time together. Joe and I always enjoy being with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It makes the week shorter when we can fellowship with one another.

Our congregation has had such wonderful sermons preached, we are truly blessed by our ministry. The truth is sometimes hard to swallow, but the reality of the promise we have is so great that there isn't any sacrifice too large or too small.

I thank my Lord each day for all that I have received and for each and everyone of you. For the strength you give to me and the spirit you carry.

May the New Year be a blessed one for all! May we grow in spirit and unity together. Until we meet again.

In God's Love,  
Bonnie Grandchamp, Reporter

## MINNEAPOLIS NEWS

During the October 2 Sacrament Meeting Pastor Thomas Maley's remarks were in part, "We shall partake of the emblems of our Lord Jesus Christ at this hour. He has promised that if we in this manner remember Him, in the moment we face God He will remember us. We will remember that body he wore. He wore it and still wears it. It is alive! I remember in my heart He is Alive and He is interested in our success in meeting His Father in the judgment. We shall have this bread: "It was broken because His will was broken. That which was human in Him was caused to entirely do the will of His Father." And of the wine: "In this emblem we realize more than in any of the rest of the ceremony perhaps the fact that Jesus Christ died to establish the resurrection of all mankind. When His blood was shed that was the final thing. He went to the other side where He would have power to rise again. This did two things

that were wonderful: the grave will not hold us; and when we partake of these emblems it is always our belief and assurance that we shall face the day of judgment. Perhaps this is the reason we are here, because of the certainty of that Day and the belief that we should be able to face it successfully."

Pastor Thomas Maley was our speaker on October 9. He spoke of the matter of his repeating what seems to be old material; but which helps us remember who we are as a church and a people, distinct from other churches and other people as found in the Book of Mormon, pages 84 and 85. He made the point of the Book of Mormon having come to us as a result of an angel working with human beings of average intelligence to restore the understanding of things which were before. The great diversity of religions requires us to distinguish ourselves from them. One of our distinctions was our understanding of the principle of baptism. Baptism being for personal repentance, not for original sin, and therefore not for babies. The "Fall" was a constructive thing, making it possible for man to become righteous as a consequence of being placed in a world of choices and being able to act for himself. Adam was not righteous until that time when Adam made his choice of right over wrong. Adam was never righteous before the fall. If we are going to be in God's image we have to be righteous.

Elder Merlin Eddy was our speaker on October 16. He said that we have a need of attending church to hear the Word of God; but it does not guarantee salvation. It is how we live that guarantees salvation after we have heard the Word. Scriptures were Matthew 7:20-21, Luke 8:46-49, and Luke 8:5-15 in which the 'Parable of the Sower' tells varying degrees of results. (We were away that Sunday and were furnished our information by Brother Merlin.)

On October 23, Priest John Gill asked Nana to draw on the board a woman being burned at the stake. Brother John brought readings from 2 Nephi 12:8, Mormon 3:17-23, Moroni 4:2-6, Alma 16:229, Alma 19:104, and Mormon 4:34-41. John's sermon emphasized that it is still the very basics of the Gospel that men disagree over and for which many gave their lives. The very basis of our country here stands on the sacrifice of these people and those they influenced. They were punished as heretics for pointing out the errors in the theology of the churches of their day. In similar fashion believers, as shown in the Book of Mormon, also sacrificed and suffered much to preserve the record handed down to us; the prophet Abinadi being burned at the stake as the case in point. Brother John observed that the issues for which the martyrs died in the 1500's are still issues today and that we are obligated to value and uphold the truths for which these martyrs paid their lives. (As Brother John was speaking, our first



(early!) snow flurries began a wild dance outside our windows.)

The Forest Maleys visited their children in Waterloo, Iowa and in Missouri attending the Temple Lot Church on October 16 and hearing Apostle Roland Sarratt in the a.m. and Elder Robert Oldham in the evening, where the doors were open and ceiling fans going. We were blessed with perfect weather, a gracious welcome, warm fellowship and the enhancing quality of Fall color. Having our singing at evening service directed by Elder Nicholas Denham was pleasantly like "old times". We were warmed singing around the campfire in the chill night at Brother Don Case's following the (annual) apple cider pressing, wiener roast and dinner the evening before, where Martha Bruner, Manon Lawrence, Neva Housknecht and others kept the singing lively. 140 guests were present there. Christmas songs hallowed part of the time together reminding us that choir practice for Christmas should begin the next morning.

Do you have trouble finding useful or meaningful gifts for your dear ones? We all do, and it never becomes easier. The Magi could look down the pathway that the Christ Child would trod and knew what gifts to carry with them on their long journey to worship Him. It is with those meaningful gifts in mind that I repeat a message of someone else:

"It is Christmas: Give yourself to God and you will find that the gift is really yours. You cannot give your husband, wife, child, brother, sister, or friend any more perfect gift than yourself, dedicated to God, for then they know that they have a loving, caring husband, wife, child, brother, sister or friend. One who has found the way of the cross becomes a Victory Flag, a bright banner for God all year long, year after year, because the way is marked. The price is paid.

The steps of the Christmas Baby, the blood of the Son of God will bring you home to the love of the Father only when you have faith enough to diligently follow His example.

God bless you, and may we find each other on the path of life, holding firm in our hearts the teachings of Christ. Merry Christmas."

The above words are from a Guest Editorial in the Christmas 1987 *Zion's Advocate* by Elder Edward J. Toulouse. If, in the celebration of the Miraculous Birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, fatigue, worry or King Herod threaten your flame of JOY, remember that your heart carries a special intangible gift. Walk tall as God's Victory Flag. The Bright Banner will serve as an attracting sign.

Irene Maley, reporting

#### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your "Advocate" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to address listed on the inside cover page.

Each undeliverable "Advocate" is now costing the church 30¢. We would rather spend this on delivering your paper than on its return to us.

<b>ZION'S ADVOCATE</b> (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, MO 64051-0472	Second Class Postage Paid Independence, MO 64051
Aaron Heath y 157 E. Beech Fruitport, MI 49415	

#### AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee.

##### 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 or Phoenix areas.

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. To order a slide program, write to Gary Housknecht, 5631 E. Hwy 40, Lot 17, Kansas City, MO 64128

"**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.

"**The Return**" (12 minutes) — Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the dedicated Temple Lot.

##### Holy Scriptures on Audio Cassette Tapes

Complete sets narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64139.

##### Sermons on Audio and Video Cassette Tapes

For "regular" audio cassette tapes write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., K.C., MO 64136.

For video tapes, write only to Ron Temple as listed above.