

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 • March 1989

No. 3

CHRIST THE KING

We celebrate our King
to the echo of Angel visitations.
Angels announced His birth
to shepherds on Bethlehem's hills.
Angels ministered to Him in the wake
of His temptation in the wilderness.
Angels succored Him in His
agony of Gethsemane.
Angels rolled the rock from His tomb
and proclaimed His resurrection.
He came, He suffered, He died
for love of us;
That we might live
for love of Him.
To Him we bow our heads
And bend our knees;
To Him belongs our heart's adoration,
our allegiance and our fealty.
Whether living or dying
we seek that His - will be done,
To His praise, His honor
and His glory.
And with our whole life's
desire and energy, we
Crown Him the Sovereign of our souls!

—Amy Schrader

IN THIS ISSUE

Let Us Shake Off The Coalsp. 35
The Fall of Babylon - Part 5p. 36
Testimony of the American
Indian - Part 3p. 39

Path Lightsp. 40
Christian Jobsp. 42
Mark Your Timep. 44
Conference to Convenep. 45

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, Colo-
 rado 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.

GUEST EDITORIAL . . .

LET US SHAKE OFF THE COALS

One hundred fifty years ago this summer several elders of the Church of Christ came to Independence, Missouri with great hope of beginning the realization of a wonderful dream, that of laying the foundation of Zion, with the hope also that it would soon develop into reality.

After arriving in Independence in July of 1831, a revelation was received by the Elders telling them that "the spot for the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse," (D.C. Sec. 57:1) and that the land even to the state line should be purchased by the saints for the gathering and for an everlasting inheritance.

In response to this revelation a sizeable group of believers moved into the small town and within two years and three months increased its population considerably. For reasons known to God, during this short time, the saints made themselves so obnoxious to the other settlers that the Lord permitted the saints to be driven out of the county and finally out of the state by their neighbors.

Just over thirty-three years later, in 1867, the Lord opened the way that we might return and purchase the consecrated spot for the Temple of the Lord and to begin to obey the Lord in purchasing the land round about and preparing for the gathering. (See III Nephi 10:1-4) Shortly after this return, the prophet, whom the Lord used to direct his people to return, gave another prophecy instructing the church to "scatter out and let the wind blow between you, for the time of the gathering is not for many days." The people eagerly followed this instruction and scattered far and wide. The opportunity to gather and to purchase the land "lying westward, even unto the line running directly between Jew and Gentile" (Kansas state line) (See D.C. Sec. 57:1) was lost and remains lost unto this day.

Why are we, the Lord's people, so dull of hearing, and why do we so quickly forget the Lord's instructions and his warnings? The answer is simple! We are not truly and completely converted to the task at hand, that of serving God with full purpose of heart! Proof of this statement 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." And again in III Nephi 4:58-59 "Yea, O ye people of the house of Israel; ye

that dwell at Jerusalem, as ye that have fallen; yea, how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens and ye would not. O ye house of Israel, whom I have spared, how oft will I gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if ye will repent and return unto me with full purpose of heart. But if not, O house of Israel, the places of your dwellings shall become desolate, until the time of the fulfilling of the covenant to your fathers."

Three generations are about passed since the third day of August, 1831, when Joseph Smith and those with him met to consecrate the spot for the temple. The land westward is not purchased and the people are not gathered except in insignificant instances. What is going to be required to awaken us to the realization that we must harken to God with full attention and obey with full purpose of heart? Is it going to require the heavy chastening of the Lord to convince God's people that He means what He says? Have we learned the lesson of 1833? Revelation 18:4 records: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

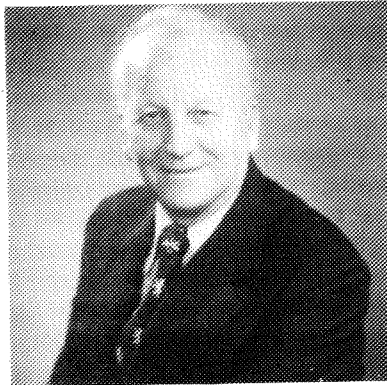
In this present day we are seeing severe plagues great as the world has ever known troubling not only our own nation, but the entire world. What need we more to awaken us to the realization that we have little time left to accomplish the Lord's will? "Let us shake off the coals from our garments and arise in the strength of our Lord; Let us break off the yoke of our bondage, and be free in the joy of the word," that the Lord may remember Zion and bring her comfort once more.

The Lord is waiting for us to feel the need within ourselves that we truly need him, and to seek him with full purpose of heart. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7) He didn't say "perhaps," he said "shall." This promise was made to the faithful; those who were truly obedient. Do we qualify? If not, why not? If so, where are the results of our asking and our seeking? Let us give God our best and our all!

—Elder Nicholas F. Denham

As we account for every idle word, so we must account for every idle silence.

THE FALL OF BABYLON



by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part Five of Seven

THE SEAL OF GOD

Before considering other aspects of the mark of the beast, perhaps it will appear more vividly if we first consider God's mark.

The apostle John was shown in Rev. 9, in allegorical language, the appearance of locusts coming in smoke from a bottomless pit (hell) which would have power on the earth to torment men for "five months"; their king is the "angel of the bottomless pit", whose name in Greek is Apollyon, meaning, a destroyer. This "angel" is the devil, the founder of the "great and abominable church" (1 Ne. 3:206). His scorpions are those whose sting would draw men into the pit we have discussed, and will produce death. These scorpions would be permitted to sting (torment) men for five months.

Just an aside: If we follow prophetic terminology in relation to time, as we feel justified here (Apostle McGregor entered into this extensively in his *Marvelous Work and a Wonder*), then five months would be, at 30 days per month, 150 days, or in reality, as days are given for years, this would be 150 years. We are not informed when to begin a calculation of this time period, but we assume it as being in process now, and to continue until the tribulation is past, or the fall of Babylon is completed.

Now, concerning the scorpions:

"...It was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Rev. 9:4.

We are not told here what the seal of God is, but we have a clue in the 9th chapter of Ezekiel, where the Lord prepared a destruction upon the people of Israel because—

"...the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The Lord hath forsaken the earth, and the Lord seeth not." v. 9.

Is this a type of latter day abomination? Surely so. However, the Lord said unto Ezekiel:

"...Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." v. 4.

And he said to the slayers:

"...But come not near any man upon whom is the mark." v. 6.

The seal of God (His mark) is the "sigh and cry" because of abominations, a hatred of evil and violence, and a love of God and our fellow man; the love of truth which shuns the traditions of men which cannot stand the test of the pure word of God and is vouchsafed by the Holy Spirit of truth. The seal of God is upon those who are "wise as serpents" (Matt. 10:16), who understand the will of God and do it (see Matt. 11:25; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 5:17); they are "wise as serpents, yet harmless as doves":

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Phil. 2:15.

His seal is upon those whose trust is not in "mammon", but in God (Matt. 6:24). Mammon is a figure of speech portraying the "world" as opposed to the kingdom of God; a trust in riches, a trust in the arm of flesh, either temporally or spiritually. Mammon is the EVIDENCE of Babylon's rule, the various means employed to subject the nations.

Other Facets of Babylon

If we remember that Babylon (Babel) is confusion, the enslavement of nations, subversion of the faith of Christ in the practice of idolatry, and persecution of the saints of God, we may see that Babylon represents all that opposes the kingdom of God, or Zion; and all that fight against Zion are the "whore of all the earth" (2 Ne. 7:23,24), and shall be destroyed.

Therefore, while a spiritual entity (a church) is in the forefront of this battle, and she has "daughters" (other churches) which are "harlots", which have prostituted the faith of Christ, and while these are most apparent as the embodiment of Babylon, in the persecution of the saints and the fight against Zion, yet there are also political, moral and economic means exerted in the course of human affairs toward the same ultimate objective: the bondage and destruction of the nations and the church of the Lamb of God.

Remember, too, that "Babylon the Great" is not only the "mother of harlots", but also the mother of "abominations of the earth" (Rev. 17:5). The term, abominations, as used in our scriptural texts relative to this subject, is general in scope, and we feel justified in our conviction that it is not represented in a restricted sense; it would include all that is abomination to the Lord. She (Babylon) is a mother of *all* abominations.

Consider the political aspects of Babylon. We have previously seen the combination of the papacy with secular forces, or kingdoms: the Holy Roman Empire. Can we be so naive as to believe that such combination has ceased with the demise of that empire, or because it has been dissolved into separate nations? Papal Rome has ever exerted her considerable spiritual/political power amongst the nations, and in many, today, Catholicism is the dominant religion. The Vatican is a body politic, maintaining diplomatic embassies world-wide with the overall view of increasing her prestige and sway. Her adherents may be found in every political office in this country and every phase of life, and it cannot be considered unjust to believe that the final persuasion of such in their particular interest is in the direction of Rome. If this is true in the U.S., it must be abundantly so in those nations dominated by that faith.

What about Communist regimes? While it is true that some of these nations are atheistic (or claim to be), and others may be of oriental religion; and while it is true that these nations are antagonistic to the Catholic faith, yet there are many Catholics among them, and their influence may be more than is realized.

But consider the basic philosophy of all Communists: Take from the rich and give to the masses; little or no private property, for all belongs to the

state. This has a "ring" of all things common, as was had among the saints in Jerusalem, and also among the Nephites. But it is a hollow ring, a perversion of the spirit of true brotherhood which inevitably develops among the true believers of Christ. Communism is all things IN common, or supposedly so, in which there is no private property, while the scriptural "all things common" was that in which each possessed his own, but considered it to be the Lord's, and he *willingly* shared it with the needy. Did not communism, then, originate in the pure principle, but coming through the great, abominable church, degenerated into a system of slavery?

In addition, concerning Communism: we will not elaborate here, but there is much scriptural evidence to support the view that Russia and her satellite nations are identified as coming against the "mountains of Israel" (see Ezek. 38:1-16 and Zech. 14:1,2), and as being an "abomination of desolation" in the last days (Matt. 24:15), even as there was a prototype of the Roman armies in 70 A.D. against Jerusalem.

Remember: Babylon the Great is the mother of abominations! This seems to infer that she is the mother of ALL abominations; that in some way she has been the "brood-hen", or has fostered the principal systems of corruption in the world today.

What of moral impropriety, of sexual sin, robbery, of lying, even murder; what of the innumerable ways in which man may sin against God or his fellow man? A religion which permits one to "confess" to a priest, do the same again and "confess" again without true repentance, and he be absolved from the sin is an abomination. A religion which forbids a divorce, but permits the living in adultery cannot be the religion of Christ - it is abomination!

The use of liquor and of drugs for other than medical reason wastes the nations in truly alarming measure, and much of this is promoted by those who belong to that "great abominable church", and is perhaps justified by their "confession". Racketeering, often under the guise of legitimate business venture, threatens the lives of many, and undermines the national economy, while it fills the coffers of the mobs; and labor unions have become the tools of such.

The Mafia, and other kindred societies of villainy, are practically out of hand or of real control by law enforcement agencies, and truly reflect the Babylonish state of modern society. These are among the secret combinations of which we are warned should be among the Gentiles in the latter days; and shall we of the Church of Christ be numbered with any such society, even though it has the appearance of innocence or evidence of doing good works?! There may be things underneath which belie the facade. Concerning such, the prophet Moroni warns *us* TODAY:

"And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain,

until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed, for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them, and yet he avenge them not; Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you; Yea, even the sword of the justice of the eternal God, shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction, if ye shall suffer these things to be: *Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up. For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries:* And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents; Yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men, that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning." Ether 3:95-101; emphasis mine, w.a.s.

Perhaps the greatest, MOST SECRET combination, the more dangerous because it assumes legitimacy, is a worldwide financial system which encroaches upon every aspect of our economic experience; this system is the exaction of interest upon the use of money and commodities. Its center is in the bank, the stock brokerage firm, and other institutions for the loan of money.

The thrust of this section of our treatise is not so much against the above-named institutions, per se, as it is the system which fosters them, i.e., interest on money with its exorbitant use in confiscation of properties. No doubt there are many of those engaged as officers in these institutions who operate within established laws, and may be totally unaware of a super-imposing body which uses their organization to an ultimate devious end. Because the law permits, such legitimate businessmen may exact unconscionable rates of interest without a sense of immoral conduct toward his fellow man.

There is evidence of an international monetary combine which aims at the complete domination of

the economies of all nations, intending to facilitate this end by the establishment of a single monetary system, and eventually, one world government! Its architects are nearly invisible, but they have succeeded in placing their human instruments of accomplishment at the heads of film industries, publishing firms, news media, radio and TV stations, trade unions, giant industrial corporations, etc., and in key governmental offices - in every conceivable business as well as banks. International bankers have a throttle-hold upon the world economy, raising and depressing money supplies through the system at will; initiating wars in economics, politics and among nations in physical combat. Its policies institute corruption and vice at every level of human endeavor - all to the end of subjecting the whole of mankind to an economic slavery and ruin through the gratification of its insatiable desires for power and wealth. The evidences of this insidious combine are apparent to discerning students of history, much of which is documented in quotation of its unabashed proponents, living and dead. This combination, in its various forms, has existed for many generations. Is it possible that the "mother of abominations" may have embraced this abomination, too? It would seem so, no matter how it appears, or is seemingly unlikely, for its agents have claimed an infiltration of the Jesuits, which is the militant arm of the Roman Church for the propagation of the faith.

The instigators of this most secret combination became known as the "Illuminati", which is apparently extinct in our time, yet policies enunciated in their "Protocols of Zion" are being faithfully promoted by secret organizations under direction of an international banking clique.

The financial structures of our society, the economic systems of the world, are the means employed by Satan to eventually cause the crash of modern Babylon. Of course, greed is the main component of these systems, as it is said:

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred (or, been seduced/marginal reference) from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Tim. 6:10.

Money is a legitimate medium of exchange when used on an equitable basis: an agreement between a seller and a buyer on a fair price for goods or services. But as desire for more money increases (because of greed!) on the part of one who possesses it, and as there is a corresponding desire (through greed!) for *things* by those who do not have the immediate means to satisfy the desire, another element comes into play to temporarily assuage the thirst of both parties. This is the confiscatory, ruinous system of interest, called in scripture, usury. The comment on usury as found in *Cruden's Concordance of the Bible* is appropriate:

"Usury is generally understood in the Bible as any interest on a loan, whether in money or in wheat or other commodities. Modern usage has confined the meaning of the word to an unlawful interest. The law of God prohibits rigorous imposing of interest or exacting it, or a return on a loan without regard to the condition of the borrower; whether poverty occasioned his borrowing, or a visible prospect of gain by employing the borrowed goods. The Hebrews were plainly commanded in Ex. 22:25, etc. not to receive interest for money from any that borrowed for necessity, as is the case in Neh. 5:5,7."

It may be tolerated by God in worldly business transaction to use a moderate percent of interest, but we sincerely question the practice among the saints. The quest for a modest return on the use of money almost invariably becomes an unquenchable thirst, which ultimately causes despair to those who have not controlled their desires; and this, for both the lender and the borrower.

It may be virtually impossible to obtain a home or means of transportation (a car) except through this system of interest; but must we have a palace or a Rolls-Royce car? Two or three cars? A boat? Everything the heart desires, or all that Mom and Dad

took thirty years to acquire; to have it *right now*? Well, this is human; this is carnal; this is the world; this, too, is Babylon. But one day, perhaps another year or more - sooner than we think, when least expected - *the system will fail, and Babylon with all her many-faceted forms will fall.*

Are we not well advised to begin cautiously to extricate ourselves from economic tentacles which would drag us into the "pit" as previously touched upon? Let us tighten our belts and cover our eyes from the attractions which lure us to satisfy our cravings, and which entice us deeper into the credit system; and let us draw nearer to the fountain of our best desires, who will supply our needs, and in the process will give us of His *unimaginable* goodness, power and glory!

"... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor. 2:9.

The alternative is to suffer with Babylon the fruits of rebellion, of the worship of idols (and this includes the love of money and the things of this life), and of self-exaltation: all of this will be brought to naught in a re-sounding crash of worldwide dimension!

(Continued next month: "Babylon's Demise")

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Three

The Testimony of Sarmiento de Gamboa (A Spanish Chronicler 1572)

"...all agree that Viracocha was the creator of these people. They have the tradition that he was a man of medium height, white and dressed in a white robe like an alb secured around the waist, and that he carried a staff and a book in his hands.

"Viracocha ordered these people that they should live without quarreling, and that they should know and serve him. He gave them a certain precept which they were to observe on pain of being confounded if they should break it..." (*History of the Incas* (1907), p. 28, cited in Milton R. Hunter, *Christ in Ancient America*, pp. 201-202).

The Testimony of W. B. Stevenson

"North of Peru, the Muysca Indians of the plain of Cundinamarca in Columbia had a legend of one called Bochica, a white man with a beard, who appeared suddenly amongst them, while savages, and taught them how to build and sow, and formed them

into communities, settling their government" (*A History and Descriptive Narrative of Twenty Years' Residence in South America* (London, 1825), vol. 1 p. 398, cited in Milton R. Hunter, *Christ in Ancient America*, p. 202).

The Testimony of Lucas Fernandez Piedrahita (An author who wrote in 1618)

The knowledge of these various arts they attributed to the instructions of a wise stranger who dwelt among them many cycles before the arrival of the Spaniards. He came from the East, from the llanos of Venezuela or beyond them, and it was said that the path he made was broad and long... His hair was abundant, his beard fell to his waist, and he dressed in long and flowing robes. He went among the nations of the plateaux, addressing each in its own dialect, taught them to live in villages and to observe just laws. Near the village of Coto was a high hill held in special veneration, for from its prominent

summit he was wont to address the people who gathered around its base. Therefore it was esteemed a sanctuary, holy to the living and the dead. Princely families from a distance carried their dead there to be interred, because this teacher had said that man does not perish when he dies, but shall rise again. . . For many years, some said for two thousand years, did he rule the people with equity, and then he departed, going back to the East whence he came, said some authorities, BUT OTHERS AVERRED THAT HE ROSE UP TO HEAVEN. (*Historia General de las Conquistas del Nuevo Reyno de Granada*, Lib. I, cap. III (Amberes, 1688), cited in Daniel G. Brinton, *American Hero-Myths*, pp. 220-221).

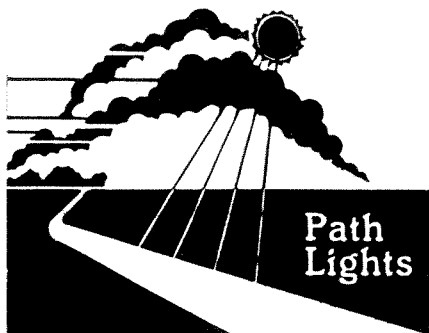
The Testimony of Montezuma (The last Aztec King)

"His ancestors, he said, were not the original proprietors of the land. They had occupied it but a few ages, and had been led there by a great Being, who, after giving them laws and ruling over the nation for a time, had withdrawn to the regions where the sun

rises. He had declared, on his departure, that he or his descendants would again visit them and resume his empire. The wonderful deeds of the Spaniards, their fair complexions, and the quarter whence they came, all showed they were his descendants" (*The Conquest of Mexico* by William Hickling Prescott, pp. 305-306).

The Testimony of Ixtlilxochitl (Aztec Indian Prince)

"And when the second group of colonizers, (the Toltecs) were in the height of their power, there arrived in this land a man whom they called Quetzalcoatl and others Huemac on account of his great virtues, considering him as just, saintly, and good; teaching them by deeds and words the path of virtue and forbidding them their vices and sins, giving laws and good doctrine. And in order to refrain them from their pleasures and dishonesties, he instituted fasting for them and the first who worshipped and placed the cross which they called Quiahuiteotl-chicahualizteotl and others Tonacaquahuitl, which means: God of rains and of health and tree of sustenance or of life" (*Works of Ixtlilxochitl*, cited in Milton R. Hunter, *Christ in Ancient America*, p. 23).



A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Early in the morning hours of December 4, 1988, I awoke feeling a great concern for the welfare of myself, my family and the church. Certain thoughts were strongly impressed upon me, first in the seeming nearness to the time of great tribulation that is to come upon the earth, and secondly the deliverance that the Lord has for His people.

Specific thoughts were given to me that caused me to feel a great need to repent of my sins and my unwillingness to do the work I am called to do. I sensed that there are powers in the world that are vying for control and that the time of the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16-18) is close at hand. I was stricken with the realization of the unpreparedness and unworthiness of this people at this time.

I was made aware that the work that the church was commanded to do from the time of the restoration of the gospel to the present was not accomplished, the establishing of the cause of Zion. Because this was not accomplished we, the people of the church, have no place of refuge when the great tribulation begins to come upon us. Therefore we will have to suffer trials and persecution unlike anything this generation has ever known.

A great feeling of hope and assurance was then impressed upon me so much that I was overcome emotionally. It was made known to me that the Lord would use the trials and persecutions as a means to prepare us for Zion. The scripture that says that He will wash away the filth of the daughters of Zion (Isa. 4:4) came to my mind. Also the scripture that says that His hand is stretched out still (Isa. 5:25) was brought to my mind with the assurance that He has not yet cast off this people but will prepare us for the great work that is yet to be done by us if we will respond to His counsel.

It was impressed on my mind that we each need to learn the prophecies concerning our time, not so much to try to understand them fully as to the sequence of events or exactly how certain things will be, but more particularly to simply remember the wording so that they can be brought to our remembrance as they are fulfilled. They will be our main source of strength and comfort for we will find no help in the world about us. The word of God and His

The Testimony of P. DeRod (A Devout Catholic)

"This report is hardly more surprising than the extract made by Gaffarel from the *History of Paraguay* by Charlevoix, who narrates that when, in the year 1609, the Fathers Catadino and Moceta penetrated the wilderness of America to convert the Guaranis, the cacique, Maracana, and some other head-men of the tribe assured them that long ago, according to their ancestral traditions, a learned man named Pay Zuma or Pay Tuma had preached in their country the faith of Heaven and had converted many of them" (*History of America Before Columbus*, p. 222).

"Sahagun . . . makes the confident though hazardous assertion that we must abandon ourselves to the blindest pyrrhonism if we refuse to admit that a white, venerable man with long hair and beard, and walking with a staff, has preached a holy law and the fast of forty days all over America, and erected crosses worshipped by the Indians, to whom he announced that other men of his own religion would come from the East to instruct and rule them. 'Such is a fact,' he says, 'established by all the histories written by Spaniards as well as by the hieroglyphics

of Mexico and the quipos of Peru'" (*History of America Before Columbus*, pp. 223-224).

The Testimony of Daniel G. Brinton

The native tribes of this Continent had many myths, and among them there was one which was so prominent, and recurred with such strangely similar features in localities widely asunder, that it has for years attracted my attention, and I have been led to present it as it occurs among several nations far apart, both geographically and in point of culture. This myth is that of the national hero, their mythical civilizer and teacher of the tribe, who, at the same time, was often identified with the supreme deity and the creator of the world. It is the fundamental myth of a very large number of American tribes, and on its recognition and interpretation depends the correct understanding of most of their mythology and religious life. The outlines of this legend are to the effect that in some exceedingly remote time this divinity took an active part in creating the world and in fitting it to be the abode of man, and may himself

Holy Spirit will be what we will depend upon to survive the oppression of the world.

Then I felt the chastening hand of God upon me because I was made aware of the cries of this people as the trials begin to increase. They will turn to us who are called to be the spiritual leaders of the church. A great fear took hold of me because I immediately realized the inadequacies, first of myself, then also of my brethren, because of the weaknesses of men and our low spirituality. We could not hope to escape the snares that will come upon us without divine revelation from God. The fact that there has been a dearth of divine revelation in this church in recent years bore heavy upon my soul and made me realize our helplessness as we face the future.

Then I remembered the promise that the Lord's hand would be stretched out still and I was given to know that it was His will that His people individually turn to Him for their strength during their trials. If they turn to man and put their trust in the arm of flesh, there will indeed be foolish men who will attempt to give counsel who suppose they know the way of deliverance, but they will not be able to deliver even themselves. I felt keenly aware of the hurt and disappointment that will occur realizing that there is the great danger that some will turn in anger not only against those called to be spiritual leaders but against the Lord as well, because they have not prepared themselves beforehand.

The thought came to me that we will not be told

what we individually must endure and what the conditions will be. The Lord will purge this people of the world's influences and will sanctify them in holiness to be a part of Zion if they respond favorably to His chastening. We will have to exercise great faith and look forward in hope even as we are told by Christ that when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh.

The Spirit of the Lord was upon me the entire morning from the time that I awoke. I could hardly reflect upon the things that had been impressed upon my mind without becoming shaken by the Spirit. Although I continually felt a great concern and anxiety about the things that we are going to face, I was given assurance and joy in the thought of God's deliverance.

At the sacrament service that morning I felt to relate what I could of what I had experienced, but I cannot now recall exactly what I said. For that reason I have simply written what came to me in the early morning hours as best that my human mind can recall. I pray this will be a benefit to you and not be a cause of stumbling.

—Apostle Roland L. Sarratt

Path Lights needs your testimony. Send to:
Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, MO 64052

have formed or called forth the race. At any rate, his interest in its advancement was such that he personally appeared among the ancestors of the nation, and taught them the useful arts, gave them the maize or other food plants, initiated them into the mysteries of their religious rites, framed the laws which governed their social relations, and having thus started them on the road to self development, he left them, not suffering death, but disappearing in some way from their view. Hence it was nigh universally expected that at some time he would return (*American Hero-Myths*, p. 27).

"The place of his birth is nearly always located in the East; from that quarter he first came when he appeared as a man among men; toward that point he returned when he disappeared; and there he still lives, awaiting the appointed time for his reappearance.

"Whenever the personal appearance of this herogod is described, it is, strangely enough, represented to be that of one of the white race, a man of fair complexion, with long, flowing beard, with abundant hair, and clothed in ample and loose robes" (*American Hero-Myths*, pp. 27-29).

(Continued next month: When did the Fair God appear in America?)

CHRISTIAN JOBS

or

Good Help Is Always Hard To Find

Why should a young person setting out in life need to be concerned with the "religious" angle in choosing the means by which to earn their daily bread? I thought no one would ever ask.

Soon a number of our young will be leaving the cocoon of school and home and plunge into the icy/hot water of the adult world. Some will have made preparation through training courses to qualify for specific kinds of jobs. Most will not have done so. What has that to do with CHRISTIAN life?

Many of the young clutch frantically at the first job which can be landed; in a desperate effort to get some kind of money coming in and open up the treasure box of things that can be bought with it. This ambition is noble, but with all the pressure to get ahead the temptation is to let the principle of gravity determine a person's life work. When work is scarce it so often happens that way.

There is no scripture which tells us that to be humble requires us to vie for the life of a dishwasher, ditch digger or a gas pump jockey. True, there are many who began their working lives in such humble jobs, but they felt that they owed it to no one to be stuck there for life. They went on to better things. Perhaps the dishwasher finally owned the restaurant or the gas pump jockey moved up to manager and finally owned the gas station himself. Don't forget the ditch digger who may have become a contractor. There are many paths to pursue. Look for them.

Inclinations generally are to gravitate to work which comes easily or seems already familiar. Many a boy who likes to tinker with bicycles or automobiles turns out to be an auto mechanic. Many a girl who likes to do things with her hair and makeup becomes a beautician. Many a kid who just likes to ride around turns into a truck driver or a taxi driver. A kid who

mowed lawns may find himself in the landscaping business almost without noticing the change. However, the general tendency too often is to sort of slide sideways into work which demands little brains and less muscle. You can just hear, "That's all the better I can do, so don't bother me." Sometimes that is the way it has to be with handicapped people or with those who live in very small towns. Much of the time the word for it is "default"; a form of defeat almost before the game of earning a living begins.

There is no rule of servitude or serfdom which binds people to spend all of life in one job or in one community. This goes double for a follower of Christ.

Pick and choose—carefully and prayerfully. God knows what is best and may well bring you a whole series of jobs, each better than the last. The parable of Christ about the stewards (managers) who were entrusted with their master's cash was told to the crowd to stress the point of taking on risk and responsibility with an investment to make a profit. The word "talent" as used in the scriptures was a unit of measure of the cash involved rather than our present day use of the term to express skills. The "loser" in the story wanted no risk nor effort. You can just hear him bleat, "But that's the best thing I can think of to do with all that responsibility." As a consequence of his choice he caught lumps. On the other hand those who used their brains and energies (after they had shown some results) were rewarded handsomely. The work day world is a lot like that. It is never just luck.

How many times people are inclined to similarly "fumble the ball" (to use a football term) when choosing their daily jobs? Perhaps they pick up the

ball only long enough to punt it away, looking for others to solve their problems.

Christ told us that we will always have the poor among us but He did not say that we all had to be destitute. If all were poor, where are the poor to look for help? If somebody doesn't get out and "make it", there will be nothing to share and no help to give except sympathy. Try putting sympathy on a slab of dry bread and see how well it goes down. It still remains dry bread.

Time was that most parents wanted to see their children placed in nice soft steady jobs just like seen on television: doctors, lawyers, salesmen, paid ministers, nurses, secretaries, public office holders; and live in nice homes with a nice car in the driveway in a nice quiet neighborhood. The youngsters seemed to be more taken with jobs from another segment of the television scene: airplane pilots, astronauts, race car drivers, entertainers, star athletes, playboys, beauty contest winners; you name it. And with charge cards; in short, the life of two or three Riley's. Not many fulfilled either their parent's hopes or their own ambitions. Check it out at any graduating class reunion.

By having a good job, the young Christian tends to more a part of the solution and less a part of the problem. Being comfortably supplied improves a person's disposition and provides many opportunities to praise God in the matter.

Well and good, but there's more.

It is a job jungle out there and full of traps. One trap to shun is letting a little teenage kid decide what you're going to be working at the rest of your life. It is nice to dream but a lot better to look at the real world. What you normally encounter when young and see on TV is not the whole ball of wax—so to speak. The natural abilities given to each of us may indicate a far different course to pursue. Sometimes a deliberate shift is wise, especially if an opportunity snaps open or another opportunity slams shut. Having more than one job option is a fine thing. Having more than one saleable skill is no mistake. Moving from one job to a better one is no shame; in fact it is admired in the current job market since it displays ambition, a prominent characteristic of the better employee. Think of it as stewardship over the investment God had made in you and the investment you have made in yourself through education from which you expect to turn a "profit."

Even though you may be pleased with the job you have, it is not a bad idea to get some further education. In today's tight times a technical school can be a doorway to many other job opportunities, to ready and steady good paying jobs. Training certificates go over big with employers—because IN GOOD TIMES OR BAD TIMES GOOD HELP IS ALWAYS HARD TO FIND. The demonstrated ability to learn is respected and needed. The ability to adapt and im-

prove is almost demanded by the way technology is moving today, unless you really want to get stuck in a going-nowhere line of work. You may have heard the tired old slogan, "Jack of all trades is master of none." You will find Jack eating more regularly than some who seek to excuse themselves by reciting that old thoughtless saying.

Time was when job skills were gained by apprenticing to a master craftsman. The present day schools like to steer students into training courses which they are already set up to teach, irrespective of how the job market has moved, courses which no longer guarantee a good job. For example, consider teacher training, interior decorating, art, social science, liberal arts, music and physical education. There are more. Computer science is the glamor number right now. With few exceptions the technical schools have the edge. It pays to remember that good help is always hard to find. Determine beforehand to be among the best.

Strangely, you will find that it is almost always easier to find a job while you already have a job. Having a job is living proof that you *can* work and are worth something to some other employer. Not to be working while looking for work arouses suspicions. Remember the old rule of thumb about not quitting the current job until the next job is beyond the maybe stage and has a definite starting date and wage. Food appears on the table more reliably that way. It is a crazy reverse logic somehow, but it seems more exciting to an employer to pirate good help away from another employer than to hire equally qualified workers who are available at the moment.

Public libraries and book stores are loaded with books about how to look for work and about how to write a resume. Some of the books will lead you nowhere and if you are freshly out of school the books might even confuse you. The whole job world is a bewildering jungle. Those who have trained in school for a much needed skilled job may go to work almost at once. At this writing because of fewer children moving through the school population a labor shortage of sorts is building. Most employers do not like to invest time and money training "green" help. For that reason it is not too smart in the long run to try to slip through school on easy courses just to get a diploma. A high grade average is a good job recommendation anywhere and well worth the strain and pain; especially in courses which are oriented to science, business or industry.

Who really wants to be a dishwasher, ditch digger or gas pump jockey for their entire life? Once it was common to think of beginning at the bottom rung on the job ladder and gradually work up to the top. It rarely works that way. You can get pigeon-holed for years and years. It is more common and respected now to be eyeing the next job while striving for excellence in the job at hand. This is a very

good reason to continue education, even by mail. Broaden your options. After all, young David picked up *five* stones from the bed of the stream as he crossed nearly bare-handed to meet Goliath. As things went, he needed only one stone since he was a world class slinger. However, he had enough wisdom to know that he needed something in reserve. What have you got in reserve, job-wise, that is?

Now we come to a little known or understood job principle. When a career opening comes on a job ladder above you, almost invariably the employer will hire someone from the outside job market to fill the gap rather than to re-train everyone below the gap as they would expect to move up. Look for it and plan for it. Be the one who is brought in from outside to fill the opening. You can, you know.

Up to this point we have considered only working for someone else. Being a Christian and being humble does not require you to work only for someone else. There are lots of ways to run your own business. A great number of people are doing it—farming, for instance, and many more. In any case it is never a mistake to do your work as though you were working for Christ himself—known in athletic circles as giving it 110 percent. It also makes other employers want to hire you away for more money.

In this turbulent business world not every enterprise survives. Being in even a big business is no guarantee of a profit, nor of tenure of even faithful employees. Without sufficient profit, any business will fail and their staff will have to find work somewhere else. Portable skills can be mighty handy to have. Here is where varied experience credentials come to the front. It is also wise to have in reserve half a year's take-home pay. If caught by a surprise layoff the job search will be less desperate.

The young find it hard to build up a reserve when there are so many things which they wish to have and the temptation is to dive into "easy payment"

plans which are offered on every hand. Few such plans are for putting food on the table or paying the rent. Any ordinary highschool student can give you a whole list of such things. The young do not yet fear and respect debt and some hard experiences are lurking just waiting to pounce. Too many times the take-home pay does not equal the obligations. Why learn by disasters which can be easily spotted far in advance and avoided?

Now let us consider jobs which the Christian need not consider. They are the ones beyond the moral boundary line, "adult bookstore" for one and gambling establishments for another. There are many more, of course. Can anyone hold up the excuse, "Well, it's a way to make a living"? God has a file on where the good jobs are. Ask Him. You may find that He has something for you far better than you ever dreamed, perhaps little known and seldom advertised. Consider relocating. Many communities cannot provide suitable opportunities for their people. In our church is commonly encountered the thought that our people should bunch up as much as possible in one community. Experience has shown that God has had other ideas. Remember, righteousness and the favor of God are not a matter of geography, although there have been occasions when those who honored God have been moved about so that He might bless them. Sometimes this is a marvelous process, as families are moved about to be in just the right place at the right time. Having portable skills as well as portable furniture helps a lot. Having God's counsel and advice at one's elbow is even better.

Does God care about the kind of job a Christian has? I'm sure that He does. Will He help you with your job problems? I'm sure that He will, if you give Him a call in Christ's name. He is up all night anyway and has 24-hour service. He will never put you on hold.

—Elder Forest Maley

MARK YOUR TIME

This is part of a dream that I had several years ago. When I had this dream we were living in a trailer about a half-mile from the Phoenix local church building.

In this dream I was walking up 29th Place towards the church. I was in a hurry to get there as

there was a meeting in progress. I was also aware of the shortness of time, for all around me were scenes of destruction. The horizon was filled with smoke and fire and all around me were great craters in the ground.

These craters drew my attention as there were

people I knew and loved down in them. All these people seemed oblivious to all that was going on around them. They would wave at me, and one family who was having a barbeque asked me to join them. I declined, saying the time was short. I remember asking, to the effect, did they not see what was happening around them?

I was impressed with the shortness of time and the fact that what everyone was doing did not seem to be wrong. Family activities, the things of daily life. But everyone was so wrapped up in these simple things of life that they were completely unaware of what was going on.

I felt very strongly that we had to be careful and not let those activities of life, that in themselves

were not wrong, consume us and blind our hearts and minds. An example that came to me after this dream was golfing. There is nothing wrong with playing a round of golf, in fact some find it very enjoyable. If we played on a Sunday morning instead of being at church, there is a great danger to our souls in this. Or if we played so much other days of the week we did not save time for our personal study, or our work for the Lord, this, too, would be harmful.

This is true of all wholesome activities. At the proper time and place they are well and good. We need to so order our lives to make sure our spiritual awareness is such as to be watching and be prepared at all times. Over-involvement with the world is detrimental to our soul's salvation.

—Elder Ken Oar

-NEWS-

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDITORIAL OBFUSCATION!

Your Editor apologizes for what I hope is only a temporary setback. I have somehow misplaced the next several parts to the series authored by Apostle Don McIndoo, entitled, "Testify To The Truth of The Book." Brother McIndoo was in Mexico at the time this issue was being put together — hopefully by the April issue the next part to the series will be located.

—G.A.H.

1989 SPRING MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

Please set aside May 20th and 21st for our Camp. It will be a weekend of fun and fellowship. Watch for details in the April issue.

THANKS TO THE MINISTRY IN PHOENIX

I wish to express my thanks to the Phoenix ministry who were kind enough to submit several articles for use in *Zion's Advocate*. I would also like to thank all other ministers who have responded in kind to my appeal for articles. I hope all ministry will keep the articles coming so your new Editor will be well supplied when he starts this April.

—Gary Housknecht

CONFERENCE TO CONVENE

Following instructions of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year, will be April 2.

Business Sessions, however, will start at 9:00 a.m. Monday April 3rd, and will be held at the Independence Town Hall, located at 211 North Osage, Independence, Missouri.

As per Bill #1, 1972 Referendum, "all committees and boards etc. of the Church empowered to expend general church funds or collect the same, shall be required to submit an annual report of their activities to include a financial statement of funds received and disbursed; and submit to the Council of Apostles and the General Bishopric at least one week prior to the opening of Conference a proposed budget for the ensuing year."

Officers and committees, as noted in the directory, should see that their reports are filed with the conference secretary as early as possible. Persons needing a place to stay should contact the Conference Coordinators. Those wishing to donate food or money to the conference, should contact the Dining Hall Committee.

Our first Solemn Assembly Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., March 31, 1989. All Solemn Assembly Meetings will be held on the Temple Lot. Our first conference meeting will be Conference Sunday Sacrament Service which will be held at the Independence Town Hall at 9:00 a.m., April 2nd, 1989.

We are looking forward with eager anticipation to greeting each of you and pray that the Lord's will will be done in all matters.

R. W. Oldham
General Church Secretary

AKWESASNE LOCAL REPORT

Hogansburg, New York

It gives me much joy to report to you of the wonderful things happening here at Akwesasne. God is truly guiding us and directing us with His tender love and mercy.

We are happy to report that our newly organized Local is already growing. On Sunday, January 8, 1989, two families joined us in the waters of baptism and became members of the body of Christ. The skies were overcast and rather dreary outside when our service began, but by the end of the service the sun had come out and was shining brightly. It caused each of us to reflect that this is how our lives in Christ begin.

Our beloved brothers Jim and Hubert Yates were here to share in this lovely service. They counseled the candidates, reassuring them of their commitment to Christ our Savior; that they would now be "new creatures" in the body of Christ, and that they must exercise their faith continually in their service to the Master.

Elder Bill Zabriskie performed the ordinance of baptism, baptizing his son Lenny Zabriskie and granddaughters Alishia and Kayla. He also baptized new converts to the Restoration gospel, Paul Grant and wife Debbie and their two daughters Karyn and Michelle. The gift of the Holy Spirit was administered by the Laying on of Hands for confirmation to Paul, Debbie and Lenny by Elder Hubert Yates, assisted by Elders Bill Zabriskie and James Yates; Kayla and Karyn were confirmed by Elder Bill Zabriskie, assisted by Elders Hubert Yates and James Yates. Alishia and Michelle were confirmed by Elder James Yates, assisted by Elders Hubert Yates and Bill Zabriskie. The hand of fellowship was extended by all, greeting these new members into the fold. God richly blessed us all with His Holy Spirit in such power throughout the entire service and on into the remainder of the day.

Before Jim and Hubert left to travel to Nova Scotia, we had a communion service as part of our prayer meeting on Wednesday, January 11, sharing together the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with our new members. We were all once again bathed in the Holy Spirit.

Jim and Hubert are with us once again using this as their base for their missionary outreach this winter. We are so very happy to have them in our midst teaching us, counseling us, and loving us. We

shared again in a wonderful spirit-filled prayer and sacrament service again last evening, February 1st. We look forward to their return this summer.

We have received several nice letters from church members since our last report, encouraging us and praying for us. We thank you for your love and concern. We continue to reach out and hope to touch our Indian brothers more. We know that they must realize who Christ is and repent before they can ever accept His gospel. May I ask for your prayers on behalf of our Pastor, Bill Zabriskie, to help him as he Shepherds our Local and in his ministry to our community?

On Christmas Day we all shared our favorite scriptures, thoughts and poems with each other. Lenny Zabriskie wrote this and shared it with us, and we would like to share it with you also.

I BELIEVE

I believe in God because
There is no other way
That I am able to explain
Why I am here today

There is no other reason
For the mystery of me
The mind that plans
The heart that loves
The soul of memory

There is no answer in a book
Or in the changing sky
Except that He created me
Any only He knows why

I believe in God because
I see so many signs
That indicates my life
Is just a part of His design

So many signs to point the way
To choose the right from wrong
And how to walk in faith and hope
And keep my courage strong

I believe in God because
There is no other way to
Explain the love I have
For Him each passing day.

Lenny Zabriskie

We all look forward to this new year with much expectation for continued growth and commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May you remember our efforts for Christ prayerfully as we do for all of you.

With love,
Your Sister in Christ
Gretchen Tarbell
P.O. Box 21
Hogansburg, New York 13655

COLLINS LOCAL NEWS

1989! Time just keeps passing by me. Sometimes I feel afraid or apprehensive of the changes that I know are coming, but the scriptures don't teach fear, but rather a time of rejoicing to know that Christ's return is closer and our "...redemption draweth nigh." Please, would one or two of you remember me in prayer from time to time that I won't fear new things, but trust more fully in Our Lord.

I have some back-tracking to do to relate to you some very wonderful happenings in our area. On August 21, 1988 Daniel, Gabriel, Tiersa, and Shelley Yates, children of Dennis and Olivia Yates, were baptized by their grandfather, Elder Curtis Yates. The laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost was also conducted by Brother Curtis Yates and assisted by Elder (and great-grandfather) Joseph E. Yates.

One week later on August 28th, Randy Ray Livingston also entered the waters of baptism at the hands of Elder Hubert Yates of Phoenix, Arizona. Confirmation was by Brother Hubert, assisted by Elder Jim Yates.

We are so pleased to have the attendance of these new members and their families. They are a blessing and an encouragement to each of us. I would ask that you remember each of them in your prayers because, as we all know, all is not done when we join ourselves to the body of Christ. We must continue on in that narrow pathway, striving for righteousness, gaining strength and a firmness of faith, with a burning desire for that reward of salvation and life with Jesus Christ for all eternity.

November 13th was a special day for Allen and I as it was the day that our first grandchild, Aaron Daie Herd, was blessed. And to make the day even better, Aaron's little dark haired cousin, Jody Sue Cook, was also blessed. It was a beautiful service conducted by Brother Allen Kauffman and assisted by Brother Jack Martin. Brother Kauffman had several words of counsel for the parents of these two little darlings, telling them of the importance of marriage, the way they raise their children, and the example they set before them.

November 20th was the day we celebrated the Thanksgiving season with our annual volunteer program. That evening those of us who could, gathered together in worship and fellowship with our friends in the community at the Baptist Church. It's a wonderful time when we can open our eyes and hearts and say, "Welcome, I'm glad you're here."

In December came the season we are most "thankful" for—the celebrated birth of Jesus. We had a beautiful Christmas program the morning of the 18th. A small adult choir and a children's choir were part of our program. That evening we were the host for the Community Christmas Celebration. I have never seen so many turn out *and* participate in

singing the beautiful Christmas hymns! Our church was full—all the way to the front—and the smiles on all the faces were genuine. We were touched by the hand of our Master. Brother Bob Eddy was our speaker for that day and also for that evening. He received many good comments so I feel his message was understood and well received by the congregation.

Our guest speakers for November and January were Brothers Marvin and Leslie Case, both of Independence. Other guests have been Brian Coberly (home on leave from the Navy), Curtis Yates, Rose Adams, Rodger and Martha Bruner, Gary Adam's friend, Carey and children. Also Joe and Floralise Yates were able to attend services January 15th. What a pleasure to gather together with our brothers and sisters in the gospel and learn of our savior, Jesus Christ.

In closing here are two thoughts from two sermons: Whether you believe in God or not, come judgment He's still going to be there and you're going to see Him. And: You are the only person that can control your destiny. You or your sins are all that can separate you from God or pluck you out of His hand. Only you.

Your reporter
Czerna Kauffman

RAVENNA LOCAL

Hello from the Ravenna Local,

We hope your New Year is progressing with life's most wonderful blessings. We in Ravenna Local have been greatly blessed. After much searching and dead ends, we have been led to a perfect piece of property for our new church building. Everything seems to be falling right into place, the clearing is done, the driveway in, and weather permitting, by mid-February the basement will be finished. We are very hopeful that we will be hosting this year's Michigan State Reunion in our own building.

January 1, 1989, was a very special day for all of us. Our local combined our services with the Bradley Local at Bradley. What made the day even more special was the Blessing of six-week-old Dustin Irving Brantner, son of Doug and Deanna Brantner. Big sister Danielle looked on as prayers were given by Elders Gale Brantner and Elder Charles Brantner.

December 31, 1988, New Year's Eve, we all gathered at Pastor Gale Brantner's home for a "Fondue" and a heart warming evening to bring the New Year in right with a season of prayer.

Brother Max and Sister Vivian Spencer spent three weeks traveling, beginning the end of November, spending some time in Texas and attending the Phoenix Reunion. They enjoyed their trip immensely and brought back some very nice photos.

Until next time may God be with you.

Your reporter and sister in Christ,
Debbie Brantner Vogel

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1989 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 31 and April 1.

The 1989 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 16 through 18 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

	Price Each
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate: Non-Members	\$4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	7.00
Outline History of Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (Paper Bound)	2.80
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder	2.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed30
Changing of the Revelations50
Comprehensive Comparison of	
Changes to the Revelations	1.30
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, The Laying on of Hands	N/C
The Principles of the Gospel, Baptism	N/C
The Latter Day Restoration	N/C
Apostasy or Succession, Which?	N/C
The Book of Mormon (Tract)	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ	N/C
Articles of Faith and Practice (Spanish)	N/C
Article No. 9 (Bible and Book of Mormon)	N/C
Article No. 20 (Marriage)	N/C
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus	N/C
What the Church teaches in Respect to Matrimony	
(Spanish)	N/C
Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)	N/C
Priesthood, Divine Authority	N/C
"Why"	N/C
A Synopsis of the Church of Christ's Beliefs and Practices	N/C
First Presidency or First Apostles	N/C
Marriage For Time and Eternity?	N/C
Baptism For The Dead?	N/C
Zion and the Temple of the Lord	N/C

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

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

CHURCH HISTORY for JUNIORS—34 page booklet includes a teachers guide.

THE BOOK IN THE STONE BOX—7 page booklet

BIBLE STORIES TO GROW BY — 52 lessons in 12 themes about God and Jesus (ages 5-7). (Free to local Sunday Schools)

JESUS' LIFE and TEACHINGS—Series of 4 quarterlies (ages 8-10)

WE SING and WE TALK ABOUT JESUS—14 primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette (On loan only)

WHO AM I?—A Bible game (cards) with multiple uses (Free to any local Sunday School, but \$1.30 for individuals)

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.

ZION'S ADVOCATE
(USPS 6993-0000)
P.O. Box 472
Independence, MO 64051-0472

Second Class Postage Paid
Independence, MO 64051

As a member of the Church of Christ, you are invited to receive this publication free of charge.

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.