

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" 1 Nephi 3:187*

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No. 4

WORD OF LIFE

The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg you will read it and find this out for yourself—read, not little snatches here and there, but long passages that will really be the road to the heart of it.

You will not only find it full of real men and women, but also of things you have wondered about and been troubled about all your life, as men have been always, and the more you read, the more will it become plain to you what things are worthwhile and what are not; what things make men happy—loyalty, right dealing, speaking the truth, readiness to give everything for what they think their duty, and, most of all, the wish that they may have the real approval of the Christ, who gave everything for them; and the things that are guaranteed to make men unhappy—selfishness, cowardice, greed, and everything that is low and mean.

When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.

—Woodrow Wilson

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Zion's Advocate

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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.

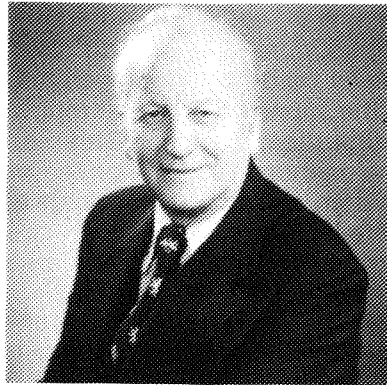
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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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THE FALL OF BABYLON



by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part Six of Seven

BABYLON'S DEMISE

1 "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 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 received not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong *is* the Lord God who judgeth her.

9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and

mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What *city is* like unto this great city!

19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

20 Rejoice over her *thou* heaven, and *ye* holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great

millstone, and cast *it* into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft *he be*, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the

We have quoted the entirety of Rev. 18 because of its great scope and importance, underscoring areas in which we wish special notice or to make comment.

Babylon is called a "great city"; a "mighty city". Only one city answers to this description for her encompassing dominion through the ages: Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth (Rev. 17:5); the "great whore that sitteth upon many waters" (nations) - v. 1. That city is Rome, not civil Rome, but spiritual Rome, the Vatican City; clothed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, decked with gold, precious stones and pearls (Rev. 18:16).

Bishop Newton informs us concerning the purple and scarlet:

"... This being the color of the popes and cardinals, as well as of the emperors and senators of Rome. Nay, the mules and horses which carry the popes and cardinals are covered with scarlet cloth, so that they may properly be said to ride upon a scarlet colored beast." *Dissertation On The Prophecies*, p. 660.

Apostle McGregor, in *A Marvellous Work and a Wonder*, quotes from *Studies in Prophecy*, pt. 2, pp. 175, 176, relative to the rich treasures of the Catholic Church, and speaking of the cathedral of Toledo, Spain:

Its value is inestimable. Among the mass of gold, silver and precious stones with which my eyes," says an eyewitness, "were dazzled, I was particularly struck with a large custodia for the exposition of the sacrament. It weighs seven thousand ounces of silver and gold, and is studded with precious gems. In the center is a shrine of gold, weighing fifty pounds. Its chief value consists, however, in its elaborate workmanship, being constructed in very small pieces, which, when screwed together, form a Gothic tower, covered with the most beautiful fretwork. The most remarkable among the treasures is an ample robe of state for the image of the virgin. It is of satin, but so richly embroidered with pearls, and studded with emeralds, amethysts, rubies, topazes, and diamonds"

(all precious stones) "that the silk is entirely concealed. Clad in this robe, and holding an infant of solid gold, adorned with eight hundred jewels, the image of the virgin is placed on certain occasions on a silver throne, weighing more than half a ton, and born through the streets upon men's shoulders."

This is but a single sampling of her global treasure, while hundreds of thousands of her adherents are destitute for want of the necessities of life.

The 18th chapter of Revelation covers a broad perspective of Babylon and her fall, the spiritual as well as the economic; of all her worldly whoredom that she might be satiated with all that men do lust after - but, also, "The souls of men" (v. 13). Yet, in "one day" (v. 8), "in one hour" (v. 10) shall come her judgment. She is to receive *plagues, death, mourning and famine*, and will be burned with fire. Just incidental to the troubles to be experienced by "Babylon the great" (the papal system) in the last days, consider Rev. 17:16-18:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

The "ten horns" of the beast have been previously identified as the Holy Roman Empire, the nations of Europe into which Ancient Rome was divided. In the latter days, the ten horns would be representative of the modern European nations, no longer united in giving their kingdom "unto the beast" (the papacy). They were to hate her, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

It seems apparent that this is in the process now. Consider the present turmoil, death and destruction among those nations which are largely of the Catholic faith; others among them, such as the Protestants of Ireland, the Basques of Spain, the Mafia of Italy, etc., are contributing heavily to national upheaval, which seems to fulfill this prophecy of widespread conflict involving the "whore", sitting upon the "waters", which are "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (v. 15).

Russia, since her revolution in 1917, has severely limited the freedom of religion, which was largely dominated by the Orthodox Church. This church is a branch of the Greek Orthodox, which in turn was a division from the Roman Catholic Church. The ideology of these churches is basically the same, with icons (an icon is a form of an idol) being a prominent feature of worship. No doubt, there has been real persecution there, a hatred of the "whore". Additionally, Mexico has adopted a policy of separation of the state from the dominant religion (Catholicism)

which has been one of destruction toward that Church. And what is true of Mexico is also true of other Latin-American states dominated by that religion. "These shall hate the whore."

Now read what the Book of Mormon tells us concerning this great conflict among the nations which belong to that "great abominable church", evidently prior to the Lord's visitation by fire upon *all* of Babylon of the last days:

"And the blood of that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, shall turn upon their own heads; For they shall war among themselves, and the sword of their own hands shall fall upon their own heads, and they shall be drunken with their own blood. And every nation which shall war against thee, O house of Israel, shall be turned one against another. And they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord." 1 Ne. 7:26-29.

Isaiah tells us that the Lord is to wash away the "filth of the daughters of Zion and to purge Jerusalem by the spirit of judgment and of burning" (Isa. 4:4). We may have been disposed to think of a universal burning only in terms of it being so after the millennial reign of Christ, and the conclusion of the "little season", when the devil is to be freed to deceive the nations for the last time (Rev. 20:7,8); when there would be a "new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1) for the first will have passed away. The supposition that this last burning of the earth is all that is prophesied relative to this matter, is an error.

We will not delve into this extensively here, but a couple of references will suffice to show the literal burning to occur on a relatively limited (but not to say, small, or inconsequential) scale prior to the millenium; a burning of the earth, but not in dissolution.

"And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day; And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standardbearer fainteth. And the rest of the trees of his forest (the nations, w.a.s.) shall be few, that a

child may write them." Isa. 10:17-19.

"The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." Isa. 24:4-6.

It is easily seen by this latter text that it is the transgression of God's spiritual laws, even by the apostasy of the ancient church, which is to bring down the judgments of God upon men in the last days. God will kindle the fire, but it will be after the servants of God (having the power of heaven - 3 Ne. 10:4) shall smite the earth with His word, to gather in the saints from Babylon and to commit her to the wrath of God.

Nephi saw that the dominion of saints upon the earth would be small (1 Ne. 3:227,228) in the last days, but that they would be armed "with the power of God" (v. 231).

Thus will be fulfilled the prophecy of Dan. 2 of the stone "cut out without hands" which is to smite the image upon the feet, insomuch that it is broken to pieces, becoming chaff and carried away by wind (see Dan. 2:34,35,44). This alludes to the destruction of modern nations, especially of Europe, but no doubt symbolizing all nations; in a word, the destruction of Babylon, so that ultimately, "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ" (Rev. 11:15).

Is it not imperative, then, that the saints of God shall even now:

"Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence." Jer. 51:6.

(Continued next month: "The Way of Escape")

Observe all men,

thyself most.

—Benjamin Franklin

A LETTER TO MY FRIENDS IN THE RLDS CHURCH

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to let you know that we are still here and thinking of you often. We have been praying for you and your needs.

In recent years it has come to our attention that there are many of you who are hurt and saddened by your church's departure from the older paths. Our hearts go out to you. I'm writing to let you know that I have heard many of my brothers and sisters in the Church of Christ speak of you and ask for prayers in your behalf. We are concerned and care about you.

I'm writing to tell you that, although the Church of Christ Local Churches across the land are "few", the doors are not shut nor locked to the spiritual needs of God's children. If you feel that your church has left you, then please feel welcome to worship here in Phoenix with us or anywhere else the Church of Christ is located. I'm still enjoying the peaceful Spirit of Christ in our services.

Our ministry have a direct line of authority to Joseph Smith and the early church fathers. They are not tied to a theme of preaching or teaching for each service. Our ministry must approach God for the themes and inspiration to preach, teach, and conduct services.

The little Church of Christ did not leave any body of believers to organize or reorganize. We have continued through the years seeking to maintain, as best we could understand, the original intent and structure of the restoration of the glorious Gospel. We have resisted change which has enabled us, through God, to preserve the Gospel or the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

We are not a perfect people and won't guarantee that you'll like us with our backward, old-fashioned ways. We want you to know that we aren't going to

change to accommodate the beliefs or practices of any other group.

We are small and surrounded on all sides by larger more elegant churches. While other great organizations make grand plans and build spacious edifices, we wait as caretakers of a most interesting spot of ground. God has seen fit to permit us to hold the temple lot and we are not going to sell it or give it away to anyone. We are convinced that someday the Lord is going to allow us to assist the house of Israel (by birth) to build a city, the New Jerusalem. This is, of course, contingent on our personal righteousness and humility before God.

We are more critical of ourselves than anyone from the outside of our little church, yet we have not lost the vision of Zion nor laid claim to more than is ours to do. There is still an hour appointed for the fulfillment of prophecy. How I long to be there when it occurs!

So, my friends in the Reorganization, if discouragement is your lot, ask God, between you and Him alone, about this little Church of Christ (temple lot) and see what He says. Ask in faith and meekness of heart. You are welcome to come sing, pray and testify with us. Perhaps you will find, as I have, that the Church of Christ still possesses the truth and you may also someday choose to unite yourselves with us.

I am looking to the future with great anticipation of the good things that are written in the Bible and the Book of Mormon which will come to pass. Perhaps they are not as far away as we think. Whatever happens in the near future don't let go of your belief in the Book of Mormon. May God bless you and keep you forever.

—Elder Jay Moser

TYPOS

THOSE WHO prepare manuscripts or read proof well know:

The typographical error is a slippery thing and sly.

You can hunt till you are dizzy, but it somehow will get by.

'Til the forms are off the presses, it is strange how still it keeps.

It shrinks down in the corner, and it never stirs or peeps.

The typographical error is too small for

human eyes.

'Til the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size.

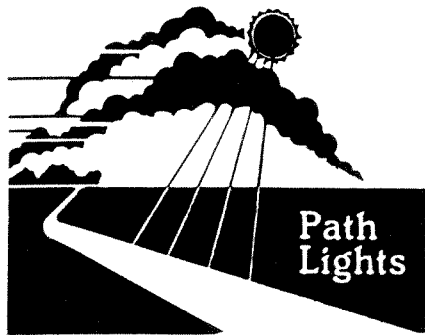
The boss just stares in horror, then he grabs his hair and groans.

The copy reader drops her head upon her hands and moans.

The remainder of the issue may be clean as can be,

But the typographical error is the only thing you sea!

—Missouri DAR Bulletin, September 1984



GOD CLEANSSES A COLON

I was at my home near Warrensburg, shortly after a visit to the V.A. hospital in Columbia where it was determined that I needed a by-pass operation on my heart, when I started having pains in my abdomen just below my rib cage. It got worse over a period of several days and it became apparent that I needed help, so I had my wife, Dora, drive me over to the V.A. hospital again. By the time I got there I was bent over with pain so that I could not straighten up, though I could still walk.

I was admitted immediately and the doctors and nurses did the usual checking of vital signs and gave me something for pain, then started making tests. They thought it might be appendicitis, but soon ruled that out, although they were quite sure the problem was in some part of my colon. Lab tests soon confirmed that, so they started giving me shots directly in the area where I had the pain. They told me I would have to stay in the hospital nine days and take shots every day to get rid of the infection. I got some relief the second day and it got better each day.

The second day I was taken down to x-ray. Then

sometime later, a doctor came to tell me what they had found. He told me I had diverticulitis, something I had never heard of, so he described it to me. He said that a portion of my colon in the upper part had some growths, or projections, on the inside. They take years to get to the size that mine had become, and they were big enough to block the flow of wastes. I asked him how it could be cured and he said there was no cure. Then he went on to explain that they would have to cut out the bad section of my colon, and then I might have to wear a plastic sack the rest of my life. This news hit me like a sledge hammer between the eyes. It really jolted me.

My wife came later in the day, and she was quite unhappy with the news, although she didn't say much except to try to comfort me.

That night I prayed mightily to the Lord to lift this burden from me, because I didn't think I could handle it along with my heart trouble. When I talked to Dora later, she said she had prayed the same prayer. She knew me well enough to know I couldn't live that way. It seems that the Lord knew it too. At any rate, he was merciful unto me to the extent that I was completely cured. We have testified of this often and give God all the thanks and praise and glory.

I spent the nine days in the hospital and I was free of the pain and the infection. A few days after my release, they called me in for x-rays and found my colon completely clear, with no sign of diverticulitis. The doctors couldn't understand it.

—Harold E. Adams

Path Lights needs your testimony. Send to:

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, MO 64052

ADMINISTRATION

From the back of the church, I heard a voice say,
"I'd like to be administered to today."
Accompanied by his parents, he came up the aisle
And I could tell he was special by the light of his smile.

Lord, forgive me, but I had to see
The face of the child presented to Thee
As I gazed at the countenance of Darrin Malone
I knew that with you, he was never alone.

I became uplifted by his angelic smile
And a Host of Angels attended him while
He received a blessing from you up above.
And my tears flowed freely in an expression of love
And as all prayers were offered together with mine
I realized surely he was a true Child of Thine.

—Sam Kidd

WORDS OF K

(Book of Mosia)

My friends and my brethren, my kindred and my people, I would again call your attention, that ye may hear and understand the remainder of my words which I shall speak unto you; for behold, if the knowledge of the goodness of God at this time, has awakened you to a sense of your nothingness, and your worthless and fallen state; I say unto you, if ye have come to a knowledge of the goodness of God, and his matchless power, and his wisdom, and his patience, and his long suffering towards the children of men, and also, the atonement which has been prepared from the foundation of the world, that thereby salvation might come to him that should put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life; I mean the life of the mortal body; I say, that this is the man who receiveth salvation, through the atonement which was prepared from the foundation of the world, for all mankind, which ever were, ever since the fall of Adam, or who are or who ever shall be, even unto the end of the world; and this is the means whereby salvation cometh. And there is none other salvation, save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved, except the conditions which I have told you.

Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend. And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: and now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them.

And again I say unto you as I have said before, that as ye have come to the knowledge of the glory of God, or if ye have known of his goodness, and have tasted of his love, and have received a remission of your sins, which causeth such exceeding great joy in your souls, even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long suffering towards you unworthy creatures, and humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel; and behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true. And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live

peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due. And ye will not suffer your children, that they go hungry, or naked; Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers; he being an enemy to all righteousness; but ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another;

And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish. Perhaps thou shalt say, The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance, that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just. But I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this, the same hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done, he perisheth for ever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God.

For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have; for both food, and raiment, and for gold and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind? And behold, even at this time, ye have been calling on his name, and begging for a remission of your sins. And has he suffered that ye have begged in vain? Nay; he has poured out his Spirit upon you, and has caused that your hearts should be filled with joy, and has caused that your mouths should be stopped, that ye could not find utterance, so exceeding great was your joy.

And now, if God, who has created you, on whom you are dependent for your lives, and for all that ye have and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, O then, how had ye ought to impart of the substance that ye have, one to another? And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance, that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation, for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you, but to God, to whom also, your life belongeth; and yet ye put up no petition, nor repent of the thing which thou hast done. I say unto you, wo be unto that man, for his substance shall perish with him: and now, I say these things unto those who are rich, as pertaining to the things of this world.

And again, I say unto the poor, ye who have not and yet have sufficient, that ye remain from day to

NG BENJAMIN

2:7-50, 3:1-21)

day; I mean all you who deny the beggar, because ye have not; I would that ye say in your hearts, that I give not because I have not; but if I had, I would give. And now, if ye say this in your hearts, ye remain guiltless, otherwise ye are condemned, and your condemnation is just; for ye covet that which ye have not received.

And now, for the sake of these things which I have spoken unto you; that is, for the sake of retaining a remission of your sins from day to day, that ye may walk guiltless before God, I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants. And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order: for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again: it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize: therefore, all things must be done in order. And I would that ye should remember, that whosoever among you that borroweth of his neighbor, should return the thing that he borroweth, according as he doth agree, or else thou shalt commit sin, and perhaps thou shalt cause thy neighbor to commit sin also.

And finally, I can not tell you all of the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I can not number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not.

And now, it came to pass that when King Benjamin had thus spoken to his people, he sent among them, desiring to know of his people, if they believed the words which he had spoken unto them. And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; and also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually. And we, ourselves, also, through the infinite goodness of God, and the manifestations of his Spirit, have great views of that which is to come; and were it expedient, we could prophesy of all things. And it is the faith which we have had on the things which our king has spoken unto us, and has brought us to this great knowledge, whereby we do rejoice with such exceeding great joy; and we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do his will, and to be obedient to

his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days, that we may not bring upon ourselves a never ending torment, as has been spoken by the angel, that we may not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God.

And now, these are the words which King Benjamin desired of them; and therefore he said unto them, Ye have spoken the words that I desired; and the covenant which ye have made, is a righteous covenant. And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters: for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters. And under this head ye are made free; and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free. There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this, shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ. And now, it shall come to pass that whosoever shall not take upon them the name of Christ, must be called by some other name; therefore he findeth himself on the left hand of God.

And I would that ye should remember also, that this is the name that I said I should give unto you, that never should be blotted out, except it be through transgression; therefore, take heed that ye do not transgress, that the name be not blotted out of your hearts. I say unto you, I would that ye should remember to retain the name written always in your hearts, that ye are not found on the left hand of God, but that ye hear and know the voice by which ye shall be called, and also, the name by which he shall call you: For, how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart? And again: Doth a man take an ass which belongeth to his neighbor, and keep him? I say unto you, Nay; he will not even suffer that he shall feed among his flocks, but will drive him away, and cast him out. I say unto you, that even so shall it be among you, if ye know not the name by which ye are called.

Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him, who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen.

WHEN THE MISTS HAVE CLEARED AWAY

Words and Music by Pauline Higgins
From *Zion's Praises*, #221

We but see each other darkly, In these misty autumn days;
And we often miss the beauty of the simple, lowly ways;
We are looking far too highly, In our pride and worldly light;
So we pass the brightest jewels, In the mists that blind our sight.

Of we fail to trace the motive Of our brother to its source;
So we often judge him harshly, Looking through the mists, of course;
Though he stumble in the darkness On the rough and stormy way,
We can trace his shining footprints, When the mists have cleared away.

We shall know each other better—See the folly of our ways.
And how far from God we've wandered When the mists begin to raise;
Then our vision will be clearer, Clouded though it be today,
And we'll love each other better, When the mists have cleared away.

CHORUS

(To be sung after each verse)

When the mists have cleared away, When the mists have cleared away,
We shall love each other better, When the mists have cleared away.

Submitted by Evalena Sills

MODERN DAY REVELATION

by Elder Gordon McCann
Phoenix, Arizona

I would like to present to you something for your prayerful consideration. Something that demands your attention and your help. It is something that you may not be responsible for, in the past, but something that we all have a duty and a responsibility to do, for ourselves and for our children and our children's children. The following is a quote:

Verily, out of the broken fragments of my spiritual kingdom of these last days I have preserved unto myself a remnant for the carrying forward of my work unto its final completeness.

The people of this remnant of my church on the Temple Land, which has been consecrated to me, have not been wholly in accord with my will, neither do they this day fashion all their work perfectly in me, but behold, for a wise purpose in me, your Lord and your Redeemer, I have held them in the hollow of mine hand.

The Lord is acknowledging that those who

preside over the Temple Lot are not presiding wholly in accord with His will, but that He has chosen them, and held them in the hollow of His hand. There is no difference than when the Lord held the House of Israel in His hand, even though they were not perfect in His will all the time. Yet for His purposes and His plans He kept them in the hollow of His hand. Thus so it is with us who claim the Temple Land as our land (the Church of Christ). Going on with the quote:

Their priesthood and their ministry hath been preserved in me, and their ministrations among men I will continue to bless, for they are an instrument of mine own choosing.

Ye of my people, and of my ministry have questioned the spiritual call of those men of the ministry chosen to be Apostles in this remnant of mine heritage. Verily, if ye will hear my word today, I declare unto you, these are my chosen Apostles of this present day dispensation, and through their ministry, if they continue humble and faithful, and through this chosen remnant of my broken heritage, I will from this day forward, quicken

their spiritual ministrations among the people, and will continue to use these servants of mine, and this remnant, to bear the message of life and salvation to the souls of men.

The above excerpts are from a revelation given through Elder James E. Yates, May, 1927. It identifies the Church on the Temple Lot as His "chosen remnant". Do you feel that this revelation is significant to us? Do you think that it should be available for all Church members to read?

I think it is interesting when we sing "Earnest Workers For The Master," and the words: "Earnest workers for the Master. . . Send the word along the line."

The "word" is not contained in just the Bible and the Book of Mormon. It is contained in modern day revelation as well, such as the following one.

Hear, O ye people who call yourselves the Church of Christ; Harken to the counsel of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and give ear to the words given you by the power of His Holy Spirit, because of the great destructions that are coming upon the land. For thus it shall be upon our country; it shall be attacked by a mighty foe on the South and East by a combination of strong nations, and the Eastern cities of the coast shall fall in the storm of battle, and the great Atlantic Ocean will be blocked by a combined fleet up the coast, and all of the Federal Government upon the high seas will be endangered. Wo! Wo! to the proud cities of the East, for their railroads shall be torn up, and poverty and misery pervade the land. And greatest consternation will spread through the Northern states because of war and bloodshed. And great political divisions will arise through the government between the states, and many of them will set up for themselves separate governments, and great tumults will arise among the people in the uproarious clamor of dissension. And the financial crash will cover the land as the turbulent waves of the sea. The proud, the rich, as well as the poor will feel the pang of hunger and the shame of nakedness, and old garments will be rent to mend others and thus shall the proud be humbled in the dust and sit down upon the ground hungry and naked, or in other words, in scarcity of food and raiment. Yet men in unbelief of God's forewarning will harden their hearts against the true light of the gospel and tyranny and oppression will rule among the wicked, and liberty be trampled underfoot because of military rule. And that great and abominable church, the mother of abominations, will call upon the men of her creed to establish her dominion over the

once renowned land of freedom. And terrible and mighty will be the conflict.

But glory be to God, for the people of the West will stand up in great strength for liberty and God will help them. And he will stir up the kings of the Eastern world in their anger, and they will be divided against each other, and gather their armies together to battle and that great and abominable church will be arrayed against herself for God will pour out sore afflictions in mighty judgments upon her. But a free and independent government will be established in the west by the true lovers of liberty and servants of the most High God, upon the broad basis of equal rights and privileges in all truth and righteousness, and it shall increase in the favor of all good and just men. And it shall grow and prosper by the power of the Almighty God, and peace and safety shall be established throughout all her dominions which shall become truly great; Thus saith the Spirit of the Living God.

Have you heard of or read this revelation before? This message was given through Granville Hédrick back in 1864, and was published in *The Truth Teller*. But where could it be found today?

By not making these revelations available, what are we doing to our people? What are we doing to our children? I have other revelations here that perhaps you have never heard of either. What did the Lord say about this? He said, "For I command all men, both in the east, and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words that I shall speak unto them;" 2 Nephi 12:65. This indicates that He would be giving more and more revelation.

How diligent are we, as a people in keeping that commandment "to write"? As I mentioned in the beginning, we may not be responsible for this problem, but as adults we must recognize that there is a problem and that we are responsible from here on.

We have a heritage that the Lord has passed down to us from generation to generation. How difficult do you think it was for Lehi and many others who kept their records on plates of brass and gold?

What is wrong? Can we see that something is wrong in our thinking? When our children are not even aware of some of those things that should be brought down from generation to generation. We are not heeding the scripture which says that He commanded men in all nations to write. Some of them have been written, but not to the extent that we have them on record so that we can possess them and read them as we do other scriptures.

It is a beautiful thing to be able to read the scriptures with its promises, what happened to Paul and so many other events that someone took the time to record for our benefit. It would be beautiful also to have the things on record and available to read

which have been given in this the last days, especially those things that pertain to our own time. How many of you believe in "The Storehouse"? A personal storage and also a Church storage? As a people do we all pretty much believe that? If so, why do you believe it? Because someone told you that it was something good to do? Or do we believe it because it is a commandment of God given us through revelation? Do we have a record of such a revelation? It is very important that we have it!

As a people we have fallen very short in keeping a compilation of the revelations God has given us. A compilation that we can read and cross reference it with the Bible and the Book of Mormon to show its validity and to be ready when people ask, "Why do you believe in those things?" If it was really revealed from God it will correspond with other things in Scripture and we should have them available for study as we do other Scripture.

As a people, what can we do about this problem? You may say, "Well, you are a minister. Why don't you take that up?" You are right. I do have a responsibility, and I think I need to give it more study. We all do, as parents who love our children we need to see to it that they know of these things. There are things that we can do, such as taking it up at Conference by way of a motion. Something specific that will result in the availability of printed matter which we can study and teach to our children.

Again the words of the song we sing come to mind, "Earnest workers for the Master, send the word along the line, . . ." People throughout the Dark Ages sent the word along the line by inscribing those words from one tablet to another. They kept a record throughout their time, and when facilities were available their hand inscribed words were put into book form for the benefit of the generations of people who followed them, including you and me. Should we do any less for future generations? It was

very difficult for the Book of Mormon writers to inscribe their sacred writings on metal plates, but they did it, and we have that wonderful record today. We today have computers, print shops, typewriters, tape recorders, VCR's, everything for our convenience. But we don't use it for the purposes we should, the work of the gospel.

What do we most desire when we contemplate the coming of a reunion? Is it not that God would speak to us? Why should God speak to us if we don't value it enough to record it? Why should God speak to a people who do not remember from one time to the next what he said to us? Do we have an answer?

We want very much for God to speak to us, to reveal things to us, to lead and direct us in our lives. But I find it difficult to believe that God will speak to us if we are not mindful enough of it to record it and have it available. I feel that this is something we need to put our heads together on and be responsible for. By our faith, determination and generosity we, as a body of believers, have been able to help the work in Yucatan to go forward. With that same kind of faith, determination and generosity we can do even more worthwhile things to help the gospel cause.

It is my responsibility and yours to come together as a people and consider getting a compilation of modern day revelations together so that we will have it to read often and to teach to our families.

We are going to be judged by our works, and according to the things that have been written. And because we don't keep a record of the things God gives us does not mean that we are not going to be judged by them. How much better it would be for them to be written, as well as spoken, because it is by these works that we surely will be judged at the last day.

May God bless you in your endeavors to do what I have spoken. Amen.

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Four

Question No. 2 — When did the Fair God make His appearance to the people of the Americas?

The Testimony of Hubert Howe Bancroft

"In very remote times, ABOUT THE ERA OF THE APOSTLES, according to the padres, an old white man, with long hair and beard, appeared suddenly at

Huatulco, coming from the southwest by sea, and preached to the natives in their own tongue, but of things beyond their understanding. He (Wixepcocha) lived a strict life, passing the greater part of the night in a kneeling posture, and eating but little. He disappeared shortly after as mysteriously as he

had come, but left as a memento of his visit a cross, which he planted with his own hand, and admonished the people to preserve it sacredly, for one day they would be taught its significance" (*The Native Races*, vol. 3, pp. 454-455).

"During the Olmec (Mulek or Mulekite, h.e.s.) period, that is, the earliest period of Nahua (Nephite, h.e.s.) power, the great Quetzalcoatl appeared. We have seen that in the Popol Vuh and codex Chimalpopoca this being is represented as the half-divinity, half-hero, who came at the head of the first Nahuas to America from across the sea. Other authorities imply rather that he came later from the east or north, in the period of the greatest Olmec prosperity, after the rival Quinames (the giants) had been defeated. To such differences in detail no great importance is to be attached; since all that can be definitely learned from these traditions is the fact that Quetzalcoatl, or Gucumatx, was the most prominent of the Nahua heroes, and that his existence is to be attributed to this earliest period, known in Mexico as Olmec, but without a distinctive name in the south. Quetzalcoatl was a white, bearded man, venerable, just, and holy, who taught by precept and example the paths of virtue in all the Nahua cities, particularly in Cholula. His teachings, according to the tradition, had much in common with those of Christ in the Old World, and most Spanish writers firmly believed him to be identical with one of the Christian apostles, probably St. Thomas" (*The Native Races*, vol. 5, pp. 200-201).

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. . . ." (*Works of Ixtlilxochitl*, cited in Milton R. Hunter, *Christ in Ancient America*, p. 23).

"...the sun and the moon eclipsed, and the earth trembled, and the rocks broke, and many other things and signs took place. . . This happened in the year of ce Calli, which, adjusting this count with ours, comes to be at the same time when Christ our Lord suffered, and they say that it happened during the first days of the year. . ." (*Works of Ixtlilxochitl*, cited in Milton R. Hunter, *Christ in Ancient America*, p. 269).

Was it in the first days of the year as the Aztec historian states? Consider these words from 3 Nephi 4:6, "And it came to pass in the thirty and fourth year, in the first month, in the fourth day of the month, there arose a great storm, such an one as never had been known in all the land. . ."

The Testimony of Cieza de Leon

"Before the Incas reigned in these kingdoms, or had ever been heard of, the Indians relate another thing much more notable than all things else that

they say. For they declare that they were a long time without seeing the sun, and that, suffering much evil from its absence, great prayers and vows were offered up to their gods, imploring for the light they needed. Things being in this state, the sun, shining very brightly, came forth from the island of Titicaca, in the great lake of the Collao at which everyone rejoiced. Presently afterwards, they say that there came from a southern direction a white man of great stature, who, by his aspect and presence, called forth great veneration and obedience. This man who thus appeared had great power, insomuch that he could change plains into mountains, and great hills into valleys, and make water flow out of stones. As soon as such power was beheld, the people called him the Maker of created things, the Prince of all things, Father of the Sun. For they say that he performed other wonders, giving life to men and animals, so that by his hand marvelous great benefits were conferred on the people. And such was the story that the Indians who told it to me say that they heard from their ancestors, who in like manner heard it in the old songs which they received from very ancient times" (*Jesus Christ Among Ancient Americans*, pp. 124-125, quoting the *Incas of Peru* by Markham, pp. 5-6, cited in Harold I. Velt, *America's Lost Civilizations*, pp. 146-147).

The Testimony of Kathleen Romoli

(Noted authority on the cultures of South America)

This author writes that Bochica lived (according to the testimony of the children of Bachue of the Chibchas Indian tribe) with them fourteen centuries before the Conquistadores whose coming he foretold. (See *Colombia: Gateway to South America*, pp. 62-63 as cited in Roy Weldon, *Other Sheep*, p. 19).

The Testimony from Polynesia

In Polynesia He was known as white-robed Wakea. He healed the injured, raised the dead and walked on water. His law was "love one another". When He left He promised to return. They knew of the great continent which lay to the eastward for they had the Yam and called it by its South American name. HE LIVED IN THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA (See L. Taylor Hansen, *He Walked the Americas*, pp. 14-21).

The Testimony of the Chippewa

The O'Chippewa knew of Him as Wis-ah-co. He asked each tribe to name Him. He was bearded and pale of feature, without doubt a white man. He healed at the touch. He was white-robed and came more than a thousand winters before the days of the Black Robes (Catholic priests) who came to this land with Columbus. (See L. Taylor Hansen, *He Walked the Americas*, p. 67).

-NEWS-

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATIONS TO ZION'S ADVOCATE

General Church representatives wish to announce that all church members receiving Zion's Advocate are requested to donate a suggested \$4.00 each year to the General Church to help defray costs to publish this periodical. This is not required, and any amount more or less than that suggested will be appreciated.

READABLE MATERIAL ON BACK COVER PAGE

Please note some price changes that have occurred, as necessary, under the heading "Church of Christ Publications" on the back page of each issue of Zion's Advocate . . . such as missionary editions of the *Book of Mormon*; paper version of the *Book of Commandments*; and the *Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. Note that *all* items listed are at "cost", and are quite inexpensive; they are affordable enough such that you can buy them and give them away. Try it!

REPORT FROM THE AVA LOCAL

(for December, January, and February)

Our local was busy over the winter. The first Saturday in December, we sponsored a craft and bake sale in the "Dun Loggin" shop on the square in Ava. Nearly every member of our group showed up at the sale; the attendance was helped, no doubt, by our desire to see our children and grandchildren in the town Christmas Parade that day.

The following Friday evening, we had our Christmas gift exchange at our Social Evening. I was too ill to attend, but I've heard that a mechanical spider was a big hit with the youngest members.

Our visiting speaker for December was Brother Marvin Case. I have many notes from his sermon; the one that impressed me the most was that God would put our lives together — if we do His will; we should not be discouraged when doing right looks too hard, but remember that, in the long run, life is easier if we live God's way instead of the world's "easy" way.

January was a warm month for us, unusually so. It was a month of concern for our Sister Sue Smith. It

seemed that our prayers were not being answered as her health continued to fail. But the Lord was with her all the time, for the doctor later reported that fatal complications normally expected did not develop. We are so thankful and happy to see her feeling better.

Our First Friday Social was held on Saturday in January so Brother Jim and Sister Sharon Smith could bring slides to show us. Seeing the familiar history of the visions, the finding of the plates, and the establishing of the Church dramatized was thrilling to me.

Our visiting speaker was Brother Frank Fann. His sermon had a theme of the need for the joy of the Lord in our lives. The crucial statement was that the amount of joy we have within us seems to be in direct relationship to the amount of praise we give to the Lord. It struck me that people, including myself, usually wait till something joyful happens before praising God. I have been wondering, would we have more joy in ourselves if we reversed the usual order and praised Him before He helps us in time of trouble or days of tiring routine?

Also in January two lovely chairs were placed behind the pulpit in our church building. These chairs are memorials to my grandparents, Brother A. M. Smith and Sister Minnie Smith. This is a beautiful way to remember two people who made the Gospel of Christ the central part of their lives.

February began with some real winter weather, icy roads and all. We had to cancel our First Friday Social and the First Sunday meeting.

Our primary Sunday School class finished a set of lessons about people who traveled for God. The children enjoyed learning about people from Noah to the Pilgrims and the Church of Christ in the 1800's. These lessons were written by Sister Ella Engle and were published in the Advocate in 1966-67. I would be happy to share the crafts we used with the lessons if anyone wishes to teach them. Just write to me—Estella Davis, Rt. 5, Box 484, Ava, MO 65608.

We were pleased that the weather allowed Brother Gerry Case to drive down as our visiting speaker for February. He asked a question in his sermon that has caused me to do some thinking. The question was, "Do you have a belief or a theology?" I'm afraid I enjoy studying and discussing the Scriptures so much that I may think that that is all that is required. But that would be a theology; if I want to develop a belief I must, in the words of Brother Joe Smith, "cultivate the light of God by obedience."

Come and join us in the Ozark hills as we try to learn to live God's way of joyful obedience.

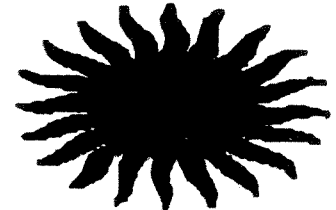
Estella Davis
Reporter

GET READY AND . . . GO

SPRING 1989
MISSOURI CAMP FOR ALL AGES

WHEN? Saturday & Sunday, May 21-22

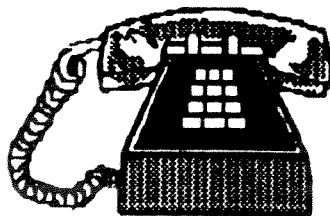
WHERE? Watkins Mill State Park
Lawson, Missouri (Near Excelsior Springs, NE of KC)
Only 30 minutes from Independence



Formal activities will begin at 10:00 A.M. Saturday. Bring your bicycles and walking shoes - this State Park has some of the nicest bike trails and open acreage for hiking in the entire state. There is also a nice pond for fishing and swimming. Plan to bring your own camping gear (modern showers and toilet facilities are nearby). A Saturday afternoon tour of the historic woolen mill and other property is planned.

Camping is \$4.00 per camping unit/site, per night. Plan at least on Saturday night, and Friday night if you want to get a jump on things. All are invited and encouraged to set aside plans for a fun and spiritually filled weekend of activities and services.

For further information
either: Pat Fisher
4113 S. River
Indep., Mo 64055
tel 816-373-3381



write or telephone
or Mike Smith
5701 Logan Road
KC, Mo 64136
tel 816-737-0846

Watch for more details in the May Zion's Advocate.

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:	
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Non-Members	4.00
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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)

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

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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.