

# Zion's Advocate

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*"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;" I Nephi 3:187*

Volume 66

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Number 7

## NAILED IN WOOD

A nail was pounded deep in wood,  
Intruding, cutting lines that grew  
By God's command to form a tree.  
And from that tree a house was built  
To garner warmth within. But now  
A nail intrudes and forms a bond  
To hold the face of Christ portrayed  
On canvas, framed in wood.

Our thought is now of other nails  
That pegged his hands and feet  
To arms of trees more eager then  
To shade, than play the part  
Of instruments of torture for  
The One who gave them life.

Joseph A. Springer  
(Used with permission)

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### Featured In This Issue

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Conference Report 1989 - p. 92

Addendum to "The Fall of Babylon" - p. 96

A Time to Consider and Study Zion - p. 94

Path Lights - p. 97

Testify to the Truth of the Book - p. 95

Reform Versus Tradition - p. 99

## 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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### WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ZION'S ADVOCATE REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights", news items, notices, etc., which are appropriate based on the editorial policy stated above, are requested by the editorial staff. Please type all submissions on one side of the paper only, using *double* line-spacing. DO NOT make handwritten marks or corrections on the typewritten pages and DO NOT use bold type, italics, all caps, underlining or any fancy type. You may make suggestions for emphasis on a separate note to the Editor. Send all material to the Editor at the address listed above. **Deadline:** The 5th of the month preceding the month of desired publication. The Editor cannot respond to each author submitting material, and no material will be returned unless specifically requested.

### 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.

**ANOTHER IMPORTANT EDITOR'S NOTE**

#1 - **New Address:** Your Editor has finally found a new (permanent) address. The school district for the children God has entrusted us with is tops on our list of priorities, and our recent change of address was only temporary.

Please make note of my new address for all submissions to Zion's Advocate:

GARY HOUSKNECHT  
11308 E. 78th STREET  
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Telephone: 816-737-3240

#2 - **Editorial Policy:** Once again, I would like to draw all potential submitters' of material to ZA attention to the editorial policy stated on the front inside cover of each Zion's Advocate. This policy, I believe, offers a wide variety of potential subjects to address. Erroneously, many are possibly assuming that the only subjects worthy of publication in ZA are those that are "new and different."

The truth is, material is sorely lacking in the "basics" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that teach readers of ZA (yes, members, but especially those not acquainted with the purity of the Gospel of Christ) the whole truth of the plan of salvation of Christ, the Son of God. Such subjects as *faith; repentance; baptism; Christian duty* in today's "contemporary" world; and amplification of such things as the *unchangeability* of the God that created this world and its people; why "*works*" are necessary as demonstration of our faith and love of Jesus; and the idea of realistic *hope of life everlasting* amidst a world of turmoil and seemingly insurmountable temptation ... are all in need of coverage.

This publication, representing the Church that Christ set forth in His lifetime, and the advocacy of the establishment of a Zion, a divine condition and place, does not need to address subjects that, while they are controversial with relation to presently debated doctrine of the Church of Christ, have little to do with the salvation of unsaved souls. By default, the material appearing in Zion's Advocate may be subject to the deeper feelings of its Editor in spite of the Editor's (me) sincere attempt to be impartial. But I believe strongly in the stated editorial policy, and will, with God's help, continue to adhere to it as closely as I am able.

Were the Priesthood of the Church to think in terms of what they would say if they had the opportunity to address a gathered group of unrepentant souls who were largely unfamiliar with any of the truths of the Gospel, and submitted material to Zion's Advocate accordingly, then the editorial policy of this publication, and, ultimately, some of the greater responsibilities of the Church of Christ in these last days, will have been met.

#3 - **Update to ZA Staff Needs Regarding Format of**

**Submitted Material:** As I use the new computer hardware more and more, I have discovered some more definitive guidelines for the format and readability of submitted material. Please keep in mind that these are established in the hope of becoming as independent as possible from the world in the publication of Church of Christ literature and publications:

FIRST - Typewritten material should be on plain bond type paper (not shiny or of the "erasable" variety), and should be in Letter or Near-Letter Quality type using a good, fresh medium or dark ribbon or ink. An older ribbon on a dot-matrix printer in anything less than Near-Letter-Quality is totally unreadable by the Church's computer scanner. A fixed-font spacing type is a must, as any proportionally-spaced type (such as in most publications and many modern word-processors) is mostly unreadable and has to be retyped or returned. Any standard typewriter has good readable type as long as the ribbon is relatively fresh.

SECOND - I want to re-emphasize that handwritten marks, underlining, use of italics, and most other non-standard markings or typing on a page is confusing to the computer.

If only these two guidelines were met, especially the first, my job would be a lot easier. Thanks!

THIRD - ATTENTION COMPUTER BUFFS! For those of you having access to an IBM (or compatible) computer, send your material to me on a 5 1/4" floppy disk along with one hard copy. This is, far and away, the best way to submit material. Indicate the word processor you use. ASCII format is fine also - just let me know which. I use PFS Professional Write, which can re-format to and from most major word processors. I also have a modem.

Incidentally, if there are some enthusiastic typists out there, I could use help typing articles that the computer scanner can't read accurately. All you have to have is access to a computer and do as I described above. Please let me know if you can be of assistance in this area.

Elder Gary Housknecht  
Editor

**RICH LEGACY**

Born in the greatest nation on earth,  
At home in the promised land;  
Favored and free in our place of birth,  
Secure in the Master's hand,  
In awareness of gospel truth we bask,  
Tasting its fruits day by day.  
What greater gifts could any soul ask  
Than the heirlooms that highlight our way?

**Evalena Sills**

## Conference Report 1989

The Conference minutes record the business of the Church but the purpose of this article is to share with the body of Christ the spiritual aspect of all services held during the Conference and the Solemn Assembly.

Our Solemn Assembly opened on Friday morning, March 31st at 9:00 a.m. Apostle Marvin Ely was in charge of the service with Elder Jim Yates Sr. assisting. Brother Ely read from Ephesians 6:10-20. He explained that by putting on the whole armor of God we can stand firm in these last days. Brother Ely also read the purpose of the Solemn Assembly, and after several other comments he led the congregation in a season of prayer. The service had three seasons of prayer and several hymns were sung. At the close of the service Brother Ely read a letter from John Schut of the Netherlands.

The second service began at 2:00 p.m. Elder Eugene Gould was in charge with Elder Gale Brantner assisting. Brother Gould read from Alma 17:71-81. These verses talk about the liahona which worked for Lehi and his family when they exercised their faith and diligence. This scripture speaks to our day. We must be diligent in keeping the commandments of God. With this counsel, the saints entered into a season of prayer.

Friday evening we gathered together with Elder Leslie Case in charge and Elder Loren Bryant assisting. The song "I Know Whom I Have Believed" was sung as one of the opening songs. Singing this hymn tuned our hearts to the sovereignty of God. The meeting was filled with many sincere prayers.

At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1st, we met at the Temple Lot local for our second day of fasting and prayer. Elder Jay Moser was in charge with Elder Ken Oar assisting him. Brother Moser read from Matthew 23:37, 3rd Nephi 4:55, and the Book of Commandments 29:2. He spoke about how the Lord wants to gather the children of men into the kingdom of God. After two seasons of prayer, Teacher Ron Temple read several scriptures about faith and the gifts of the Spirit. Brother Moser counseled us to strengthen our faith by making use of the opportunity to pray. We had another season of prayer before the end of the service.

Saturday afternoon we convened for our last service of the Solemn Assembly. Elder Allen Kauffman was in charge with Elder Leslie Case assisting. Brother Kauffman admonished us to remember charity and he read from Isaiah 55.

During this service Elder Samuel Gould read to the congregation a revelation he received on November 5, 1988:

Thus saith the Lord, your redeemer, Jesus Christ. Behold, I stand at the door knocking, knocking, ready to come unto thee, O, my people. Harken unto my words with all your hearts in consecrated service. Ye are of one faith, one baptism, and one purpose; united in desire to build up and es-

tablish my Zion. This is pleasing unto me, the judge of all the earth, but ye must give more diligent heed unto my commandments which have been delivered through my servants, that ye may be freed from the bondage of Babylon, that exceeding cunning plan for thy utter destruction. I will be your deliverer if your obedience to my gospel is sustained through mighty prayer out of a broken heart and contrite spirit, that your desire for my return be perfect. Now, I am pleading, pleading, that I may stand in your midst saith the Lord.

Apostle William Sheldon stood and witnessed to the truthfulness of the revelation. Elder LeRoy Wheaton told of a vision he had. He saw Christ would not come into our midst because we were not prepared.

Saturday night many Church members were blessed to hear a special presentation by Priest Brian McIndoo. He gave a sermon dealing with toys, games, and cartoons that can adversely effect our children. He shed light on the subtle, dark influences behind some of the toys and cartoons. We want to give Brother Brian special thanks for his efforts and his willingness to share them with us.

The sweet music of a cello and classical guitar, played by Brother Dan and Sister Manon Lawrence met us as we entered the Town Hall for our sacrament service on Sunday morning.

Apostle William Sheldon was in charge with Apostle Roland Sarratt assisting. Brother Sarratt read Matthew 26:26 and 1 Nephi 6:37,38. He reminded us that the sacrament has no meaning unless we think upon Christ and his sacrifice. After the sacrament was passed, Elder Sam Gould performed the ordinance of the blessing of a baby. The baby was Joshua Sedlack. He is the son of Mike and Nita Sedlack.

We had a full meeting with a season of prayer and eighteen testimonies. Sister Joyce Harris began the testimonies with a beautiful testimony of praise. She thanked everyone for their prayers during her recent bout with cancer. She told us she did not fear death. She feels it will be a joy to meet the Lord when that time comes.

Apostle Robert Jensen gave a similar testimony. He told us that it had been three years since his heart attack. Six times the doctors had thought his life had ended. The Lord has spared him and given him a work to do. The Lord has a work for each of us and we can begin by helping others.

Priest Bob McCubbin shared a testimony of God's miraculous power. His young son once suffered with labored breathing and swelling of the joints. The child was administered to and immediately healed. The theme of many of the testimonies was that though we experience trials we can have the joy of Lord. Each testimony glorified

God and uplifted all who attended the service.

Sunday evening the Independence choir, directed by Sister Martha Bruner, sang a cantata. It was called, "Though None Go With Me, I Too Will Follow." The singing and the message of the piece were beautiful.

Apostle Don McIndoo preached after the choral presentation. The cantata was an appropriate introduction to Brother McIndoo's sermon. He specifically addressed the Church members between the ages of 10 and 30 years old. He challenged them to make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

To make this commitment and stick by it you may have to say no to a high paying job that does not leave time for God. You may have to say no to romantic interests if they go against God's laws. Brother McIndoo read from Jacob 3:136-140, and he encouraged us to labor with all our might.

Brother McIndoo outlined these things that will help the youth build the kingdom of God: 1) pray about your profession, 2) serve others, 3) learn Spanish, 4) pray over every aspect of your life, 5) study the word of God, 6) learn to sacrifice your time and money for God's work.

In closing, he asked young and old alike to serve and sacrifice and be the Church of Christ today.

Our next service was Monday evening. Apostle Robert Jensen was the preacher of the hour. Brother Jensen's sermon dealt with the beauty, the power, and the purpose of the word of God. Some of the scriptures he read that exemplified this were; "... man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.", "... the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than a two edged sword ...", and "... Feast upon the words of Christ ...".

Brother Jensen admonished us to cherish God's word and read it and dwell on it every day. He encouraged us to pray before we study and the Holy Spirit will guide us to truth.

We were also counseled to give heed to revelation. He reminded us of the scripture that says it is upon the rock of revelation the Lord will build his kingdom. Brother Jensen read from the Book of Mormon where we are told not to harden our hearts to revelation. We must be careful not to pray with idols in our hearts.

Brother Jensen ended his sermon by encouraging us to seek to bring forth Zion by studying the scriptures and learning and learning the commandments. We must remember, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Each day is a gift from God and we must use it wisely.

Tuesday morning, April 4th at 8:00 a.m., we met for a prayer meeting that precedes the morning business session. Elder Ken Oar was in charge with Priest Robert Dewaele assisting. The service was blessed with many heart-felt prayers and testimonies.

Tuesday evening Apostle Roland Sarratt spoke. He began his sermon with this poignant question, "How well do you know Jesus Christ?" Brother Sarratt brought to our attention that we not only need to know about Christ, but we need

to know him personally. We need to feel God's Spirit and have it work with us and counsel us. He read from John 17:3-14 and explained that to know Jesus Christ is to know the Father who sent him.

Brother Sarratt offered us hope and opened up these truths: 1) Christ overcame the world, 2) we need to humble ourselves as little children, 3) the Book of Mormon is true, 4) we must lay up treasures in heaven, 5) the most important treasure is love, 6) we must seek God's will and not our own.

Brother Sarratt's sermon was akin to Brother Jensen's. He reminded us that Jesus is the bread of life and that we must look to the scriptures to find truth. In closing, he told us of a dream he had. The dream again made him ask the question, "How well do I know Jesus Christ?" Brother Sarratt told us that we can gain a greater understanding of Jesus Christ by reading and studying his words.

Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. Elder Hubert Yates opened the morning prayer service with Elder Emery Pinder assisting. Brother Yates brought us words of soberness. He spoke of love and our desires to be one body. There were many prayer requests. The service consisted of prayers for those who stood in need, as well as prayers for the Conference.

Wednesday evening the saints gathered for the last service of the 1989 Conference. Apostle Marvin Ely was our preacher. He told us he felt compelled to speak about humility. He rehearsed what Brother Sarratt had said about laying our treasures up in heaven, and that Jesus is the bread of life.

Brother Ely brought to our attention some of the false teachings of our day. There is an emphasis on self, riches, and power. He pointed out that this is not God's way. His way is to be humble and submissive. It is a great challenge to serve the Lord in this trying time, but with God all things are possible.

Brother Ely read from Matthew 18:1-5, 11:29-30, 3 Nephi 5:52. These scriptures stress humility. He also read 3 Nephi 3:10-16 and 2 Timothy 3:1-2. Both these scriptures parallel our day and age. The world is filled with pride, sin and inequality. We cannot be lovers of ourselves and riches and accomplish God's work. Ephesians 5:8 tells us that if we want to serve the Lord we must walk in the light.

In closing, Brother Ely read Ether 5:28, "I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them." I know if each of us will do this throughout the coming year, that when we meet for our next Solemn Assembly and Conference the Lord's Spirit will be with us.

**Becky Sheldon  
Conference Reporter**

**QUESTION AUTHORITY, BUT RAISE YOUR HAND  
FIRST. -Bob Thaves**

## A TIME TO CONSIDER AND STUDY ZION

As some of you are aware, a committee to study Zion was organized during the April 1989 Ministers Conference. The purpose of this committee was to study and examine the many spiritual and temporal requirements present which need to be considered before the successful establishment of Zion can take place.

As is evident from what is transpiring in the world today, the establishment of Zion will be absolutely necessary as both a place of refuge and worship. We will need a place to be apart from the world. The society in which we live is becoming increasingly dangerous and unfit. As is indicated in prophecy we can expect the many perils that we are now facing to increase in number and intensity.

Spiritually, we are admonished to seek to bring forth Zion. We need to look to 1 Nephi 3:187-188 to confirm this, "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at that last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb." This passage of scripture should be a great incentive for anyone who is discouraged in these last days. What a wonderful promise ... if we endure to the end and are obedient, we shall be saved from the awful destruction about which has been prophesied.

There are numerous scriptures which point toward the establishment of Zion, and there is ample evidence in these passages indicating we should begin studying Zion and start applying the commandments given to us. One source on this subject should be 3 Nephi 9:54, 58-59, "And I will gather my people together as a man gathereth sheaves unto the floor, for I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass. . . And behold, this people will I establish in this land unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you."

One of the ways which the above commandment can be obeyed is to begin studying and preparing for Zion. We first need to look to the scriptures, then approach this matter with a prayerful and discerning attitude. We must learn to apply these commandments to our lives. We will need to have a pure heart and true desire before we can enjoy the benefits of Zion. There will need to be a singleness of purpose in heart and mind.

After consulting the scriptures, we need to explore possible methods of working toward better cooperation. This can be accomplished through sharing our knowledge and skills with those of like-minded beliefs. Some of these skills will include food production and preservation, and the

manufacturing of goods for our daily requirements. There have been previous attempts to begin Zionic communities which, for various reasons, have failed. We should look upon these past failures and learn from them. If we approach this matter in the proper spirit, it will succeed.

Beyond learning and sharing our knowledge, we need to begin practicing these skills. The application of these skills will be very beneficial to all before it will be an actual necessity for us to gather together. Some of the things which we can do now would be to start raising a garden or livestock if space permits. Another good place to begin would be to establish a storehouse to collect our abundance and share it with those who are not so fortunate. If we begin working towards these goals, a very productive and solid foundation will be laid. I find the thought of acting upon these first steps both challenging and exciting, and I hope others will as well.

**Robert Dewaele, Chairman  
Committee to Study Zion  
2326 Ave E  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501**

### QUESTIONNAIRE: DAILY LIVING SKILLS & INTERESTS

As part of the Committee to Study Zion's continuing examination of the numerous facets present to establish Zion, the following questionnaire has been prepared to assess our people's skills and desires toward this end. Many people, both inside and outside the Church, have special talents and interests, and some of the skills that we use today will also need to be used in a Zionic

community. Some of these skills, which would include large scale farming, veterinary medicine and animal husbandry, welding, blacksmithing, gardening, teaching, clothing manufacture, plus others too numerous to mention, will all be needed.

Please carefully read and consider the following list of skills. Note the skills which you now have, or might be interested in learning, that would be of benefit in a Zionic community. Send a postcard indicating your preferences, along with your name and address to Robert Dewaele at the address listed above. If you can think of any other ideas, feel free to submit them as well. Every one will benefit from your cooperation in this matter. The categories are:

- |                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| * Veterinary Medicine          | * Seed Saving |
| * Food Canning/Preservation    | * Farming     |
| * Wool Production/Preservation | * Gardening   |
| * Clothing Manufacture         | * Carpentry   |
| * Masonry                      | * Butchering  |
| * Leather Work and Preparation | * Soap Making |
| * Nursing and Health Care      | * Others...?  |

*"We will need to have a pure heart...a singleness of purpose...."*



## Houston Local News

Greetings from southern Missouri. It has been very dry here during the month of April, but we are thankful for the rains we have received lately.

Our business meeting was held in April. Elder John Jones was elected Pastor; Elder Arthur Smith, Assistant Pastor ; Elder Virgil Addie, Sunday School Superintendent; and Brother Ireates Keeney, Assistant Superintendent.

We are happy to have Charley Renaud and his family attending our services. They have two sons and one daughter. Charley's wife is the daughter of Brother Gus and Sister Thelma Schwegler. He has recently retired from the Navy. Joanie and Steve Hawkins and three children are living in Cabool now where Steve has his medical practice. We are so happy to have them close enough to attend our services. Mike and Neta Sedlak and little son, Josh, have moved here from Seymore and are a welcome addition to our services. Also, Ollie Hebblethwaite brings her little nephew, Craig Sudhiemer, so you can see our Sunday School is growing. It takes children to make a church "alive and well." We thank God for all of them.

Diane Keeney and Steve Pierce were married on December 31, 1988. Steve is stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base and they are living in Knob Noster where Diane is employed as a hairdresser. We are preparing now for another wedding on June 17th when David Keeney and Carol Moore will exchange their wedding vows. A bridal shower was given for the couple Sunday afternoon, June 4th, in the basement of our church. They are making their home in Houston where David is agent for Shelter Insurance Company.

In April we were happy to have Elder Glenn Gill as our visiting minister. He was accompanied by his wife, Sister Margret, and also Brother Tom and Sister Ruth Maley from the Minneapolis Local. Brother Loren Bryant was our guest speaker in May. Sister Mary Lois Bryant and her mother, Sister Lois Harris, accompanied him.

Sister Roberta McGuire has had hip surgery and at this time is feeling better, but is still unable to drive to church from her home in Mountain View. Sister Anna Keeney has been in the hospital for tests. All tests seem to be good, but she and Roberta need your prayers.

We have one high school graduate this year, Tammy Ely, who is the daughter of Johnna Mae (Jones) Ely and granddaughter of Apostle Marvin Ely. She graduated with honors on May 20th. She received a scholarship to Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, the William Hiatt Scholarship, plus several other awards and honorable mentions. We are all very proud of her.

Our annual rally was held Sunday, May 28th, and was well-attended. Our speakers for the day were Brother Allen Kauffman, Apostle Roland Sarratt, and Brother Joe Smith. Special music was provided by Brother Arthur Smith, Johnna Mae Ely, and Brother Allen and Sister Czerna Kaufman. It was a blessing to have each one with us.

Steve, Joanie, Eric, Jeff and Beth Hawkins, and Janna Medders attended the Spring edition of the Missouri Camp for All Ages, this time near Independence, and reported a good time.

May God's blessings be with all. We ask that you pray for our little Local here in Houston and our prayers are with all of you.

Your Reporter,  
Mary Jane Medders

## Testify to the Truth of the Book

by Apostle Donald McIndoo

Editor's Note: Due to my own error, last month's "Part Five" in this series was published with a five-word final line accidentally cut off. The last full sentence of that article (p. 85) should have read: "Their fellow countrymen called them 'children of the gods.'" Sorry!

### Part Six

**Z**ealous Spanish friars certainly did untold damage to our understanding of the American Indian as they methodically destroyed and burned the great libraries of the ancients such as that of Mani, Yucatan. However, this is not to say that there is no written record of the Indian people. Several ancient codices have been preserved and many treatises were written by intelligent Indians who had been educated by Catholic priests who had an interest in history and a regret for the cultural loss of a great civilization. These Indians were instructed to write of their history, traditions, origin and the travels of their people as could best be remembered. Though they wrote in their native languages they used the Spanish script.

One such Indian historian, Ixtlilxochitl, in his book, *Obras Historicas*, stated that the king of Texcoco gathered together all the records of the Toltecs in a "Divine Book" which contained "...the legends of the creation of the world, the emigration from Asia of these peoples, the stops on the journey, the dynasty of their kings, their social and religious institutions...and so on." In another ancient manuscript, this one from the Quiche Maya of Guatemala, the author identifies himself in this manner: "I...first Ahzib Quiche, write here on this paper of the coming of our fathers and grandfathers from the other side of the sea whence the sun rises.

"Bishop Diego de Landa, who bears the responsibility for the destruction of the Mayan libraries, later tried to undo this immense damage by recording himself the history of the Maya as recounted by the Mayan nobles who survived the great purge at Mani. As he listened to accounts from them,

similar to those just noted concerning their first migration from across the sea, he wrote in his book, *Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan*, "If this were true, it must be that all the inhabitants of the Indies are descended from the Jews..."(p.38)

Among the foremost of these ancient documents is one written by an anonymous Indian shortly after the conquest of Guatemala and is called the *Popol Vuh*. This book contains a creation account that is a poetic counterpart to the opening chapters of Genesis:

The surface of the earth had not appeared. There was only the calm sea and the great expanse of the sky. There was only immobility and silence in the darkness, in the night. Only the Creator, the Maker, Tepeu, Gucumatz, the Forefathers, were in the water surrounded with light. Then Tepeu and Gucumatz came together; then they conferred about life and light, what they would do so that there would be light and dawn... Thus let it be done! Let the emptiness be filled! Let the water recede and make a void, let the earth appear and become solid; let it be done! Thus they spoke. Let there be light, let there be dawn in the sky and on the earth. After that they began to talk about the creation and the making of our first mother and father...

This book also carries the story of a great migration of these people, imprinted upon their memory for more than 1500 years.

A final note about the written records of the Indian is of interest to believers in the *Book of Mormon*. Goetz and Morley in their introduction to the *Popol Vuh* cite many references to the chronicles of the Indians. They refer to the early Spanish priest who discovered the *Popol Vuh* and translated it into the Spanish. This man, Father Francisco Ximenez, tells that "...in the province of Peten, to the south of Yucatan, the Spaniards, during the expedition of 1696 against the Itza, found some books written with characters which resembled Hebrew characters..." (p. 10).

## **ADDENDUM TO THE PUBLISHED TREATISE IN ZION'S ADVOCATE REGARDING THE FALL OF BABYLON**

Babylon derives from ancient Babel, meaning confusion, because the Lord confused the language of the nations. So Babylon, modern Babylon, as depicted in Revelation 18, from which we must strenuously seek to free ourselves, is a system of confusion, idolatry, human exaltation and greed, which is leading the nations to economic oppression, a form of slavery.

It is synonymous with the church of the devil as described

in the Book of Mormon (1 Ne 3: 220-222), which is both spiritual and secular; spiritual, because it is motivated by that evil spirit, the devil, and secular, because it is carnal - it is the world. By "world," I mean spiritual degradation, a decline of spiritual values, or the prevalence of carnal desires over holy, spiritual desires; by "world," I mean a lust for power, money and possessions or "things;" in a word, I mean, "mammon" which is worldly riches (Luke 16:13). We cannot serve God and mammon, said the Master. By "world," I mean care for self with but little, if any, care for others.

Babylon must - it will - fall, and mammon be destroyed, the mammon of unrighteousness; therefore the time to begin the exit from Babylon is NOW. Following, I present ten steps as my suggestions for this exit, which is balanced by my ten suggested steps on the road to Zion.

### **EXIT FROM BABYLON**

1. Rule out of the mind a belief that other churches are equally acceptable to God as the Church of Christ; that all churches claiming a belief in Christ are in fact His church. Joseph Smith was instructed by the Lord to join none of them, for their creeds were an abomination in His sight.

2. If the choice is ours, then refuse to break the Christian sabbath, which is the Lord's day (or Sunday) by indulgence in labors and activities which will not produce rest to the body and mind, or be acceptable as worship of God. Do not thine own pleasure on His holy day (Isaiah 58: 13,14).

3. Do not engage in social activities, or pleasures of any sort which, as matters of personal preference and frequent occurrence, separate us from the body of Christ and breaks the bond of fellowship and service to each other.

4. Shun association of a personal basis with those who have little or no moral direction in their lives, as judged by the gospel of Christ, except as it may assist them to come up higher.

5. Refuse to watch or permit our children to watch suggestive programming of sex on television and the theater; programs of loose moral and marital standards; programs which foster use of alcohol and drugs as acceptable stimulants; programs devoted to violence and bloodshed, even in so-called "cartoons." In a word: Being quite restricted in the viewing of the TV, etc. Many today are not sensitive to loose standards.

6. Restriction in literature or music which is immoral or suggestive toward sex, drugs, or the gratification of other carnal desires.

7. "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Ephesians 5: 3-6.

8. Let fighting by physical or mental force, or by the



tongue, as a means of conquest be put away.

9. Narrowing of financial credit obligations to only essential needs, with the purpose of ultimate elimination.

10. If possible, do not trust in stocks, bonds, the interest system in any way, or economic means other than that produced through honest labor of body and mind to sustain your livelihood; and this only with the mental reservation that our real trust must be in God.

#### ON THE ROAD TO ZION

1. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." Mark 12:30. The light of the body is the eye (or mind), if, therefore, thine eye be single (fully devoted to God), thy whole body shall be full of light. Matthew 6:22.

2. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Mark 12:31. All things common. 4 Nephi 3, 4, 17-20.

3. Love your enemies. Matthew 5:43-48. Forgiveness. Colossians 3:12,13. Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

4. Consecration. Read hymn 175, verse 3 (Zion's Hymnal). Sacrifice. Joseph Smith said:

Let us here observe that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power to produce faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained, without the sacrifice of all earthly things. It was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life; and it is through the medium of the sacrifice of all earthly things that men do actually know that they are doing the things that are well pleasing in the sight of God. When a man has offered in sacrifice all that he has for the truth's sake, not even withholding his life, and believing before God that he has been called to make this sacrifice because he seeks to do his will, he does know, most assuredly, that God does and will accept his sacrifice and offering, and that he has not, nor will not seek His face in vain.

5. Pay tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:7-12); reaffirmed by Christ to the Nephites in 3 Nephi 11:10-15.

6. Possess humility (no self-exultation); not proud; unpretentious (1 Peter 5:5-7). Meekness (Numbers 12:3; Matthew 11:29-30). Signifies obedience, a yielding of the will (read Helamen 2:29-31).

7. Fast (Isaiah 58:6-12) and pray (2 Nephi 14: 11, 12, and Alma 16:219-222 )

8. Service to God (3 Nephi 11: 17-21) and to man (Mosiah 2: 43, 44).

9. Visit and pray for the sick (Alma 16: 223-224), the

widows and orphans (James 1: 27).

10. Covet faith, hope and charity until filled (Moroni 7: 35, 45-53). Charity is the pure love of Christ. By it, we die to self: self-will, self-expression of importance, self-reliance of ability (or independence from God). Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion ... Isaiah 52: 1. What is the strength of Zion? Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: For in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength (margin: the Rock of Ages). Isaiah 26: 3, 4.

Apostle William A. Sheldon

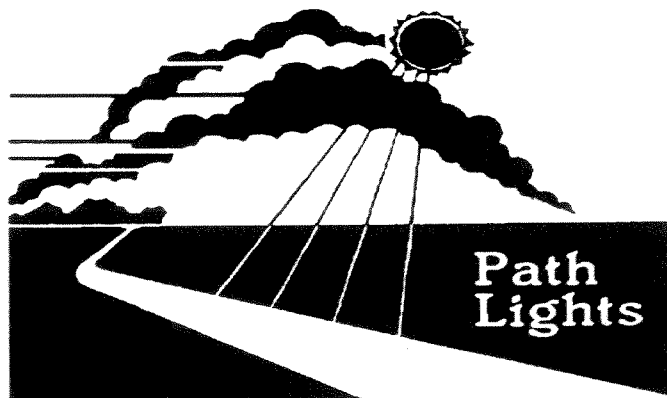
### Tri-State Reunion

The Tri-State Reunion will be held at the Whitewater State Park by Altura, Minnesota. The dates of the reunion are from September 1 (2:00 P.M.) through 4 (10:00 A.M.).

Lodging and all services, will be at the indoor group camp. All motor vehicles used within the park must have a current state park motor vehicle permit. The cost of a two day permit is \$3.25. The cabins at the group camp have bunk beds with mattresses. Those who come must provide their own bedding (sleeping bag).

For more information please contact:

**Merlin Eddy**  
12115 Rich Valley Blvd.  
Rosemount, Mn 55068  
Telephone 612-450-1939



#### GLORY OF THE CONFIRMATION SPIRIT

This is a testimony given March 1, 1989, in the village of Mayapan, Yucatan, by German Balaam on the night he was confirmed a member of the Church of Christ.



Brothers and Sisters, this night I wish to give a testimony before our Lord Jesus Christ and before each of you. I feel very happy to be united with you tonight. It has been 17 or 18 years since I first came to hear the Word of God, but I didn't consider it to be very important.

One day Brother Vicente visited me and invited me to a Service of Adoration. That night the Lord touched me with His power and it caused me to meditate upon the Word of my God, for there is no other in whom we may trust because there is no other name under Heaven given to man by which they might be saved, only by the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God because He has called His sons to carry and preach the message of His Holy gospel to all the world. By means of His Word and His love we have known our brothers. We come together with three, Brother Donald (McIndoo), Brother Alvin (Moser) and our Brother Vicente, sharing the love that Christ has given them.

I say, again, that by means of His word we have hope, and in that hope we have patience, and through patience comes the reward of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **THANK YOU, LORD, FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE**

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the effort of rising, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in the magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no jobs.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

#### **Author Not Identified**

Permission to publish in Zion's Advocate given to Apostle Robert H. Jensen by Ann Landers. Originally published by Los Angeles Times Syndicate and Omaha World Herald.

My child, I love thee as no other could!  
It is my joy to do thee good!  
All thy sins I washed away  
When I was crucified that day  
So very, very long ago.  
'Twas all because I loved thee so.

Then bring thy sorrows unto me;  
Some soon tomorrow I'll make thee free.  
No more hurting, no more pain,  
As forever I am to reign!  
A thousand years on earth, 'tis so!  
Beyond it is eternity aglow!

With wondrous things in store for thee,  
My little one, who soon I free!  
Fret not if others turn from thee,  
They have not eyes like mine to see.  
They do but view the outer man,  
Nor do they know for thee my plan.

Forgive them as I have forgiven thee,  
And bring them oft in prayer to me,  
For I love them, too, you see.  
Those needs you have with none to aid,  
I'll take care of! Be not afraid!

Just rest ye in my love each day  
And bow before me oft to pray  
For strength; 'tis given day by day!  
Soon ye will not feeble be,  
But like youth set free, set free!

Then rejoice my precious little flower,  
I'll soon appear! It is my hour.  
Then ye shall know my depth of love,  
When I step down from up above.  
Keep praying, trusting, and loving me,  
King of all eternity!

**Isabel Wisely**

---

*PASSITON...*

We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in at least the same measure as we received it. - Anon

## MISSOURI REUNION

We would like to invite everyone to attend our Missouri Reunion with us.

Date: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 11-12-13, 1989. First meeting to begin at 9:00 A.M., August 11.

Place: Warrensburg, Missouri, at East Hudson Conference Center (the same building as the past few years).

Location: East Anderson St., east off Highway 13 in Warrensburg.

Lodging: Rooms are \$16.50 for single occupancy and \$26.00 for double occupancy per night. Pay as you enter.

Food: Meals will be furnished, desserts included. Donations will be accepted from those who dine with us.

We would like to know approximately how many plan on attending so the rooms can be reserved. As soon as possible, notify Jeanette Cunningham, Rt. 5, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093. 816-747-5024

There is plenty of room for all. Arrangements can be made for disabled persons if we know ahead of time.

### • SUNDAY SCHOOL "BRAINSTORMING" SESSION:

There will be a meeting after the Sunday noon meal for all those having ideas or are otherwise interested in Sunday School materials for the Church of Christ.

There are many subjects and age-levels that are in need of coverage through prepared materials. Your ideas and/or talents can be of great help in this area.

Please plan to take a few minutes after the Sunday noon meal to attend this important meeting! Thank you.

**Becky Sheldon, Secretary  
General S.S. Association  
31607 E. Major Road  
Grain Valley, Missouri 64029**

Let us all try to attend and worship and associate together to make this the best Missouri Reunion ever.

## REFORM VERSUS TRADITION

by Roland L. Sarratt

From the late 1950s through the 1970s a noticeable change took place in the United States, and possibly other nations, which has effected the way people think. An attitude of rejecting the established or commonly accepted way of life suddenly appeared almost as a planned reformation. A person who felt to assert himself/herself seemed to have an unquestionable right to challenge any claim of an absolute.

Speaking one's mind on a given subject became more than just a right; it was often regarded as one's duty. There was a deliberate disregard of authority and "the establishment." Casual opinion challenged conventional knowledge and experience. The former generation (1920s through 1940s) of which I am a part, was raised in quite a different atmosphere. The old school of thought and practice was that children were to be seen and not heard; they were not to speak unless spoken to. A distasteful experience for our parents and grandparents was the interruption of adult conversation so "little Johnny" could express his views on the topic of discussion.

Admittedly, there has been certain merit in breaking with the old ways of the past especially when people had become subjected to incorrect traditional thinking. It is very easy for people to become settled into the way of life in which they have been raised without any motivation to question the validity of what they were taught. In that

consideration reform seemed necessary for growth. But our unfortunate reform brought radical rejection without a true sense of direction, leaving our young to "do their own thing" without proper guidance. Many of Our moral standards were considered foolish and unnecessary, and most efforts to defend them were ignored by the reformists.

In retrospect, this nation has more recently begun to judge its misguided actions of reform and it is recognizing the need for legal and moral restraints to be reinstated in our society. How utterly pathetic are the ways of man! He arrives at the end of an over-emphasized cause and wakes up to discover that he is the victim of his own folly! The "little Johnnys" are now leading us in an open forum society. The expressed opinion of the man on the street, talk shows, counsellors probing their patients to unleash their pent-up feelings and employers inviting their employees to speak their minds about their jobs, are among some of the more noticeable changes in our society today. Of course all of these have merit and can be considered to be major improvements.

The fact still remains, however, that, as a people, we still don't seem to know where we are going and by whom we are being led. Are we learning some valuable lessons? Are we establishing recognizable standards or guidelines which we can look to in the future? Do we have worthwhile goals that we can confidently strive to accomplish?

Or are we yet uncertain about anything that has a claim to be absolute? Do we merely find comfort in expressing our frustrations without actually experiencing the cure of frustration? Are we allowing ourselves to be guided into a world of relativism with never-ending open ends and no stable conclusions by which we might judge a thing to be right or wrong? Are we, as Paul prophesied, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"?

This article will be concluded next month . . .

## ZION'S ADVOCATE

### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1990 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 1. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 2. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 30 and 31.

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 the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472,  
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

Price Each

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
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Outline History of the Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (paper bound)	4.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder - by D. McGregor	3.50
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed	.30
Changing of the Revelations	.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30

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 The Principles of the Gospel - Faith & Repentance  
 The Principles of the Gospel - Laying on of Hands  
 The Principles of the Gospel - Baptism  
 The Latter Day Restoration  
 Apostasy or Succession, Which?  
 The Book of Mormon (tract)  
 Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ  
 Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)  
 Article #9 Amplified: Bible & Book of Mormon  
 Article #20 Amplified: Marriage  
 Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus  
 What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)  
 Mighty Acts of the Ages (Spanish)  
 Priesthood - Divine Authority  
 Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)  
 A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)  
 First Presidency or First Apostles?  
 Marriage for Time and Eternity? - A Fallacy  
 Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy  
 Zion and the Temple of the Lord

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs.  
 Multiple copies available: 6-\$5.50 / 100-\$5.85 plus postage.

#### Sunday School Materials

Send orders for SS Materials to 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 noted. Donations are accepted to cover postage costs.

Church History for Juniors -Includes a Teachers Guide  
The Book in the Stone Box  
Bible Stories to Grow By -52 lessons about God and Jesus - ages 5-7;  
 (Free to local Sunday Schools only)  
Jesus' Life and Teachings -4 quarterlies - ages 8-10  
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 songs on cassette (For "loan" only)  
Who Am I? -Bible game on cards with many uses (Free to Local Sun-  
 day Schools - \$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.

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 Fruitport, MI 49415

### AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

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

#### Slide Programs with Taped Narration

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

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. For more information on these slide/tape programs, see the March 1984 issue of the *Zion's Advocate*, page 47. To order a slide program, write to Gary Housknecht, 11308 E. 78th St, Raytown, Mo 64138

**"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.