

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;" I Nephi 3:187*

Volume 66

Independence, Missouri — September 1989

Number 9



**"Praise ye the Lord! 'Tis good to raise
your hearts and voices in His Praise..."**

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Zion's Advocate is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P. O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or 833-3914.

Published monthly by the Church of Christ. Second Class Postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes: \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 (one year); Canadian and all other foreign add 50¢.

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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.

WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for "Path Lights," and news items are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of Submitted Material

Please type all submissions, on one side of the paper only. Do not use "eraseable" or any fancy textured paper. Do not make any handwritten marks (including corrections) anywhere on the paper — if necessary, make supplementary notes on a separate piece of paper. Do not use underlining, italics, all-caps, or any fancy typefaces; specify any text emphasis you desire on a separate note. Finally, it would be VERY helpful if you would be certain you are using a typewriter ribbon that gives a good, distinct image (not smudgy or too light).

Word Processors/Computers

When using a word processor, use only "letter quality" or "near-letter quality" print with a fresh ribbon or cartridge. I can utilize text files on computer floppy disks (5 1/4" only) if IBM compatible. I can translate from most word processing software, but simple ASCII is best. I can also receive any text files over a phone modem.

STATUS OF PUBLISHED 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.

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Six

Editor's Note: After a three month absence due to hardware problems (the computer would not scan the documents making up this series), this fine compilation is back — hopefully to stay.

QUESTION NO. 5 - What distinguishing earmarks prove him to be the Son of God or Jesus Christ our Saviour? THE TESTIMONY OF HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

"In Nicaragua proper, they adored Tamaoteot, ' the great god, ' whose son Teobilche was sent down to mankind. This looks like another Christ-myth, especially when we read of attendant angels, who had wings and flew about in heaven. The names of the two chief angels were Taraacazcati and Tamacaztobal" (The Native Races, vol. 3, p. 492).

Evidence here strongly suggests the conclusion that the two chief angels named above are none other than Michael and Gabriel.

"In former times, as they (the Chilians) had heard their fathers say, a wonderful man had come to that country, wearing a long beard, with shoes, and a mantle such as the Indians carry on their shoulders, who performed many miracles, cured the sick with water, caused it to rain, and their crops and grain to grow, kindled fire at a breath, and wrought other marvels, healing at once the sick, and giving sight to the blind, and so on." (Quoted from Rosales' inedited History of Chili, in Kingsborough's Mexican Antiquities, vol. vi, p. 419, cited in The Native Races, vol.5, p.24).

"And only Quetzalcoatl among all the gods was preeminently called Lord; in such sort, that when any one swore, saying, 'By Our Lord', he meant Quetzalcoatl, and no other; though there were many other highly esteemed gods. For indeed the service of this god was gentle, neither did he demand hard things, but light; and he taught only virtue, abhorring all evil and hurt" (The Native Races, vol. 3, p. 251).

"Of the heavenly bodies, they esteemed next to the sun a certain star, into which Quetzalcoatl was supposed to have converted himself on leaving the earth" (The Native Races, vol. 2, p. 340).

There are numerous other traditions concerning the Dawn Star or Venus and its connection with the Fair God. The Indians in North America refused to go into battle as long as that star shone or was visible in the heavens. Compare these traditions on the part of the American Indian toward the morning star with the words of Christ in Revelation 22:16, "I am the root and the offspring of David, AND THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR."

"The inquiries instituted by Las Casas revealed the existence of a trinity, the first person of which was Izona, the Great Father; the second was the Son of the Great Father, Bacab, born of the virgin Chibirias, scourged and crucified, he descended into the realms of the dead, rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; the third person of the trinity was Echuah, or Ekchua, the Holy Ghost" (The Native Races, vol.3, p.462).

This reference to his descent into the realms of the dead is a remarkable confirmation of Christ's visit to the Prison House.

THE TESTIMONY OF LORD KINGSBOROUGH

"Quetzalcoatl is there painted in the attitude of a person crucified, with the impression of nails in his hands and feet, but not actually upon the cross...The seventy-third plate of the Borgian MS. is the most remarkable of all, for Quetzalcoatl is not only represented there as crucified upon a cross of Greek form, but his burial and descent into hell are also depicted in very curious manner" (Antiquities of Mexico, cited in Milton R. Hunter's, Christ in Ancient America, p.265).

THE TESTIMONY OF P. DeROO

"The tradition of the Pericues of Lower California related the whole history of Christ in a few words: Neparaya was their Great Spirit...one, who was called Cuajup or True Man, was born on earth in the mountains of Acaraque, and lived a long time among men in order to instruct them. He was most powerful and had a great number of followers, having descended into the bowels of the earth and brought them thence. But these ungrateful beings, despising his benefits, formed a conspiracy against him, put a crown of thorns upon his head, and slew him" (History of America Before Columbus, p.435).

"Fremont gives an account of the birth of the hero, in which his mother is declared to have been a woman of exquisite beauty, admired and sought after by all men" (History of America Before Columbus, vol. 1, pp. 106-107).

"One of the Manaicas' traditions states, indeed, that a woman of accomplished beauty, who had never been wedded to man, gave birth to a most lovely child. This child, after growing up to man's estate, worked many wonders, raised the dead to life again, made the lame walk and the blind see. Finally, having one day called together a great number of people, he ascended into the air and was transformed into the sun who enlightens this earth" (History of America Before Columbus, pp. 426-427).

The Book of Mormon says of this virgin, "... and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou? And I said unto him, A VIRGIN, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND FAIR ABOVE ALL OTHER VIRGINS" (I Nephi 3: 54-55 emphasis by H.E.S.).

"He never married nor knew any woman, but lived in continence and chastity all his days" (History of America Before Columbus, pp. 427-428).

"Tonacatecotl, the Mexican supreme deity, begot Quetzalcoatl, not by connection with woman, but by his breath alone, when he sent his ambassador to the virgin of Tulla. They say it was Quetzalcoatl who effected the reformation of the world, by penance. His father had created the world, but men had given themselves up to vice, on which account it had been frequently destroyed, but now had Tonacatecotl sent this his son into the world to reform it.

"Quetzalcoatl undertook the reformation of the sinful world through preaching, by word and example, the virtues of self-denial and fasting, of chastity and piety, of charity towards men, and of a pure religion towards the one true god. For a time he succeeded in Tulla, where, according to some reports, his virgin-mother, Chimalma, lived; but in spite of all the wondrous good he did in that province, like Christ, he was persecuted, and finally driven out by the majority of the people. Carrying a cross, he came to the valley of the Zapotecs. We have noticed before that the Chiapan son-god, Bacab, who had been scourged by Eopuco and crowned with thorns, had also been the divine son of the Mexican virgin goddess. This same son of Chibirias or Chimalma had been put to death by crucifixion; and this sacrilegious crime had been perpetrated on a Friday....

"Another circumstance of our Saviour's death seems to be remembered in Mexico, for it is related in the traditions that, at the disappearance of Topiltzin or Quetzalcoatl, both sun and moon were covered in darkness, while a single star appeared in the heavens.

"Our Lord's resurrection is plainly brought to mind by the statement of the venerable Chiapan chief, who asserted that the crucified Bacab remained dead three days and on the third day came to life again" (History of America Before Columbus, p.430-431).

"When, in the year 1518, Grijalva landed on the island of Cozumel, he and his companions were greatly puzzled at the sight of numerous crosses which they met both on the inside and the outside of the temples. At one place, in particular, they found a temple in the shape of a square tower, which contained the idols; attached to it was a small building where the instruments for the sacrifices were kept, and farther yet a court-yard enclosed with a crenellated whitewashed wall. In the centre of this yard stood a cross of limestone nine feet high, around which the natives at times walked in procession with great devotion and respect, begging for rain. De las Casas adds that the cross was the rain-god in Cozumel, to whom they sacrificed quails in seasons of drought. When asked how they had come in possession of that symbol, some of them answered that a very beautiful man had passed through their island and had left this token as an everlasting memorial; others said they revered it because a man more resplendent than the sun had died on it" (History of America Before Columbus, p. 436).

"We know from Duran that Topiltzin, also after his arrival in America, admitted into his Order, called, 'Quequetzalcohua' OR PRIESTS OF THE ORDER OF QUETZALCOATL, new disciples whom he instructed to pray and to preach" (History of America Before Columbus, p. 546).

The Book of Mormon says, "And I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after his holy order, WHICH WAS AFTER THE ORDER OF HIS SON, to teach these things unto the people..." (Alma 9:63).

"The Algonquin tribes worshipped the sun, and most of them gave it the name of 'Jesus' or a name slightly different, as 'Kizous' in the Abnaki dialect, 'Jischi,' in Chippewayan, and 'Kesus,' in the New England tongues" (History of America Before Columbus, vol.2, p. 280).

(This series continues next month.)

THE MONKEY TRAP

by Mike Kelley

Several years ago I received a phone call concerning a possible job offer. The job included some benefits but had some sacrifices also. That evening I fasted and boldly prayed asking for guidance fully expecting an answer. The Lord did answer that prayer and gave more than I had asked for. That night I received three vivid dreams, the first was about the job, the second about a personal matter, and the third dream seemed to have broader meanings...

I beheld a woman beautiful and fair; not as the world perceives beauty but a spiritual stalworthy beauty. She seemed to be in a small room alone. Then a sinister looking

character (dressed like a spy) came up to her and gave her a beautiful egg as a gift. She received it with joy and he went away hiding in a corner.

She held the egg in her left hand admiring its beauty and cracked it open with her right hand. Out popped a small banded snake resembling a Coral snake (extremely poisonous). It immediately began striking at her, fangs glistening with poison. She frantically tried to shield herself with her right hand. The snake relentlessly attacked leaving fang marks on her hand then her face as she weakened from the poisonous effect.

Soon she collapsed to the floor still supporting the snake with her left hand. She was no longer able to shield herself and the snake freely attacked. Just as she was about to perish she cried out to God with all her soul for help. Immediately an Eagle with sharp piercing eyes swooped down and killed the snake.

Continued 

Testify to the Truth of the Book

by Apostle Donald McIndoo

Part Eight

In the Book of Mormon we read that Lehi, one of America's pre-Columbian inhabitants, prophesied that should his descendants turn away from the Holy One of Israel, the Lord would "... bring other nations unto them, and he will give unto them power, and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten (2 Nephi 1:24)." History records the veracity of this prophecy as the New World was rediscovered and a flood of Europeans sailed westward.

Of course, skeptics discount the conquest of America as evidence of the fulfillment of a divine, American prophecy, claiming that Joseph Smith simply wrote the "prophecy" with the benefit of history. It is, therefore, of great interest to note that this prophecy of Lehi was repeated again and again by prophets of the great American civilizations prior to the Conquest.

When Cortez arrived at the shores of Mexico, Montezuma, ruler of the Aztecs, and Nezauallpilli, ruler of nearby Texcoco, called together their counselors and "...some were in favor of immediate resistance. But the will of Montezuma and the king of Texcoco prevailed: they said resistance was useless."¹ The historian, Prescott, quotes the ruler Nezauallpilli as saying "The time has arrived when the sons of Quetzalcoatl (the bearded, white god of Mesoamerica's past - DEM) were to come from the East to take possession of the land."²

To the south, Huayma Cpac was the eleventh Inca of Peru in 1525 when he was notified of strange vessels off the coast. He, too, met with the leaders of the empire. Cusi

Hualpa, an Incan General, later reported the events of that meeting to his nephew, the historian Garcilasco, who recounted a speech by the Inca: "Our father the sun, has revealed to me that after the rule of twelve Incas, his children, men of a kind unknown to us, will come into our country and subjugate our state. Without doubt they belong to the people whose men were sighted off our coasts... Let me assure you that these strangers will come into our country and fulfill the oracle."³ Incidentally, six years later Francisco Pizarro was beginning his conquest of Peru and killed Atahualpa, the twelfth Inca ruler.

Just as the Aztecs and Incas had received signs and prophecies that white strangers would arrive to destroy their power and their religion, so did the Maya empire of Yucatan. The noted historian, Diego de Landa, tells us " In the Mountains of Mani... an Indian called Ahcambal, who held the office of chilan... told them publicly that they would soon pass under the rule of a foreign people who would preach to them one God and the power of a tree...."⁴

Was this awareness of an impending invasion, bringing with it a new religion, the result of an ancient "cultural knowledge" based upon the earlier prophecies of Lehi, Nephi, Jacob and Jesus, the ancient Quetzalcoatl of the Indian people? Perhaps we shall never know, but this we do know - Lehi and his sons were but a part of a continuing succession of prophets the Lord used to forewarn His people of the consequences of disobedience.

References:

1. Honore, Pierre, In Quest of the White God, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1964, p. 67.
2. Ibid., p. 67
3. Ibid., p. 66
4. Pagden, A.R., Diego de Landa's, Account of the Affairs of Yucatan - The Maya, J. Philip O'Hara, Inc., Chicago, 1975, p.49.

(From page 116)...The woman then slowly recovered, still bleeding from the fang marks, and walked over to the bed. On it was a beautiful, yet simple shining white robe. She had to hurry and put it on for she was late for the wedding and might miss it. The sinister character then stomped off mad because his plan was foiled.

I had pondered this dream for quite some time and it reminded me of many situations I've seen or heard of in life. Like the man toting an oxygen bottle around all of his life and in between wheezing from emphysema, puffs a cigarette. Or the one who places the cigarette up to a hole in his throat to draw because he has no mouth due to cancer; like the man who loses his family, his job, and finally his health because of alcohol; yet he is convinced he has no problem. How about the practicing homosexual who is dying from AIDS and an assortment of other vile diseases. The list could go on: Pride, Riches, Drugs, Hate, etc.

It reminds me of the "Monkey Trap." In a foreign land there are some natives that like to eat monkeys. They would chain

a coconut to a tree and drill a hole in it just the size of a monkey's paw. Then they would drop a small pebble in it then go hide nearby. Monkeys are curious creatures and one would come by and inspect this coconut. It would stick its hand inside and find the pebble but his paw would be too big to remove it. In spite of the approaching hunters, the monkey would utterly refuse to release the pebble and, therefore, be captured.

Are we like that monkey - tenaciously clinging to some worldly habit (physical or spiritual) that is destroying our lives and souls? Can we let go of our pride, our egos, our self will? Do we cling to the poisonous pleasures that the world displays in beautiful containers? Are we willing to allow the Devil to take us away in his net so he can feast on our souls and misery?

I pray we do not, and if we are tricked into a trap I pray we call upon God to deliver us so that we may put on the Robe of righteousness and be ready for His return.

Amen.

**THE 1989 CHURCH OF CHRIST
MISSOURI REUNION**

How blessed are we who were able to be present at the Church of Christ Missouri Reunion. It was truly a time of gladness: greeting loved ones, renewing friendships and making new ones, listening to God's word through his servants, the music, prayers, testimonies, etc. I could go on and on, my heart is so full. I just hope each of you enjoyed the spirit that was present throughout our time together as much as I did.

Elder Nicholas Denham opened the first meeting of the reunion, a prayer and testimony service, on Friday morning. Scripture was read by Elder Leroy Wheaton admonishing us that we should bear to the world our testimony that we are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Prayers were offered, remembering those in need. Apostle Don McIndoo, in his prayer, asked that the Lord's blessing be upon us at this reunion. A statement of welcome was given by Apostle Roland L. Sarratt on behalf of the Reunion Committee and all the locals of Missouri.

After a short break, we gathered to hear a sermon delivered by Apostle William A. Sheldon. He counseled us that we need to seek a greater unity of faith, individually and collectively. And that someday Christ will give His servants the ability and faith to speak the gospel as with one voice. The spirit of God will cause us to gather together, to get back to the early standards on which this Church was founded.

Accept the fulness of the Word, and rightly divide (understand) the word of truth. We will be judged by the Word. Despise not the revelations of God. All these words of instruction were given by Elder Gale Brantner in the sermon he delivered Friday afternoon. He also reminded us that it is our choice whether we accept or reject the fulness of the Word of God.

Our speaker Friday evening was Elder Marvin Case. A pouring out of the Lord's Spirit is what we can enjoy if we love Him and keep His commandments. He caused us all to remember that no matter where or what's happening, the Lord is with us. That we should remember Him, and cling to Him, because without Him we can do nothing.

Assembling for prayer and testimony meeting Saturday morning, we listened to prayer offered by Elder Smith Brickhouse, followed by a scripture reading by Elder Frank Fann. The message contained in Bro. Fann's reading was that the purpose for this meeting be imbedded in our hearts. Each of us has a reason for being here, a purpose for being here. The purpose being to exalt and praise the Lord. Many names were mentioned to be remembered in prayer. Following the season of prayer, we witnessed the consecrating of olive oil.

Elder Warren Johnson impressed on us that we have responsibilities NOT to break the laws God has given to us. One of our responsibilities if we are going to know the laws God has given to us, is to take time to search the scriptures,

because they tell us how to live, how to raise our children, etc.

Saturday afternoon, Elder Gerry Case related to us in his sermon that his prayer is that God will speak to us and that he will rule and over rule. Also, that we MUST learn to serve him because the Lord works through us and He needs His servants. We must learn to be truly forgiving as we kneel in prayer so our Heavenly Father can forgive us. We must be submissive to the will of God in all things.

Saturday evening Elder Bob Oldham gave us an example of how the word of God can be compromised. He stated that if you and I compromise the word of God one iota, we have polluted and devalued his word. We must remember that whatever Christ speaks is His law and that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

"Welcome to this sacred event," were the words of greeting used by Apostle Roland L. Sarratt to begin our sacrament service on this beautiful Sunday morning. He then introduced Apostle Don McIndoo who read from the Book of Mormon about the people who once lived here on this land with their Lord. We should consider these people and follow their example of humility and faith.

Many hearts were touched and many eyes teary as we witnessed the blessing of the 5 week-old son of Kim and Jim Yates, jr. by his grandfathers, Elders Bob Oldham and Jim Yates, sr. What a special time in his life! He even expressed his thoughts on the matter!

Many, many names were offered for remembrance as we entered a season of prayer. Following, numerous persons stood to testify of God's workings in their lives. Though not voiced, I'm sure everyone present had a testimony in their heart of blessings received in times of need.

The last sermon of the 1989 reunion was presented by Apostle Marvin Ely. He read from the Book of Mormon that the love of God is desirable above all other fruits. We should keep to the strait and narrow way because the broad way does not lead to the tree of life. Bro. Ely rehearsed to us the vision of needs given to our brother Placido Koyoc from Yucatan, which stated the need for much prayer in all areas for our spiritual and physical well-being.

Many talents were revealed Sunday afternoon when each Missouri local presented an offering of a song or songs, individually or in groups (age no barrier). Also enjoyed was the reading of several original poems. I especially like to watch the faces of the children when they sing, because on them I see such beauty and pride of accomplishment.

The childrens group enjoyed their trips to nearby parks. The young people held their annual outing at the Brantner lake on Saturday evening.

Each year since the reunion has been held here in Warrensburg, the number attending has grown. This year, almost 300 dined together on Sunday for the noon meal. The effort each of you made to be here with us these three days is sincerely appreciated. It wouldn't be a reunion without you. In truth, YOU are the reunion!

May God bless each of you is my prayer.

For the Reunion Committee, Jeanne Brantner

1989 REFERENDUM RESULTS

The vote on bill #1, which proposed a change in Article 23 of the Articles of Faith and Practice in regard to the building of a temple, was 143 in favor and 220 opposed. This measure was turned down.

The vote on bill #2, regarding scriptural references to be used in preaching or writings which represent the Church of Christ, was 215 in favor with 160 opposed. This bill would have required a 2/3 majority vote in favor, therefore, the measure was not approved. This means that the 1977 referendum, of similar import, is still in force.

Respectfully submitted,

**William A. Sheldon, Secretary
Council of Apostles**

S O S! S O S!

Attention all Church of Christ members:

I am in great need of (and strongly desire!) any historical data any of you might have that should be in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) History I am engaged in writing. The project was suggested to me by Apostle Robert Jensen; I made it a matter of intense prayer and then talked to Apostle Jensen about it. I couldn't imagine where I would get enough material to do justice to this; he suggested that the present *Outline History of the Church of Christ* would be a good place to start. This struck me as eminently sensible; it would at least give me quite a lot of data up to the date of 1950. I went to work, continuing in daily prayer that I might be guided by our dear Lord. I know that, by myself, I can't possibly find enough of the right material, or know how to put it into words.

I have finished a rough draft of the period ending in 1950. Other material has continued to come into my hands, sometimes just as I thought I would have to come to a halt! If you have anything that seems to you to fit into this work — I need your help — now!

May God continue to bless and keep and use us, every one!

**Lovingly,
Donna Moser
P.O. Box 5430
Carefree, Arizona 85377
(telephone 602-488-4047)**

OKLAHOMA CITY LOCAL NEWS

What a delightful summer we have had! There were many wildflowers, the song birds were everywhere, and the grass remained green all summer. This season is a reminder to all of us what an omnipotent God we worship.

Our best news is: Larry, Jewel, and Christy Beem have moved back to Oklahoma! Their moving back made us very happy! When I first heard the news, I thought someone was all mixed up. I also thought of the Springfield Local and how they would miss them. Welcome back, Larry, Jewel, and Christy.

My husband, Harold, learned in early May that he would have to have colon cancer surgery. Anytime you say the word cancer, you are scared half to death. The news was spread to church folk and the news spread to all our friends here at home. Many prayers went up in his behalf. The surgery was successful and there was no after treatments of any kind. The surgeon noticed his rapid recovery. The nurses regarded him as an ideal patient. He is 75 years old and this alone makes for a great story as to the blessing he received. Harold is appreciative and he is aware of his great blessing.

We continue to have visiting ministry from the Independence area. Each one is very much appreciated. It is a hard trip to drive to Oklahoma City to hold church services. It is expensive, too, but the folk who come never think of

these things. They believe they receive a great blessing, too.

The Elwell family continues to do just great. The boys are growing up all too fast. Laura May had a tremendous experience this summer. She was one of two Edmond teachers who went to France with sixteen exchange students. The exchange program was in cooperation with the Marie Curie Lycee (high school) located in Vire. She lived with a family who spoke no English. That gave Laura May good practice with her French. She will teach Spanish and French in Edmond's Mid-High this fall.

The Kimball family is as busy as bees. Barbara is working at Tinker Air Force Base. Mike continues in the same job that brought the family to Oklahoma. Jeff will be a junior in college this fall and Steven will be a senior in high school.

We invite you to join us on a Sunday whenever you can. We are still meeting in our homes. Call Larry and Jewel at (405) 793-9631 to find out the location of our church meeting.

May the good Lord bless and keep you wherever you may live. Remember us in your prayers.

**Alzada Massey,
Reporter**

Unchangeable, Always True

As a needle becomes stuck in a broken record, causing that portion to repeat and repeat again and again, so am I about the wonderful Old Jerusalem Gospel. It must be repeated and drilled into us lest we forget especially our youth of whom I'm so very deeply concerned for they live in a very trying world.

There is a way that seemeth right unto man yet it leadeth his soul down into hell. I don't know where this statement is found but I've heard it expounded from the pulpit several times in my lifetime by the old time ministers. I've thought about it a great deal lately in the light of what we see happening in the so called religious world of today. Man is seeking for something lasting and true to hang onto, an anchor for his faith in this sin sick hectic world of ours. The devil also is aware of this fact, therefore, he is blinding man with what has the appearance of right in all these so called religious which are springing up. If that were not true, why don't they last - the Gospel does.

I've heard my Dad make the statement several times that the devil is very clever and will tell you one truth so he can get you to believe a whole lot of lies. So we have to be careful of what we hear and believe.

I remember years ago when I was a teenager living in Madison, Wisconsin, one such religion called the "Four Square Gospel" came to town and held a service of revival meetings. It was one of these flash-in-the-pan religions out after all the money it could rake in. The leader used to say when the collection plate was passed, she only wanted the soft kind of money, not the silver for it jangled her nerves.

At this time there was a young couple, living across the street from us, who were pretty wild and very, very worldly. The man drank to excess, abusing his wife and children. Many times the police were called to their aid because of drunkenness. Someone persuaded this couple to attend these meetings and what a change for good was wrought in this couple's home. The man quit drinking, cleaned up his life, took good care of his family, got a good job and settled down to raise his little boys. Well, I saw all this and being a young teenager, I went to Dad about it. This about-face made quite an impression on me so I thought there must be a lot of good in that Four Square Gospel Church, just as our youth today are being led astray by some such show of goodness. I recall what Dad said, "Edna, I'm very glad to see Ted and Daisy changing for good and sincerely hope it will last. Remember what the angel told Joseph Smith, 'with their lips do they honor me but their hearts are far from me.'" I was troubled for I wanted Ted and Daisy to get on the right path not only for their own sakes but for their little boys. I babysat for those children and they needed to be taught the right path to take. I also learned right then that kind of religion threw up a wall so that the gospel would not be listened to - it wouldn't mix any more than oil and water. This couple wouldn't listen to the Jerusalem Gospel as I was

taught for the shallow gospel, the Four Square Gospel, satisfied and closed their ears to the truth. They were assured they had the truth and that was all there was to it.

Years later, after I was married I went home for a visit with our eldest son then a child of about two years. I inquired after this couple, wishing to visit them and oh, what a shock I got when I found where they lived and how they lived. Dad's counsel of what I might find came back to me and how true it was. This couple had reverted to their old ways, things were run down, not progressive and kept up, and I learned Ted had returned to drinking again, although he was sober that day. I asked Ted why he and Daisy had gone back to this awful way of life what I had seen in their lives years before. Here is what he told me. That religion stuff is all bunk for when the going really gets rough it folds up like a wet noodle. There just isn't any staying power, nothing to hang onto. I lost my job and went to the heads of the church for help until I could get on my feet again. I'd heard them preach all the time about helping one another but those holier than thou Joes turned their backs on me. I wasn't asking to be kept by them, a little help until I could get on my feet again. When everything was going great and I was dumping plenty of money in the old collection plate, I was a great fellow, but not now. All they want is your money and when there's no more to get, they kick you out. I'm through playing the fool - I've had enough of that stuff.

I began to talk to them about the church I belonged to. The souls of men were what we were interested in and that we teach the plan of salvation that would bring us back into God's presence that He himself had restored to earth in 1830. Ours was a message about the complete redemption of man. Oh, they listened while I talked, but I could see they had become so bitter and dissolusioned about anything religious it would be a long, long time before they could be reached. It is to such as these that my heart aches because the so-called religion they had come in contact with had become nothing but husks.

That experience years ago taught me a valuable lesson, and has always been a big help to me to evaluate these so called religions springing up today. They are a flashes in the pan only lasting a few years, then dying out. Something else springs up to take their place. They too are like the Four Square Gospel group only after the money they can get. They aren't interested in the broken hearts and lives they leave behind to care for themselves. They have no lasting spiritual food that sustains life to give to the poor souls that knock upon their door.

I've heard recently from some of our own church people, "Oh, how much good they do." Do they really? I'm afraid I'm like one of our ministers who lately in a sermon branded them as spiritual cowards. I say "amen."

Today they aren't quite as much in the forefront as they were. The Internal Revenue Service has begun to search

their financial records and is finding things aren't on the up and up. Do you as an honest thinking person believe God would bless and give sanction to a group doing such things? I do not, but do believe their author is from the evil source. By their fruits ye shall know them.

To the law and the testimony - if they preach any other gospel than that which Christ restored through His Holy angels let them be accursed, they are dead and there is no light in them. They just won't mix with the true gospel anymore than oil or water will.

Our time to perfect our lives grows shorter by the minute. We better be mighty careful that we don't follow every wind

of doctrine that blows, but earnestly seek the old Jerusalem Gospel and find the old paths and walk therein. It and it alone is lasting, and a mighty anchor with power to save our souls if we remain true and faithful to the end.

Let us, as a united family of God, press ever forward, watching carefully for the pitfalls – and warning our brother when we find one, to tell him, "don't step there." Pray for God's Spirit to guide us in the way He has plotted for us.

Edna R. Smith

MY TESTIMONY

Dear God, I love you so,
That I just wanted to let you know.
But I feel so unworthy of your love
for me.
Dear God, hear my humble plea.

Yet each day I hear you say,
My child, fall down on your knees
and pray.
Lay all your burdens at my feet,
And experience my love, it's oh so
sweet.

Help me to be a witness to thee,
Telling of they love for me.
Helping others thy love to feel,
Showing them that your love is real.

It's hard for me to see,
How you can love a sinner like me,
Who time and time again,
Seems to redo the same old sin.

Oh, dear God, to me more wisdom
give,
And help me my life to live
In a Way that's more pleasing to
thee,
That I someday the kingdom of
Heaven will see.

Oh, dear God, if my flesh again
seems in control,
Help me to set my eyes upon the
goal.
And remember that you always
forgive,
Those who for you their life will live.

I know the things I do,
Are displeasing to you.
But, Oh, Lord, my flesh is so weak
And I feel unworthy your blessings
to seek.

Help me Lord to be more meek.
Forgive me when I am so weak.
Help me to turn from me flesh
desires,
And feel in my soul the burning fires.

Living for you,
Help me to strive to be true.
That I may deserve,
The blessings for me you do reserve.

Janeen Addie

A LESSON FOR CHILDREN

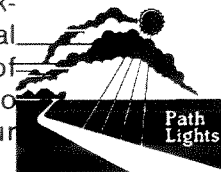
● From an old New England Primer

Pray to God
Love God
Fear God
Take not God's name
in vain
Do not swear
Do not steal
Cheat not in your play

Play not with bad boys
Call no ill names
Use no ill words
Tell no lies
Hate lies
Speak the truth
Spend your time well
Love your school
Mind your book
Strive to learn
Be not a dunce

DO YOU MISS PATH LIGHTS TESTIMONIES?

Zion's Advocate's most popular column needs your contributions. If we are who we profess to be, then we cannot be lacking in personal testimony of God's graces to you and your loved ones.



Please send in your testimonies to the address listed below. Thanks!

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Mo 64052

1989 MICHIGAN STATE REUNION

Dear Members and Friends,

What a joy...what a blessing...to gather again this year for our Michigan State Reunion! I feel it is very fitting that we happen to gather for our reunion on "Fathers Day", June 16-17-18, since we are gathering in Our Fathers House, honoring Him. This reunion was special as we dedicated a new building unto Him and put it into His service. It was also our desire to gather for the purpose of humbling ourselves before Him and to seek our Lord in our prayers of thanksgiving and to ask for His continued guidance in that we will do His will in these latter days. Also, asking that we may increase our understanding of His Holy word, being given the gifts of discernment and prophecy to guide us. The fellowshiping with our Brothers and Sisters from near and far (some coming from as far as Arizona, Missouri, and Canada) so filled our hearts that we felt like we were about to burst, you are all so dear to our hearts. We are abundantly blessed with love in this family of Gods children.

Friday, June 16, we were welcomed to the morning prayer and testimony service by Elder Gale Brantner. Priest Aaron Heath gave the opening prayer. Brother Gale then spoke admonishing us that "Ye must pray always". A season of many prayers and many beautiful testimonies, along with many beautiful songs got the reunion off to a beautiful start. Closing prayer was given by Brother Aaron. After lunch services were opened with prayer given by Priest Emery Pinder and followed with Elder Charles Brantner speaking to us on "Fullness of the Gospel." The service was closed with a prayer by Brother Pinder and then after a short break we viewed a slide presentation given by Elder Hubert Yates and Elder James Yates with Brother Jim giving the opening prayer. The slides were very conclusive in showing the "Archeological physical evidences of the Book of Mormon." Closing prayer was given by Elder Harold Polack. Following the days events we enjoyed a wiener roast and fellowshiping with our dear Brothers and Sisters around the campfire.

Saturday, June 17, the morning prayer and testimony service was opened by Elder Jim Yates with opening prayer given by Teacher Ron Temple. Many voices were heard in prayer and testimony to our Lord. Closing prayer was given by Brother Ron Temple. After a short break Priest Mike McGhee opened a preaching service with prayer and Elder Hube Yates spoke to us concerning our welfare these latter days. Closing prayer was given by Brother Mike McGhee. After lunch, we reconvened for the annual business meeting chaired by Brother Norm Trudgen. Following are the "news" items of interest from that meeting: Elder Laverne Lussendon was elected to the Reunion Committee for a 3 year term. Ravenna was selected as the site for the 1990 Michigan State Reunion for 3 days.

Following the business meeting we all enjoyed a "specials" song service with opening prayer being given by Brother Max Spencer. Many beautiful tributes to our Lord were given by lovely voices lifted in song. Closing prayer was given by Priest Aaron Heath. After a short break Elder Gale Brantner welcomed us to the Dedication Service and gave the opening prayer. Brother Aaron then taught us "how to plant a garden" and Brother Gale continued with the "path" that led to the building site and some of the trials that directed us to this spot. Closing prayer was given by Brother Aaron. After a delicious supper, services were again opened. Elder Laverne Lussendon opened with prayer, and introduced Elder Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse. Brother Buzz gave us encouragement to keep on "pedaling" because if we "coast" we will eventually come to a stop and fall. He admonished us that it is our own responsibility to "pedal" keeping on the right path. Closing remarks and the closing prayer was given by Brother Laverne.

Sunday, June 18, sacrament service was opened with songs followed by a prayer by Elder Gale Brantner. Elder Charles Brantner then welcomed us. Following the serving of the emblems, we entered into a season of prayer, testimony, and song. It was a very spiritually lifting time as many, many voices were heard, all in praise of our Lord and His blessings unto us — a truly inspirational service. Our spirits were fed as we closed in prayer, given by Elder Gale Brantner, and after another wonderful meal our hungry bodies were also filled. Soon we reconvened for a short song service, with opening prayer being given by Elder Laverne Lussendon. We enjoyed a special song by Sister Wanda, Brothers Jim and Hube Yates as well as old favorites chosen and sang by the congregation. Closing prayer was given by Priest Aaron Heath. After a short break Brother Aaron opened with prayer and introduced Elder Bob Oldham as our final speaker of the 1989 Michigan State Reunion. Brother Bob asked....Are we a Christian? Then explained what a Christian is, in case we weren't sure....The definition of a Christian is: Someone professing the religion that Christ taught; representing a Christian people; having traits exemplified by Jesus Christ. Do we want to be a Christian? Live it? Then let HIS light shine thru us! And let us all pray that we will be convicted of being a Christian!

Once again we reluctantly closed our reunion service with a closing prayer, given by Elder Gale Brantner. We thank and praise God for His loving spirit that was ever so present with us throughout the reunion. We missed those dear ones who could not attend but pray they will be able to join us next year. And we are so very thankful for those who traveled many miles to be with us. We were greatly rewarded in our loving bonds. May God bless and keep you until we meet again.

**Your Reunion
Secretary-Reporter,
Debbie Brantner Vogel**

MINNEAPOLIS: FROM THE PULPIT

Someone besides your reporter has observed that spoken sermons as a general rule, do not make very good copy. The speaker is directed to address the people present and the text takes shape accordingly. It is told of Daniel Webster that he was once asked why he went twice on Sunday to hear a country preacher and ignored far abler men in Washington. Daniel Webster's answer was, "In Washington they preach to Daniel Webster, the statement, but this man has been telling Daniel Webster, the sinner of Jesus of Nazareth, and it has been helping him."

Going back to March 12, when an unusual number of young people were present, Elder Thomas Maley's text was the 7th Chapter of Moroni, page 763, and the 5th Chapter of Galatians. His sermon was very pointed as to Christian performance standards, particularly the contrast between righteousness and its opposite, emphasizing Christian Discipline. "Without Discipline, Success is an Accident."

On March 19, Elder Merlin Eddy brought sound instruction of Christian attributes from scripture direct from Bible and Book of Mormon, impressing attentive minds that we are not without instruction how to lay hold of every good thing, and how to gain eternal life. "I would exhort you that every good thing cometh of Christ." His closing statement was, "We have the knowledge of wonderful Eternal Life, and it is my hope that you will receive it."

On Easter Sunday, Elder Forest Maley spoke of having overheard a unique discussion by people at his work, who were getting ready to take off for their Easter weekend. Their topic was, "What was Easter all about?" It was marvelous to hear the different ones — and the gaping holes in their data bank. It was intriguing that these business people would engage in discussion on a religious topic. It got pretty loud and pretty mixed up. Though most knew Easter is a religious holiday, the name of Jesus Christ had not had a whisper in their discussion. They then went home. Regarding the 22nd Psalm, one writer has said that all Jewish men have been trained to recite the 22nd Psalm on their death bed. It is remarkable the link-up of things Christ said while on the cross. Brother Forest spoke of the Indian ceremony of adopting one into a tribe, an impressive ceremony with Braves in full Indian dress. The candidate is felled, symbolically, by the Brave wielding the tomahawk. He falls. A second Brave raises him to "newness of life" and he is given his new tribal name.

The real sacrifice, in order to be perfect, Jesus Christ had to take without anesthetic. This was not a pleasant experience; what happened on the cross was rough. Is its purpose engraved upon our hearts?

Priest John R. Gill, on April 9, spoke of the world-shaking things that can happen, citing the Mount St. Helens disaster in Washington. Life changing decisions for good (or bad) can sometimes be made in an instant in individual lives. A ray of light from a sermon can begin the effecting of change. "You've got to be different to make a difference."

On April 16 Pastor Thomas Maley and the congregation heard "Awake Ye Saints" sung by Brother Stephen Gould. Beginning his discourse Elder Maley reminds that we have younger hearts to acquaint with their indentity and to help avoid distresses in their lives and families. We believe in angels, but the Angel Message has been stretched to include foreign things. He read a poem he had written in April 1962:

EASTER

"Because I go" the Savior said,
And made His way with suffering sore
And thorn crowned head, to the eternal world
Where now He pleads the cause of grace.

No burden shirked, He made His way
Among the maze of seeking, selfish,
human kind,
And wrought the gift that all might stand
Upon the earth again and face and know
the living God.

Brother Tom was assisted by Elder Merlin Eddy who said at sermon's close, "We have to realize that we can change our lives. We don't have to do it by ourselves, but can ask God the way to do the changing." On April 23 we heard where all the folk who were absent had sprung off to this fine day. Winter here didn't want to quit and spring has been slow a comin'. But there was a sermon for us in its new spring outfit; one impressed upon the speaker to bring to us. Children predominated in number. The message was adapted effectively to their age. It began with part of King Benjamin's speech; and led to what one of tender age might grow up to be. (Not the commonplace or dull were mentioned.) Then — "How would you like to be a Detective?" Elder Forest E. Maley delved into the wonder of where thoughts come from. "Where do you get the ideas that go through your head? You can be a detective and find out. You already know where some of your thoughts come from, your parents. They train you to talk. If you don't have words you can't think; you can't talk about fission; you can't see atoms, yet you have to talk about them. Sometimes you get thoughts from friends. Sometimes your friends thoughts are dumb." The detectives went sleuthing through the happy world of thankfulness and the many things we have to be thankful for; the thought that God can help us find things we've lost. "Imagine you have that detective badge and keep looking for where your thoughts are coming from."

These sermons I've so imperfectly capsuled for you held the attention of all. Our visitors were Sister Carolyn Cermak and children on March 12, from Park Rapids, Minnesota, and Brother Ed Linton from near Cannon Falls, Minnesota on April 16.

The Church will sponsor the Fair Booth again this summer. Brother Stephen Gould has volunteered to take charge of the booth display.

May God bless us throughout the Church and grant us a memorabile Conference year.

Irene Maley, reporting.

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 1990 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 15 through 17 at Independence, Missouri.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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- Articles of Faith & Practice (Spanish)
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- Article #20 Amplified: Marriage
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- What the Church teaches about Matrimony (Spanish)
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- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
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- Baptism for the Dead? - A Fallacy
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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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 the Americas lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continents' former inhabitants.

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If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence, Missouri. The phone number and address are listed on the inside front cover.