

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 67

Independence, Missouri – January 1990

Number 1

DAWN

Expires the year as time swings on;
The days and doings soon are done;
We've told its moments one by one
And what today the tally?

The New Year dawns with portent fraught;
Its days await our deed and thought.
Shall we climb to heights we ought
Or linger in the valley?

Behold the lights on yonder crest;
Behold the dawn that's yet the best!
Its luster may surpass the rest
For all the forward going.

For you await its golden days;
For you its stars are all ablaze;
For you its moonlight nights and ways,
And all its suns are glowing.

Arise and meet oncoming hours!
Arise and know your master powers!
Be daunted not in sun or showers!
Descry yon newest light!

The New Year new achievement brings;
Afar afield its glory flings
While prospect's voicing fairly sings –
Be gone the dismal night!

– James E. Yates

Temple Lot Church Building Destroyed by Arsonist!

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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.

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 (if possible), 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 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.



by **Apostle William A. Sheldon**

On the morning of January 1, 1990, at approximately 9:30 or 10:00 A.M., the General Church Headquarters building on the Temple Lot (and home of the Temple Lot Local) in Independence, Missouri, was deliberately set afire by a former member of the Church of Christ, destroying the roof and the interior of the upper floor.

For practical purposes, the building is no longer tenable and must be demolished.

This former member, now in jail and charged with arson and burglary, was baptized into another Restoration church shortly after being baptized a member of the Church of Christ (which, coincidentally, was exactly one year ago on January 1, 1989). Being informed that this was unacceptable to the Church of Christ, and being unwilling to acknowledge his error, he was informed that his membership in this church was no longer valid.

The torching of the building seems to have been through a delusion this former member entertained relative to a supposedly imminent invasion of the United States by enemy forces, which would signal a need for the Temple Lot to be cleansed by fire. This had been pre-

viously alluded to within the hearing of a few members of the Church.

At this writing, on January 1, 1990, the procedure for coping with this emergency has not been determined except for the assumption that members of the Temple Lot Local Church will feel free, and are invited to become actively engaged in the services at the Independence East Local church.

Undoubtedly, the insurance on the building against fire, etc., is far from adequate to facilitate the erection of a new building or to recover the loss of interior furnishings and other properties of the Church on the premises. However, all important Church documents survived.

It will be incumbent upon loyal members of the Church, who can do so, and are willing to sacrifice, to send donations toward the building of a new structure or the acquisition of other facilities as may be determined in the future. Such donations may be sent to the Church "Building Fund" and specifically stipulated as being for replacement of the Temple Lot church building. Send donations to:

Church of Christ (Temple Lot)
P.O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051

More on page 11 ...

"To Err is Human"

by Priest Bill Malone
Phoenix, Arizona

I'm sure that everyone who reads this article has known an active church-going Christian who has decided to stop coming to church. Some of our very dear friends and relatives, who are brothers and sisters in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have reduced their association with the church drastically if not completely. When I take the time to talk with some of these brethren, too often the reason given for their absence is hard feelings between individuals.

**To err is human;
To forgive, divine.**

We aren't always kind to one another. We don't always treat each other with brotherly love. There are times when we might "have a right to be angry" — or do we? Where in all the scriptures does it give us the right to be angry and to stay angry with anyone? Some scripture taken out of context might be used to prove a point but the message Jesus taught was not anger, but love; not revenge, but forgiveness; not frustration, but peace and comfort; not separating oneself and allowing our problems to continue, but reconciling our difficulties. Our human tendencies, those "natural man" tendencies common to all mankind, are contrary to God. In His great mercy He provided a way for us to overcome those tendencies. We must rely on His help. We cannot do it alone. Each of us has to work hard to overcome those natural tendencies like taking offense at something someone says or does, intentional or not.

Which is worse: taking offense or giving offense? Both are in opposition to the teachings of Jesus.

So now what? We have offended and offending parties. What do we

do? We look deep down within ourselves. We don't worry about getting an apology; we worry about giving one — as soon as we can. It is wrong to take offense; it creates a barrier between you and your brother. On the other hand, don't let those things that might have offended continue to be a question in your mind. Go to your brother with reassurance that no offense was intended.

"And above all things have fervent love among yourselves; for love shall cover the multitude of sins." I Peter 4:8

Jesus says, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5:23

This is the time of our probation. We are not to dwell on mistakes or shortcomings in someone else's life but recognize how many of our own weaknesses we have yet to overcome. We must apply the Gospel of Christ to every situation in our lives. Our dealings with one another are very important to our Lord and very pertinent to our salvation.

"Insomuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." Luke 6:37

He that cannot forgive others, breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass if he would ever reach heaven; for everyone has need to be forgiven. — Herbert

**Which is worse: taking
offense or giving
offense?**

**Both are in opposition
to the teachings of
Jesus.**

I remember it so clearly. When I was a child I often heard my mother and her brothers and sisters talk about it. In their eyes (which, I'm sure, could see clearly all the faults and weaknesses too) their father was an honest-to-goodness hero. Their voices held admiration for his determination and courage, and awe at the sometimes dramatic ways in which God used him and sent miraculous blessings to and through him. I can still get prickles down my spine, just thinking of some of these wonderful stories. I know many of you have heard just such spine-tingling accounts of your missionary father or grandfather, or a dear old friend of the family. They are a part of our heritage which we treasure and for which we are humbly grateful.

Then — and this I remember with wonder too — the voices would grow tender as they talked about their mother. They spoke movingly of her absolute dedication to his ministry, her faith that no matter what life brought (or didn't bring!) she and her children would be taken care of. She believed that she had a work to do too, the task of getting along without him for much of the time and without the financial, physical and emotional help he could have given if he had stayed at home. I often heard my mother say something like this.

"When he gets to the pearly gates the angel will say to him, 'Greetings, Jim. Come right in and take a seat here in front of the throne'. When she gets there the greeting will be, 'Lily, dear, you step up and take the seat next to Jim's'."

I was beginning to see dimly the heavy load that the ministry carry, especially the missionaries. Then I began to see that the wives who support them wholeheartedly have a mission too. Without them and their help these dedicated men would find the burden much, much heavier.

The dream began to form ... a vision of how great a responsibility — and privilege! it could be for a woman to fill this place. Within the vision was an admittedly vague

desire to live the dream. As I grew older I married a wonderful man, but not one of what only later became my beloved church family. When we moved to Minneapolis, then in greater degree when we moved to southern Missouri, the dream came back. But now I realized that it was too late for me to live it ... unless vicariously! I saw in action the wives of present day ministers, including missionaries. Some were only able to serve part-time. Some were given special work that allowed them to serve without demanding more than their truly supportive wives were able to bear. Some gave their lives completely to the church. All their wives were an inspiration to me. Many are still serving now, there and elsewhere.

I sat in a sacrament meeting in the Temple Lot Church and knew suddenly that one young man was going to serve in the ministry. Within minutes an elder stood up and called him to be a priest. He ended with words that seemed to be fulfillment of at least part of my dream.

"And, — — — — (calling the wife by name), you are called to serve beside him."

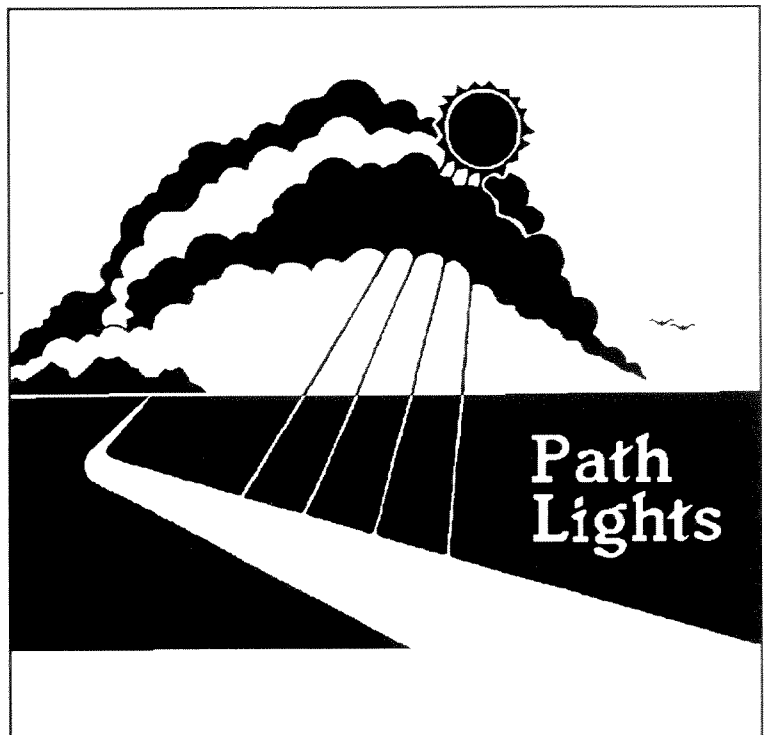
Now, back in Arizona, I am part of a congregation that holds several more of these dedicated women. My dream has come true, at least by proxy. And there will be more, I believe.

With so much love to all,

Donna Moser

A Woman's Dream

A Testimony



Please send your testimonies to Melissa McGhee, 2533 Glen Lane, Independence, Missouri 64052

What Must I Do to Have Eternal Life?

Mosiah 1:119 "For the natural man is any enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever;" There are a lot of scriptures that tell us this same story about the natural man. The natural man is he that does not have God to be with him. In Matthew 19:16 Christ was asked the question, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Have you ever been asked that question? And what was your response? In Mosiah 2:11 it says this: "I say, that this is the man who receiveth salvation ..."

Lets back up and just see what we have to be to have eternal life.

Mosiah 2:8-17:

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

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

I believe that most of us have come to a knowledge of the goodness of God. It goes on to say that salvation comes to him that puts his trust in the Lord and that we must keep His commandments and continue in the faith, even unto the end of our life, the life of the mortal body. This salvation can come to all who do these things, and to none other. We are also told to "Believe in God", and "Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them." As Christ said, "... Go and sin no more." And humble ourselves before God.

In Mosiah 1:120 we find more enlightenment on how **not** to be a natural man: "But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father." This is the only way that we can put off the natural man and gain salvation. It says that we must become as a child and then it lists the things that we must be: Submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love. We must have all these things, not just one or two, but all; and to submit ourselves to God.

In First Nephi, ch. 2 (page 21), Lehi's vision speaks of a rod of iron

(word of God) also a straight and narrow path (not crooked and wide). As we enter the waters of baptism we are to cling to that rod of iron and walk in that straight and narrow path. It also speaks of a mist of darkness which represents the temptations of the Devil. But if we press forward, clinging to the rod of iron, even the temptations of the Devil cannot have hold over us. **But we must cling to the word of God at all cost.**

1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" Satan is trying his best to tear apart the Church of Christ. We must be strong and mighty in prayer and fasting to combat the Adversary, the Devil. We are told to watch and pray always.

Matthew 24:42-46:

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

My prayer is that we all will be found doing the work of the gospel when our Lord comes again the second time. So lets be diligent in this work and pray to God with all our strength that God can look at us at the day of judgement and say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant: Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Elder Allen Kauffman

The Testimony of the American Indian and the Stick of Joseph

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Ten

The Book of Mormon tells us that these people were men of large stature.

"Of the creation which ushered in the first age we know nothing; we are only told by Boturini that giants then began to appear on the earth. This First Age, or 'sun,' was called the Sun of the water, and it was ended by a tremendous flood, in which every living thing perished, or was transformed, except, following some accounts, one man and one woman of the giant race, of whose escape more hereafter." (Hubert Howe Bancroft, *Native Races*, vol. 3, p 64)

In December of 1930 five large skeletons were unearthed by an international expedition of scientists in Sonora, Mexico. It was the first evidence that a race of supermen once roamed this vast wasteland. See statement by Mr. Charles Holloway, cited in Roy Weldon's, *Other Sheep*, p. 108.

According to the Sacramento Union for November 26, 1950, thirty-four human remains were found, (nine of which were mummies) in the Barranca de Cobre area of northern Mexico. They measured from 7 feet 6 inches to one which measured eight feet. They were referred to as "blonde giants." See Roy Weldon's, *Other Sheep*, p. 109.

"The popular tradition of the natives is that it (the tower) was erected by a family of giants, who had escaped the great inundation, and designed to raise the building to the clouds, but the gods, offended with the presumption, sent fires from heaven on the pyramids, and compelled them to abandon the attempt." (William H. Prescott, *Conquest of*

Mexico, vol. 2, P. 436, cited in Harold I. Velt's, *America's Lost Civilization*)

The Book of Mormon records two preliminary judgements which came upon the Jaredites prior to the great war of extinction.

The first of these destructions is found recorded in Ether 4:13-14, A war commenced between the sons of Akish and Akish which lasted for many years. Nearly all the people were destroyed, only 30 souls remaining. The second destruction (Ether 4:32-41) was brought about by a dearth and starvation compounded by a curse of poisonous serpents.

The first destruction was followed closely by the second destruction, as the Book of Mormon also seems to indicate. According to Ixtlilxochitl, only 158 years separated the two.

"And 1,715 years after the deluge they were destroyed by a very great hurricane which took with it trees, rocks, houses, and people and large buildings although many men and women escaped" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Hunter & Ferguson's, *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon*, pp. 41- 42. Note: This was the first destruction after the flood.)

"One hundred fifty-eight years after the great hurricane and 1,964 ... since the creation of the world, those of this land had another destruction, who were the Quinametzin, Giants, who lived in this corner which is now called New Spain, which destruction consisted of great earthquakes which swallowed and killed them, volcanoes bursting the high mountains, so that all were destroyed without anyone escaping and if anyone did escape, he was of those who were more inland, which was in the year of

ce tecpatl; the age they called Tlacchitonatiuh, which means sun of earth." (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Hunter & Ferguson's, *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon*, p. 46)

This was the second destruction. Hubert Bancroft gives an excellent reiteration of this history in the fifth volume of his *Native Races*.

"At the end of the first age of the world or the 'sun of waters,' as we are told by Ixtlilxochitl, the earth was visited by a flood which covered even the most lofty mountains. After the repopling of the earth by the descendants of a few families who escaped destruction, the building of a tower as a protection against a possible catastrophe of similar nature, and the confusion of tongues and consequent scattering of the population - for all these things were found in the native traditions as we are informed - seven families speaking the same language kept together in their wanderings for many years; and after crossing broad lands and seas, enduring great hardships, they reached the country of huehue Tlapallan, or ('Old Tlapallan) which they found to be fertile and desirable to dwell in. The second age, the 'sun of Air,' terminated with a great hurricane which swept away trees, rocks, houses, and people, although many men and women escaped, chiefly such as took refuge in caves which the hurricane could not reach.

"Next occurred an earthquake which swallowed up and destroyed all the Quinames, or giants - at least all those who lived in the coast regions" (Bancroft, p 209)

The third and greatest destruction to come upon the giants is recorded below.

"In this New Spain there were giants. Besides the demonstration of their bones, which are found in many parts, the ancient Tultec historians

say that they were called Quinametzin ...

"They were destroyed and exterminated by great calamities and punishments from heaven, for some grave sins that they had committed; and there is even opinion of some of these ancient histories that these giants descend from the Chichimecas themselves, and they say that in these northern lands where the ancient empire of the Chichimecas stood, there are provinces where men of more than thirty spans in height live ...

"The greatest destruction that these Quinametzin had was in the year and figure that the natives call ce Toxtli, which means rabbit number first, 299 YEARS BEFORE THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST; and with them ended the third age which was called Ecatonatiuh, on account of the great winds and earthquakes, and nearly all of them were destroyed. (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Hunter & Ferguson's, Ancient America and the Book of Mormon, pp, 49-50)

Note: According to the Book of Mormon account, the first settlers were destroyed between the dates of 279 B.C. and 130 B.C. The second settlers arrived in 600 B.C. and had become a great nation by the time the Jaredites had been wiped from off the face of the land.

The Book of Mormon says that the people of Zarahemla discovered the sole survivor of the first settlers."

... on the banks of the Atoyac River, which is the one that passes between Puebla and Cholula, they found some of the giants that had escaped the calamity and extermination of the second age." (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, cited in Hunter & Ferguson's, Ancient America and the Book of Mormon, p. 136)

The Book of Mormon tells us that the Nephites were the second settlers after the Jaredites.

"The Tultecas were the second settlers of this land after the decline of the giants" (Works of Ixtlilxochitl, ibid)

Before taking up with the traditions concerning the second settlers we wish to make the following comment: Some writers refer to the Toltecs as both the "Ancient Ones" (the Quinames or Giants) the first settlers, and the later settlers, the Nahuas or Nahuatlis. The Olmecs were the third group of immigrants although they are sometimes confused with the second group of colonizers. It is my (hes) opinion that the Ancient Toltecs or Quinames were the Jaredites; the Nahuas or later Toltecs were the Nephites, and the Olmecs were the Mulekites or the descendants of Mulek.

Continued Next Month

AVA Local Report

Our fall weather has been very dry and somewhat warm. Some farmers are having to move their cattle because their ponds have dried up. At the time I write, we are concerned about brush fires as the leaves are thick and dry in our woods, and there have been some minor fires already. Dry weather and fire are problems we occasionally face in our Ozark hills, but the Lord will help us to cope as He has done so many times before.

In September, the Burgins went to the state of Washington to visit relatives. They made the trip on the Amtrac, which they say was a wonderful way to travel. While in Washington, Sister Dorothy Burgin was able to see her new great-great-grand child.

In November our newest baby (Joe and Sue Smith's granddaughter, Leah Davis) was hospitalized. It took some days for the doctors to diagnose the cause of the fever. But now little Leah has recovered and is gaining weight again, for which we thank God.

At Thanksgiving the Ava local logged many miles. The traveling began when Tim Smith from New York and his daughter, Amber, came to spend the week before Thanksgiving with his parents, Brother and Sister Joe Smith. Amber is in the 4th grade now and is growing into a very pretty young lady.

Then for Thanksgiving, Joe and Sue Smith went to Atlanta, Georgia for her family reunion. There were 25 of her family together for the first

time in over 20 years. During the weekend Sue and her sisters went to Tennessee to visit their mother, a resident in a hospital.

Sister Ella Engle and daughter, Dee, spent Thanksgiving with the Roger Engle family. Brother and Sister Les Burgin went to Rogers, Arkansas, to be with their daughter, Pam Jenkins, and her son, Grant. Sister Lorraine Welton and Sister Georgia Warfield went to the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, Missouri, for Thanksgiving dinner. They report that it was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Brother and Sister Arthur Smith went to Galesburg, Illinois, to be with their daughter, Diana Hilderbrand and her husband. However, I, my husband, and our son, David, stayed home to entertain two

of my husband's sons, their wives, and five of our grandchildren, a very lovely crowd.

At home or away, we enjoyed this special time to thank God for all the goodness He gives us. And we thank Him that all travelers are safely home.

On Saturday, December 2, our local had a bake and craft sale in Ava. This was also the day of the Christmas Parade. We watched the parade - my son, David, and Brother Earl Darlington's granddaughter, Crystal, were marching with the seventh grade band - and also made some money for our building fund. Yes, we are again trying to finish the remodeling of our church building.

This is a long report, but I do have some notes from sermons that I want to include. We have had so many good inspiring sermons in the last three months.

- **"Christ has made a covenant that He will be good for our needs. With Him we can conquer evil."**
- **"Are we part of the problems or are we asking God to help solve them? Each individual person who follows God's way helps. We have a responsibility to do so."**

- **"God does not change – this helps us in all things."**
- **"We fail to add to our knowledge because we don't find time to study."**
- **"We lose patience and brotherly kindness because we allow ourselves to become too tired."**
- **"Whoever fears God - to him is the word of salvation sent."**

Estella Davis, Reporter

Independence Temple Lot Local News

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him for the long mild fall, ideal for travel. Brother and Sister Leslie P. Case visited Sister Irene's parents, Brother and Sister Harvey Bell, other relatives and friends in Grand Junction, Colorado, before going on to the Phoenix Reunion. Sister Caroline Hedrick and Brother and Sister Rodger Bruner were also in attendance from our local. Brother and sister Warren Johnson from St. Louis, Missouri were there on Friday of the Reunion. It was less warm and sunny for the Marvin Cases and mother, Sister Bertha Case, in Prior Lake, Minnesota where they were guests of Sister Barbara, Brother John Case and the boys; and for the Brother Alvin Harris family in Rochester, Minnesota to visit their son Mark, his Kathy and family.

The November 5 Sacrament meeting was in charge of Elder Rodger Bruner assisted by Elder LeRoy Wheaton, servers were Benny Case and Nicholas Denham. Speakers for November were Elders Leslie P. Case (Newly retired from the Power and Light Company) - Scott Harris,

Loren Bryant, Alvin Harris, Forest E. Maley, and LeRoy Wheaton.

Elder Alvin Harris was in charge of the December 3 Sacrament meeting, assisted by Scott Harris who brought the scripture reading and remarks. Elders Gerry Case and Benny Case served the sacrament.

The United Workers met at the home of Sister Edith Case to prepare Christmas gifts for the Sunday School children, and a potluck lunch was served at noon.

A lovely shower was hosted by Nancy Case and Becky Rudd at the Temple Lot Church for Kristen Jeanette Cagle, daughter of Carmine and Bob Cagle who was born November 15, and came with her parents to the shower as the beautiful guest of honor. Kristen is the granddaughter of Mrs. Loretta Cagle, and Brother and Sister James H. Case, the great granddaughter of Brother and Sister Leslie Case and of Sister Thomas S. Maley, the great, great granddaughter of Brother and Sister Harvey Bell. We wish Carmine and Bob God's blessings.

There will be no need anymore to stroll out to the north edge of the Temple Lot. You will feel lonesome.

The maple tree that stood there for over a hundred years, it is thought, was cleared away by three of our men with their chain saws. Other volunteers loaded it into trucks and hauled it off. It was found to be partially hollow and diseased, though it had been alive. The many who paused there to pray will miss this landmark. It was found Friday burning at 1 a.m. Firemen and tree surgeon worked together to put out the flame. It was removed on Tuesday, November 14.

A C.A.R.E. group having given advance notice sponsored a clean up day to help fund a needy family adoption program. They provided yard care and winterizing work to members who responded to their willing services for hire.

It was a joyful occasion to have the East Local join us for prayer meeting on Wednesday evening, December 6.

Sister Manon Lawrence will direct the choir and Children's choir to present to us the most heart warming gift of the season, our Christmas program, on December 24.

Irene Y. Maley

Greetings from Arizona!

We hear reports of snow and bitter cold from states around, but we continue to enjoy the warm weather the valley is famous for. We never forget those of you who are far away, though, and we want to share just a few of our happenings with you.

As a result of a report from the August ministers' conference, our local has implemented a missionary outreach program, especially geared toward the areas around our church. A committee of six compiled a leaflet and book marker concerning God's plan and promises for this land. The letters were sent to 2,000 homes in the surrounding neighborhoods. A second letter was sent in December inviting those families to hear a series on "God's Message to America," to be given in January. Often we become content worshiping weekly with our brothers and sisters and forget that even across the way are people who have never heard the fullness of Christ's gospel. Being involved with this program has been a reminder to us of that responsibility. The last Wednesday of each month has been set aside in our local as a day of fasting and prayer toward this cause.

Elders Hube Yates, Jim Yates Sr., Jay Moser, Dick Wheaton and Apostle Don McIndoo attended the Navaho Tribal Fair for five days in September. They were able to introduce the Book of Mormon to people, passing out tracts and book markers

and visiting with those who were interested. Brother Wheaton is available in that area to follow up on contacts. A church wide day of fasting and prayer brought added strength to this endeavor.

September also had its fun moments in our local. One Saturday found our children crowded around three booths, trying their skill at painting t-shirts, busting balloons with darts, and tossing bean bags at targets. A pie eating contest and races ended the days fun.

Also during the month, the men prepared, served and enjoyed a breakfast together at the church. Sons, eight years and older joined them in their feast and fellowship. The reports of their success encouraged the women to do the same later in the month. Three of our brothers prepared and served us a delicious meal.

On blustery October 25, Doug Yates, son of Jim Jr., was baptized by his grandfather Elder Jim Yates, Sr. At the following service, he was confirmed by his grandfather and Elder Hube Yates. The hand of fellowship was extended to him following the service. Doug is an important part of our local and we are pleased with his decision to be part of Christ's church.

A new life arrived in our local on November 8. Christopher Jordan was born to Mike and Val Kelley. Christopher had complications at

birth and remained in the hospital a few extra days. He later had surgery to correct a problem. We are thankful to report that he is home now and that we have the pleasure of making over him regularly. He was blessed the Sunday service of reunion by Apostles Don Housknecht and Don McIndoo. Little (?) Christopher weighed 9 pounds and 4 ounces and was 23 inches long.

God continued his blessings to us during our reunion, November 24-26. We were blessed with sermons by Elders Lavern Lussenden, Leslie Case, and Apostles Bill Sheldon, Roland Sarratt, and Marvin Ely. A peaceful spirit reigned over each prayer service and a unity of voices praised God during the song service. We enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters who traveled to worship with us. We had visitors from New York, Michigan, Missouri, Arkansas, Colorado, California, Oklahoma, and Minnesota.

It is a new year now, full of the hope and promises we find in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We were warned in the sermons during reunion that we are facing the last days. We were instructed to repent and to endure to the end. May we strengthen one another and trust in our God to this end is our prayer for 1990.

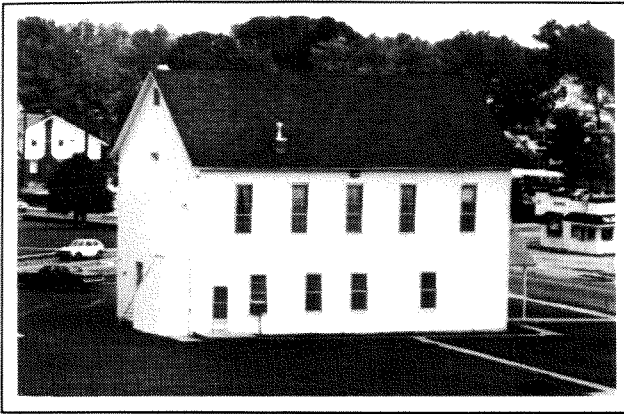
Debbie Vogel

I complained of the distressful things I saw until I saw the blind man with the white cane and I realized the beautiful thoughts he must conjure in his mind of things he has either never seen or will not see again and I was thankful for him and complained no more.

I complained because I had no transportation and had to walk to the store until I saw the man struggling on crutches and yet with a smile on his countenance. Perhaps he wished that he, too, had to walk to the store or thought of the days when he could run and play. I then was thankful for him and complained no more.

God grant me the understanding of life that these men have that I may see its' beauty through their eyes and walk the path that they walk.

I complained because of growing old and then I thought of the wars and accidents and illnesses that prevented many persons from reaching an old age ... and I was thankful. — **Sam Kidd**



Erected and dedicated in 1902 ...



Destroyed in 1990! What will be the future for this ground?

One item gets special care for a proper destruction:

I am writing this only hours from having witnessed the destruction of the church building resting adjacent to the Temple Lot (January 1-2, 1990), having reserved space in the Advocate at the last minute for the news bulletin and some pictures. It was truly a tear-jerking, emotional scene, yet one, not surprisingly, filled with much love and warmth among the numerous Church members who came to — well, to do whatever you do when one of the primary symbols of hope for your spiritual future goes up in flames. Yet, there were few really “burdened” faces, and there were numerous lighthearted conversations that I witnessed among our brothers and sisters.

Much blessing was given by the Lord in spite of the destruction. For example, the old pulpit, with hand carvings and many, many years of use by God’s priesthood, was miraculously preserved — in spite of the fact that the fire was actually started just a few feet away! A metal music stand nearby was melted and the roof even caved in over the pulpit. So you won’t be alarmed, the stone markers, nearly all of the books in the General Church library, and all important legal and historical documents were preserved.

Members, former members, and non-members have all pitched in with enormous help to salvage every last item of value from the structure — many taking vacation days off from work and others bringing their trucks and strong backs. The news media from Independence and Kansas City, including all three major television networks, have given much time to coverage of this historical event. Apostle Sheldon and Pastor (Elder) Harris have labored hard and long and have appeared respectably in several television newscasts and newspaper accounts.

The original structure built adjacent to the Temple Lot, in 1889, was also destroyed by an arsonist, also on a Monday (one or two A.M.), and also by a mentally disturbed

man with a vendetta against the Church, September 4, 1898. The church building that was just destroyed, was built in 1902, and formerly dedicated on April 6 of that year. Another parallel is that both arsonists (1898 and 1990) had only recently destroyed other Church property (a wood fence surrounding the lot in 1898, and a beautiful 100+ year-old tree resting between the Temple Lot building and the RLDS auditorium, in 1990) and verbally threatened the destruction of the existing building when chance permitted.

I was given the charred remains of the American flag which formerly stood in the front of the sanctuary. The fireman said to contact the VFW (of which I am a member) so that the appropriate ceremony could be performed for its destruction.

Just as the American flag is a sacred symbol of the freedoms we cherish, the Temple Lot church was, to many, a symbol of that “hope” we should all have within us for our future life with Christ - our eternal salvation. Yet, *the ceremony performed in the destruction of an American flag is a proud one, full of optimism and real hope for the future of this great nation. The same must be said for the destruction of this building.*

While the building was sacred as a house of God, and will always hold a special place in the hearts of each of us — fond memories of many, many spiritual experiences within — it never-the-less was still just a “symbol,” a material object now gone. What remains is the REAL church — you and I, God’s people — not charred from the fire, not more distant from God because of this tragedy. Let us lift up our heads with hope and confidence that the Lord will once again perform His wonders, and use this occasion for the good of those that wait upon Him. — Editor (g.h.)

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.

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

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- Article #9 Amplified: Bible & Book of Mormon
- Article #20 Amplified: Marriage
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NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs.
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Sunday School Materials

Send orders for SS Materials to Becky Sheldon, 31607 E. Major Rd, Grain Valley, Mo 64029. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ except as noted. Donations accepted to cover postage.

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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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PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

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.