

# Zion's Advocate

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

Volume 67

Independence, Missouri — February 1990

Number 2



History teaches us that there is no substitute for the family if we are to have a society that stands for human beings at their best. — Ray Lyman Wilbur

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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, Missouri 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); All foreign add 50¢.

Send Subscription requests with appropriate fees; Donations to Church funds (Temple & Storehouse); Consecrations; Tithes; and all other Offerings to the **Business Manager** at Church headquarters as listed below.

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

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 bond paper. Please avoid overuse of underlining and ALL-CAPS, and do not use *italics* or any fancy typefaces. 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). The most important thing, though, is to send me material — I can type or otherwise fix anything you send.

#### 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 (any size or format) 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.

Editorial . . .

# Is Your "Hightower" Established?

And David spake unto the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: And he said, The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my Salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." II Samuel 22:1-3

This was David's song concerning his rock, his fortress, and his deliverer. Delivered from the Philistines, his enemy, and Saul, an Israelite. This was David's prayer to his God finding himself 'alone' as King.

*O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm. Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. Yea, my God will give me, if I ask not amiss: therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, the rock of my righteousness. Behold, my voice shall forever ascend up unto thee, my rock and mine everlasting God. Amen. II Nephi 3:61-66*

Nephi's strength was not to be found in his father Lehi, who had just died; not to be found in his brothers, who hated him; and not to be found within himself realizing the weakness of the flesh. This was Nephi's prayer to his God finding himself "alone" as Ruler.

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies." Psalm 18:1-3

Again in verse 2, as in II Samuel 22:3, David praised his God as his

"hightower." As King David knew the purpose and value of a hightower. Do we know the value and purpose?

A tower is a little fort within a castle capable of housing and feeding its' own garrison, independent of help or dangers outside it's walls. The Keep of Covey, built in England during the 13th century, is such a tower, measuring 210 feet high, 100 feet in diameter, walls 34 feet thick. Imagine yourself trying to penetrate, scale and conquer a tower this formidable.

Towers of defense were also built on this continent and described in the Book of Mormon. Alma 22:1-4 indicates that Moroni caused deep ditches to be dug around their cities with the earth piled forming steep ridges. Timbers were placed upon the ridges with pickets framed upon the timbers. Guarding the pickets were towers with places of security protecting the fighting men. Huge as the deep of covey is, it seems as a toothpick compared to a whole city fortified! Under seige as each line of defense fell, there was another, then another and finally the "high tower"! The last line, the ultimate strength.

We all work towards, build upon, and come to rely on: jobs, family, home, retirement, savings, physical and mental powers, etc. All these, and any others you may count on, are at best "low towers". We have made them and for this reason all can fail! A generation ago many of these "low towers" seemed safe, secure, even impregnable, but as prophesied concerning the last days, we begin to see cracks form, mortar crumble, and the walls of man make towers fall. Where then is our defense, our last line? Do you have a "high tower"?

Jesus Christ is *the* "high tower"! The scriptures quoted earlier stated "in Him will I trust." David and Nephi knew Jesus Christ as the defense to take refuge in; the strength to lean upon; and the truth to stay upon.

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by  
Priest  
Mike  
McGhee

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Jesus Christ  
is *the*  
"High Tower"!

## With what will you serve God?

Defense against the world, natural man and Satan himself. Jesus Christ suffered the flesh and death to provide the strength we all need. Through his death and resurrection He conquered the fear of death that had held man in bondage. Through his temptation in the flesh He is able to understand and help us with *our* temptation in the flesh. His strength allowed him to overcome each temptation to which He was subjected and, in turn, is able to help us overcome each of our temptations. He is our refuge, He is our strength, He is our Hightower! (refer to Hebrews Ch. two) Jesus Christ is the Truth:

- (1) I am Jesus Christ, the son of God.
- (2) I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are.
- (3) I am the light and life of the world.
- (4) I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again; therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved. (reference III Nephi 4:44-52)

Jesus Christ is our Hightower, our stronghold, our source of refuge and strength that keeps us out of reach of

real evils; the Hightower that removes us from danger, pressures, trials and "secret combinations." (see Eph 6:12-13, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood")

Jesus Christ is our Tower of Salvation our source of truth and hope which changes our point of view, enabling us to gain perspective and establish priorities at home, work, school, play, our community and the world. This "Tower of Salvation," this "Hightower," this Jesus Christ can never be scaled, battered or un dermined. The enemy will never conquer!

David, with his sceptre, pen and sword served God. Nephi with his obedience, faith and sacred record, served God. With what will you serve God? All your heart, might, mind and strength. The High tower is established (Please read: Hebrews 12:1-2, Jesus the author and finisher; II Nephi 3:30-50, rock of my salvation).

Make Jesus *YOUR* Hightower!

### *Omission from last month's Zion's Advocate:*

The Photo on page 3 was by Sheila Davis, and was provided courtesy of The Examiner.

## What is a Testimony?

As I was thinking upon this word, I wondered if I could sufficiently explain it to anyone. So I looked it up in the dictionary and this is what it said:

*A solemn declaration or affirmation; evidence or proof of some fact; in scripture, the two tables of the law; a written declaration testifying to character and qualities of a person; a tribute to a person's outstanding worth; or a public declaration regarding some experience.*

After reading this I could not dare say that I did not have some good thing to say about our Lord. I have proof and declare unto you He is real. I have heard the voice of His spirit, and felt the overpowering of His love upon me. He made me a new creature, and changed my desires of evil to good. I have seen miracles and heard magnificent things.

What Christ does for us is also a long slow work, enduring with us day by day, patiently coaxing, trying and

helping. He not only left us His spirit to guide us but He left us His words which came from God. And of what worth are these? They can solve any problem, lift any burden, and promise blessings in this life as well as eternal life in a perfect place with a perfect God and His perfect Son.

I am an unworthy servant so often, and yet I know He continues to work with me and love me. Does this tell you anything about his character? I could not live my life now without so great a friend. I wait for the day to bow down before Him. No word can be spoken because their is none great enough to praise Him; only pure love will pass between us and a perfect understanding.

Your sister in Gospel bonds,  
Kathy Cloyd  
Payson, Arizona

# It's in the Hands of the Lord

A testimonial about the destruction of the Temple Lot church building ...

Each person that attended the New Year's Eve service at the Temple Lot Church, and then returned to the Temple Lot in the afternoon New Year's Day can testify of the traumatic effect that a few hours can bring on a people when sudden destruction occurs. None of us lost our lives or was even hurt physically yet the utter shock is something that will probably be remembered for some time.

It was a beautiful evening on December 31, 1989, that we spent together as various ones of our brothers and sisters gave talented offerings to our Lord. It seemed right that we expressed ourselves by clapping our hands and giving smiles of appreciation in response to their offerings. For two short hours we heard special music of voice and instrument and selected poems (a video tape was made of that program and copies may be available at cost of duplication — write to Church headquarters with inquiry — editor). Then we gathered downstairs to partake of "finger food" and to socialize for a time, being totally unaware that this would be the last time we would do so in the grand old church building that has served our needs for several generations.

It is true that we have become cramped as our numbers have increased, and for a more sophisticated people this old building of unusual design and modified facilities might never do. But for some unexplainable reason or reasons that our Lord knows well, we have been compelled to utilize this house as a home with seemingly no practical way to expand its size or change it to suit our present needs.

To some, this building represents a lifetime of memories. Many tiny infants have been lifted up by the Elders before the podium and received the Master's blessings as their loving parents looked on. Many have childhood memories of weekly Sunday School as they were led

downstairs to their classes. Yet others, who became acquainted with this bold landmark of history as adults such as myself, also have memories — memories of hearing special words and feeling an excitement inexpressible yet peaceful to the soul during the preachers' sermons and seasons of prayer and testimony.

Yes, the very walls of this towering old building have echoed the voices of a vibrant, living "family" struggling through many trials yet enjoying countless blessings. As I now look upon the charred walls, the ceilingless auditorium, the ugly remains of what was a comfortable, clean, warm and inviting room, I realize with shock and hurt that these walls will serve us no more. It was like a well known and reliable friend which I took for granted would be here for as long as we needed it.

Stunned by the news of the fire, I drove the few miles from my home to the scene of destruction almost mechanically, like a person who had been abruptly awakened from a sound sleep. When I arrived, several willing persons were receiving from the firemen's hands some of our precious possessions that had escaped being consumed and they were carefully placing them in trucks and vans. Others, like myself, were examining with unbelieving eyes the dying edifice. Black streaked down over gleaming white. Flames tried to start up again and again almost belligerent in their efforts to continue the destruction.

I saw in the faces of my loved ones a mirror of my own feelings. I discerned their crying hearts, although little outward emotion was expressed. I was in union with them; I felt what they felt.

by  
Apostle Roland  
Sarratt



**Stunned by the  
news of the fire, I  
drove the few  
miles from my  
home to the  
scene of  
destruction ....**

The senseless injustice of it all! Why should anyone desire to do such a thing? Any motive seems so indifferent and foreign to our simple acceptance to what is right. It is as if an evil spirit, unreasonable in will and character, broke into our midst and tried to rip out the very heart of our family relationship. But the spiritual adversary is not new; he has been here before in trying to divide and destroy the family of God. Only now have I seen the manifestation of physical destruction. I wandered about the grounds trying to under-

**Special Day  
for Fasting and Prayer**

Since the Church Headquarters on the Temple Lot has been destroyed by fire because of arson, the Council of Apostles does hereby request the Church at large to engage in a day of Fasting & Prayer, both in public assembly and individual approach to our Heavenly Father, regarding a building program to meet our collective needs in that area.

Because the fire was a deliberate effort to destroy the building and to impede the Church of Christ, we believe this to have been motivated by our enemy, the Devil. We, therefore, urge the membership to also pray against the evil forces which may yet be arrayed against the Kingdom of God, or against His saints. Without the help of God we cannot stand, but a humble trust in Him will prevail against the power of evil.

The appointed time for this Special season of Fasting & Prayer is to be on Sunday, March 4, 1990.

**Wm. A. Sheldon, Sec'y,  
Council of Apostles**

stand what I could not fully identify and explain, occasionally letting anger well up in my heart.

Suddenly a kind sister's voice was heard in calm assurance, "It's in the hands of the Lord." I looked about; I saw the faces of my brothers and sisters again. I felt the kinship of love anew. Hurt and anger began to ebb away and, strangest of all, pity for the wrongdoer seemed to push its way gently into my breast. But I wasn't yet ready to find peace in my soul.

The firemen worked continuously in searching out every smouldering ember, and finally as night fell, the power of death was subdued. The crashing of charred boards and debris upon the cluttered lawn, which kept us at bay throughout the afternoon and evening, now had ceased. We shivered in the cold as we watched the fire trucks leave. Many of us had come and gone throughout this time of sorrow. Now a few of us chatted for a time repeating our concerns almost afraid to be optimistic.

Night brought distressful sleep as my mind refused to let go of the scene with the leaping flames and black smoke swirling around the roof of the old beloved building which I had seen in the newscasts. The news coverage, even as considerate as the reporters were, seemed like an invasion to the sacredness of our place of worship. In the blackness of night I felt exposed to a harsh and cruel world. It was as if I searched for some satisfaction even in the acceptance of reality, but there was none. If I could weep I might find release from my turmoil of thoughts, but my conscience would not let me weep for the loss of a material thing.

Part of the cause of my restlessness was due to a vivid memory of an unusual experience that I had at the service the night before. During that service a thought flashed through my mind almost like a bulletin. The thought was: What if someone should try to burn the church while we were all here in the upper auditorium? I quickly dismissed the thought, considering it of no importance. The strange thing about it was that I usually never think about things like that and I hadn't heard anything

about the threats that had been made of burning the building.

Now I wrestled with some questions: Was the Lord warning me? Should I have interrupted the service and asked for a season of prayer to protect us from such danger? Are we, as a people, listening to the Lord? Are we ignoring the signs when they are given? These questions are yet to be answered fully to my inquiring mind.

Early the next morning I returned to the dreaded sight of destruction. Where, before, we gathered instinctively into the warmth and comfort of the house of the Lord, we now swarmed in and out of the airy, dark and wrecked structure to salvage what was usable.

It took only a short while to find that most of our records and files had been protected. Most of them weren't even wet. It is evident that the Lord had watched over them. We suffered loss, but not a loss that can't be replaced. I gave thanks for this. Also, I had reason to give thanks that not one of our people was hurt. The possibility was there had the destroyer set his hand at an earlier time, especially the night before.

My attitude of thanksgiving brought to memory our sister's statement, "It's in the hands of the Lord," and peace and assurance returned to my soul. I found myself in the midst of willing workers each doing their part with an instinctive sense of purpose, that purpose being to get on with the work of the Lord.

Though a great task lies before us and decisions must be made, the assurance that the Lord is watching over us will carry us through this time of trial, and we will be stronger for it. A page in history has just been turned. A blank page lies before the scribes. How many pages are yet to be written before the end of time, is not ours to know; but it can't be many for we are surely living in the last days.

Many prophecies are yet to be fulfilled according to the scriptures and we, as the family of God, have a great work to do. My prayer is that each of us will receive the peace and assurance in our hearts that will cause us to move together as a unit in the performance of our assigned tasks as we hearken to the direction of the Spirit of God. □



# TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

## Part Eleven

- **The Book of Mormon states that the second migration came over the ocean from the west or across the Pacific. This group was composed of seven divisions or tribes, but led by four brothers, the youngest of which was in command. They carried along with them a divine instrument which led them through the wilderness. It was known as the ball, or compass, or Liahona.**

The following is taken from a Spanish translation of the Annals of the Xahil:

Then we arrived at the borders of the sea. All of the warriors of the tribes gathered together at the sea. Then the hearts of many were full of anguish.

"It cannot be crossed. It has never been told that the sea has been crossed," said all the warriors of the seven tribes. "Who will tell us how we may cross the sea? OH OUR YOUNGER BROTHER, THOU ART OUR HOPE," they all exclaimed. "Yes, how shall we cross this?" we all asked. And all of them answered: "Have pity on our countenance, oh our younger brother" because we are scattered along the seashore unable to see our hills or plains... If we could cross we would see the faces of the charges given us by our mothers, by our fathers, oh our younger brother' they said...

"How shall we cross the sea, oh our younger brother' they said. And we answered, "We shall cross in the ships..." Then we entered the ships of the Ah Nonovalco; THEN WE TRAVELED EASTWARD AND ARRIVED THERE" (Anales de los Xahil, Traducción y notes de George Raymond, Miguel Angel Asturias y J.M. Gonzalez de Mendoza, National University, Mexico, 1946).

"The Wise Men, the Nahuales, the chiefs and leaders of three great

peoples and of others who joined them, called U Mamae (the old men), extending their sight over the four parts of the world and over all that is beneath the sky, and finding no obstacle, came from the other part of the ocean, from where the sun rises, a place called pa Tulan, Pa Civan.

"The principal chiefs were four ... (Balam-Qitze, Balam-Agab, Mahucutah, Iqi-balam).

"The chiefs of the second nation or tribes of Quiches were named Tamub; they were four also ....

"The chiefs of the third Quiche tribe or nation were also four ....

"These, then, were the three nations of Quiches, and they came from where the sun rises, descendants of Israel, of the same language and the same customs.

"Then they rose from Pa-Tulan, Pa-Civan, the first leader was Balam-Qitze, by unanimous vote, and then the great father nacxit (God) gave them a present called Giron-Gagal.

"When they arrived at the edge of the sea, Balam-Qitze touched it with his staff and at once a path opened, which then closed up again, for thus the great God wished it to be done, because they were sons of Abraham and Jacob. So it was that those three nations passed through, and with them thirteen others called Vukamag" (Title of the Lords of Totonicapan, translated from the Quiche text into Spanish by Dionisio Jose Chonay, English version by Delia Goetz, pp. 169-170).

What is the Giron-Gagal mentioned in the above account? "The 'bundle,' symbol of power and majesty, the carefully kept stone which, as related further on made the other people fear and respect the Quiches" (Footnote, Title of the Lords of Totonicapan, p. 170).

Note: This instrument must certainly have reference to the Liahona of the Book of Mormon.

"I shall write the stories of our first fathers and grandfathers, one of whom

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Compiled by  
Harvey E. Seibel

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**“When they arrived at the edge of the sea, Balam-Qitze touched it with his staff and at once a path opened, which then closed up again .... ”**

**This sounds like  
a description of  
the unhappiness  
and malcontent  
of Laman and  
Lemuel ....**

**Tulan**, we the Cakchiquel people, oh, our sons! so they told us" (The Annals of the Cakchiquels, p. 44).

"Then we were commanded by our mothers and our fathers to come, we the thirteen clans of the seven tribes, the thirteen groups of warriors. Then we arrived at Tulan in the darkness and in the night. Then we gave the tribute, when the seven tribes and the warriors carried the tribute. We took our place in order at the left part of Tulan. **There were the seven tribes.**" (The Annals of the Cakchiquels, p. 48)

The two details which stand out in the above accounts are as follows: 1. The founders or the first fathers of these peoples were four men or four families. 2. These people were composed of seven tribes. Of the four men we learned earlier that the youngest of them bore rule or was in charge. The four main progenitors mentioned in the Book of Mormon are Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi. The seven tribes also have a close affinity to the Book of Mormon account. The Book of Mormon says they were called Nephites, Jacobites, Josephites, Zoramites, Lamanites, Lemuelites, and Ishmaelites (See Jacob 1:9-14). Regarding the youngest son, we find this recorded in the Book of Mormon account: "And behold, the words of the Lord had been fulfilled unto my brethren, which he spake concerning them, that I should be their ruler and their teacher; wherefore, I had been their ruler and their teacher, according to the commandment of the Lord ...." (2 Nephi 4:29-30).

That they had a knowledge of their place of origin is shown by the following:

"Now on the 28th of September of 1554, we sign this attestation in which we have written that which by tradition our ancestors told us, who came from the other part of the sea, from Civan-Tulan, bordering on Babylonia" (Title of the Lords of Tonicapan, p. 194).

"In Tulan, power came instantly to them; great was their wisdom in the darkness and in the night.

"Then they came, they pulled up stakes there and left the East. 'This is not our home; let us go and see where we should settle.'

"... they wept in their chants because

of their departure from Tulan; their hearts mourned when they left Tulan ...." (Popol Vuh, p. 181). This sounds like a description of the unhappiness and malcontent of Laman and Lemuel and others who came along with them on the migration.

"And as they (the four brothers) had had a presentiment of their death, they counselled their children ....

"These words they said when they bade them farewell. Then Balam-Quitze left the symbol of his being: 'This is a remembrance which I leave for you. This shall be your power ....' Then he left the symbol of his being, the Pizom-Gagal, (the Liahona, Hes) as it was called, whose form was invisible because it was wrapped up and could not be unwrapped ....

"In this way the four died, our first grandfathers and fathers ....

"They remembered their fathers; great was the glory of the bundle to them. Never did they unwrap it, but it was always wrapped, and with them. Bundle of Greatness they called it when they extolled and named that which their fathers had left in their care as a symbol of their being.

"In this manner, then, came about the disappearance and end of Balam-Quitze, Balam-Bacab, Mahucutah, and Iqui-Balam, the first men who came there from the other side of the sea, where the sun rises. They had been here a long time when they died, being very old ...." (Popol Vuh, pp. 204-206).

"The Tupis of Brazel claim a descent from the four brothers. The fourfold division of the Muyscas of Bogota was traced back to four chieftains created by their hero God, Negumsteba.

"Hardly a nation on the continent but seems to have had some vague tradition of an origin from four brothers, to have at some time been led by four leaders or princes, or in some manner to have connected the appearance and action of four important personages with its earliest traditional history" (Daniel G. Brinton, Myths of the New World, pp. 94, 101, cited in Roy Weldon's, Other Sheep, p. 102).

was called Gagavits, the other Zactecauh; the stories that they told to us; that from the other side of the sea we came to the place called Tulan, where we were begotten and given birth by our mothers and our fathers, oh, our sons!" (The Annals of the Cakchiquels, Translated from the Cakchiquel Maya by Adrian Recinos and Delia Goetz, p. 43).

"Thus, then, **we were four families who arrived at**

**Continued next month ...**



# Conference Announcements:

## Location of Regular Conference Sessions

We your Conference Planning Committee and Conference Dining Hall Committee take this opportunity to inform all who will be attending the April, 1990, General Conference, that meetings will be held at the Salvation Army Camp Mokan, at 40 Highway and Lee's Summit Rd. in Independence, Missouri.

Due to this new facility's policies, we will not be able to bring in our own food. It will be provided from their kitchen staff and we will only have a noon meal each day.

The Dining Hall will only be open to us for the noon meal.

Donations are still needed to help cover expenses. We feel it a privilege to have served you and wish to express, once again, our gratitude to the ladies of the Independence locals for their support and assistance in supplying deserts and salads, and to all who have assisted in clean-up. We await the location of a suitable facility for the future where we can be at your service once again.

In addition: To parents bringing children with them to the conference, you will be solely responsible for them at all times. Everyone is expected to stay in the services and not to be roaming the grounds. All other buildings and grounds are off limits to us except the parking areas for our cars. There is a large foyer to which mothers may take fussing babies and a wash room to attend to their needs, located in the chapel building. Thank You!

### Dining Hall Committee:

Amy Schrader  
Belinda Smith  
Patty McGhee

### Planning Committee:

Mike Smith  
Rodger Bruner  
Virgil Rudd

## Notice from Conference Secretary:

Following instructions of the 1966 Referendum, the annual conference of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), will begin on the Sunday of the week in which the 6th of April occurs, which, this year will be April 1.

Business sessions, however, will start at 9:00 a.m., Monday April 2nd. A Solemn Assembly is scheduled March 30 and 31.

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

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

In accordance with action of the 1985 Conference, all requests for funds should be submitted to the General Bishopric one month prior to the conference convening.

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

R. W. Oldham  
General Church Secretary

*Make  
it a  
matter of  
prayer ...*

## Solemn Assembly

### Notice from the Council of Apostles:

We, your brethren of the Apostles, do hereby request the members of the Church of Christ to enter into fasting and prayer for the spiritual welfare of the Church at the time of our appointed solemn assembly and for the April general conference, which season begins on Friday, March 30, 1990, continuing into the following week.

Services during this Solemn Assembly, Friday & Saturday, starting at 9:00 A.M., will be held at the Independence East Local at M78 Highway and Holke Road.

William A. Sheldon,  
Secretary,  
Council of Apostles

**Collins Local News**

Brother Jack Martin said in a recent sermon, "If you listen closely you can almost hear the pages of time turning." The Bible says, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." In spite of how things look or seem, remember, God is; and He is in control. Will we be of help or a hindrance to His work here on earth?

We joined our friends and neighbors in the community for our annual Thanksgiving celebration at the Baptist Church November 19th. Then December 17th, we all gathered together again to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Our church rang with the singing of those beautiful songs. Brother Jack Martin was our speaker that evening and toward the end of his sermon he enlisted the help of his wife, Sister Betty, to read the short story, "The Other Wise Man." I know that reading was, indeed, only a story, but such a beautiful sentiment. I could hear it again and again. Also present that evening was our Brother Joe Yates. No program is ever complete without a few words from Brother Joe. The people enjoyed hearing him speak and recite a poem or two for us. Brother Joe is staying at Hermitage Park regional Care Center in Hermitage.

On December 19th our Sister Floralise Yates (Brother Joe's lovely wife) passed from this life. She had been in the hospital several days, I believe, primarily for her diabetes. No matter how weak or bad she felt, she always made her visitors feel welcome. Floralise will be very much missed, but her strong exhibit of faith will live on for some time.

Funeral services for Floralise were held December 21st at the Hathaway-Peterman Chapel in Wheatland with Brother Jack Martin officiating and Brother Bob Eddy assisting. Burial was at Hayden Cemetery.

Recent guest speakers have been Brother Glen Gill of Kansas City, Kansas, and Brother Gerry Case of Inde-

pendence. We are always so grateful for the efforts put forth by those of the visiting ministry program.

Our sister Jo Eddy has returned to us from her travels with Brother John and Sister Nana Gill into the country of Honduras. Our prayers have been answered on their behalf. Welcome home Jo!

In closing, I, again, have a few lines I have gleaned from recent sermons. I hope you will give them some thoughtful consideration:

- **The people who are the most giving are most benefitted.**
- **We are free to choose good or evil; we have the freedom to commit sin.**
- **"Tell Me the Old, Old Story." How quick we forget! We spend one day a week (Sunday) in the service or study of God and six days in the world. What will we remember most?**
- **This is what being a Christian is all about: trust in the Lord, be diligent in keeping His commandments, and continue to the end of your life.**
- **A quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Adopt the pace of nature, whose secret is patience."**
- **God doesn't want us to be good for show. He wants us to be good for goodness' sake.**

May we each be more mindful of God and His will in our lives. Happy New Year!

**Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman**

**Flint Local News**

A heartfelt Hello to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. We would like to share some news.

First we would like to follow up on the November 5th Harvest dinner that we all enjoyed. We are thankful to the Lord that many of our brothers and sisters came from all over Michigan to worship the Lord with us — Ravenna, Stanwood, Bradley, Sterling, Gaylord and Roscommon. There was a moving sermon given by Elder Edward Toulouse on the many blessings we all should give thanks for continually and the purpose of the sacrament. After the sacrament was served, there were many heart-felt testimonies given. After dinner, Elders Gale Brantner and Ed Toulouse went to administer to a young sister in the Hospital, while the rest of us reassembled for a song service led by Brother Aaron Heath. We all left the service feeling that we had been blessed by the spirit.

On Christmas eve we had a sacrament service, dinner and a Children's Christmas program. Before sacrament, Priest Emery Pinder delivered a wonderful sermon leading up to the sacrament where we all enjoyed many beautiful testimonies of the goodness and mercy of our Lord and Master unto us all. After dinner we reassembled for the Children's program organized by Sister Susan Porter. Our thanks to God for the children that participated. It brought back memories from childhood from a lot of us.

We would like an interest in your prayers as we extend our invitation continually to all that would have a desire to come and meet in Thanksgiving to the Lord. I also think we should pray continually for all the ministry, that God may strengthen them in the spirit and wisdom to do a mighty work in the vineyard among the children of men. Thanks be unto God!

**Your brother in Christ,  
Adam Porter**

### Ravenna Local News

Greetings and Happy New Year to all! May this new year bring those gifts of the spirit of which we are all in need.

Our Ravenna local was greatly blessed during the holiday season with special programs and many special guests. We enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Sacrament service, dinner, and afterward, the Childrens Sunday School class paraded in Pilgrim garb with verses.

Sunday, November 26 th, after our regular services, we were overjoyed as we gathered at Crockery Lake to see two new members baptized into the Church of Christ! It was a beautiful fall day! Welcome to the family sister Ann Harelson and brother Kevin Felfe! The following sunday, December 3rd, they were confirmed in our regular Sacrament Service with a pot luck dinner follow-

ing. Also that day, Jenni Vogel, was the first of the Childrens Sunday School class to receive her certificate and Bible for her attendance. (By the time this goes to print, Michael and Kristi Horn will also have received their prizes.) During this time period, sister Vivian and brother Max Spencer and sister Marie Weaver were traveling; we missed them and are glad that they are now back with us.

December 24th was our special Christmas Eve Service. After a sermon by Pastor Gale Brantner, on what the season is and what we should be celebrating, our Children's Sunday School class put on a special presentation posing as the Holy Family, including shepards, wisemen, and angels in the Nativity scene as an angel narrated. They did a wonderful job! Afterwards, many readings, songs, and testimonies were given to make it a very special heartwarming event, and all of us felt

the true Christmas Spirit ... being ever so grateful for the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Lord Jesus!

December 31, we were back to our regular services with out of state guests Elder Charles and sister Jeanne Brantner from Missouri. Elder Charles honored us with a sermon about the prophecies, proofs, and the many choices that are put before us. Later that evening, those that were able met again for a sermon by Elder Gale Brantner and a fondue dinner followed with a midnight prayer service to start the new year off right. We pray that in this time of change and decision that we will remember whose will it is that we strive to do.

May God Bless you throughout this new year.

Your reporter and sister in Christ,  
Debbie Brantner Vogel

*When Sunday School Teachers Receive ...*

## FLOWERS FROM GOD

**Marlene LeFever**

Exhausted, I dragged myself home from work, grabbed my mail and a cup of coffee, and headed off to teacher training meeting. I was so tired. Was teaching really worth the trouble — Sunday after Sunday after Sunday?

At a three-way light I shuffled through my mail — bills, "to occupant," and one letter from a name I didn't recognize. I ripped it open.

*Dear Marlene, You probably don't remember me, but years ago you were my high school teacher. I'm a pastor's wife now and I'm writing to tell you how much you boosted my self-confidence. You made me feel as if I could survive that difficult year in my life.*

The light changed. And so did my attitude. It was as if God had sent me a bouquet of flowers, and He had chosen the perfect day to deliver it. I could hardly wait until the next red light to "smell" them again. The letter continued with phrases that teachers rarely hear from students when they are in our classes: "You made a difference . . . I watched your life and . . . You helped me think through . . ."

Flowers from God! We Sunday school teachers will get them — but not always in this world. Louis Lotz, a pastor

from Sioux City, Iowa, wrote an open letter to his childhood teacher after he read of her death:

*I remember the way you broke down and laughed when Joseph's coat of many colors kept falling from the flannelboard, leaving poor Joseph unclothed. I remember how you didn't lose your temper when the Elmer's Glue top came off and the contents drained into your purse. I remember the way your face looked happy when we kids sang, 'Jesus Loves Me.' Thank you for slicing great concepts into pieces small enough for a child to swallow.*

There is no greater calling than teacher, no more important job in the church. The next Sunday when you've worked hard to prepare and you're tired and you wonder if it's worth it, stop for a minute. Picture a student in your mind's eye — and ever so softly breathe in. You just might smell the flowers! □

Marlene LeFever (1-800-533-2201, ext. 409) is the author of *Creative Teaching Methods*, a handbook for getting students involved in learning. Used with permission of the David C. Cook Publishing Company

**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

Price Each

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	
Members (optional)	\$4.00
Non-Members	4.00
Foreign	4.50
Book of Mormon (Missionary Edition)	7.00
Outline History of the Church of Christ	4.00
Book of Commandments (paper bound)	4.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed	2.90
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What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
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Changing of the Revelations	.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30

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The balance of these General Church Publications are free of charge:

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

NOTE: Donations accepted to cover postage & printing costs.  
(Multiple copies available: 6-50¢ / 100-\$5.85 plus postage)

**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.

- Church History for Juniors - Includes a Teachers Guide
- The Book in the Stone Box - About the Book of Mormon
- Bible Stories to Grow By - 52 lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7;  
Free to local Sunday Schools only.
- Jesus' Life and Teachings - 4 quarterlies for ages 8-10
- We sing and We Talk about Jesus -14 Primary lessons with pictures and songs on cassette; For "loan" only.
- Who Am I? - Bible game on cards with many uses; Free to Local Sunday Schools - \$1.30 for individuals.

**CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?**

Speed delivery of your "Advocate" by sending us your new address immediately. Mail to address listed below.

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

<p><b>ZION'S ADVOCATE</b> (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, Mo 64051-0472</p>	<p>Second Class Postage Paid Independence, Mo 64051</p>
<p>Aaron Heath 159 E. Beech Fruitport, MI 49415</p>	

**AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS**

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

● **Slide Programs with Taped Narration**

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

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

Mexico, Land of Contrast (39 minutes) — Illustrates how modern archeological finds in the Americas lend credence to the Book of Mormon and the story it tells of the continents' former inhabitants.

Out of the Dust (45 minutes) — Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

Light at Evening (27 minutes) — Story of the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

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● **Holy Scriptures On Audio Cassette Tapes**

Complete sets narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64139.

● **Sermons On Audio Cassette Tapes**

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Mike Kelley, 1949 E. Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or Ron Temple, 5621 Logan Rd., K.C., MO 64136.

**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.