

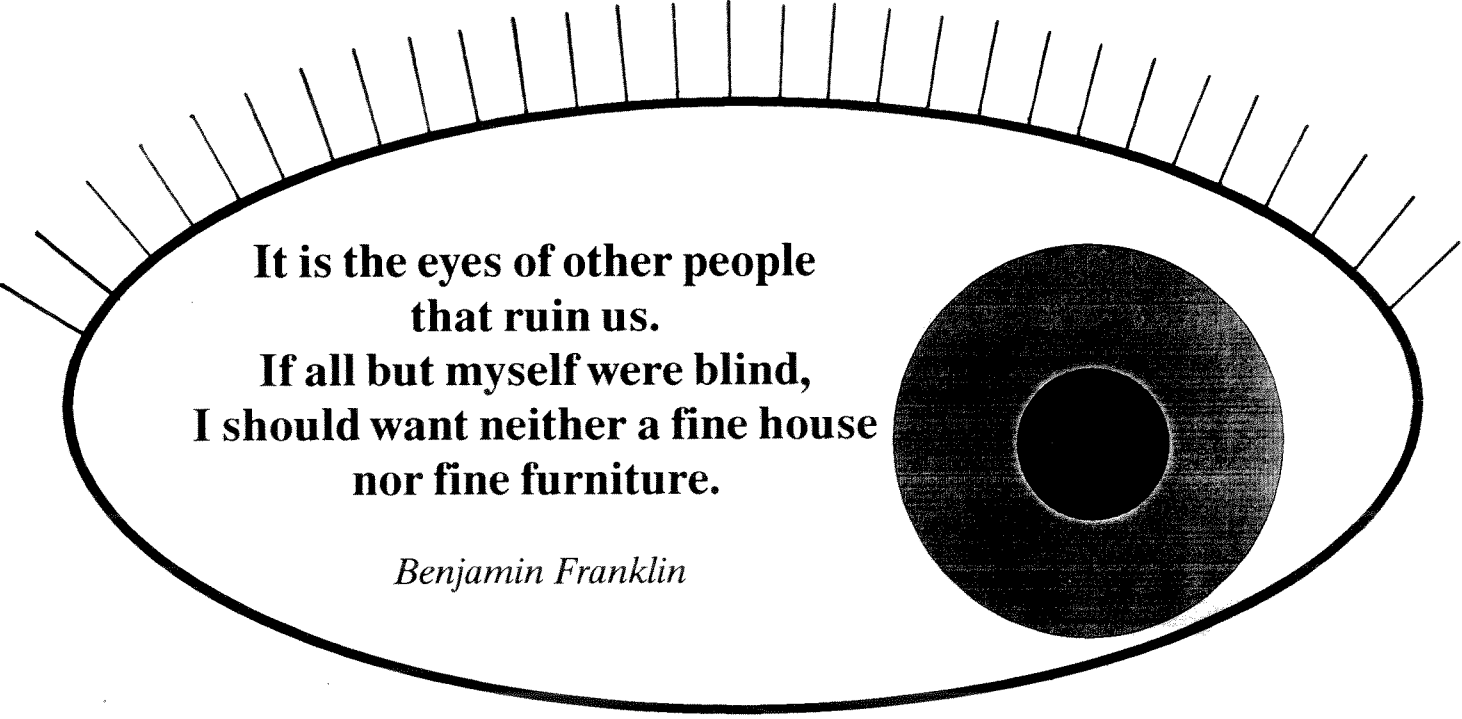
Zion's Advocate

*"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 – March 1990

Number 3



**It is the eyes of other people
that ruin us.
If all but myself were blind,
I should want neither a fine house
nor fine furniture.**

Benjamin Franklin

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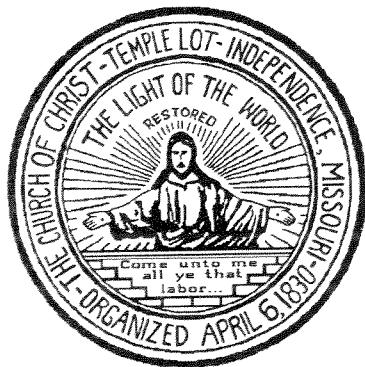
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The Zion's Advocate is . . .
To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour, and His teachings;
To promote His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people;
To be Zion's advocate.

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 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.

Liberty of Christ

Elder Roger Can G.

A sermon given November 14, 1989,
in Motul, Yucatan, Mexico

JOHN 8:31. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34. Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

When the Jews heard these words they were angry because they considered themselves free and slaves to no one. Of course, this was not true even in a temporal sense — in those times Palestine was a province ruled by the emperor of Rome, subject to his laws and taxes and the Romans ruled over them strictly. The human being, in the same manner, is often unable to see their bondage to sin, but Christ desires that we recognize the sinful condition resident in every man and look to Him that we might be freed.

Many men and women have struggled for liberty, much blood has been shed and many innocent and defenseless people have been killed in man's struggle for a temporal freedom. After being brought down by her enemies, the queen of France was carried to the guillotine. She raised her eyes and saw a statue of liberty and she cried out, "Oh, liberty, how many people they have killed in your name!" Today we are made free, not by means of warfare, but by

the blood of Christ. He has given you a freedom from sin that the world is not able to give.

In Chapter 1 of Second Nephi we are told (11-14) that this land has been consecrated to those that God has brought here, but there is a condition to this promise. This land shall be a land of liberty to us only if we "serve him according to the commandments which he hath given." Today we are free to worship God in whatever state of Mexico we may be in. We enjoy the companionship of our missionaries, Donald and Alvin. Today, Christ has given us freedom from sin and from the traditions of our fathers.

I would like to tell you the story of a blacksmith. He was famous for the making of unbreakable chains. He was mighty of stature, extremely strong and weighed about 300 pounds, but he did have a weakness - he was a drunkard. One day while in a drunken stupor he committed a crime and was taken to the jail and put in chains to prevent his escape. After several hours had passed the blacksmith regained his wits and sought to flee. He knew with his great strength he could break the small chains that bound him. Time after time he exerted all his strength, but the chains held fast. Imagine his dismay when, upon examining the chains more closely, he saw they were the product of his own forge and knew that he would be unable to break the very chains he had made.

Dear brothers, are you, like this blacksmith, making unbreakable chains of sin? The chains of sin we make each day in our lives will make us slaves in our own personal prison. As Nephi said in verse 13, we will never be placed in captivity unless it is because of iniquity.

Dear brothers, be steadfast today through all manner of suffering - the hardness of our lives, the increasing

cost of all we must buy. These conditions have come because sin has grown in the world until it has included even many believers. All this is the work of a powerful blacksmith who makes for men unbreakable chains, chains made of the vices of this world - drugs, alcohol, fornication, pagan celebrations, dances, strife and pride. Such chains are fashioned by Satan for those who do not wish to be with us in keeping the commandments of God. We have two holy books of scripture to help us know these commandments of God. Today the greater part of religions whose beliefs have become popular, are seeking fame and popularity with their music and singers who imitate the artists and actors of this world. They have forgotten that Jesus said, "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart."

Our day is a time of great danger for it is full of all manner of temptation. As we are told in Alma 16:227-230, this is the time to prepare ourselves to meet our God. And this is the preparation we must make - that we are firm and steadfast in our faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the day of your decision. Do not delay because tomorrow you know not what shall become of you.

As King Benjamin said, I say unto you, "Oh, you young men, you old men, and you children that are able to understand my words: I pray that you will consider the blessed and happy state of those who keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they continue unto the end, they are received into heaven by our Lord, Jesus Christ."

It is my prayer that the Lord, Jesus Christ, whom you serve, will bless you and keep you in great love.

(Translated by Don McIndoo)

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Twelve

In Peru the Incan tradition was that its first inhabitants were brought by four brothers, Ayar-Manco-Topa, Ayar-Cache-Topa, Ayar-Auca-Topa, and Ayar-Rica-Topa accompanied by their sisters and wives. The youngest of the brothers was the most skillful and hardy. (See Rivero and Tschudi, Peruvian Antiquities, p. 52, as cited by Roy Weldon, Other Sheep, pp. 102-103.)

"The youngest of these brothers assumed supreme authority, and became the first of a long line of sovereigns" (J.D. Baldwin, Ancient America, p. 264, cited in Roy Weldon, Other Sheep, p. 102).

"It is not stated whence they came, but merely that they came out of the regions where the sun rises. The supreme command was the hand of a chieftain whom history calls Quetzalcohuatl, that is to say, Lord par excellence. To his care was confided the holy envelope, (the Liahona, Hes) which concealed the divinity from the human gaze, and he alone received from it the necessary instructions to guide his people's march" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 3, pp. 270-271).

"Peru, says Montesinos, was populated five hundred years after the deluge. Its first inhabitants flowed in abundantly towards the valley of cuzco, conducted by four brothers...The younger of the

brothers, who, according to tradition, was at the same time the most skilful and hardy, wishing to enjoy alone the plenitude of power, rid himself of two of his brothers" (Rivero, Peruvian Antiquities, p. 52, cited in Dewey Farnsworth, The Americas Before Columbus, p. 86).

What a marvelous vindication this is of the Book of Mormon account. When Nephi and those who would go with him left and departed into the wilderness to find a new land he rid himself of his two brothers Laman and Lemuel.

"From the west we came to Tulan, from across the sea..." (The Annals of the Cakchiquels, p. 45).

Note: The Nephites did come from the west. They crossed the Pacific. Yet many times the Indians refer to their original homeland as being in the east, or where the sun rises. Nevertheless the memory that there were two migrations in ancient times was retained by the Mayas during the conquest. "A prevalent belief among the Mayas at the time of the Conquest was, that the peninsula was settled in ancient times by two races, one from the east, the other from the west. It is not implied that they came at the same period, but rather that the migration from the east preceded that from the west by many centuries" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, vol. 5, pp. 223-224). This is truly a remarkable and beautiful confirmation of the Book of Mormon account, for certainly it was that the Jaredites came to America from across the Atlantic many centuries before the Nephite migration occurred via the Pacific.

This article prepared for publication in *Zion's Advocate* by Sister Mary Johnson.

According to the Book of Mormon it was during the time of the second (and third) settlers that Christ made his appearance to the people of this land. The first settlers had previously been destroyed.

"And when the second group of colonizers, (The Toltecs) were in the height of their power, there arrived in this land a man whom they called Quetzalcoatl..." (Works of Ixtlilochitl, cited in Milton R. Hunter, Christ in Ancient America, p. 23).

"During the Olmec period, that is, the earliest period of Nahua power, the great Quetzalcoatl appeared" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 5, p. 200).

"There is one date which occurs on stone monuments all over the old empire of the Mayas. The Maya Long Count Calendar was adopted and inaugurated on 7.18.0.0.1 and this date when correlated with our calendar is found to fall on April 6, 2 A.D." (See M. Wells Jakeman, The Ancient Middle-American Calendar System: Its Origin and Development, Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History, No. 1, 1947, pp. 17-33, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson, One Fold and One Shepherd, p. 339).

Could there be any significance between the above when the new dating system was inaugurated on April 6, 2 A.D. and that found in the Book of Mormon as follows?

"And six hundred and nine years had passed away, since Lehi left Jerusalem; and nine years had passed away, from the time when the sign was given, which was spoken of by the prophets, that Christ should come into the world. Now the

Nephites began to reckon their time from this period when the sign was given or from the coming of Christ; Therefore, nine years has passed away..." (3 Nephi 1:44-46).

The Book of Mormon states that the second colonizers divided themselves into two separate peoples or nations.

"The civilized peoples of North America naturally group themselves in two great divisions, which for convenience may be called the Nahuas and the Mayas respectively; the first representing the Aztec Civilization of Mexico, and the second the Maya-Quiche civilization of Central America" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 2, p. 124).

While it is true that both the Maya and the Aztec are descendants of the same peoples, the memory of the two great kingdoms carried on down after the destruction of the Nephite kingdom. In Book of Mormon times the Lamanites held sway over the southern region while the Nephites held the northern regions.

Mr. Edward H. Thompson says in his book "People of the Serpent" (p. 78) that the dark-skinned people took the light-skinned people to be their guides and teachers. (See Dewey Farnsworth, The Americas Before Columbus, p. 5.)

Continued Next Month ...

A FRAGMENT OF HIS MIRROR

Many people ask the question: "What is the meaning of life?" It is a question that each individual needs to face and find a satisfactory answer. The scripture promises that the "Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil." (Moroni 7:14) Those who profess a Christian faith have an answer that provides understanding and the means for negotiating the path of life.

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, the life." (St. John 14:6) Once an individual comprehends the magnitude of this statement and is converted, that individual must forge a commitment between himself and the Lord to help others comprehend and become converted. How might a converted Christian answer the question "What is the meaning of life?" in a manner which will lead the questioner to Christ?

In the February, 1990, issue of *Reader's Digest* is a story focusing on an answer to that question given by a Greek theologian, Alexandros Papaderos. He told of his own experience:

One day on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. I kept the largest piece I began to play with it, and became fascinated that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine — deep holes, crevices, dark closets. I kept the little mirror, and as I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game, but a metaphor for what I might do with my life - that I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design I do not know. With what I have, I can reflect light — truth, understanding, knowledge — into the black places in the hearts of men and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise.

What is the light that we as followers of Christ can reflect to others with our fragment of His mirror? The words of Jesus Christ Himself provide the answer: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." (St. John 3:16) And also, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent." (St. John 17:3) And again, "I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly." (St. John 10:10) And our Savior offered this invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart:** and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30 emphasis by jlw)

An author, Minnie Louise Haskins, wrote this thought: "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the Year 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

So what will we do with our life, with our fragment of His mirror? Will we use it recklessly, carelessly, selfishly? Or will we see how precious are these few moments in time; will we make ourselves useful by helping someone else see the reflection of Christ in our mirror? Will we light the path in which Jesus would have us walk?

Each follower of Jesus must be a reflection of His light. No one is the whole, but all fragments joined together contain the power to overcome all darkness.

Janice L. Welch

129 South 26th Street Court
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

News

Notices & Announcements

Church of Christ happenings around the globe ...

Regional Reunion Notices

Colorado Reunion

June 8, 9 and 10, 1990, are the dates to remember for the Colorado Reunion to be held at the Church of Christ, Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

When you have made your plans to come and worship with us, please notify one of our committee members, so we may have a count for meals and accommodations.

Marvin Ely 303-434-8149
236 - 32 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503
Allen Downs 303-243-5777
299 1/2 Holly Lane
Grand Junction, CO 81503
Robert Ely 303-434-8090
3201 B 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Come and see our beautiful western mountains and worship with us in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Enid E. Bell, Secretary

Tri-State Reunion Notice

The 1990 Tri-State reunion will be held August 31 through September 2, at White Water State Park, Minnesota.

Watch in future issues of *Zion's Advocate* for further details.

Missouri Reunion

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

Date: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 10-12, 1990. First meeting to begin at 9:00 A.M., August 10.

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

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

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

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

We would like to know approximately how many plan on attending so the rooms can be reserved. As soon as possible, notify:

Jeanette Cunningham
Rt. 5
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093
816-747-5024

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

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

Youth Camp Notice

1990 Church Of Christ Youth Camp
August 5 - 10
Camp Far Westa
Far West, Missouri

Arrangements have been made to start an annual Church of Christ youth camp for Junior High and High School age youths from 12 years of age and up. This year's camp will be held at Camp Far Westa near Far West, Missouri (approximately 60 miles northwest of Kansas City).

The purpose of the camp is to provide a setting for the youth of the Church to meet in fellowship with others of similar beliefs in a moral, Christian atmosphere. Camp activities will include religious services, camp fires, studies in basic doctrine and belief, Church history, swimming, hiking, canoeing, crafts, sports, music, and other traditional camp activities.

This will be an opportunity for the youth of the Church from around the country to meet together among their peers to develop lasting friendships and spiritual relationships that they will remember throughout their lifetimes.

Look in future issues of *Zion's Advocate* for additional information regarding the 1990 Youth Camp.



Obituaries

ELLA L. ADAMS, Clare, Michigan, passed away on December 25, 1989. Services were held December 27 at the Coker Funeral Home in Farwell, Michigan, with Pastor Tim Sipes, of the Farwell Church of Christ, presiding. Burial was in the Hersey Cemetery, Hersey, Michigan.

Aunt Ella, as she was affectionately known to so many, was born Ella Louise Haskins on September 8, 1905, in Coldwater Township, Isabella County, Michigan, and was adopted at the age of 11 by Edwin Snook. She was united in marriage to Roy Silas Adams on April 13, 1924, at Brinton (Isabella County), Michigan, by Elder Lewis E. Welch. To this union were born 11 children: Harold (deceased April 24, 1982), David, William, Clarence, Ellen Miller, Donalda Phenicie, Arlene Loviska, Anna Loviska, Geraldine Embrey, and twins John Jay and Janet Kay (died in infancy - 1944). She was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) at Brinton, Michigan, on April 20, 1924, by Elder Lewis E. Welch, and became a member of the Flint Local. She remained a faithful and active member of the Church until failing health made it impossible for her to continue.

Sister Adams loved poetry. Among her possessions was found the following poem, which so wonderfully describes her life:

Sainthood Is ...

(William A. Sheldon)

Loving Christ with all one's heart,
Giving Him the largest part
Of life's devotion, and our trust
That heaven's treasure shall not rust.

To follow Christ through wat'ry grave,
In fullest faith that He will save,
By our obedience to His law;
That death and hell no more shall awe.

To follow Christ in word and deed,
With loving care for those in need;

To visit the sick and widow too,
Whose plight must surely appeal to you.

The gift of self; ask not again.
Good seed that's sown is not in vain.
Give tithes and offerings to the Lord,
To others need; it is His word.

Resistance to temptation's lure;
Let us keep our spirits pure,
By every victory over sin,
Strength is gained for life to win.

To curb the tongue; let naught be said
That's unapproved by our great Head.
Bless, don't curse; and permit no guile
To pass the lips and soul defile.

To pray unceasing; in faith rest,
That come what may, God gives best.
To praise His name in word and song;
For such as this to God belong.

We shall miss her.

FLORALICE LOCKLING YATES

of rural Preston, Missouri was born May 18, 1901, at Cross Timbers, Missouri, the daughter of O.S. and Melissa Lockling. She passed from this life December 19, 1989, at Sac Osage Hospital, Osceola, Missouri.

She was united in marriage to Joseph Edward Yates January 1, 1920, at Sedalia, Missouri. To this union were added seven sons and two daughters. The youngest son, Larry Noble preceded his mother in death. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Edward Yates, of Hermitage Park Care Center, six sons, Vincent Wallace Yates, of Preston, Curtis Doyle Yates, of Raytown, Mo., Byron Almar Yates, Wendell Gene Yates, Darral Dwight Yates, and Irwin Oakley Yates all of Preston, and two daughters, Joy Oleta Tucker and Lilly Juanita (Peach) Mathis both of Preston, one sister, Clara Edna Mitchell of Shreveport, La., forty-three grandchildren, sixty-nine great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and many nephews, nieces and friends.

She embraced the Gospel at an early age being baptized January 11,

1910, and transferred her membership to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Independence, Missouri, January 29, 1928. She was a true and faithful member, and an inspiration to all who knew her. She held membership at the Collins, Missouri, Local for the past several years.

Her life was dedicated to being a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and homemaker. Her love of life shined through a sparkling personality which was bestowed upon all who knew her. She maintained and kept in touch with old friends and made new ones wherever she went. A darling wife, dearest Mother, the sweetest Grandma, to always be loved, remembered and missed by her family.

Funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, December 21, 1989, at the Hathaway-Peterman Funeral Home at Wheatland, Missouri, with Elder James W. Martin officiating. Interment was at the Hayden Cemetery, Cross Timbers, Missouri.

JOSEPH EDWARD YATES was born February 16, 1901, at Seiling, Oklahoma, the son of James E. and Lillie Crawley Yates, and passed from this life January 27, 1990, at the Sac Osage Hospital, Osceola, Missouri.

He was married January 1, 1920, to Floralice Irene Lockling at Sedalia, Mo. She preceded him in death December 19, 1989. His youngest son, Larry Noble Yates also preceded him in death. To this union were added seven sons and two daughters.

He was baptized into Christ by his father in 1909, and ordained an Elder by his father in May 1929. He transferred his membership to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) May 26, 1929, and faithfully served the local church at Independence, Missouri, many years. He served as pastor of the Collins, Mo. local church for many years.

He was a very special person to his family as well as to many church members and friends. If any had a problem or needed an answer or a

friend, he was always there to give advice and help.

Joseph is survived by six sons, Vincent Wallace Yates of Preston, Mo., Curtis Doyle Yates of Raytown, Mo., Byron Almar Yates, Wendell Gene Yates, Darral Dwight Yates, And Irwin Oakley Yates, all of Preston, Mo., and by two daughters, Joy Oleta Tucker and Lilly Juanita (Peach) Mathis both of Preston, Mo., and by two sisters, Evalena Sills and Esther Caviness both of Phoenix, Arizona. He is also survived by forty grandchildren, sixty-five great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, January 31, 1990, at the Hathaway-Peterman Chapel, Wheatland, Missouri, with Elders Nicholas F. Denham and James W. Martin officiating. Interment was at the Hayden cemetery, Cross Timbers, Missouri.

Temple Lot Building Proposal

An announcement from the Council of Apostles & the General Bishopric:

As was previously reported, the Temple Lot building burned on January 1, 1990. On January 20, the Apostles and Bishops met to discuss this event and plan for future actions which must take place in order to continue our presence in the Temple Lot area.

As a group, these men would like to thank each of you for your times of fasting and prayer on our behalf. The spirit of unity prevailed as we came to a unanimous agreement as to what actions must take place. We felt we had five basic options which needed to be considered. These are as follows:

1. Demolish the burned structure and landscape the lot, leaving only the markers and current monument.

2. Remove the debris that had

been previously the second floor of the structure, then build a roof over the first floor and restore the structure to one floor only.

3. Rebuild the second floor and restore both the first and second floor, basically replacing what had previously been there. This would also require upgrading the structure to meet current building codes, etc.. Demolish the current structure to eliminate liability.

4. Build a new structure which would meet all current building codes and meet all our own current requirements. Those requirements are defined as follows:

- A. Space for a Visitors Center;
- B. General Church business offices;
- C. Quorum Room and office for the General Church representative;
- D. Space for a Church library;
- E. Provide a meeting place for the Temple Lot Local Church;
- F. Space large enough to accommodate our April conferences for all services and meetings, and to enable meal preparation and dining;
- G. Provide additional parking as required by code.

5. Demolish the current structure and begin to plan and build the Temple itself.

After reviewing the five options and discussing each of them, it was unanimously felt that we should proceed with option "4", feeling this best meets our current and future needs. It would, indeed, solve our space problem which we have experienced for years. It appears to be financially feasible, allowing us to continue in our missionary efforts around the world, along with other important programs undertaken by the General Church.

Based on the apparent unity and spirit that was present during our deliberations the Apostles requested the General Bishopric to proceed with the following actions.

1. Continue to secure and

preserve all property taken from the old building;

2. Proceed to hire a professional wrecking company to remove the remains of the current structure and to have all the utilities capped off.

(NOTE: Since our meeting, we received a letter from the City of Independence advising that the remains must be removed within 10 days. Subsequently, arrangements were made and **the structure was demolished on February 1, 1990.**)

3. Proceed to make the necessary arrangements to rent a temporary office trailer to be located in the current parking lot.

4. Proceed to make the necessary arrangements to have the City Zoning corrected for the Temple Lot area.

5. Proceed to make arrangements to sell, if possible, several other properties the church has acquired throughout the United States.

6. Proceed to obtain quotes for drawings, (option "4"), suitable to use for obtaining a building permit and to present as a preliminary proposal to the April conference for its approval.

We have received our insurance settlement on the structure and are still working on claims against the contents. It appears that, with the insurance disbursement, money from the sale of other properties, the current "new building fund," and donations from the Temple Lot Local, we will be on our way to being able to meet the financial burden of building a new structure.

As you can see, the tasks before us are many. We would appreciate your continued prayers over the matter in order that the Lord's will might be accomplished.

Each member is requested to continue to send in tithes so that the day-to-day operations of our efforts around the world might continue. If possible, an additional offering designated for the "new building fund" would be appreciated, and is in need.

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 Moka, 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!

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.

Independence News

"I was an hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in:" . . .

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:35 -40.

At a time when our hearts are sore because of the loss of our church building, it is also tender because of the kindness and sympathy extended to us by our brothers and sisters, and the entire community who have witnessed this outrage broadcast nationwide. The media have treated us gently and with dignity. Apostle William Sheldon; Local Pastor, Alvin Harris; and the various ones interviewed represented us well on the news channels. We were comforted by their presence there.

A meeting was quickly held to determine where we would meet. The East Independence Local offered Wednesday and Sunday evenings when their congregation is light. A spacious room and use of their facilities were offered by the YMCA for Sunday mornings. A bulletin board there bears letters sent with

donations, some with many signatures. We read those letters with gratitude for your words of support and encouragement. Your good wishes sustain us: Thank you each and every one!

We hear many thoughts from various members about this building. There live a few yet, who remember stories of the sacrifice of those who built it. To some, it was their lifetime Church where they were baptized and married, where their children were blessed, baptized and married. It was like an old Home where generations of families could grow up, our Home; and it stood for the very simplicity of the gospel.

Much repair work had been done by our own men this fall and winter. The high ceilings and window frames were painted off-white and the walls of the upper auditorium were a cheering and restful gray blue. The off-white draperies cleaned and put back up, all was in readiness for the program on Christmas Eve . . . we thought! But it had to be postponed because of a plumbing problem. Our men were again called into service to be plumbers. A major plumbing job was done.

Our Christmas program was given at the Sunday School hour on New Year's Eve morning and at the evening hour. Oh! The number of budding musicians, and their talented mothers: so full of emotion we were, for we cannot watch and listen to our own dispassionately. Our New Year's Eve Music Festival, reading of poetry, and the visiting that followed over the beautiful and unusually festive finger foods in the dining room, all sparkled and shone as did our spirits. It was a fitting last evening within the gray-blue walls so appealing to all who met there on this last night of celebration of the birth of Christ, our last night of 1989 . . . not knowing that 1990 would mark an entirely new era for the Church of Christ people.

"Retired" Bishop Leslie Case was present, and working diligently, throughout the repairing, painting, plumbing . . . salvaging and demolition . . . also the previous Maple Tree cutting and removing. A crew of helpers assisted involving untold hours of work given from the heart.

It had been proposed that the unscathed front of the Church's east wall be left, for City Code reasons,

and the new building be built around it, but this was not possible. The handsome doors had been stored away to assure their safety. You may have heard about the slightly scorched corner of the golden wood of the pulpit which Brother Warren Sarratt had at some previous time refinished. As seen in front of the destroyed organ from a gaping south window, the balustrade seemed untouched. The tattered edge of the window drapery flapped in the breeze where the charred piano bench sat just inside. Is it not a miracle that the pulpit was spared? It is testimony of the words: "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My Word shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

On February 1, 1990, after all had been salvaged, within the time frame allowed, a huge caterpillar came and demolished the remains. It was remarked as we watched, that the strong timbers being destroyed can not be bought today. (Our best lumber is being shipped currently to Japan.) I will insert here that Sister Joyce Harris had her van parked in front of the downed church, at curbside. She and Irene Case, Enid Bell and I, and Edith and Diane Case watched the Caterpillar's cruel mission quietly from the van's warm interior this cold and damp day.

We were surprised to see Sister Enid Bell, from Grand Junction, Colorado here, especially to be with her niece, Mary Lois Bryant, who has been hospitalized with congestive heart failure. That she is at home now, better and gaining some needed weight is answer to many prayers. Sister Mary Lois' very life is a testimony of God's mercy as is her husband Loren's life.

To record this scene were TV cameras from the channels, Elder Forest Maley and camera, Sister Joyce Harris, and Sister Susan Harris with her camcorder.

The proposed plans and drawings, well thought out, drawn up by Sister Denise (Rudd) Evans, her engineer husband Greg Evans, and electrical engineer, Teacher Dan Lawrence were on display at the YMCA meeting place. They also are on the bulletin board. Sister Denise has her own testimony concerning her need to set into motion thoughts of what and how to build. Look forward to hearing it from her. The bap-

tismal font is designed as inside the new church.

Upon my farewell visit to the church before its demolition, a colorful Primary Class story-leaflet fluttered in the grass. It's date was 1953. Of Barnabas and Paul, the story begins: "The new churches that the followers of Jesus helped to plan, found that they had much to do to carry on the work that needed to be done. The little song on the back page (Friends of All) says:

"Friends of all we'd like to be, In our work and play; Each one giving of his best, Each one sharing with the rest, In a friendly way, In a friendly way."

The work of the Church goes on: Apostle Roland Sarratt was our speaker on January 21 at the YMCA meeting room. Cristen Janette Cagle, baby of Carmine and Bob Cagle was blessed by her Great-Grandfather, Bishop Leslie Case and Bishop Alvin Harris officiating. Sacrament Service of February 4 was a well attended one, with many prayers and testimonies. Trevor Lee Fann, new son of Bill and Cynthia was blessed, his grandfathers officiating, Elders Frank Fann and Rodger Bruner. Thanks to Joyce Harris these precious moments are tape recorded and with pictures also. Big brother, Corey takes all this in stride.

The coming days offer a tremendous challenge. We ask your prayers.
Irene Maley, Reporter

NOTE: The following submission is inserted here due to its direct relation to the burning of the Temple Lot Local Church building as mentioned once again in the Independence news above. Editor

Message Repeated

I think perhaps the time is right for this re-run and updating.

As a people we have recently had what could be a highly traumatic experience — the dramatic loss by flames of the little white chapel on the Temple Lot. That piece of ground has a tremendous significance to us. But perhaps it's not as tragic as it seems! We're told that, despite efforts from the two bigger churches, the city will allow us to rebuild and that the proposed plan is similar but larger. One thing we know for sure is that there is an immediate and criti-

cal need for money, more than we've ever considered spending before.

Let me tell you, once more, of what I consider a spiritual manifestation that came to me at least thirty-five years ago. I sat in our little house in Sedona (Arizona) reading my Book of Mormon. I came to the place in the second Book of Nephi (page 669) where Christ was giving the people the material found in the Bible's book of Malachi. The 13th verse reads: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." The words are almost identical to those in Malachi. And why not? They came from the same Source!

As I read I was filled with an exultant excitement. The words suddenly looked as though they were spotlighted, the brightest light on the words repeated below.

In my recent researching of old records I have been reminded of the frequent controversies over whether we should follow the law of tithing or hold out for the law of consecration. I don't pretend to know just what the Lord will want of us before the end comes. But this I know, and I believe it is a message for today.

"Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Love, Donna Moser

Flint Local News

Dear Friends, the Lord has been very good to us. We pray with you all that we return thanksgiving continually for the many blessings we receive. A place of worship is a precious thing, the brothers and sisters of the Independence Local have our sincere prayers concerning the church building being burnt and their guidance with a new structure.

Recently our Sunday School seems to be growing, particularly the youngest peoples class, we hope for

many more of all ages to come and learn of God's goodness toward's them, the pureness and truth of the Gospel of Jesus. The fellowship of others is essential to our spiritual strength. The adversary is quick and cunning to try and lead us astray, but in the name of Jesus we can ask for strength.

On sacrament Sunday of February 4, we enjoyed another wonderful sermon by Brother Ed Toulouse followed by sacrament, an administration to a young brother, testimonies and a lunch put together by all. We also said good-bye to Brother Emery and Sister Mary Pinder who are traveling to Phoenix until conference time. Our prayers are with them for a safe trip. This year as many as can are looking forward to Conference with glad hearts to the Master for an instructional and spiritually fruitful meeting. Let us give thanks and praise!

Your Brother in Christ,
Adam Porter

Minneapolis News

Last September I was privileged to become the new secretary of our local as well as the recorder. Fortunately my home has completed transition and my family is healthy which awards me the opportunity to communicate to you today. Forest and Irene Maley's return to Missouri as well presented an opening for John Case to fill as Senior Sunday School Class teacher. We sure miss Forest and Irene as well as Stephan and Judy Gould and Ben and Patsy Case's young families presence.

The "moving experience" provided help from both sets of parents. First, Marvin and Edith Case combined their trip conveniently with the Tri-State Reunion. Joe and Gisela Ponder arrived later to celebrate their 41st Wedding Anniversary with their children. Although Warren and Mary Johnson are Uncle and Aunt they, also, lent their helping hands. All worshiped with the church family while they were here.

Oct. 22, Wayne and Leona Kraus of Seaforth, MN, worshipped with us. Thanksgiving brought a special guest, Bertha Case. December 17th Cassandra Elaine Gould was born to Enoch and Patty Gould. On the previous Sunday Jeannine Gould gave a

baby shower. Patty also was "just" able to complete student teaching. New Years Eve Mark and Rita Maley who recently moved to Afton, MN, celebrated 5th Sunday dinner with us. January 21, Merlin (Hook) and Grace Eddy visited from Eau Claire, WI.

November and December John and Nana Gill gave their assistance to others in CITA, Christ in the Americas. Besides giving humanitarian aide to those in Honduras the Gill family received help from a young couple in Guatemala City when they were beset by trials.

The messages from our speakers have concentrated upon baptism. Their desires to educate our youth how to go about becoming spiritually born is a beautiful work. Each of us has an unboxed gift from God, the Holy Spirit. We can only receive God's Spirit after we decide to stop working opposite God and make our promise in the waters of baptism. That's when you enter the door to "Jesus' School" and learn of charity the pure love of Christ. We're happiest when we live with others that live in the Spirit of God.

I'll close with a quote from verse 53, chapter 7, Book of Moroni, Book of Mormon. "Wherefore my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen"

Your friend and Sister in Christ,
Barbara Case
5350 Shore Trail NE
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372

Oklahoma News

Wintertime is with us and by the time you read these lines, springtime will be here. Springtime with the awaking of plant life, the coming of the birds, and the first urges of housecleaning begin to flutter across our minds, we once again believe that life is good. Life is that we have joy! Joy comes with the hope that we can live our lives pleasing to our

heavenly father.

We have two exciting news stories for 1990. First, Larry Beem, jr. and his family have moved back to Oklahoma. Larry's wife, Michelle, and baby Lorin are adjusting to Oklahoma's dry weather just fine. We are so happy to have them. Our second news story is: As of February 14, it is now Mr. and Mrs. Mike Martin. Sherry has been attending church with Mike for quite awhile and we love Sherry. We welcome Sherry with open arms.

We are having ministry from Missouri twice a month and we appreciate their efforts. We continue to meet in homes. The living rooms are full and that is good. This past Sunday, February 11, we had 17 People filling the Elwell living room.

We, too, were shocked and saddened by the burning of the Temple Lot Church. Perhaps, out of bad times, there will be more bonding of church membership. Strange as it may seem, hardships and adversities can bring people who love each other in closer fellowship. It can bring the best out in people. Out of sadness evolves joy!

At our January sacrament service, Laura May's testimony related same interesting stories of faith. One of her stories was an observation she made when she spent some time in France last summer. It seems that off and on, wherever she went, she'd notice a sign or emblem which consisted of a circle with 12 stars. This story is worth pondering.

Some thoughts from sermons are: "This is our time. We can't waste it. Put your life in order. Do you love your friends and enemies?" (Brother Frank Fann) "If we think about it, all the things that are wrong in our society could be solved if we would keep the commandments." (Brother Marvin Case) This quotation was brought to our attention. "If any one among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is in vain." (James 1:26)

And now may these words be of courage to you: "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing . . . For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalms 100:2, 5)

Aizada Massey, Reporter

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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- 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
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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.

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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.

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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.