

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*

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Salvation

by Janeen Addie

Jesus Christ is the road to salvation,
All your troubles and cares He'll mend.
If only with Him you share a personal relation,
He'll be your life-long friend.

As He hung there on the cross,
The thief hanging by His side,
He didn't think of it as a loss,
Because in His Father He would soon abide.

Born to the Virgin Mary,
His life was already planned.
The sins of the world He was to carry,
As He died on the cross set in the sand.

As He died, so shall we live,
If in Him we'll only trust.
His life He did so freely give,
For salvation He's a must.

He didn't ask why He must die,
But freely gave up His life
So we would no longer have to cry
From all the pain and strife.

So follow that straight and narrow path;
Jesus lights the way.
Turn from Satan and his wrath,
Never again to stray.

Jesus is the promise of life eternal,
So ask Him into your heart;
The blessings will be "supernal,"
When of your life He's a part.

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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.



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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

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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.

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We Have the Equipment, What Next?

Sermon by Priest Aaron Heath

Ravenna, Michigan, December 17, 1989

In grade school, some of us learned or read the story of "The Hen That Found a Bag of Flour." "Who will help me carry it home?" she asked. "Not!!" declared the horse. "Not!!" echoed the cow, the duck, and the fox. "Very well! I will do it myself!" she said. When she requested assistance in opening the bag, sifting the flour, preparing it to be baked into bread, she met with consistent refusal. However, when the hot, savory bread rolled out of the oven and she asked, "Who will help me eat it?" The hen was overwhelmed with acceptance. "I will!" they all said. "Ah! No!" the hen smiled wisely. "You would not give me any help. So I will not require your assistance in eating it!"

Christ pleads, "Who will help Me build Zion?" "Not!!" the chorus swells. "I have an appointment, money to earn, someplace to go!" Someday God's Kingdom will be a reality. Then what? Will shirkers covet an invitation to enter? Who could blame Christ if He says, "I will share it with those who have labored at My side, but with no one else." A sobering thought, isn't it? So while we yet have time, we had better respond to Christ's next plea for our help in a generous, joyful manner.

There are children who must know about their Father in Heaven. The gospel must go abroad. Love and kindness must become hallmarks of a Zionite people. The sick and the lonely must receive ministry. None of this will be accomplished by people who respond, "Not!!" when the Master asks for assistance.

"It is yet day when all can work. The night will come when for many, the opportunity to assist will have passed."

■ HOW CAN WE HELP THE CHURCH?

What does the Church mean to us? I trust that it means a great deal. The Church was bought at a great price. Jesus, himself, purchased it with his own blood, and also many of His disciples in the early days were crucified. They were killed for the Church. They, too, purchased it with their own blood. And our fathers, in this latter dispensation also purchased the Church with their blood. They were shot to death. They were cut down and hacked to pieces with corn knives and buried in a well at Haun's Mill. They were murdered at Carthage. And so we can say that with a great price they purchased the Church, even with their own blood. And I am sure it means much to us today.

We can help it by standing up and living for it — and doing whatever God wants us to do. Yes, the Church means a great deal to us; more, perhaps, than we realize in moments of carelessness when we say we would die for it, but are not content to live for it. How, then, can we help the Church? Any institution will survive so long as it functions as it was intended to function; but the institution or the organization that ceased to function as it was intended, dies. When the heart ceases to beat, the lungs to breathe, and the brain to think, the body dies; and if the Church ceases to fulfill the functions it was intended to fulfill, we may conclude the Church would die.

■ MISSIONARY WORK FIRST

What are the functions of the Church? What is its work? First of all I will say its work is missionary. I do not, perhaps, mean that is the most important. I will not say whether it is or not, but it is first in point of time. We cannot



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“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” The Church must continue to carry on that work.

do anything until we win somebody to the banner of Christ. Jesus Himself knew that, and His first work was missionary. He stood up alone, without one convert. In the 4th chapter of Matthew we see a picture of the beginning of His work, which was missionary. It says that He went through all Galilee, preaching in every synagogue the gospel of the Kingdom, and saying, “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

His first work was missionary. As He went preaching through Galilee, He saw Peter and Andrew, and He said, “Come and follow me.” They followed Him; they were His first converts — the first fruits of His mission. Next He saw James and John, and they followed Him. Thus He began to accumulate to Himself a body of believers.

So, to us comes the commission, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” The Church must continue to carry on that work.

■ THEN COMES PASTORAL WORK

Secondly, the work of the Church is pastoral, perhaps not second in importance, but second in the steps of progression. Having accumulated a body of believers, Jesus started them on the road of Christian development. He said to His disciples, “Feed My sheep! Feed My lambs!” He was just as much interested in that as He was in missionary work, because it was idle for Him to baptize people and win them to His cause, and then permit them to fall away and die because they were not fed, and hence were not developed.

Today we have great need of pastors who are wise, consecrated, loving men — shepherds who will give their lives for the flock; men who think more of the sheep than they do of themselves; who are willing to go wherever they can in pastoral work — in the homes where there are sick, tempted, or sad, and encourage them, to bind up their wounds and pour the oil of gladness into their spirits: men who are competent to organize their people and set them to work.

■ FINALLY, ZION

And the third great work of the Church is Zion: To take these converts, these sheep, these people, and weld them into society, living together and working together and loving together in harmony with the gospel law, and all growing into the stature of Jesus Christ.

These three things stand out. I will not say that one is more important than the others. The Church, to be useful, must maintain its missionary spirit. If it be useful, it must maintain its pastoral work. To be useful, it must move on in its Zion work.

These three things we must do, and in our Zion development bring into all our lives the gospel of Jesus Christ. But, listen! This question was, “What can we do to help the Church?” But what shall we do? What shall you do? What shall we all together do?

In leading up to my answer, I would say that we must first maintain all the equipment that we have in the Church as a spiritual inheritance with which to do this work. And secondly, having maintained that equipment, see to it that it becomes not a dead form - a formal, lifeless thing, but a thing that is filled with life, and that is doing the work that it was intended to do. What do I mean by that? First of all comes to my mind the commandment of Jesus Christ, “That which you already have hold fast until I come.” Or “All that I have given you as a Church hold fast, as being very precious, until I come.”

■ WHAT IS OUR EQUIPMENT?

What has He given us to work with? First of all, He gave us an organization. You cannot accomplish any work involving two or more people unless you have some form of organization. Ten people lost at sea in an open boat must organize to the extent that they must have a leader. Some form of organization is needed, if you are going to do nothing more than scatter handbills; and in the work of winning converts to Christ and building them up like Christ, an organization is clearly needed. Those people

who do not believe in Church organization are neither in harmony with God, nature, or logic. See Ephesians 2:18-22.

God gave us an organization, as we well know, including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and many other officers Eph. 4:11.

He also gave us doctrine. 1 Nephi 4:19-22: "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." Our gospel came not unto us in word only, but with power and with the Holy Ghost, and with much assurance. He gave us certain divine ceremonies, like the ordinance of baptism and the Lord's Supper; and I will not exclude either the marriage covenant, which pledges a man and a woman that they shall keep themselves from all others and for each other while life shall last — a thing that this world needs today. He gave us certain gifts and blessings which are very dear unto us.

When God made man, there he lay, perfect in his physical organization, with his body beautiful in symmetry beyond all created beings. There he lay, prone, inactive, unconscious, until God breathed into him the breath of life. Then man sprang up a living soul. There lay the Church, prone, powerless — THE DARK AGES — until His Spirit came from on high. And the Church stood up a living soul. The Church of Christ, organized April 6, 1830. Jesus, organized His Church. He gave it His doctrine, His laws, His blessing, His program, His message. See 2 Nephi 2:1-23, 45-47.

■ OUR EQUIPMENT MUST BE PUT TO WORK

We must maintain our inheritance. We have no wish to alter our organization. We must not cease to preach our distinctive doctrines. Let us retain our gifts and blessings. And may we receive the endowment from on high. But having all these things, holding them fast until Christ comes, we must see that they do their work in us.

We are too eager to watch our brother and see that the gospel does its work in him. If it does not do its work in him instantly, then we feel aggrieved. We are sure there is something wrong. But let us turn our vision upon ourselves. The first step is, "Save yourselves from this untoward generation," and then you can help save your brother. "Work out your own salvation in fear and trembling."

We are taught by our Lord and Master to pray for the Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Any man who gets himself into the condition where he is willing to see to it that God's will shall be done on earth by him, as it is done in heaven is answering that prayer then and there to that extent. And he is doing all that he can help the Church.

I don't know anything that can help the Church more than righteous living. If God Almighty would spare Sodom because there were ten righteous men in it, do not you think that with a thousand righteous men, He will not only spare us, but use us?

■ GROW TOWARDS HEAVEN

I know of only one way to get into heaven and reach salvation, and that is to *follow the plan of salvation* and to grow into it. "Grow in the knowledge of the truth." What a rich opportunity to develop spiritually, following the commandments of God. Religion is something that grows from within, and develops outwardly.

Jesus, in His parables, in many of them He introduces the principle of life and growth. The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven put in three measures of meal, that presently leavens the whole lump. There you have life and growth. It is like a blade of corn — first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, and so on.

And Alma says, if you will only experiment on His words — if you can not have faith, at least have a desire to believe — and let the Word of God find place in your life and try it out. By and by you will see the day when you can say, "I know the gospel is true because it begins to enlarge my soul."

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe;" He also said, "If any man will do the will of the Father, he shall know of the doctrine."

I know the gospel is true, it helps men to grow into the stature of the fullness of Christ. But, of course, we must not be satisfied to save ourselves. That is the primary step; but we must immediately turn our attention to the salvation of others, that we may help others grow.

Which are the Greatest Miracles?

The greatest miracles are the days when nothing goes wrong.

In our area we've been covered with ice for a number of days this winter.

One day I fell and my angel caught me on the way down. The fall was so gentle I wouldn't have known it was a fall except I had to pick myself up.

Now, I ask, which are the greatest miracles: The day

the angel caught me on the way down, or all of the days I walked for miles on ice without falling?

For me the answer begins and ends with the first line: The greatest miracles of all are the many days when there is no ice.

Shirley Rose Bailey
Lamoni, Iowa

VIOLENCE

by Apostle Roland Sarratt



**Many people
have been
educated away
from the basic
truth that there
is an adversary...**

There is hardly a day goes by that we don't hear of some act of violence that has been committed in our community. We are told that crime is on the increase in this great land of liberty. Murder, rape, robbery and child abuse are reported in unbelievable numbers. The evidence of brutality in some cases overwhelm the judges and prosecutors.

What is the cause of such violence? What terrible state of mind and spirit must a person be in to do such things? With all that is available to the citizens of this nation today in the way of knowledge and technology, why are we not rising significantly above these baser crimes? Is human nature the same at any level of intelligence?

Violence has played a major role in the existence of man since the day that Cain rose up and slew his brother Abel. The baser drives of man such as greed, lust, jealousy, envy and spitefulness have motivated many acts of violence throughout the history of the world. The belief that a more civilized and intelligent state of existence would bring about a more peaceful relationship between peoples has not been proven. With all the knowledge that we have there seems yet to be a lack of understanding of the true nature of man. Very few people recognize the simple truth that man is a fallen creature and that by nature he is subject to be sensual and devilish. Without the God-given principles of truth and salvation man cannot rise above his fallen state.

Many people have been educated away from the basic truth that there is an adversary to the soul of man and that he is responsible for the instigation of most of the acts of violence through the instrumentation of aggressive and deranged peoples. The devil is also a fallen creature but he is locked in a state of misery and therefore seeks to bring others into that same state by means of temptation and deception.

However, there are acts of destruction that are not motivated by the devil, but rather are acts of God against rebellious peoples. In such events, God is punishing His people that they might turn to Him and repent. We would do well to be aware that such an act is close to happening today. At times the Lord has caused heathen nations to come against His people to bring them to their knees in repentance. He has also used acts of nature such as storms and earthquakes to destroy the wicked leaving only the more righteous.

As individuals, we have principles and examples by which we are to pattern ourselves, Jesus being our greatest example and teacher. But even he resorted to a physically harmful act when he drove the money changers out of the temple. Apparently his righteous anger could not be subdued under the circumstances. Jesus did not actually commit an act of violence, for those whom he drove out of the temple were the ones who had violated his house of prayer. (See Matthew 21:12, 13)

Jesus warned and instructed his disciples concerning the violence that they would encounter during their ministry. He said, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matthew 11:12) He also told them: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10: 16)

Although Jesus had instructed his disciples to arm themselves with swords (see Luke 22:36), apparently the swords were not to be used aggressively for he instructed one of them (Peter) who had smote off the ear of the high priest's servant, thus: "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." (Matthew 26: 52)

We should be aware that we are living in a day of deception and there

are many who cannot understand why God allows certain atrocities to happen. It is not given to us to know all things but we can well understand from the scriptures that God has a purpose in that which He allows. The great contrast between good and evil must be known that man might make the choice between the two. He must align himself with that which is good through love and appreciation of the source of good: God. Conversely, man must hate evil, resist and shun it, even avoid the very appearance of it.

Good and evil are not always easily distinguishable. Only through spiritual discernment can we be sure and such a discernment can only be given us when we are spiritually minded. Without spiritual discernment we can be deceived and led about by unauthorized persons. We should pray for the gift of discernment that we be protected from the cunning devices of the devil.

Although there is much knowledge in the world which God has given in these latter days, the knowledge that is the most valuable to man is that which is given through the word of God, the scriptures. There we find the truth concerning the purpose of man's existence. We find a clear distinction between good and evil defined and described in numerous lessons.

Nowhere in all the libraries throughout the world can we find the pure truth as we find it in the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Let us turn to the scriptures that we might more fully understand the works of God and that we be prepared for the coming events which are prophesied.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21: 36)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

I would like to relate an incident that occurred when I was thirteen years of age, the summer of 1978, while visiting with my Dad and younger sister Bethany at my brother Samuel Gould's home in Knoxville, Tennessee.

It happened one evening, as I retired to the bedroom, that my Dad, Winfield Lewis Gould, and I were sharing that I felt particularly apprehensive, and I went to sleep feeling this way. I slept restlessly through the first part of the night and then began dreaming. Suddenly, during the middle of my dream, I became alert and felt as though I had been seized by some commanding power and was being cast down to hell. As I was falling I felt as though folds of darkness were being wrapped around me again and again trying to smother the life out of me, which I saw represented as a small flame in my bosom.

Being aware that my Dad was in the same room as I, I thought to call out to him for aid, as I had done at other times while suffering bad dreams, at which he would hear me cry out and awaken me. However, as I attempted to cry out this time, I felt a numbing of my members, paralyzing me and preventing me from crying out. It seemed then that I was without hope and could only watch as fold upon fold of darkness was wrapped around me, and to my horror, the little flame that represented my life began to dwindle. I knew that if that flame went out I would be lost.

Then, at what seemed to be the very last second before the flame was extinguished the beautiful thought of calling out unto the Lord came to me. Oh! How I clung to this hope and with every last fiber of strength left to me I mentally cried out, "Jesus!"

Immediately the folds of darkness, which seconds earlier had threatened to extinguish my life, loosened and that flame in my bosom increased greatly in strength. At this time I began praying earnestly to the Father that he would deliver me and asking it in Jesus Christ's name. As I prayed I felt the folds of darkness unwrap and I arose to full consciousness and awoke praying out loud. This woke my Dad up, also, and he asked me in a very anxious voice what was the matter. I replied to him that I was fine and we both returned to sleep.

Later that year my Dad passed from this life after an automobile accident and I have thought that the Lord was preparing me for this by letting me know that soon I would have to rely on Him alone for aid. However, most outstanding of the lessons learned from this experience was that of the "Power of Jesus' Name." By his name are the bands of darkness loosed that the light might shine.

May all glory, honor, and praise be unto Him, the Father, and to the Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Your Brother In Christ Jesus,
Stephen S. Gould**

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

In addition to the two grand divisions into which these people divided, the Book of Mormon states that the Nephite faction was a white race of people.

James Churchwood in his book "Lost Continent of Mu" (p. 272) states that according to the ancient Aztec tradition the first settlers in Mexico were a white race. This white race was later conquered by a dark-skinned race which drove the white race from the land. (See Farnsworth, The Americas Before Columbus, p. 17.)

"Besides these, there are numerous vague traditions of settlements or nations of white men, who lived apart from the other people of the country, and were possessed of an advanced civilization" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 5, p. 24).

"All of them, men and women, are white and of good and well-proportioned faces and good features...These lived in good breeding, because the men wore clothes and mantles; they wear shoes, jewels and beads around the neck. They look at themselves in mirrors and their women put on painted and elegant skirts and blouses. They are polished and expert in everything: (Bernardino de Sahagun, cited in Thomas Stuart Ferguson, One Fold and One Shepherd, p. 45).

The Book of Mormon also speaks of a great empire in America from 600 B.C. to 400 A.D. in which both civilization and culture rose to tremendous heights.

"I have in a preceding chapter presented the evidence of the existence during a few centuries before and after the beginning of the Christian era, of a great aboriginal empire in Central America, narrating all that may be known of its decline and fall resulting from the contentions of the great Maya and Nahua powers" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, vol. 5 pp.

567-568).

Throughout several centuries preceding the Christian era, and perhaps one or two centuries following, there flourished in Central America the great Maya empire of the Chanes, Culhuas, or Serpents..." (Bancroft, *ibid*, p. 23).

The Book of Mormon tells of the complete conversion of both Nephites and Lamanites shortly after Christ's visit to them. They became one people, and for 200 years they lived in peace and prosperity. Then division began again to enter in and soon the old separation of peoples was again in effect. By the fourth century the Nephite faction was completely annihilated by their Lamanite enemies.

The order of this process is shown in the accounts below:

Concerning the Nahua victory: "The result of only a change of dynasty accompanied by the introduction of some new features in government and religious rites. The old civilization was merged in the new, and practically lost its identity; so much so that all the many nationalities that in later times traced their origin to this central region were proud, whatever their language, to claim relationship with the successful Nahuas, whose institutions they had adopted and whose power they had shared.

"Respecting the ensuing period of Nahua greatness in Central America nothing is recorded save that it ended in revolt, disaster, and a general scattering of the tribes at some period probably preceding the fifth century" (Hubert H. Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 5, p. 234).

This account is a wonderful confirmation of the Book of Mormon. The merging of the Lamanites with the Nephites was accomplished immediately following the visit of Christ to them and for two hundred years they

were one people. The old civilization was merged in the new so that later all the descendants traced their history back to the same people. The ensuing period of Nahua greatness

(or Nephite greatness) was the golden era of peace and prosperity which continued for those two hundred years. But after this time because iniquity began

to enter in, this period ended in disaster and according to the Book of Mormon the complete ruin of this civilization was brought about towards the latter end of the fourth century. The scattering did precede the fifth century.

"From this epoch of separation in Chiapas the Mayas of the south and the Nahuas of the north were practically distinct peoples, as they have been considered in the preceding volumes of this work. At the date of separation all were in a certain sense Nahua nations, and the Nahuas proper had doubtless been considerably affected by the ancient peoples whom they had overcome or converted, and with whom they had so long associated: hence the analogies that appear between the institutions and monuments of the north and south. Of the contrasts that also appear, some date back to original differences between the two rival powers; others result from development and progress in different paths, during the ten centuries that elapsed before the coming of the Spaniards" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 5, pp. 235-236).

The warning to the Lamanites who remained, however, was as follows:

"For such as escaped these disasters, or for their descendants, another visitation of divine wrath was reserved in the form of a foreign

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

Part Thirteen

Prepared for Zion's Advocate
by Sister Mary Johnson

people from the east, who ten cycles later were to take possession of the country in fulfillment of the words of the ancient prophet Quetzalcoatl" (Works of Ixtlilxachitl, cited in Bancroft, Native Races, vol. 5, p. 252).

Note: A cycle is 104 years. 10 cycles is 1040 years. 400 A.D. plus 1040 years brings us down to 1440 A.D., almost the required time to bring Columbus to America. The prediction was remarkably close.

According to Robert Marett, in his archeological guidebook published by the Mexican government (p. 47), the old Maya Empire suddenly came to an end. The people just seemed to have walked out of their beautiful cities, leaving everything to crumble to the dust. Various causes have been suggested to explain such an exodus but none have been found to be entirely satisfactory. It is one of the most inexplicable mysteries of prehistory. (See Roy Weldon, *Other Sheep*, p. 124.)

Gann in his book "Glories of the Maya" states (p. 235) that the desertion of these ancient cities was not a slow and protracted one. There were no years of gradual degeneration of culture. On the contrary most of the cities were at the height of their development when they were vacated by their citizens. (See Dewey Farnsworth, *Book of Mormon Evidences in Ancient America*, p. 166.)

Gann also observes, in speaking of the great civilization that existed in the Central American jungles, that it is not improbable that this was one of the most densely populated areas of its size in the world during the first five centuries of Christian era. (See Thomas Gann, *Ancient Cities and Modern Tribes*, p. 53, cited in Roy Weldon's, *Other Sheep*, p. 101.)

Pass it On

If you feel so inclined, and have the opportunity, pass this issue of *Zion's Advocate* on to another . . .

One never knows what will happen when even the smallest of seeds is planted!

An Open Letter To the Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Church of Christ:

It has been impressed on me to plead with all of you, to remember the covenant you made with the Lord the day you were baptized, even though for many of us it was several years ago. At that time, we dedicated our lives to the Lord. Some have fallen short of this promise. There are some who have not been to Church for several months and some who have not come for several years and some who have not come for many many years.

I understand, there are some circumstances that prevent certain ones from coming, but for many, there are just excuses. I want to sleep in on Sunday; or I have bowling on Sunday; and many other excuses, and we know when OURS are just excuses.

I would like to ask how we would like it if the Lord used excuses on us, such as: I can't heal your illness I just don't have time today, or I can't answer your Prayers today because I am going fishing! Another thing to think about is, what if everyone was bowling or hunting and didn't have the desire to come to Church? Worse yet, what if our ministers said: I can't come to Church today because this is my only day to sleep in! How would we feel if we put out the effort to come to Church, and there was no one to preach the sermon? Think how they feel when they prepare a sermon and there are very few to listen to it!

Something else comes to my mind, what if at the end of time the Lord said to us: I am not going to keep my covenant with you and didn't open the door to Heaven? Now we know He won't do this because we know He will keep His promise, that He gave the children of men, but why aren't we willing to deep our covenant with Him the same way He will keep His with us?

I hope this touches the hearts of some who have not been to Church in a while. We would love to see you there. Sometimes it feels like the Lord does all the giving and we do all the taking. I'm pleading with all - Please put out as much effort to come to worship the Lord as you would to do the other things you do. You not only need to come to Church, but we need you to help give us strength to grow. By you coming back to Church, you may be able to bring a friend or loved one into Christ's Church, but there is not much chance of helping someone to come in if we are not coming ourselves. Think about it, what greater thing can we do for someone than helping them find eternal life versus death and hell?

As I said when I started it was impressed on me to plead with you to remember that covenant you made with the Lord the day you went into the waters of baptism. Is He asking too much from us for what we will receive in return?

Thank you for the time you took to read this. I hope it touches your heart.

Written with Love for you,
Sister Sue Heath

Flint Local News

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we observed the day of fasting and prayer on March 4, Pastor Ed Toulouse delivered a fitting sermon about each of us making our own choice, whether to stand with and for God or to fall with and because of the wicked. This world won't get easier to live in until Jesus comes again and if we are saved with the righteous. We need to show the world we have made that choice by the way we live.

Near Valentine's Day our Pastor gave us many examples on how one says "I Love You."

Jesus' example was the laying down of his life for ours. Do things that would please God out of our love for him as willingly as a child does for the parent, for he is the father of all things. Let us use for a guide all of I Corinthians, Chapter 13, the definition of Charity in our lives.

In Sunday School, the children have been learning about God giving his only begotten son to the world. They enjoy presenting to the congregation their bible verses, activities and songs, and we surely enjoy their enthusiasm. As always we want to extend the hand of fellowship to all our brothers and sisters.

**Your brother in Christ,
Adam Porter**

Mogollon Local Report

Hello Brothers and sisters everywhere. Peace and patience be unto you all. We have been enjoying an unusually mild winter this year in the mountains of Arizona.

We had our elections in January and Brother Tom Karas was elected as Pastor, Joel Yates as Assistant Pastor, and Andy Brown helps in that position when Joel is unable because of work. We were very happy to have some visitors in February. Kim and Jim Yates with their two happy children. Also my sister, Linda Larsen, and my husband Jerry! In

March Sherry and James Brown from Bullhead city had services with us. It was a wet, muddy day and Kathy Molloy's car wouldn't make it up Elmer's hill, but Elmer had fun getting us all out of there, and we had services just the same. We received the happy news that Joel and Jenny Yates are expecting their first child.

As I sit here and ponder, there doesn't seem to be much news. I'm sure like most small locals our growth rate is slow even though our desires are great. It's so hard to find anyone that wants to listen to what you have to say. May the Lord help us to find those who do. But the sermons have been sure and steadfast. The time spent together with our family in Christ on Sundays is strengthening and so needed; a day to visit with the Lord which is most precious and desirable; patiently enduring, teaching our children and helping one another.

Words of truth from our Elders: Walk as children of the Light. This Life is a time to prepare to meet God, be actively in pursuit of this goal. Endure hardness as a good soldier. This church will grow by what we show. The Lord has told us what He is going to do. Perilous times shall come, but the righteous need not fear. Never doubt the power of God, for the future. Prepare your children for trials. Train your child up in the way he should go. We all know this is a serious time. Trust in God and pray earnestly.

Reporter, Kathy Cloyd

Phoenix Local News

It looks like I will be responsible for getting news from our area to you through the Advocate this year. I'll try to keep you posted on the major events in our local.

We've had a very full and busy winter so far. In the fall we decided to put forth more effort, as a group, to actively support a Missionary Outreach program to attempt to share the gospel with those around us. This will be done primarily by the lay

members of the church. We sent out flyers twice which informed the recipients about God's plan and work for our country. All were invited to attend a program to be presented at the church in January. The theme for the evening was "God's Message to America." Patriotic songs were sung by the congregation as well as a beautiful presentation by the choir: "Arise, Arise America". Apostle Don McIndoo gave us an address, "This Chosen Land".

In January our congregation dwindled considerably. Brothers Jim and Hubert Yates left on their month-long missionary trip to work in the northeastern part of the country. Then, just days later, Brother Jay Moser and Apostle Don McIndoo departed to fulfill their duties with our Brothers and Sisters in Yucatan, Mexico.

December was busy for us with the usual Christmas program (which turned out to be so long we had to present it in two segments). On the last day of the year we had church as usual, then most of the group stayed for visiting, games and a greeting of the new year as we assembled in the kitchen area. Our annual dinner to raise funds for the missionary work in Mexico, was held in January as we dined on soup and salad and contributed our dollars.

We were horrified to hear of the burning of our church on the Temple Lot by arson. We mourn with all of our brothers and sisters for the loss and dedicate ourselves to the work of rebuilding and renewing. Our Sister Evalena Sils gave a testimony that as she was feeling so badly and praying about the situation, she was remarkably impressed with the words found in Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (emphasis by M.M.)

In January we had the yearly election of officers and chairmen to perform the jobs that need to be done in our local for this new year. Elder Ken Oar was retained as pastor with Gordon McCann selected to assist him.

Also during January, the Lord gave us two callings. Glenn Orsted was called to be a Priest and Brian McIndoo was called to serve as an Elder. Brian has already accepted and been ordained to his office. Our prayers are for all who have received a calling and must know for a certainty in their own minds as to the divinity of their calls.

Until a later time when there is more to report to you I bid you God's best in your lives.

Meredyth Malone, Reporter

MICHIGAN REUNION

The Michigan Reunion, once again, will be held at Ravenna, Michigan. We extend the hand of fellowship to one and all.

Please come and worship with us at 750 S. Ravenna Road, Ravenna, Michigan, June 15, 16 and 17, 1990.

There is plenty of room for campers at the Church and other housing is available by contacting:

Priest Aaron Heath
159 E. Beech Street
Fruitport, Michigan 49415
Phone: (616) 865-3270; or
(616) 722-2253

GREAT IDEAS FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Name Bible Verses

Make a construction paper chart for each student. Write the student's name down the left side of the chart. As the year goes on, encourage each person to add verses that are meaningful to him or her and that begin with one of the letters or h is or her name. Make a chart for yourself too!

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. Matt. 18:11.

R
E
D
A

— Freda A. Gardner

Be a Careful Listener

Plan to have a give-and-take session with your class; sit back and take it in. What are the students saying — really saying? What are they saying without saying it out loud? Then: ask them to say more, summarize what they have said, ask a probing question, suggest a new idea or possibility, take them to the Bible, pray with them.

— D. Campbell Wyckoff

Easy Pictures

Photograph each class, Bible memorization champions, the class of the month, or other contest celebrities. These pictures lend visual and informational interest to the Sunday school bulletin board or newsletter. Keep taking photographs so you can add new ones to the board frequently and keep board-watchers' attention and interest. — Ron Wilson

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1. City of birth; 2. Epistle of inspiration;
3. Age at 1st vision; 4. J.S. received much ___ after telling of vision; 5. The Angel making frequent visits; 6. Item in stone box; 7. Stone box burial location; 8. 9. & 10. Three witnesses of the sacred plates & the Angel.

JOSEPH SMITH

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G R I M M M E R J A F H
V O S E D E T F I V T M
N M W R R S U P T X W E

MYSTERY WORD (to be unscrambled from clue letters at left):
A Wise Professor

_ _ _ _ _

I occasionally like to try new features in *Zion's Advocate*, and this month's quiz/puzzle (teen to adult level) is just such an attempt.

If you like it, let me know, because if I don't hear a positive response I will discontinue this feature. Write to the Editor.

The title of the Word Search Puzzle (left) is the category for all questions. Each answer is hidden in the puzzle, going left, right, up, down, or diagonal.

A mystery word is shown for you to unscramble (also in the Word Search Puzzle - total of 11 words). It serves as clues for some of the ten questions. - gh

Answers next month

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1991 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Easter Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 29 and 30.

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
The Marvelous Work and a Wonder - by D. McGregor	3.50
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Historical Facts Concerning the Temple Lot	1.30
Temple Lot Deed	.30
Changing of the Revelations	.50
Comprehensive Comparison of Changes to the Revelations	1.30

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>ZION'S ADVOCATE (USPS 6993-0000) P.O. Box 472 Independence, Mo 64051-0472</p>	<p>Second Class Postage Paid Independence, Mo 64051</p>
<p>Mr & Mrs 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.

The Return (12 minutes) – Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ especially as holders of Title to the dedicated Temple Lot.

● **Holy Scriptures On Audio Cassette Tapes**

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

● **Sermons On Audio 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.