

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

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Number 6

The woman's mother prayed on her knees at midday, at night and first thing in the morning. Every day opened up to her to have God's will done in it.

Every night she totted up what she'd done and said and thought, to see how it squared with Him.

That kind of life is dreary, people think, but they're missing the point. For one thing, such a life can never be boring. Nothing can happen to you that you can't make use of.

Even if you're racked by troubles, and sick and poor and ugly, you've got your soul to carry through life like a treasure on a platter.

The Progress of Love (Knopf)

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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 textured bond paper. Please avoid overuse of underlining and ALL-CAPS, and do not use *italics*. Finally, it would be 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 the material — the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise prepare anything you send.

Word Processors/Computers

If you use a word processor, use only "letter quality" or "near-letter quality" print with a fresh ribbon or cartridge. We can utilize text files on computer floppy disks (any size or format) if IBM compatible.

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.

Understanding Yucatan

The title is a little deceptive because we are still trying to understand Yucatan. We work in Yucatan with a people that are culturally different from their brothers and sisters in the United States. In this article I will try to explain some of what little I know about Yucatan and its people, I will use the description of an inauguration service that Brother Don McIndoo and I attended in November of 1989.

Our goal is to make us one fold with one shepherd. Many of the things that occur there in Yucatan would never happen in one of our services here in the States. They would not understand many of the things that we do in every day life. Some examples would be vacations, honeymoons, purchasing car insurance, dining out often, keeping food cold in a refrigerator, flying to a reunion, buying a book whenever you want, going to a shopping mall, saving for a college education, and maybe the most important, the ability to determine our own lot in day-to-day life. People in the United States are accustomed to controlling their lives and their environment. There are still people living in Yucatan that were born and worked in slavery. When we are cold we push a button, add a log to the fire, or put on more clothes. When they get cold their options are always fewer, sometimes they're just cold.

Let's begin our adventure into a Mayan church service.

A Church of Christ Service in Yucatan:

The day is Saturday the 8th of November, 1989. The place is Kancabchen (kon-cob-chain), Yucatan, Mexico. The service is the inauguration of the new church building.

Don and I were asked to pose for pictures in front of the church building at 7:45 p.m. Pictures of their special events are very important to them. We find ourselves posing often at weddings, special birthday celebrations, and inaugurations. The building had not been used before this night even though it was finished a few days before.

The brothers asked Don to cut the ribbon on the walkway in front of the church. Then more than 125 people from four locals - Kancabchen, Motul, Kopte, and Yobain - all walked into the building double file singing the Spanish version of "America" accompanied by 3 guitarists.

The service began with a prayer by the pastor and the singing of Song #92 in the Spanish hymnal (# 276, Zion's Hymnal). We then listened to two specials from the Motul group. That was followed by "una Lectura" or a scripture reading: Psalms 78: 1-9. In Mexico the custom is for the entire congregation to read the Lectura aloud in unison. Next we listened to two more songs sung by 4 children from Motul, ages 8-10. They were accompanied by three guitarists and one young man 12 years of age using a maraca to keep time. I call him a young man because he is no longer able to go to school due to his family's financial condition and, therefore, works now with his father cutting henequen, a type of yucca used in making burlap and hemp.

I am sure you are wondering about the maraca. Most of the churches do not use this type of instrument, but we have one that does. One of our greatest needs is in the

area of music. I am no help in this area and Don does not have time with everything else that he is teaching. They have asked that someone from the church in the United States come and teach them how to read music and play their instruments with greater skill. Perhaps someone will

Another article in a series, introducing life among our brothers and sisters in Mexico . . .

by Elder Jay Moser
Missionary to Yucatan, Mexico

be able to do that some day. It would be easier, however, to send some ambitious young person that lives there to music school.

Next on the "programa," I was asked to say a prayer for the infirm and the afflicted. I prayed in English. The "programa" is a list of activities that the pastor writes at the beginning of each service that tells them what is going to happen next. This is quite honestly something that we would like to see changed to allow more for the leading of the Spirit.

We then listened to two special songs. Five girls, ages 13-16, from Kancabchen sang two songs. Four of them were dressed in matching outfits: black skirts, peach blouses, and black neck ties. The other wore a glossy red dress and a large pink bow in her hair. This was followed by two more specials, one by the pastor's oldest daughter (age 13) and the other by his younger daughter (age 9). Then the pastor and his wife sang "Jesus Loves Me" from a notebook. Everyone in our church in Mexico uses these notebooks to copy down songs that

they like. You will often see them copy a song from someone else's notebook. His wife wore the traditional Mayan camisa, or shirt, that really is a long dress. It was embroidered around the neck and the hemline with orange flowers. The pastor (Jeremias) read a dedication prayer that his son had written down for him.

They would not understand many of the things we do in every day life ... vacations, honeymoons, ... dining out often, keeping food cold in a refrigerator, ... buying a book whenever you want, ... and maybe the most important, the ability to determine our own lot in day-to-day life.

Jeremias had read from a few books and found some thoughts that he liked and asked his son to write them down for him. Education is a luxury. Most of the men that have the burden of the work in Mexico have little or none; Jeremias had less than a year of formal schooling so his son, who is now in high school, helps him. The people that we rely on have earned their learning from determination and hard work. We have men in our little church that can match wits with the most knowledgeable of preachers or write poetry and song worthy of publication and they have one year or less of formal education. However, there is a new generation of young adults assisting now in the church. Many of these have high school educations.

Still, when they talk of their knowledge, which is admittedly lacking, they express their shame. Do not feel too badly for them because many of them are hungry for knowledge now that they have had a

taste of it. I believe there were conditions like this when Abraham Lincoln was a boy. Often, great things are produced from deprivation. A brother named Evelio made a little speech of gratitude to God for His help, and to the brothers and sisters in the U.S.A. for the help that they gave toward the construction of this building.

The pastor opened the service up for any volunteer specials. Isidro from Motul came forward and sang. The song was very well liked so every one sang with him.

They took up a volunteer offering next. We always keep a pocket full of change for this. 200 to 1000 pesos is a normal offering for them. We are careful to make our offerings look like theirs. 200 pesos was worth about 7.6 cents in U.S. currency on November 4, 1989.

Another of their problems is the economy. Jobs are scarce. The parks are always filled at almost any hour of the day except for the very early morning hours with men, young and old, just standing around talking. This contributes to a high percentage of alcoholism in Mexico. We dodge drunks in the streets nearly everyday but especially on the weekends.

The four girls from Kancabchen that were dressed alike sang another pretty song with two guitars in accompaniment. There were two men standing in the front of the church against the wall during all of this. One is a member and one was not. In many of the churches here you might see this. One, two, ten or more men standing in front like that. I do not know why, I can only guess that it is a reflection of their culture. Men at the head of the tribe, a desire to be seen or be in some sort of a position of importance. If that is the case then they are not much different from men anywhere, it is just more obvious. I would not be doing them justice if I did not say that often there is no place to sit, as was the case on this night. Perhaps that is the reason for this behavior. After this song the treasurer was invited to ask for a blessing on the offering.

The pastor then rose to make the announcements for the week. Afterward, at 9:14 p.m., Don was introduced as the speaker for the evening. Not to be rude, but while Don is getting warmed up I would like to describe the church building. You would not be able to understand his sermon anyway as it is in Spanish.

There are 9 rows of chairs, 12 chairs to a row and 6 to a side with an aisle in the middle. Don has in front of him a flat table painted blue to rest his books on. There is a white cloth embroidered with pretty flowers draped over the front of this table. The floor is covered with concrete tiles. Some are green flowers on a green background and others are blue flowers on a white background. The walls and ceiling are stucco painted white. Above the podium is a white paper lace work hanging across the width of the church. Over the heads of the congregation are 18 strings of multicolored craft paper flowers slid on individually between plastic straws cut in half. On the wall between each end of these are

They have asked that someone from the Church in the United States come and teach them how to read music and play their instruments with greater skill. Perhaps someone will be able to do that some day.

draped more flowered strings. There are two metal-framed louver windows without screens on each side of the church. There is a double metal door at the front and a single metal door at the rear. The windows are 1 meter square and each door is 1 meter wide and 2 meters high. They are all painted blue. There are 2 fluorescent single tube light fixtures each 4 feet long mounted on the ceil-

ing, one in the center rear and one in the center front.

Now back at the pulpit, Don reads #15 from the Articles of Faith and Practice. He explains our present problem with a shortage of ministry and also tells them that the pastors and general church officials do not have the power to command the congregation.

He then read Article #14 and Matthew 28:18 and admonished them to spread the gospel. He referred to the pastor's prayer of dedication in which he prayed that this house would be used for that purpose. Colossians 4:2-3 was read and Don

stopped to shake off a moth that perched on his glasses. He read Matthew 9:36-38 and then admonished them to pray that the Lord would soon send more laborers in Yucatan. 3 Nephi 5:61-63 was used in closing (page 636 in the English version and page 646 in the Spanish version). Don announced the reunion in Merida to be held the next day and invited everyone to attend. It is Yucatan's first reunion. The time is now 9:52 p.m.

We sang #67 (301 in the Zion's Hymnal), however, there are no notes in the Spanish hymnal, and few can read music as I said. They all

memorize the tunes when they are young. Three guitarists are playing, two in front and one in the first row. Jeremias offers the last prayer. It is now 10:02 p.m.

Many of the services we attend are very similar to this one. I hope that you were able to see differences. Some are obvious and others are quite subtle. I have come to realize that some of what we do here in the States is based purely on custom. What we would call proper they would call improper and vice-versa. This is not to say custom is wrong, only that it is important to know when it is God's way or just a custom.

Youth Camp Memories

Yes, it's true I've been short sheeted again. Stranger yet, pine cones and leaves are stuffed in my sleeping bag. Of course I've been on the other end of the pranks and pulled many a trick from my bag for campfire skits.

It's really a help to be a little crazy and yet flexible enough to know when to move from silly songs to serious singing.

I spent seven years as a camper and about twenty-five as a campfire director, W.S.I. waterfront director, and camp director, and I've enjoyed all of it and learned many spiritual values.

After leaving the RLDS Church and joining The Church of Christ I greatly missed and longed for those fun filled days of camp and the spiritual heights, which increased my faith in the Lord. So I'm thrilled to be part of this years Camp Challenge.

I want to also share the fact that I made many wonderful friends, and one of them is now my husband and it's a blessing that we share the same faith in Christ.

Several years ago while I was leading a campfire at a Junior Camp in Illinois, it began to rain as we were starting into the spiritual songs. I stopped for a minute or two and ask

the young people if they would rather finish our campfire indoors or if they would like to exercise their faith in God and pray that the rain would be stopped, so we might finish our campfire there. They all agreed we would pray. Before the "Amen" was said the rain stopped. We finished our campfire on a very spiritual high. It was the faith of the youth and the power and love of our heavenly father that brought about such a miracle.

I am thankful for the many rich blessings I have received through my youth camp experience.

Judy Sewell

Announcing the Church of Christ sponsored . . .

Teen Challenge '90 Youth Camp

Young people . . . Do you like to have fun? Do you enjoy being around friends? Would you like to spend time swimming, playing volleyball, baseball & basketball? Would you like to take a class on photography, canoeing, sketching, journalism, silk-screening, computers or hiking? How would you like to learn more about the scriptures and God?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then plan to come to this year's camp and log your own "youth camp memories" — worth a lifetime of joy.

WHO? - Ages 12 - 18

WHAT? - Camp educationals, scripture studies, swimming, sports, campfires, fun and fellowship!!

WHEN? - August 5 - 10 (just prior to the Missouri Reunion)

WHERE? - Camp Far Westa, Far West, Missouri (one hour away from Kansas City)

COST? - \$75 for the entire camp (Financial assistance may be available).

For more information, contact Elder Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse, (816) 356-9214

A TIME FOR PREPARATION FOR ZION

by Apostle Robert H. Jensen

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; And if they en-
dure unto the end,
they shall be lifted up
at the last day, and
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everlasting kingdom of
the Lamb;

I Nephi 3:187-188

We are living in the time of the end just before the return of the Lord Jesus. Let us, therefore, walk in preparation for the time when the Lord's people must be gathered together in that Zion era which shall be a sacred covert for them. Consider a few of the many scriptural passages that contain a focus on our generation.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;" (Joel 2:1)

"So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 59:19-20)

"Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak; behold, it is I. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:6-8)

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and

earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. . . . When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand.)". (Matthew 24:4-8,15)

"And I will gather my people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor, for I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn, and I will make thy hoofs brass. . . . And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you." (III Nephi 9:54,58-59)

"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; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;" (I Nephi 3:187-188)

"But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion: for if they labor for money, they shall perish." (II Nephi 11:109)

"Therefore, woe be unto him that is at ease in Zion." (II Nephi 12:30)

We shall have need to lay claim on all of these promises before the passing of much more time. Many ominous clouds have long been gathering on the horizon, indeed, overhead also, that are portent of catastrophic prophetic times at our very door-step.

Already there is reported to exist an ensign raised within a combine of

Europe. Available information indicates that at least certain goods flowing through that channel to consumers are imprinted with a symbol consisting of a circle with a line through the middle. The upper half contains a lamb's head with two horns and a mouth as if speaking. There appears in the lower half the number 666. Read Revelations 13:11, 13-18 for a striking analogue.

When all the forces of evil rise against the people of the Lord, they shall be cut off from all now existing commercial electrical power, natural gas, petroleum products, food and clothing sources, medicines, home building materials and furnishings, and transportation.

I feel a spirit of urgency to call upon the Lord's people everywhere to lay aside every activity of pastime that is considered pleasurable but non-productive to physical and spiritual strengthening. We must first learn to look with greater faith to our Heavenly Father for His spiritual direction in all things. We must learn how to become self-sufficient in life's necessities through the labor of our own abilities.

Jesus, Himself, said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39) The Apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy should be taken as personal instruction by each one of us: "Study to show thyself ap-

proved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

Also, an abundance of instructional books is currently available on every hand along the lines of knowledge and proficiency in all crafts and skills - raising and care of all useful plants and animals for food and clothing, non-mechanized food production and preservation, fiber preparation and clothing fabrication, preparation of building materials, and hand construction of shelters for family life and community buildings.

There is an inherent physiological and psychological mechanism within each of us divinely designed that will bring an unparalleled satisfaction and pleasure from producing something with our own hands for our own or another's supportive use. Confirmation of the thrill in such a delightful experience only awaits application of our thoughtful effort to that end.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." (Isaiah 59:1)

The Scriptures are before us for our spiritual learning and guidance. There are currently published marvelous books and easily understood that will help you make the necessary preparation.

I feel a spirit of urgency to call upon the Lord's people everywhere to lay aside every activity of pastime that is considered pleasurable but non-productive to physical and spiritual strengthening.

Request for Information

Exactly one year ago, in the June 1989 issue of *Zion's Advocate*, an appeal was made by the General Church Conference-Appointed **Committee to Study Zion** for information as follows:

"In an attempt for the committee to reach it's goals, it is requested that the membership send in any thoughts that they have on this subject. ... Temporally, please share any skills and information which you have of food preparation and preservation, building skills, lists of books which you might have on the subject of self-sufficiency, plus any other pertinent information which you may have."

While some submissions were received, a much greater response on the part of the general membership is desired.

A special issue of the *Zion's Advocate* will be forthcoming in the fall of this year, on the specific subject of Zion, and this committee will be largely involved in it's content.

The committee and the Editorial Staff of *Zion's Advocate* appeal to the general readership to submit anything relating to this request as soon as possible to the Chairman of the committee:

Robert DeWaele
2326 Avenue E
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

A GIFT WRAPPED IN AFFECTION

Teresa Emidelfi, known to her friends as Emi (pronounced as Amy), is a young woman of 20, newly married to a young minister of the Church of Christ named Placido Koyoc. She comes from a Catholic background and her parents were strongly opposed to her relationship with the Church of Christ. Shortly after her marriage her mother sought the assistance of a sorcerer to break up the relationship. Thus began a series of dark and terrifying experiences for this young couple. They and the family began to fast and pray to the Lord. Many of our brethren here joined them in their appeal for Divine assistance at the time of the Phoenix Reunion. This is her testimony of what followed:

Dear brothers and sisters, please receive a cordial greeting on my part. It is a pleasure for me to share my testimony with you.

For some time I had been bothered with doubts and disturbing spiritual problems. Then, one day, I had a vision during a communion service. I saw a viper which was climbing rapidly toward the pulpit and upon seeing it I began to cry out, but Placido told me to have no fears. Slowly I drew near the deadly snake and I stepped upon its head. Then I saw that the viper began to dissipate until it disappeared completely.

After this experience I found myself with many doubts for I had never had a vision nor even thought to have one some day; moreover, I asked myself, "What could be the reason for such a vision and what did it signify?" I talked to my husband about the vision and he explained to me that this vision was very important to my life. He told me that the viper which I saw signified my spiritual problems and now that I saw these problems which I was having, they could be resolved. As I saw the

snake dissipating, even to its disappearance, even so could my problems be resolved.

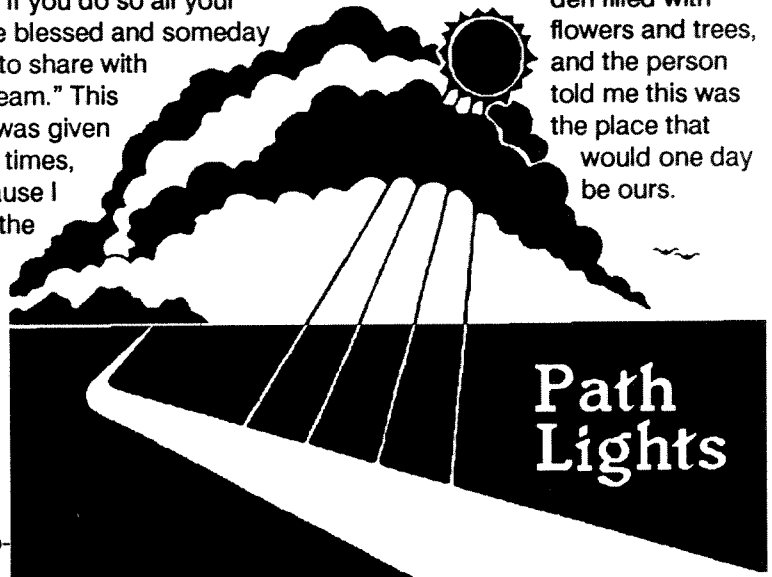
Several days later I had a dream, I dreamed I saw a beautiful church. Raising my eyes to the sky, I saw the heavens open and there appeared a very white hand, and with one finger it was writing in brilliant, golden letters the following words: "Go into all the world and teach the gospel to all men." "The Church of Christ"

After these last words were written I heard a voice which told me, "Be baptized! If you do so all your family shall be blessed and someday you will have to share with others this dream." This same dream was given to me several times, perhaps because I had doubted the reality of my experience in the beginning, but then I made the decision to do what this person had told me. From that moment Placido and I were

fasting and praying that God would help me in this decision which I had made. Several days later, I had another dream in which I found myself on the beach with a person dressed in white, but I was not able to see his face. He was baptizing another person also dressed in white and I knew it was Jesus he was baptizing. Then I saw the same individual was baptizing me. As always, I discussed my dream with Placido and he told me that with this dream Jesus was teaching me that baptism is a commandment of God, showing me that Jesus had to be baptized in order to teach us the way. This dream served to reaffirm my decision.

A few days later I had another dream in which I saw myself wandering alone in a desert where there were many dangers. Finally, I arrived at a place where there was a house.

In the entrance I met a person dressed in white and, as before, I could not see his face. He told me that this was the punishment that awaited me unless I obeyed, and I began to beg him not to punish me. He answered that he loved me much and would not punish those who were obedient. Then I felt something very rare had come to pass in my life. I felt as if I might have known real happiness for the first time. At this time Placido and I were carried to a very beautiful place: It was like a garden filled with flowers and trees, and the person told me this was the place that would one day be ours.



Following this beautiful dream I was praying often to God that He would help me and show me the day when I was prepared to be baptized. The Lord let me know that the day was to be the following day, January 21, 1990, but because of some problems I was not able to be baptized until several days after this.

During my baptism I prayed to God that I would always be faithful to my covenant. When we came out of the water we all knelt in the sand on the beach. Placido offered the closing prayer for the covenant I had made. In this moment I had a vision. First I heard a very strange noise like thunder. This noise was heard as well by one of the sisters who accompanied us. Upon hearing the noise I opened my eyes and saw the Lord standing over the waters and He was blessing me.

Brethren, this has been my testimony. I beseech your prayers for me and I also shall pray for you. Dear brothers, receive this my testimony as a gift that comes wrapped in affection and binding us in love. I feel very happy to be a member of this great family of Christ.

Your sister in Christ,
Emi
Yucatan, Mexico



PRAYER IS NOT IDLE TALK

You know, the Lord really does bless us even when we least expect it.

Kathy Molloy and I are the only two members in Show Low, Arizona. We try to get together once a week for prayer for ourselves and our families and our church. We were speaking together of our many trials and concerns.

We have learned that we cannot force God on anyone and nothing we can say will convince anyone of the truth. All we can do is admonish them in the Lord, and in love. The spirit of God must do the rest. Prayer is the key for these loved ones, who seek not to serve God. We suffer persecutions because of hard hearts, but know we must not be discouraged.

As we were engaged in prayer for these things I saw the vague form of an angel come down and place one hand on Kathy's head and one hand on mine. It was given to me to know that we had been strengthened. Now this was the thing for which we were praying. What peace the Lord brought to us. He showed us once again how close He really is to us and how He really is always helping and blessing us.

Meeting together with so few sometimes seems like a feeble attempt to accomplish anything, but

the Lord has shown us the importance of it with a mighty blessing. Endure all things. Wait for your reward.

Many thanks to the Lord,
Kathy Cloyd and Kathy Molloy



THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WAS HERE

Prologue: Roger Can is an Elder under General Church appointment. He is the Pastor of an active church in Motul, Yucatan, and ministers to three other congregations where they have no resident ministry. This means he must travel by bus or crowded taxi about twenty times each month. Roger has been sorely afflicted with spurs that have grown on several vertebrae and is in constant pain, especially when he must travel. This is his testimony:

I would like to bear witness of a dream I had on December 14, 1989. Being in my bed at 2:00 A.M., I saw the wall of my home open near my bed. The room began to brighten with a glowing light until it was brighter than the sun at noonday. I saw an extremely white cloud and from this cloud I heard the sweetest voice which told me,

"Be at peace, for you shall soon be healed; just trust me." "Lord," I said, "I have always trusted in Thee." "Your ailment," came the voice, "shall soon depart. Continue in my work, and fear not, for I am with you." I said, "Lord, I thank Thee. I believe in Thee. Forgive me my faults and sins. I am not worthy to see Thee, nor hear Thy voice."

In this moment, when I awakened, it was 2:00 A.M. and my wife awoke also. She told me, "The Lord, Jesus Christ was here. I heard what He told you and I saw the bright light and the white cloud from which the words came." We began to pray and give thanks to the Lord for all He had

done for us, because my wife also was suffering an ailment in her back as was I, and in that moment we no longer had the affliction and are free from it until this day.

We bear testimony that the Lord, Jesus Christ, is with us wherever we may be. This same sweet voice spoke to me twelve years ago when I was in the hospital. My appendix had ruptured. Before the doctors operated, the ruptured appendix poured its venom over my intestines and I was overcome almost to death. The doctors said that it would be better to carry me to my home for there was no cure for such a case -- no one could be saved in such a condition, but my wife did not wish to take me home and told the doctor, "I know that you are able to cure him because God is with us."

This doctor told the other doctors to leave me in the hospital and that he was going to operate again and they again operated upon me. On this same day Brother Leon Yates with Brother Donald McIndoo came to my bed and prayed for me. In that night I saw a vision and I heard the voice of the Lord, Jesus Christ, for the first time. He spoke almost the same words with a voice so sweet and full of love.

And now I write this as the testimony of my life that the Lord, Jesus Christ, fulfills His promise to heal the sick. I testify of what He has done for me in my life and my wife is a witness as well.

Roger C. Can G.
Yucatan, Mexico

The *Path Lights* column has been missing for awhile due to a lack of submitted testimonies.

Please submit your testimonies so we all can share your joys and blessings.

Send to:

Melissa McGhee
2533 Glen Lane
Independence, Mo 64052

Testimony of the American Indian and the Stick of Joseph

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

According to the Book of Mormon, Christ, when he made his appearance, came to the temple in Bountiful. The Book of Mormon also records that the land Bountiful was an important geographical area to the Nephite nation. In addition to this we are told that there were two Bountiful lands - the one on the coast of Arabia where Nephi and his brethren embarked for the New World and the one here in America not far from Land Zarahemla. Are there any traditions among the Indians of America to substantiate this account of the Book of Mormon? And did the bearded white God come to a land known as bountiful when He made His visit to them?

"Quetzalcoatl was esteemed and loved as God and he was adored in the old times in Tula" (Bernardino de Sahagun, Historia de Las Cosas de Nueva Espana, Libro 10, Capitula 29, sec. 1 and Libro 3, Capitula 3, cited in Hunter, Christ in Ancient America, p. 27).

"This Quetzalcoatl, according to true histories, was the Great Priest of the city of Tula..." (Juan de Torquemada, Monarquia Indiana, vol. 2, pp. 40-50 (1723), cited in Hunter, Christ in Ancient America, p. 29).

Hunter and Ferguson in their book, entitled, "Ancient America and the Book of Mormon", pp. 149-153 tell us that, according to Ixtlilxochitl, the headquarters of his ancestors in 132 B.C. was Huehuetlapallan. Hunter and Ferguson go on to say that Huehuetlapallan means "ancient Bountiful land." Huehue (from the Nahuatl tongue) means "old, old" or "ancient" and according to Professor Marcos E. Bercerra of the Mexican Society of Geography (in his book

on the native geographical names of the state of Chiapas, Huehue-tlan means "bountiful place of the ancients." He goes on to show that many of the place names of Chiapas include the important name Tula or Tulan or Tlan, meaning "bountiful" or "abounding."

Bernardino de Sahagun in reference to ancient Tulan states that it was called Tullan meaning place of fertility and abundance.

According to H. DeCharencey the root "Tul" means "abundance, excess," and that the Maya term Tutul is a double "Tul" (or Tul-tul). This double use of the term makes it plural in the same way that Hue-hue "old-old," means "ancient" or "very old." Titul is Mayan for "very bountiful."

Tlapallan sometimes appears as Tulapan meaning "Bountiful-land Capital."

Heuhuetlapallan is a shortening of the term Huehue-tule-pallan meaning ancient bountiful land capital.

Also of interest to us is the Maya place name of Tutul-xiu which according to Hunter and Ferguson (ibid., p. 151) was also applied to the ancient "seat of the kingdom."

Tutul we have already learned is the double or plural form of the word "Tul" (as in Tula) meaning "abundance, excess." The new Mayan element here, "xiu" means "herbs" or "plants." Tultul-xiu thus means "Bountiful-plantland" or "abounding in herbs."

Brasseur de Bourbourg in his writings pointed out that "the petticoat men," of the Tabasco-Chiapas region of southern Mexico called Tula, their capital city, "Great City of Herbs."

Hunter and Ferguson point out that Zarahemla is composed of two Hebrew terms, "Zara" and "Hemullah" meaning "Bountiful plant land" or Abounding, overflowing, with seed plants or grain." Zara means "grains" or "seed" or "plant" and Hemla (short for Hemullah) means "fully,"

"overflowing," "abundance" or "bountiful" (ibid., p. 151-152).

Garcilasso de la Vega, who was the son of an Inca royal mother and a titled Spanish father, makes the statement that the Incas called maize sara. (See Royal Commentaries of the Ynca (1600), 1869 edition, edited and translated by Sir Clements R. Markham, vol. 1, pp. 49, 189, cited in Hunter and Ferguson, ibid. p. 152).

According to the Book of Mormon there were two Bountiful lands, one in the old world, and one in the new world. Consider the following remarkable quotations.

"Thus, then, we were four families who arrived at Tulan, we the Cakchiquel people, oh, our sons! So they told us.

"From four (places) the people came to Tulan. In the east is one Tulan; another in Xibalbay; another in the west, from there we came ourselves, from the west; and another is where God is. Therefore, there were four Tulans, oh, our sons!' So they said 'FROM THE WEST WE CAME TO TULAN, FROM ACROSS THE SEA; AND IT WAS AT TULAN WHERE WE ARRIVED, to be engendered and brought forth by our mothers and our fathers.' So they told us.

"This passage is sometimes interpreted as meaning that there were of old four places called Tulan. Omitting the Tula where God is and the Tula of Xibalbay, the dominions of Heaven and Hell, would leave two centers from which the Meso-American races originated. Historical documents, nevertheless, mention only one city of this name" (Footnote, The Annals of the Cakchiquels, p. 44-45).

There were two earthly Tulas, one in the west from whence they came and one in the east. There was only one city of Tula because no city was built in the Bountiful land of the coast of Arabia.

ALBERT VIRGIL RUDD

Albert Virgil Rudd, Sr., was born March 3, 1906, in Independence, Mo., where he resided throughout his entire life of 84 years and 24 days. He passed from this life on March 27, 1990, at the Independence Regional Health Center.

His parents, Joseph and Alice Rudd, three brothers and two sisters preceded him in death. In 1930, he was united in marriage to Silva Jane Bressie and they celebrated 55 years of marriage before she passed away 5 years ago. To this union, was born one son, Albert Virgil Rudd, Jr.

He entered the waters of baptism, taking upon him the name of Christ, in October, 1950. He was confirmed a member of the body of Christ, becoming a member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot. He remained a faithful member of the Temple Lot local congregation throughout his life. He worked as a tool crib and machine operator for the Allis-Chalmers Co. for 25 years, retiring in 1966. Earlier, he was a milker for dairies in the area. He also worked for the Gas Service Company for several years. He was a member of

the United Steel Workers Union.

Brother Rudd enjoyed carpenter work, and in his spare time, built his own home, and assisted his son, Virgil, in building his two homes. He was a quiet man, who enjoyed his family and the simple things of life, such as gardening, camping and fishing.

He was always quick to assist those in need with his substance, and helping when needed in providing transportation and doing home repairs for the elderly of the Church and many others.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his son, Albert Virgil Rudd, Jr. and his daughter-in-law, Grace; a grandson, David V. Rudd and wife, Becky; a granddaughter, Denise (Rudd) Evans and husband, Greg, and three great granddaughters, Courtney and Lindsey Rudd, and Ashley Evans, and many other relatives and friends.

Services were held on March 29, 1990, at the Speaks Midtown Chapel, with Elders Leslie P. Case and C. Leroy Wheaton, Jr. in charge. Music was provided by Sr. Mary Lois Bryant, organist, and a quartet, composed of his grandchildren, who lovingly sang "Near to the Heart of God" and "Beyond the Sunset." Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery, in Independence, Missouri.

The Prophet Ether Speaks to Our Day

With "Independence Day" approaching next month, I thought it appropriate to share these thoughts (Editor):

The united states of America, The LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE. This statement is a true one only because it was so ordained by God some four thousand years ago. How long will our freedom last? Even as our freedom was prophesied, so is our demise if sin and iniquity prevail.

"And this cometh unto you, O ye gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written."

Ether 1:34-35
Book of Mormon

Submitted by Brian McIndoo

Through the Eyes of a Child

As I look back, so long ago,
But yet it seems so real;
As I recall, I would follow
My Papa to the field.

He would clear the land,
And till the soil;
In memory I look back
So many times I would try
To step in my Papa's track.

He was so loving to us all,
So kind in every way.
I don't think he would do a
Thing to lead his child astray.

He wasn't rich in money,
This I can still recall.
The way he taught us,
The love he gave,
I feel we had it all.

So Fathers, be so careful,
Take a step and then look back,
For the little son or daughter
May follow in your track.

In memory of my dear father,
J.W. Burris
by Dorothy Burris Burgin.

Michigan State Reunion

The Michigan State Reunion will be held June 15-17, 1990, at the Ravenna Local, located at 750 S. Ravenna Road, Ravenna, Michigan. Camping is available at the church grounds and those needing housing or other information may contact:

Priest Aaron Heath
159 E. Beech
Fruitport, Michigan 49415
phone 616-865-3270 or 616-722-2253.

Dinner and supper both Friday and Saturday and dinner on Sunday will be provided. ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. Following are the tentatively scheduled services:

- Friday, June 15 10:30 a.m. prayer service
 12:00 noon lunch (provided)
 2:30 p.m. song service
 3:00 p.m. sermon
 5:00 p.m. wiener roast (provided)
- Saturday, June 16 10:00 a.m. prayer and testimony svc
 11:30 a.m. sermon
 12:30 p.m. dinner (provided)
 2:30 p.m. business meeting
 2:30 p.m. children's outdoor activities
 3:30 p.m. song special
 4:00 p.m. sermon
 5:00 p.m. supper (provided)
 6:30 p.m. sermon
- Sunday, June 17 9:00 a.m. Sacrament service
 12:00 noon dinner (provided)
 2:00 p.m. song service
 2:30 p.m. sermon

Please come and worship with the saints of Michigan as we gather for the purpose of humbling ourselves before the Lord in prayer, asking for His blessing on the Reunion and seeking guidance as to the work of the gospel and how we will be able to carry forth this work in these last days. In addition we will be seeking the unity of understanding of Gods word and asking for the gift of discernment and prophecy so that we may know His will in all things, and the strength to do His will and not our own.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Arizona Camp For All Ages 1990

WHO: ALL AGES
WHAT: CHURCH CAMP WITH FUN AND WORSHIP
WHEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 29 AT 5:00 PM TO SUNDAY
EVENING, JULY 1, 1990
WHERE: WALNUT RANCH-NEAR HEBER, AZ
WHY: FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL AND A
CLOSER WALK WITH GOD

HOW: ANY WAY YOU CAN! ALL THINGS ARE
POSSIBLE WITH GOD

THE REQUESTED DONATION (BUT NOT REQUIRED) IS \$5.00 FOR SINGLES, \$10.00 FOR COUPLES, AND \$15.00 FOR FAMILIES. FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING CAMP RULES OR LOCATION, WRITE OR CALL:

COORDINATOR
ANDY BROWN 18644 N. 29TH PLACE PHOENIX,AZ
85024 (602) 569-9220
ASST. COORDINATOR
GLENN ORSTED 17222 N. CENTRAL #127
PHOENIX,AZ 375-1590

Missouri Reunion

We would like to invite everyone to attend our 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.

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.

Flint Local News

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I am glad to be able to share some news with all of you. First, we would like to thank all those who have helped to make conference possible this year. There certainly was a lot of effort put forth and it was appreciated by us all. Our prayers and support go out to the new building project that is underway, also any new tasks to be undertaken.

On Easter Sunday we had a wonderful service with a spiritually led sermon by Priest Emery Pinder. The Spirit led us to absorb many fine points of the gospel to use in our lives. During Sunday School the children came forward to tell us how God gave his only begotten son for us and on the third day he arose. Sister Velma Porter prepared beautiful Easter plants to be presented to the children after church, 12 in all. We are proud of the efforts the children have made, our prayer is for them to always desire to learn more about Jesus and his love for them.

On May 5 we held our annual business meeting, many turned out to voice an opinion and we hope the Lords will has been done in our turn of events. May the spirit guide each who has been elected to office, that his will not ours be done in all things.

Sunday May 6, a very nice sacrament service was enjoyed by all with Brother Ed Toulouse as our speaker. He related as his theme the story of Gideon and how the Lord used him to serve and gain Victory over his enemies. We then had a nice potluck dinner and fellowship. The Sunday School children learned that "We ought to obey God. . . ." Acts 5:29.

Let us all try to obey God and heed the Masters voice to spread the story.

**Your Brother in Christ,
Adam Porter**

Ravenna Local News

A warm Hello to everyone from the Ravenna local! Once again we are looking forward to hosting the Michigan State Reunion, coming up June 15-17, 1990, and desiring so much to see some old familiar faces once again, and of course we'd love to see lots of new ones too!

In the last year progression on our building has gone on as well as filling, our numbers are increasing and any and all growth is a blessing to behold. Our building will be even more comfortable this year if the temperatures are up since we were blessed with being able to afford air conditioning. Our kitchen is nearing completion, so our delicious Reunion meals will be that much easier to

prepare. We realize even more the efforts to readying the building for last years Reunion were truly guided by God and through the efforts of our labor of love for Him, we accomplished so very much in such a short time.

We truly enjoy each year's Reunion and pray that each year it will keep getting better and better for, as we gather, we also join into His united body, and oh, how sweet that is!

By the time this goes to print we shall have had our first wedding! Sister Marie Weaver will be united in marriage to Alan Piatt on May 12, with a reception following.

Our first baby blessing took place April 8: Derick Mid-daugh, 5-week old son of Howard and Gail (Lee) Mid-daugh. What a blessing for all of us to enjoy!

Sister Vivian and Brother Max Spencer recently returned from a trip to Florida for a vacation and to visit Sister Thelma Smart and her husband Al.

Elder Gale Brantner, Sister Sue and Priest Aaron Heath recently returned from a "pleasure" trip to Missouri, just a few weeks after they were part of a group that were also in Missouri for Church Conferences. Priest Emery and Sister Mary Pinder visited us in their absence. It was a joy to have them with us!

Sister Lois Heath will be in North Carolina for 6-8 weeks helping out her youngest daughter. Sister Jeanne Shevock has been ailing for some time and hasn't been with us. We do miss her and our prayers are with her.

Sister Jeanette Cunningham visited us from Warrensburg, Missouri, on April 15, and it was so good to see her again.

Our children's Sunday School Class is busy doing projects to sell at this year's craft bazaar. Last year, with much help, our local made a nice profit to help pay for the air conditioning.

See you soon ...

May God Bless You and Keep You!

**Your Reporter,
Debbie Brantner Vogel**

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!

Independence (Temple Lot) Local News

Continued from last month . . .

The women of the Temple Lot Local attended a beautiful breakfast as guests of the East Local Women. This same "en theos" reigned in fellowship through the Saturday morning. Sisters Belinda Smith and Melissa McGhee gave readings and the "Hampton Twins," Eva Cartwright and Neva Housknecht and their mother sang a number of songs. Thank you very much; it was completely delightful.

Also in the theatre at the Sermon Center on March 3, Allen and Czerna Kauffman and Rodger and Martha Bruner presented a continuous hour-long program of music to an audience of never waning attention of families including babies. This gift of song and "en theos" gave truth to the words "I am rich by what I give". We who listened to these "BAK To The Gospel" singers were made rich also, beyond the generous donations to the building fund. Some of their songs are of their own composition. We attended a Bruner and Kauffman event sponsored by the YPCL at the East Local in the evening of March 24. In the afternoon of the March 24, Saturday, some of the Church folk, including Becky Downs and family from Grand Junction had enjoyed together the Barbershop Event at Kansas City's Music Hall. Brother Gary Housknecht was helpful in obtaining seat reservations for us. Thanks, Gary, it was very special because we enjoyed it together, and it occurred when Becky and children were with us (on their Spring break). Their presence here is a rare treat! And we were present at the evening Bruner and Kauffman Gospel hour.

Patrick and Josephine Hiatt have become officially our Brother and Sister Pat and Jo through the waters of baptism. They have been actively engaged with us for a long time: "En theos" for the Gospel of Christ has brought improvements for them and for us. Their baptism at the East Local Baptismal Font was held on March 4, at 5 p.m. with Elder Alvin Harris; and with Elder Loren Bryant as spokesman for the confirmation of Brother Pat Hiatt assisted by Elder Gerald Bryant. Elder Gerald Bryant was spokesman for the confirmation of Sister Jo Hiatt with Elder Loren Bryant assisting. The hand of fellowship was warmly given as we sang the familiar "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

Steven and Nannette Smith's 8lb. 9 ounce son, Ian Dawes Smith, arrived on Tuesday, March 6th. His dark hair brushed neatly, he came to Church at the YMCA meeting room on Sunday March 12, with his Parents, maternal Grandmother, Velma Wheaton and Aunties Patricia Todd and Konie Stillianes, who shared the joy of seeing parents and baby surrounded by much welcoming love. Elder Benny Case was our a.m. speaker and Elder Tony Grzincic was our evening speaker this March 11.

The United Workers met on Tuesday, March 20 - not for the usual cleaning of the Temple Lot Church kitchen before Conference - but at the home of Marcia Christian at 6:30 p.m. for a craft project. Finger foods were served.

Dr. Don Case held a Clinic at Elder and Pastor Alvin Harris' for giving Pets their Spring shots. Donations from Pet Owners were given to the building fund for this Pet Care. A Garage Sale is to be held at Sister Doris

Ratteree's by the United Workers on May 9 and 10.

We were saddened by two deaths. The father of Virgil Rudd passed from this life March 27. Brother Albert Rudd, Senior's grandchildren Denise and Greg Evans and David and Becky Rudd sang at the funeral of Brother Albert Virgil Rudd, Sr. on March 29. Organist Mary Lois Bryant accompanied. Elder Leslie P. Case conducted the funeral service assisted by Elder LeRoy Wheaton, at Speaks Memorial Chapel. Interment, was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Independence, Missouri .

Marie E. Brown, wife of Norman Brown and 35 years the daughter-in-law of Sister Lillian Brown, passed from this life on April 1, 1990, at the Suburban Speaks Memorial Chapel on April 4. Elder Forest E. Maley conducted the funeral service at the Suburban Speaks Memorial Chapel on April 4 at 1:00 p.m. Interment was at Mt. Washinton Cemetery. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to these families.

We seek carefully and with restraint not to encroach on Conference News. We bring you the Scripture verses appearing in our March 25, 1990, bulletin (a bulletin outlining the week's meetings and events is always there for the taking each Sunday morning, and with appropriate poem or scripture quotation, prepared by Sister Joyce Harris):

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. This is His Commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave commandment." I John 3:21-23

On behalf of the Temple Lot Local we express joy and gratitude over so large an amount in so short a time, added to the Building Fund.

Now to continue with this month's news . . .

To sift and sort a month's activity when each day is crowded with the Lord's love for his creatures defies the abilities of mere record keeping at this season of the year. Those tracks on the page pale into insignificance before such display of the Lord's great faithfulness. Our springtime has remained cool. Some wonderful rains surely did find leaks in the roof (were there any). The soil has used the sun and rain and has brought forth the wonders of springtime. A great many flowering trees are in evidence in Independence. Color gleams from velvet lawns, where bulbs and flowers of many hues have been planted. We stand in awe at springtime's loveliness that tells us God indeed reigns supreme (We sometimes admire the tenacity of the dandelion!).

At our meeting at the YMCA on April 8, Elder Glenn Gill was our speaker, celebrating what is known as Palm Sunday. Brother Glenn reviewed the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem riding on the colt of an ass amid the throng who waved and threw Palm fronds to carpet the street. This was the occasion when Christ drove the money changers and merchants out of the temple. Brother Glenn pointed out that this event was the finalizing of Christ's preparation to be the perfect sacrifice, and the termination of the law of Moses.

On April 15 we experienced again the deep sorrow of the Easter story - and the triumph of it - with Elder Frank

Fann who most vividly brought us the account given by the disciple in Mark 14. Setting up the Last Supper in Matthew 26. The denial of Peter and the account of the crucifixion in Luke 23. John 20, about Christ's appearance in the presence of doubting Thomas. The final analysis of the event in Luke who related Christ's return to heaven.

On April 22, Pastor Alvin Harris, opened his thoughts with Matthew 16:26 with the question, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" He followed this with Mark 8:36 and Luke 9:25. He then used John 17, recounting the prayer of Christ and emphasizing the use of prayer these days by us. He pointed out that following the fads of the day are a shallow approach to life, and sometimes a danger spiritually. The consequent need to establish priorities of being in the world, but not of the world was the thrust of his remarks. Even the young children were quietly attentive.

Elder Leslie Case was our speaker on Sunday, April 29 on an exceptionally full house. He asked the question, "Now that Easter is over where do we go from here?" This is a question which concerned Christ's disciples, and now concerns us. He related how Peter decided to go fishing and was at length told to "feed my sheep." Scriptures used were John, Chapters 24 and 45. He also related the visitation of Christ on this continent from 3 Nephi 12. Then Brother Leslie asked the question, "Is all done at baptism?" With the reception of the Holy Ghost the person baptized receives also responsibility. The invitation then is to go on to perfection. He concluded his remarks with the parable of the vineyard from the Book of Jacob, where the Lord of the vineyard labored with his servants in the vineyard to bring again the natural fruit of the trees.

Cynthia Fann will collect and mail labels from "Best Choice" foods for us and has applied for the Bonus Certificate for the Church's new Building Fund (The UPC symbols). If you can participate, it will be greatly appreciated. This Save-A-Label offer will be issued for a group name only, to be redeemed with 1000 or more Best Choice UPC's. Cynthia's address is: Bill and Cynthia Fann, 11623 E. 24th St., Independence, Missouri 64052.

Nancy Case, daughter of Jim and Bonnie Case, will be married to Curtis Klotz on June 2. Nancy's Bridesmaids and Matron of Honor, her sister Carmen Cagle; Curt's sister, Debbie Klotz; and Karen, Nancy's friend, gave a bridal shower at the East Local on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 on April 28. The shower was well attended and many needed items were received. The couple has bought their own house in Independence. Curt's friendly and outgoing folk attended the shower and were a joy to know, as are Nancy's folk, also. We congratulate these dear young people and wish them much happiness in their engagement and coming marriage. Lovely shower, on a pleasant afternoon!

The Temple Lot Church Building Fund continues to climb. It has reached the amount of \$75,212.20. Thank you for the donations and the donations to-benefit-events. The United Workers have a benefit fund Garage Sale scheduled for May 9 and 10. Others have on their thinking caps!

Dick and Marcia Christian and Grace and Virgil Rudd have given a new Roland electronic Piano/Organ. We appreciate the expertise of the donors as well as the gift.

We have also appreciated the use of Rodger and Martha Bruner's Piano/Organ this past four months, and their carrying of it back and forth each Sunday for services at the YMCA. The new Keyboard is lighter in weight.

The YPCL hosted a Senior Citizen's Supper at the East Local Saturday evening April 29. The young people in the kitchen had prepared a lovely meal for a great many more people than came. I have my information from Nicholas and Dorothy Denham who were there. The guests were invited to tell events of their life, which all, including the young folk, enjoyed greatly. It was a special evening to the cozy group of nine guests and eight YPCL members on hand in the kitchen. It was our loss and your gain, dear ones. Because it is light-hearted and fits here so well, I include from the April 29 bulletin:

Psalm 33:1-4: "Rejoice in the LORD, Oh ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto Him with the psaltery and instrument of ten strings. Sing unto Him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth."

To those for whom it has been a sorrowful winter I would like to add a note of sympathy and love. It seems appropriate following the Easter Season to put from us griefs for those no longer with us and remember the joys of them, and with them, when they walked and talked and bore fruitfull affects upon lives around them. Though the humanness of us remembers those loves and friendships with longings and tears, the fact that God lives, reminds us of the great hope of Eternal Life which God gave to the world through His Son.

Irene Maley, Reporter

Coming in future issues . . .

Special issues of Zion's Advocate dedicated to the following subjects are forthcoming in the next few months:

• *The Temple of the Lord*

• *Let's Do It Together*

The New Church Headquarters Building

• *Zion* - From the Committee to Study Zion

• **Also . . . An article from an Elder in the Church about the evils of the pagan holiday called *Halloween***

Watch for them soon!

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.

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- Priesthood - Divine Authority
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
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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)

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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
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● **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.