

Zion's Advocate

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

Volume 67

Independence, Missouri — July 1990

Number 7

The Temple of the Lord

... the one, the only!

Temple building had become an obsession, especially with the introduction of the false doctrines of baptism for the dead and the celestial wife doctrine, which developed into polygamy. These ordinances were to be performed in temples. And thus, after the death of Joseph Smith in 1844, and the expulsion of the Church from Nauvoo, we find the main body of the Church following Brigham Young, to ultimately settle in Salt Lake City, Utah. Here, another temple was built, and others elsewhere, as they spread throughout Utah and other western states. And so was fulfilled an ancient prophecy, at least in part:

*"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker,
and buildeth temples."*

Hosea 8:14

Quoted from Part 2 of Apostle Wm. Sheldon's, "Zion's Temple, The House of the Lord"

SPECIAL ISSUE

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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.

Temple Number 1990

The November 1, 1930, issue of *Zion's Advocate* dedicated itself, in elaborate fashion, to the Temple that was proposed to be built on the Temple Lot. A multi-colored glossy cover, entitled, "Temple Number," included detailed drawings and an artists concept of the Temple as envisioned by a former member of the Church of Christ.

As of this date, sixty years later, no building has ever been erected upon the sacred ground: Evidence of adversarial victory, or the hand of God intervening where man wished to rush without true divine instruction?

This edition of *Zion's Advocate* is also dedicated to promoting an awareness of the Temple issue. No elaborate preparations have been made to dress up the physical appearance of this edition, but you can rest assured that much effort has been placed into prayer over this matter — not just the editorial staff of *Zion's Advocate*, but to some degree, probably every member of the Church having even the slightest awareness of the importance of Zion and the Temple of the Lord.

The establishment of the "Zionic condition" that must necessarily precede the physical establishment of the "place" we refer to as Zion, is not contingent upon the building of a Temple for the Lord. Zion itself, however, based on a full definition of what it will mean to all the honest-hearted that come to it, and in order to accomplish all that is written about it, will have a Temple built within it's borders before the Lord will come in His glory.

There are only five things I know for sure about it: It will be built
(1) WHEN the Lord wants it built,
(2) BY people He chooses to build it,
(3) WHERE He wants it built,

(4) after the DESIGN He will reveal;
(5) **no person(s), nor government, nor adversarial intervention under any guise, nor any slothfulness on the part of his people will prevent this from being so.**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

No person can reasonably argue against these 5 points. Some may present various definitions of "when" or "how," etc., but one thing should become very obvious to all of us: The simple fact that the Temple has not been built is strong evidence that God has not ordered it to be built prior to this date!

Contained in this "Special Issue" of *Zion's Advocate* are two lengthy articles by priesthood members of the Church of Christ. As you will discover, they are not necessarily in opposition to one another, but have different approaches to the subject of the Lord's Temple. One, by Apostle William A. Sheldon, is a multi-part, well-researched article, clearly establishing many truths about the Temple site and other matters. The

other, by Elder Charles A. (Andy) Brantner, is also well-researched and makes some interesting points.

Most of the detailed written word about the Temple is found in latter day revelation purported to be of God. *The Book of Commandments* is quoted in these articles, and while the book is accepted as a valid historical document by the Church, not all within its covers is divine — and we are left on our own using the tools God has given us to determine whether or not any quoted purported revelation from it is authored by God. Other sources of purported divine revelations are also utilized in these articles, and it would be impractical here to go into the virtues or lack of them in using such sources. But as with any purported divine revelation outside the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, we must weigh carefully and prayerfully each quotation. It would be a tragedy to proceed upon any given task based on instruction from man and not God, but it may be

Editorial . . .

by Elder Gary A. Housknecht

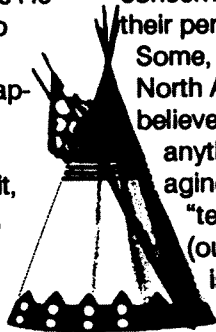
worse not to heed when the Lord beckons.

No article was presented to the ZA Editorial staff which represented the idea that God has not yet instructed a people to build a Temple for Him, so I will propose such an idea myself.

God is not the author of confusion, the scriptures say. I have no doubt in my mind, that when the

Lord is ready to instruct His people to build His Temple, He will make it known in such a way as to leave no doubt to a solid majority of the good, discerning people of this Church of Christ. This is the way God says He works and there is no reason to suspect that He will perform it any other way. When it does happen, and we, or any others He may encompass in His instructions, do not correctly discern it, or are slothful and disobedient, we will all know it very soon thereafter.

Answers were readily available to the people at the time of the 1930 Zion's Advocate mentioned above, covering most aspects needed to actually erect the proposed building. But, they were much like many of the "answers"

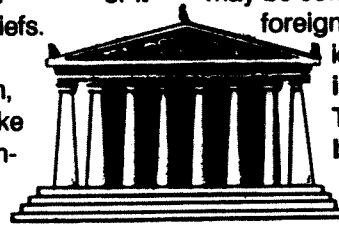


available today in a wide assortment. Much like a department store, one could shop from available opinions and purported revelations for the answer to each individual question concerning the Temple that suits their personal desires and/or beliefs.

Some, like one or more of our North American Indian brethren, believe the Temple will be "unlike anything anyone presently imagines." Others believe the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (our bodies, our selves) is synonymous with the Temple we are speaking of here that the Lord will physically visit. Some envision the Temple to be a magnificent structure much like the Masonic-type Temple building proposed in the aforementioned 1930 Zion's Advocate, while still

others see it as a very simple, modest building, unremarkable as pertaining to any particular era's grand architecture.

Any one of these is a possibility, or it may be something entirely foreign to any of these ideas. One thing is for sure: A Temple will be built as God has it planned, and Zion will become a reality. For the present, we may rest upon these promises — watching carefully with wisdom and discretion that we will know it when the Lord speaks. In the mean time, we cannot sit idly by and not prepare for Zion and the divine "condition" that will exist there: Having our hearts full of the pure love of Christ.



Nelly Aracelly Koyoc is an attractive, intelligent young woman of 16 who lives in the village of Yobain, Yucatan. She has completed her secondary education and now works to contribute to the family income. She has lived all her life in a Christian environment and is very active in her church activities. She plays an active role in Sunday School, Young Peoples meetings, choir and prayer services. She and her sisters enjoy accompanying their father, an evangelist in the church, on his missionary trips and help provide music and special numbers for his services.

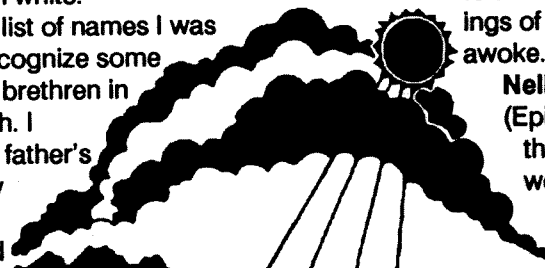
This is the testimony of a "righteous" young woman:

On November 11, 1989, I had a very beautiful dream. In this dream I could see a multitude of people about me and we were all waiting for someone very special. Then a person dressed in white appeared and said, "You should be watching, for you know not the hour when He shall come." Many grew tired of waiting and, one-by-one, they departed until only a few remained.

And then that special person for whom we waited arrived - He was

dressed in white and seated upon a throne. He ordered that the principle gate be closed that no one else should enter. Then He delivered a book to another who began to read the names of those persons who are going to go with Him who were dressed in white.

In this list of names I was able to recognize some names of brethren in the church. I heard my father's name, my mother's name and those of my brothers and sisters, but I had not heard my own.



Path Lights

Nelly, Yucatan, Mexico (Epilogue: The one thing this beautiful young woman yet lacked is wanting in the lives of some of you as well, and that is to fulfill the simple commandment of Jesus:

I drew near to the person with the book and asked Him, who was dressed in white, "why have you not spoke of me?"

He answered me saying, "You yet lack one requirement before you can come with me, but you still have opportunity to do it."

"... be ye baptized in my name."

Donald and Jay

ZION'S TEMPLE

The House Of The Lord

by Apostle William A. Sheldon

Part One

The building of an holy temple to the glory of God in the last days, or the times just preceding the second coming of Christ to the earth, has been a matter of deep concern to the Church of Christ from the early days of the restoration of the fulness of the gospel. Because of this, it is a matter of some surprise, even consternation, that there could be those of mature age in the Church who have little or no conviction as to the temple being a vital concern of this body - yes, being a matter of divine approval.

Perhaps we should not be surprised at this. Building the temple was a primary objective of our forebears in the 1920's and 1930's, second only to a proclamation of the gospel of salvation. This interest was blunted by the defection of Otto Fetting and hundreds of other members in the early 1930's. This man claimed to have been visited by John the Baptist on several occasions, and to have received plans for the temple. The Church had accepted Fetting's claims until the reception of the 12th message, because there was no apparent error. Later, it was found that the 4th message as published was not really the 4th message received. This message, held back from general knowledge, but revealed privately to a few, declared that the papal seat would be moved from Rome to the U.S.A., and that a prominent politician of the catholic faith, one Alfred E. Smith, would be the next president of the U.S. Of

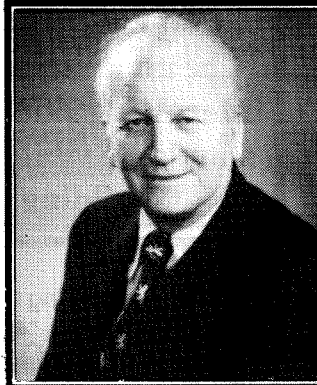
course, these events never occurred. It also developed that significant error was found in the messages which were published. The 12th message was interpreted in one place to require a re-baptism of those who had transferred from the RLDS Church into the Church of Christ, and this was unacceptable.

All of this is to say that with the rejection of the messages, many apparently lost faith in the idea of building a temple, despite the fact that the plans which developed for the temple were not entirely based upon the Fetting messages, and only those were acceptable which were in consonance with spiritual direction given to others in the Church, notably those of the Plans Committee, who had engaged in much prayer over the matter.

The late 1920's and early 1930's happened to have been the time of the great depression, and therefore the financial means to expedite the building of the temple dwindled from an enthusiastic, though relatively small stream, to a trickle which virtually stopped in the late 1930's, remaining practically undisturbed in the following decades, except for an occasional donation by a few from those early times. In 1831, when Brother Joseph Smith laid a stone marking the northeast corner of the temple, there were those present who were later driven from Independence in 1833, and who went back to their former residential area in Woodford County, Illinois. Some of

these returned to Independence under the leadership of Elder Grandville Hedrick, who had received the word of God that they should do so in 1867. Those who had been in Independence in 1831, witnessing that historic dedication, or at least were in the area, who later returned in 1867, knew where the

"spot" was which had been pointed out by revelation to Joseph Smith. Their great concern was for the establishment of Zion. It had been revealed that a New Jerusalem (or Zion), also referenced in the Book of Mormon, was to be built "beginning at the Temple Lot", and "by the



gathering of the saints". Therefore, their first temporal objective in their return was to obtain an inheritance here in Independence, which had been pointed out in revelation as the "center place of Zion", and, in the process, to purchase lots which comprised the approximate 2 1/2 acres of ground which had been generally known as the "temple lot" or "temple ground." Within ten years of their return in 1867, they had acquired this property - by purchase, and not by "squatters rights" as some others have alleged.

Incidentally: In August 1831, when the temple spot was dedicated, the Church did not own a square foot of the ground. Four months later, Edward Partridge, for the Church, bought 63(+) acres including the temple spot. So, the notion that the temple may be located just

anywhere on the 63 acres is only wishful presumption.

Despite court proceedings from 1891 to 1894, instituted by the RLDS Church, claiming the right to this property because of being the lawful church in succession from the early church under Joseph Smith, the Church of Christ retained possession because we had bought it and had possession of the only title, which, however clouded by circumstances of its conveyance, could be acknowledged in law as legitimate. The question of true succession really had no bearing in this case, but if it should have revolved upon this question, we feel sure the Church of Christ could have successfully pressed its claim as being that church.

There was considerable sacrifice upon the part of our members, and evidence that the Lord made provision otherwise for those few members to meet the court costs of that case. This, in itself, would be an illuminating and very interesting sidelight as to why we should be vitally concerned with building the temple; but we forbear to discuss this here.

An excavation was begun in the late 1920's, and some of us yet remember the large hole, excavated to a proper depth for the basement of the temple (perhaps 12 to 15 feet), with a number of pilaster holes, boarded up, and extending down to solid rock; the excavation being large enough to accommodate a temple structure of 90' x 180', with dirt piled on the south side of the excavation.

In the beginning of that work of removing the dirt, there was a consciousness that the Church history recorded the fact of Joseph Smith placing a stone to mark the northeast corner of the temple, and spiritual direction had been given in the late 1920's as to where it could be found.

It is reported that the workers who were using the old-time "slips" for digging were on guard for the appearance of this stone. A scraping of rock was heard, perhaps 2-1/2 feet below the surface, and in which care was taken by pick and shovel to remove a stone of about 9"x9"x6" dimension. It was of limestone, and upon washing, a layer of lime which had accumulated after deposit of the stone, was loosened and separated,

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revealing the rudely inscribed figures, "40w" and "1831".

We are informed that it is, or was, a surveyor's practice to locate a "witness" marker for a designated corner of a building; and thus we feel justified in the assumption that this stone was placed at a point forty feet west of the dedicated northeast corner, in the year 1831.

But imagine the surprise of diggers about a month later in 1929, in removing a large tree and finding in its roots a second stone which was roughly inscribed with "SECT" and "1831". We assume this to indicate the southeast corner of the temple. Nothing is said of this stone in our history, except for a partial clue given by Brigham Young, stating that he with others of the Twelve had placed a stone to mark the spot for a temple in Jackson County Missouri (Independence). Additionally, there is a record from John Hyde, who apostatized from the Church in that early period in 1831, and was present

when Joseph laid a stone. He later mentioned Brigham Young and others of the Twelve returning to Independence during a night of danger (for enemies of the saints had driven them out of Missouri), and re-dedicating the temple site in 1839. We conclude that Brigham Young placed this second stone, having a close proximation of the first stone's location, and evidently some spiritual direction as to how far apart the two stones should be.

An interesting sidelight to this is: The aforementioned John Hyde tells us in his published work against the saints, but in which we have no reason to doubt his account, that Joseph Smith "blazed" a tree, which was an old-time way of laying claim to a piece of ground, serving notice that it was intended to obtain the property in a lawful way. This blazing was accomplished through the removal of bark from the tree and an inscription placed thereon. Hyde said it was blazed on the east side and inscribed with "ZOM"; that Joseph said this stood for "Zion"; that the south side of the tree was blazed and inscribed with "T", which stood for, Temple; that near the foot of this tree (on the south), Joseph placed a stone to mark the corner of where the Lord's temple should be.

The account of Joseph's dedications and statements of others, would indicate the stone having been placed in a shallow excavation, but being visible. Yet, it seems apparent that when the saints were driven from Independence, in order that the stone should not be moved by their enemies, the saints took pains to dig deeper and to cover the stone with earth. Therefore, when Brigham Young and others re-dedicated the temple spot, they measured, or stepped off in a southerly direction, the approximate 90 feet, but being measured from the tree instead of where the stone lay. The same distance that Joseph's stone was south of the tree (about 2-1/2 feet), was also the distance Brigham Young's stone was found to be north of the south line of the temple: it was

placed 90 feet from the tree (approximately), and was found to be 54 feet west of the established southeast corner of the temple.

Some of this information comes from our late brother Maynard Case in his private research and personal knowledge of some circumstances pertaining to the 1929 excavation. If this account is essentially true, it should be remembered that the Brigham Young party was functioning on a dark night, and probably had no measuring device, and certainly no surveying equipment. It does reveal the bravery and dedication of those men in the face of great danger, and should give us pause to inquire into the validity of their cause at the time.

An interesting sidelight or tradition which carries marks of some validity, is a story of a pile of stones placed by Indian tribes to indicate the location of a sacred spot. According to this story, they had been engaged in warfare, when a person of divinity appeared, shamed them

for thus warring together, and commanded them to go to the nearby river and wash the war-paint from their faces (such an event is alluded

upon the northeast corner of the temple as designated by Joseph Smith; that she had handled some of them and that there was high regard by the members of the Church for that pile of stones; that the pile disappeared, having been carried away by someone unaware of their significance; and that Indians, knowledgeable of their traditions, had come to the area in search of just such a

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to by Longfellow in his "Song of Hiawatha"); they were then to return to their tribal areas and bring a stone to mark the spot, as a witness that they would not henceforth engage in such a battle, and that here would be the lodge of the Great Spirit.

Sister Angela Wheaton, the wife of our late apostle C.L. Wheaton, declared in two articles published in Zion's Advocate a number of years ago, that there was, to her personal knowledge, a pile of stones located

land-mark.

Whether this tradition is true or not, it appears as a fact that the pile of stones had been located on the northeast corner of the temple as dedicated by Joseph Smith. Could this be the reason, also, why Joseph, by spiritual direction, may have placed the marker stone forty feet west of the corner?

(to be continued)

UPDATED

Missouri Reunion Notice

DATE: August 10, 11 & 12, 1990 (Friday through Sunday)
Services begin at 9:00 A.M. each day.

PLACE: Warrensburg, Missouri, at East Hudson Conference Room
East Anderson Street, East off Highway 13.

LODGING: Main Floor (Second Floor)
Two Room Suites (limited number available)
One queen size bed and one sofa bed
\$38.00 each night

First, Third & Fourth Floors
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COME WORSHIP AND ASSOCIATE WITH US DURING THIS TIME OF REUNION - Roland L. Sarratt
Missionary in charge of Missouri
(For the Missouri Reunion Committee)

To Hear and To Hearken

by Elder Andrew Brantner

Lately my heart has been drawn, even compelled, to spend much time searching out all that I can about the Temple of the Lord. Such an urgency of desire is within me that I must write. I pray that as you read you may understand and you who have understanding and ears to hear, may you also by the Good Spirit, hearken. In other words, obey.

God has not been silent concerning His House. He has spoken many times and I believe shall yet speak more. Indeed, His House shall be built at the appointed time and by His chosen people. We must only decide if we desire (enough) to be that people, or stand aside while the Lord raises up (more obedient) servants that will build His Temple.

I will quote from various sources and upon request I would gladly provide for any the articles in their entirety. Also remember that in this short epistle it will not be possible to cover all facets in their entirety. Further information is available for the asking, and for the diligent seeker God gives certain witness to the truth.

It would be well to heed the admonition given to us by the Spirit of Revelation and recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants 98:4 (Emphasis here and in other quotations throughout this article by the author, Andrew Brantner):

Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion, for all flesh is in mine hands: be still, and know that I am God. Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste

places of Zion. And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled. And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed, neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of my Saints, until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them.

Yes, Zion shall be, and the Temple of our living God at her center. Even though Satan provides many diverse and enticing counterfeits which would seem to interfere with God's designs, Zion shall be and the glory of the Lord shall be there. Let us consider God's desires above our own. His way is the best way.

The location, even the exact site, is given to us to know. As others before me have done excellently in bringing this out I would leave you in their hands at this time.

We might wonder in our minds just when we should be concerning ourselves with the building of the Temple. There are certain benchmarks of prophecy which might help to narrow our time

frame somewhat. I would rather not delve into that right now as the magnitude of that subject of study would be overlong for this article. However, let us remember for a moment, how King David had received the wherewithal to build the Lord's House of his time, but because of his transgressions he was not allowed to do so. David's son, Solomon, instead was chosen to do the job. Solomon's heart was right with God, as must ours be also.

The Church of Christ began to build the Temple of our dispensation of time in the 1920's. Many reasons are heard for the seeming abandonment of the effort. I truly admire the zeal and dedication of our fellow saints in their efforts and some will say hard times caused the stoppage. But let us remember that the temple is to be built by sacrifice. How much would our blessing be if we built it in times for prosperity with no real sacrifice. It has been offered that it just must not have been the time. Upon this thought I would venture to write somewhat.

When I was baptized some years ago I was troubled of heart because I felt so unworthy. Not because I had not repented and humbled myself in submission before God, but because I saw myself as I really am, a decrepit remnant of humanity. I spent much effort in prayer about this. The Good Spirit impressed my mind, my heart, and my very soul that I was not being baptized because I had put on perfection but because I needed perfec-

tion. In like manner I doubted myself when called to the ministry. Satan whispered in my ear asking, "What do you think you are, you are not wor-

thy." But again through prayer I realized that perfection was not a prerequisite to the priesthood office. We are yet humans and subject to error. Christ alone is perfect. God did not call me because I was perfect, because I'm not, nor will be, except for the grace of God at some future time. When we receive a blessing of God do you suppose it to be because we have earned it? No, we of ourselves are nothing. We are not blessed of God in spite of our faults

Zion shall be and the glory of the Lord shall be there. Let us consider God's desires above our own.

but because of them. All we need do is repent and ask forgiveness and then endure in that repentance.

And now, in like manner comes the Temple of the Lord. Not because we of ourselves are worthy but rather because we become determined in our hearts to become so, even by the grace of God. Let me quote our dear Brother Apostle B.C. Flint in his article titled, "Does a material temple have any place in the Gospel?"

In fine, when these individual hearts become the temples of the Holy Spirit, and the church collectively becomes the living spiritual Temple of God, then will that temple clothe herself with a material house...

And also, please let me quote more truth from the same article again: "... No, the material temple as such, is not important, but the spirit that will produce it is vitally important."

And it is my concern for us all that urges me now. The signs of the times speak plainly. We must be that obedient people or be cast off soon, very soon. A verse in Exodus tugs at my heart: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8.

Do we want Christ to dwell among us or are we content to just play church as do all the others?

I must note also along this line that the Temple and the building of it, will be one way that the Lord will use to bring about a people prepared to meet Him when He comes. A people able to finally and fully establish His Zion. Why else did He say that Zion would begin in the center place? Is not the Temple in the center? Where then should our hearts be at this time?

Now let us realize, that not only in the building of the Temple will we put on perfection, but also that many and many others will come into the marriage feast as well. Indeed even a

great multitude. Isn't this our greatest desire? Understand as well that in this true Temple will exist the power of God, the Urim and Thummin, the Ark of the Covenant upon which Jesus sits on His mercy seat and much, much more. Emanating from this place of learning and prayer will be the Holy Spirit. From there we will be endowed to proclaim the Gospel of Life unto the world. Today, can we say, "Let us go to the House of the Lord?" Do you desire to see that day? Do you desire to have Zion? It all hinges, not on the material temple, but on our willingness to build it. If we can unite in our desires upon this, the Lord will open the windows of Heaven and pour out blessings unspeakable.

We have received sufficient enough to know that which we should do. Savor, if you will, these words from the Book of Commandments 29:8-10:

And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts: Wherefore the decree hath gone

forth from the Father, that they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land, to prepare

their hearts, and be prepared in all things against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked: For the hour is nigh, and the day soon at hand, when the earth is ripe...

This temple or sanctuary is to be naturally following the faithful gathering in to the center place. It and Zion surrounding will be a place of safety and sustenance, both spiritually and temporally as the world around us is wrecked with chaos and travail. The Lord has our best interest in mind

when He desires us to gather and to build.

I am caused to wonder why we concern ourselves so greatly with salvation of the peoples of the world and of the different facets of Zion living when I read in Luke 12:26, "If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?"

Oh, I do not imply that we should not be doing these things but rather that we will harvest no real measure of fruit until we have obeyed in that which is least. I speak of the gathering which then gives birth to the Temple which in turn brings about an endowment as was had on the day of Pentecost. And so I am caused to take very seriously the question asked in Isaiah 66:1, wherein is said,

Thus saith the Lord, the heavens is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?

Where is it? I ask you. Are we the people we claim to be? Or are we only caretakers for some one else? Let us arise and be counted worthy of honor. Let me as well quote from Matthew 21:28-32:

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, the first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Upon entering the waters of baptism we have made a covenant with

Do we want Christ to dwell among us or are we content to just play church as do all the others?

God. We promised to serve Him and Him alone, forever. We have said as the second son "I go, sir." But we have yet to go. Our reasons for not gathering and building the Lord's House will not be very good excuses at the judgement bar of God, will they?

If we would only begin, God has promised to give, as needed, sufficient in resource, strength, talents, etc., to allow us to fulfill our mission. Surely we do not doubt the word of our God, not His power. Do we?

"Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts..." Mal. 3:10. That the Temple is a place of preparation for God's people and particularly His ministry is amply evidenced in the Doctrine and Covenants 92:1 given in June 1833:

... Concerning the building of mine house, for the preparation wherewith I design to prepare mine apostles to prune my vineyard for the last time, that I may bring to pass my strange act, that I may pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.

I would like to quote from another article titled "Temples and Altars Both Ancient and Modern" by Apostle Clarence L. Wheaton:

This preparation is needed now. It is to be given to the Restoration in the House of the Lord. It is paramount that we arise and build this house, that we may more effectively go forth and prune the vineyard of the Lord for the last time that His spirit may be poured out on all flesh and the elect of the Lord gathered in from one end of heaven to the other to begin the reign of peace of a thousand years with Christ and all the holy prophets of old, the saints of God, and just men made perfect through the blood of Christ, which was shed for them on the cross. Let His saints of these last days arise as did Nehemiah of old, and say 'THE

GOD OF HEAVEN, HE WILL PROSPER US: THEREFORE, WE HIS SERVANTS WILL ARISE AND BUILD.' Nehemiah 2:20.

Let me again affirm that this temple is a sanctuary and it is for our benefit that it shall be. Again from the Doctrine and Covenants 94:3: "... that there may be a house built unto me **for the salvation of Zion.**"

Again to answer the question: When is the time for the Temple to be built? And to illustrate let me ask another. when is it time to repent? Would tomorrow be soon enough? How about today? Right now? Would yesterday have been better

Can you not now see that it has always been time for the Temple?

yet? Can you not now see that it has always been time for the Temple? Dare we procrastinate our repentance? What then of the commands of God to gather and build? The fulfillment of the total mission of Christ awaits a people to press forward unto complete obedience. Our Lord will have a people willing to do the work. Will we be among them? Today is the day to make that choice. Right now. And the very first thing to do is seek God in humble prayer. In short: When there are true believers and doers of the Word, then it is the time for the expression of that obedience, to gather and build so as thereby to redeem Zion. Not by constraint, but willingly. (See Ex. 25)

Again from Brother Wheaton's article:

... if ever the need existed for the House of the Lord, or Temple, it is now." Also, "As the result of neglect of building the Temple, here in Independence, Missouri, which was designated as a grievous sin upon the part of the Restoration, we find that by November 1833 of this same year in which the rebuke was given, a mob had destroyed the Church's printing plant and driven the

membership from Jackson County. Why? Why? The answer, 'Because their minds in times past (were) darkened because of unbelief, and because (they had) treated lightly the things (they had) received, which vanity and unbelief ... brought the whole Church under condemnation.' D & C 83:8.

Just what was the rebuke mentioned? Well, it happens that this rebuke was received in June of 1833 and is recorded in Section 92:1 of the Doctrine and Covenants as follows:

Wherefore, ye must needs be chastened and stand rebuked before my face, for ye have sinned against me a very grievous sin, in that ye have not considered the great commandment in all things, that I have given you, concerning the building of my house.

We may not be aware, but instruction has been given to the early Church. It has been given at the April 1931 Conference. It has been given to a committee of three Apostles set apart for that purpose. In 1967 direction was again received at the Solemn Assembly of the gathered Saints. I am not now able to totally dismiss the early Fetting messages until I've received counsel from God concerning them. And there is more, much more.

As pertaining to the purpose of the Temple and even Zion as a whole let me quote again from the Doctrine and Covenants, 92:1c:

Verily I say unto you, that it is my will, that a house should be built unto me in the land of Zion, like unto the pattern which I have given you. Yea, let it be built speedily by the tithing of my people; behold this is the tithing and sacrifice which I, the Lord, require at their hands, that there may be an house built unto me, for the salvation of Zion, and for a place of instruction for all those who are called to the work of the

ministry, in all their several callings, and offices, that they may be perfected in the understanding of their ministry; in theory; in principle and in doctrine; in all things pertaining to the Kingdom of God on the earth, the keys of which Kingdom has been conferred upon you.

How much plainer can it be than that? We are a peculiar people. We pray for the power of the Holy Ghost, yet we will not uncork the bottle from which it is poured. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Will you open unto Him? Can we obey in the least so that we may receive the rest? That which we do not understand at this time will be given to us as needed. But only if we have exercised our faith by our obedience to that which we have received. And we have received sufficient to begin. The "Temple Number" of the 1930 Zion's Advocate is available upon request. In it is wisdom found.

Please allow me to close by passing along a few selected verses from a revelation received April 27, 1938 through Apostle James E. Yates, ... Not once only have I spoken to my scattered peoples of this Latter Day Dispensation, not twice

nor thrice only, have I your Lord and Master declared it to be my will that My Temple be built upon the consecrated spot which I have appointed ... Yet ye amidst my scattered peoples, who have of means, and who have had wherewith to erect mine House upon the consecrated spot, have devoted your energies to other things. Ye have expended your means for enterprises of your own choosings; rather than that My greater endowment may be given in the Temple which I have commanded to be built. This greater endowment I, the Lord, have withheld, till My people shall have been proven, whether ye will be obedient to My Word, or whether ye will continue to choose your own ways and to suffer thereby, because ye reject both my spoken Word and the gentle leadings of My Holy Spirit, saith your Lord ... Hear ye, hear ye, O, My scattered people! How long shall I suffer you in choosing your own ways while ye treat my

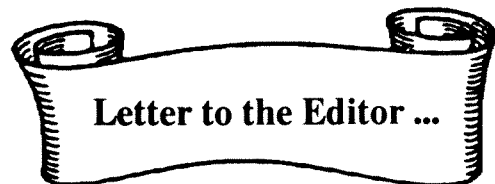
Word but lightly? I call, saith the Lord, upon the broken fations of my spiritual Kingdom on earth. Arise ye, arise from your sloth, saith the Holy One and build ye mine house! ... Woe be unto him whom I shall enlighten, but, who still for place or station shall spurn me in this concerning the building of My house. For verily,

We pray for the power of the Holy Ghost, yet we will not uncork the bottle from which it is poured.

my judge ments shall follow him and, as of Judas, men

shall be caused to know that such a man hath also betrayed his Lord. ... I prove you herewith, saith the Lord. In this task join ye all, whose souls shall hear my call: BUILD YE MY TEMPLE. Thus saith the Lord; And thus witnesseth the Holy Spirit, even so. Amen."

Can you now open your heart unto God? Will we hear? And most of all, will we (you and I), will we hearken?



Letter to the Editor ...

Dear sirs,

I had hoped to respond to your Puzzle/quiz last month, but due to circumstances beyond my control, I was delayed in responding. My family and I really enjoyed it. (Though it was quite simple, and took us only moments to complete). I shared it (the idea) with some friends and they were pleased with the idea and thought it was a real complement to your publication. Zion's Advocate is one of the better Christian magazines of an evangelical nature, and I think that all Bible-believing Christians should have a copy. We have added it to our church library (1st Baptist Church of Hillburn, New York), and many members of our congregation have made mention of it and the quality articles which you publish.

Its Bible-based articles have been a spiritual blessing to the local brethren. Some members here at the local Church have voiced a desire to subscribe. Few publications any more will stick to conservative, orthodox Christian beliefs based on the Bible, alone, and in it's entirety. It is an excellent tool for witness and evangelism and a few (actually, just 2 people) have, after reading your publication, made a decision (by the power of the Holy Ghost, of course) to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour! Praise God!

Heavenly Father is truly doing a marvelous work and a wonder (As Isaiah said he would) in the world through your publication. God is truly rising your Magazine in a special way.

Keep up the good work!

**Yours, In Christ,
John R. Sala Jr.**

Former Missionary to Alaska and presently Associate Youth Pastor at the 1st Baptist Church, Hillburn NY

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE STICK OF JOSEPH

Compiled by Harvey E. Seibel

That the Aztecs were aware of the predictions of the Fair God concerning the coming of the white men from across the sea (the Spaniards) and their ultimate subjugation to them is shown by the following traditions.

"He (Montezuma) proposed a joint campaign against Tlascalt; Nezahualpilli consented, saying that his inaction had not been the result of cowardice, but he had ceased to fight simply because the year of 1 Acatl was near at hand when the empire must fall" (Hubert Howe Bancroft, *Native Races*, vol. 5, p. 470).

"During the next few years Montezuma seems to have determined by brilliant exploits in battle to defy the predictions of his magicians and to shake off his own superstitious fears" (Bancroft, *ibid.*, p. 471).

"The appearance of the Spaniards on the distant American coasts, the predictions of disaster which all the soothsayers agreed in deriving from constantly recurring omens, the approaching subjugation of his people to a race of foreigners in which Nezahualpilli firmly believed..." (Bancroft, *ibid.*, p. 473).

Note: The magicians and soothsayers were merely confirming the predictions of the ancient true prophet.

"With the new cycle began a period, during which, down to the appearance of the Spaniards at Vera Cruz, almost every event was invested with a mysterious significance, every unusual phenomenon of nature, every accident, every illness, every defeat in battle, failure to crops, excessive

heat or cold, rain or snow, thunder and lightning, shooting star or comet, earthquake or eclipse, - each and all portended evil to the Aztec empire, evil which some seem even at the time to have connected with the olden predictions of Quetzalcoatl respecting the coming of a foreign race to take possession of the country" (Bancroft, *Native Races*, vol. 5, pp. 464-465).

"That Montezuma and his companions attached considerable weight to the traditional predictions of Quetzalcoatl and Hueman there is no reason to doubt" (Bancroft, *ibid.*, p. 466).

The signs and omens that followed those already mentioned I shall briefly relate without paying much attention to their chronologic order; very little else than these omens and the means adopted to avert their consequences is recorded from 1508 to 1511. An army sent to the province of Amatlan perished with cold and by falling trees and rocks; and a comet with three heads, perhaps the one already mentioned, hung over Anahuac. Then a wonderful pyramidal light appeared in the east, reaching from the earth to the sky, visible for forty days, or, as some say, for a whole year, in all parts of the country, from midnight till morning, very similar, according to the description, to the Aurora Borealis. Nezahualpilli was so affected by these signs that he gave orders to discontinue all hostilities. An interview was held between him and Montezuma, although for some time they had not been on speaking terms. Nezahualpilli saw clearly in the strange omens the approaching end of the empire and his own death, but was resigned to the decrees of fate; Montezuma, on the contrary, instead of resignation felt only anger, and is even said by Tezozomoc and Duran to have strangled many of his

sorcerers for their unfavorable interpretations of the signs, and their failure to avert evil omens" (Bancroft, *ibid.*, p. 467).

"Therefore when they first beheld the fair complexioned Spaniards, they rushed into the water to embrace the prows of their vessels, and dispatched messengers throughout the land to proclaim the return of Quetzalcoatl" (Brinton, *Myths of the New World*, p. 203, cited in Roy Weldon, *Other Sheep*, p. 10).

"The opinion was unanimous that the strangers were the children of Quetzalcoatl, returning in fulfillment of the ancient prophecies, and that they should be kindly received, as the only means of conciliating the good will of the numerous followers of the ancient prophet" (Bancroft, *Native Races*, vol 5, p. 479).

Prescott says, "A general feeling seems to have prevailed in the time of Montezuma, that the period for the return of the deity, and the full accomplishment of his promise, was near at hand. This conviction is said to have gained ground from various preternatural occurrences, reported with more or less detail by all the most ancient historians. In 1510, the great lake of Tezcuco, without the occurrence of tempest, or earthquake, or any other visible cause, became violently agitated, overflowed its banks, and, pouring into the streets of Mexico, swept off many of the buildings by the fury of the waters. In 1511, one of the turrets of the great temple caught fire, equally without any apparent cause, and continued to burn in defiance of all attempts to extinguish it. In the following years, three comets were seen; and not long before the coming of the Spaniards a strange light broke forth in the east. It spread abroad at its base on the horizon, and rising in a pyramidal form tapered off as it ap-

proached the zenith. It resembled a vast sheet or flood of fire, emitting sparkles, or, as an old writer expresses it, 'seemed thickly powdered with star.' At the same time, low voices were heard in the air, and doleful wailings, as if to announce some strange, mysterious calamity! The Aztec monarch, terrified at the apparitions in the heavens, took counsel of Nezahualpilli, who was a great proficient in the subtle science of astrology. But the royal sage cast a deeper cloud over his spirit, by reading in these prodigies the speedy downfall of the empire.

"Such are the strange stories reported by the chroniclers, in which it is not impossible to detect the glimmering of truth" (Prescott, *The Conquest of Mexico*, pp. 171-172).

In Peru as in Mexico we read of a similar story.

"But other accounts, which have obtained a popular currency...connect the first tidings of the white men with predictions long extant in the country, and with supernatural appearances, which filled the hearts of the whole nation with dismay. Comets were seen flaming athwart the heavens. Earthquakes shook the land; the moon was girdled with rings of fire of many colors; a thunderbolt fell on one of the royal palaces and consumed it to ashes; and an eagle, chased by several hawks, was seen, screaming in the air, to hover above the great square of Cuzco, when, pierced by the talons of his tormentors, the king of birds fell lifeless in the presence of many of the Inca nobles, who read in this an augury of their own destruction! Huayna Capac himself, calling his great officers around him, as he found he was drawing near his end, announced the subversion of his empire by the race of white and bearded strangers, as the consummation predicted by the oracles after the reign of the twelfth Inca, and he enjoined it on his vassals not to resist the decrees of Heaven, but to yield obedience to its messengers" (Prescott, *The Conquest of Peru*, pp. 899).

How do you keep your teenager in touch with God? What can we do to help our young people stay in the Church? How can they stand in this day of evil?

I know many of us, even those who are not presently raising children, are concerned about your youth. We can't deny that they are growing up in an evil day. They are being bombarded with messages and lifestyles that are opposite to God's. Moral and spiritual decisions are forced upon them at a critical time of their life. Is there hope for our young people? What can we do to help them?

There are no magic solutions, but there are several positive steps we can take. Charles Stanely's book *How to Keep Your Kids on Your Team* offers several suggestions on how to hand down our faith: 1) Principle - We must teach our children in the ways of God. In other words, they need to be familiar with God's word. Learning God's commandments and why He gave them (not to spoil their fun, but to protect them and give them the greatest happiness) is essential. They need to be exposed to the Bible and Book of Mormon to know that God

loves them and has a plan for their life. 2) Pattern and Persistence - We must set a godly example for our children. Living a Christian life and instructing them in that way is not always easy or convenient. Spiritually, we can't just float through life. It's going to take extra effort and commitment to keep our youth in the gospel. 3) Participation - We must provide them opportunities to be involved in Church activities. They need to attend Sunday School and youth meetings, and go to Church camps and reunions that will reinforce spiritual and moral values. They need to have friends of like faith, Something positive happens when our youth are directly involved (read the testimonies on the next page on how youth camps have made a difference to our youth).

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." We have a vision, or you can call it a plan. We are planning a church-wide youth camp. The camp is called "Teen Challenge '90," and the theme of the camp is, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Joshua 24:15.

Our desire is to provide a time and a place where our youth can study God's word, have wholesome fun, and meet other Church kids. We believe, that through God's Spirit, a good seed can be planted in the hearts of our young people. We need your teenagers (12-18) at this camp. Teen Challenge '90 is also accepting donations. Let's work together toward preserving our most precious natural resource: Our Young People! -- b.s.

Teen Challenge '90

August 5 - 10 (prior to Missouri Reunion)

Ages 12 - 18

At Camp Far Westa (one hour north of Kansas City)

\$75.00 for the entire camp

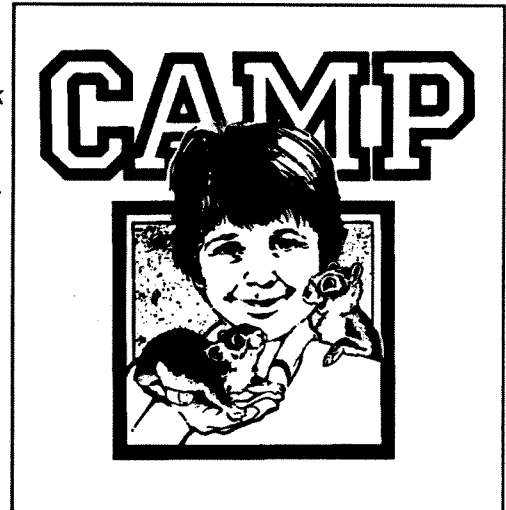
REGISTER NOW ... TIME IS RUNNING OUT !

Contact Elder Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse for more information:

5613 Logan Road

Kansas City, Mo 64136

Telephone 816-356-9214



More Camp Testimonials ...



One of the things that stands out most in my mind from previous camps was the love and concern shown for each other. I can still remember the special prayer service held for one in need where almost every young person in our group offered up a prayer in behalf of that person. Because of this and other experiences we were drawn closer

together. I am indeed thankful that I was able to be a part of the Camp For All Ages. Camps have always been an uplifting experience for me, and I believe that everyone who attends, benefits from them.

Ruth N. Seibel

As I think about the Young Peoples group here in Independence, what most comes to my mind would be how the friendship between all of us grew considerably on our first bus trip. We began by working together to raise the money for the trip. We had car washes, sold food at auctions, and sold candy. It was hard work but the end reward was worth it.

We went to many places but the one place that sticks out in my mind is the Camp For All Ages in Phoenix Arizona. The Ranch was beautiful. There were many activities for us to participate in. During the day we hiked, climbed on the rocks, had a



hayride and played volleyball. Captured the flag took over during the night until it was time for the campfire. The campfire consisted of skits, tricks and songs of fellowship. It was hard when it came time to leave especially because of all of the wonderful new friendships started. This trip was a great experience.

Jeff Oldham

General Conference Report 1990

"Precious memories, how they linger. How they ever flood my soul. In the stillness of the midnight sacred scenes unfold." I'm sure all of us have special memories of our time spent in the house of the Lord. The times we've worshipped our Heavenly Father with Brothers and Sisters from near and far. The times we've felt His cleansing Spirit fill our hearts in a sacrament service. The sermons we've heard that have inspired us to a closer walk with the Lord. As in years past, the services at our 1990 Conference provided us with some "precious memories."

The Solemn Assembly, that precedes the Conference, consists of five services. There are three ser-

vices on Friday and two on Saturday. The beginning service for the 1990 Solemn Assembly began at 9:00 a.m. on March 30th. Because of the destruction of the Temple Lot building, the services were held at the East Independence Local.

The admonition from the ministry who were in charge of the services was for us to humble ourselves in fasting and prayer before the Lord. We were reminded that the purpose of the Solemn Assembly is to pray for God's blessing upon the Conference and the work of the gospel, for the restoration of the house of Israel, for the establishing of Zion and the building of the Temple. We were asked to draw our minds in from the world and to listen to each others prayers. The congregation was counseled to be reverent and to remem-

ber the purposes for which we had gathered.

All the meetings were filled with many prayers; including prayers by children. But, for the first time at our Solemn Assembly there were quite a few testimonies. Let us remember the counsel of the ministry and the scripture, and use our Solemn Assembly as a time for fasting and prayer and not for "strife and debate." As one Elder admonished us, "Let us pray, pray, pray!"

Sunday morning a large congregation of saints met at the MOKAM Salvation Army facility for a sacrament service. Apostle Marvin Ely was in charge with Apostle Roland Sarratt assisting. After the serving of the bread and wine, we had a season of prayer. There were prayers for our children, the young people, the sick, and the elderly. We

were also told to pray for the service and coming preaching services.

The meeting had many wonderful testimonies. The theme of several testimonies was that trials can make us stronger. We can gain strength from hard times and pain. We can endure and we should not be swayed in our efforts to serve God. Several also declared to us that God does answer prayer! It is not luck -- God blesses us! One highlight of the service was to hear that our sister Emi, from Yucatan, for whom many of us had been praying had received a great blessing and had been baptized. There were many expressions thanks and praise to God.

The evening services began with a chorale presentation of "Other Sheep I Have." Then the congregation was privileged to witness the blessing of Ian Smith, son of Steve and Nanette Smith. Ian was blessed by his Grandfather, Elder Dick Wheaton and Great-uncle LeRoy Wheaton. Our hearts rejoiced at this provision the Lord has given us.

Apostle Don McIndoo was the speaker for the evening service. His text was Philippians 3:11. He explained that this scripture tells us to put our old life of sin behind us and press forward in daily repentance. He counseled us to set goals for our lives, and our primary goal should be obtaining salvation and serving the Lord. He challenged the young people to set high standards concerning who they date and marry. They need to choose a career that allows them time to serve God, 6 and allows them to live near a Church local.

Brother McIndoo also spoke about the concept of Zion. He reminded us that when we consider Zion we must look beyond ourselves. The House of Israel, especially the Indian people, are distinctly intertwined with the cause of Zion and this latter day work. When we think that Zion and pray about Zion we must remember this fact.

In closing, Brother McIndoo told us how we can be a part of God's work. First, we must obey the

primary commandment and be baptized. Second, we must be humble and full of Love. Third, we must serve our fellow man.

Monday evening Apostle Roland Sarratt was our preacher. He opened his sermon by reading Joel 2:27-29. This scripture talks about God pouring out his Spirit. Brother Sarratt talked about the guiding influence of the Spirit of God. How the Spirit can convert us, cleanse us, and plant that seed of truth in our hearts.

Love was another topic Brother Sarratt dealt with. Love is infinite. The more love you give, the more love you have. It is a gift of God that goes beyond this life.

Brother Sarratt also spoke about the day in which we live. He told us about the popularity of spiritualism and the New Age Movement. He reminded us that these teachings have no absolutes. They teach that there is no sin. On the contrary, the gospel gives us purpose and a sense of direction and joy. We can truly praise our God for his omnipotence!

In closing, Brother Sarratt read to us parts of the hymn "Admonition." He stressed that "... man must learn that God is true." God condescends unto man through his Spirit and his love. We must not forsake our opportunity to return our love to him.

Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. we gathered together for our early morning prayer service. There were two testimonies given that had particular relevance to the Church. Brother Jay Moser gave testimony about his calling and acceptance to be an Apostle. He told of several experiences he had, one even when he was a young child, that verified the fact that he was called to be a special witness for Christ.

Sister Denise Evans gave a testimony about an experience she had about 12 years ago. She had a dream where she saw a fire, and she was told that something very dear to her would come to an end. She was also told that she would have a job to do. She never understood the dream until the Church burned. Sister Denise then knew this was the fire in

her dream and that she had a job to do. She and her husband felt inspired to draw up plans for the new church building shortly after the fire. These plans greatly aided the Bishops in their meetings with the city.

Tuesday evening the services began with the ordination of Brother Jay Moser to be an apostle. After the ordination the congregation gave our Brother the hand (hug) of fellowship along with their blessings assurances that they would remember he and his family in their prayers.

After the ordination, we were blessed to hear Elder LeVern Lussenden preach. He began his sermon by singing the song "Jesus -- There's Just Something About That Name." The song reminds us about the power in the name of Jesus. His name can calm a storm, raise the dead, turn hate into love and bitterness into forgiveness.

After the song Brother Lussenden took us through the scriptures reading about Jesus' life, teachings, death, resurrection, and eventual return. He recalled how Jesus was despised and rejected of men. Christ came to the people of the land and touched their little ones and healed their sick. He has all power in heaven and earth. We must be like him; humble, full of love, a servant of others.

In closing, Brother Lussenden declared that there will be a second coming of Christ, and it is not far off. He admonished us, who are living in the last days, to be diligent, godly and holy. As Revelations says, "Behold, I come quickly." We must pray we will be found worthy.

Wednesday the 4th of April was the last day of our 1990 Conference. The services began with the morning prayer meeting. This service was filled with many prayers and testimonies. Some thoughts expressed were; don't dwell on your physical afflictions, we have a wise, loving Heavenly Father, perfect love removes all fear, pray for that love and there won't be room for fear.

That evening Apostle Marvin Ely was our speaker. He spoke to us about the greatness of God. Brother

Ely read us scriptures that tell of the glory of God. He spoke to us of Christ and how he is the light of the world. We must be like him.

He reminded us that we are living in an evil day. A day, as the Book of Mormon tells us, that the devil would rage in the hearts of men and stir up anger against that which is good. He told us about a play put on at a high

school that mocked the greatness of God. These things are common in our society and are a fulfillment of prophesy. Brother Ely emphasized that we must not let these influences affect our attitudes and spirituality. We must walk in the light and bear the fruit of the Spirit. He read to us from Ephesians 6:10. It tells us that by putting on the armor of God we

can stand in the evil day. Let each of us work on having the qualities of faith, prayer, and reading God's word. Then we will be able to be strong in the Lord and can enjoy an even greater out pouring of the Spirit at our next years Conference.

Becky Sheldon
Conference Reporter

Collins Local News

My, it sure can rain easy! The folks in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas have really had fierce rains and storms causing much flooding. Here in our area the ground is saturated to the point that you sort of "squish" when you walk across the yard and yes, it's thundering and getting ready to give us another go-round. I wish we could share this abundance of moisture with those other parts of the country that are so terribly dry.

We have held our annual business meeting and re-elected Brother Jack Martin as our pastor and Brother Bob Eddy as our assistant pastor. Also we set October 21st as the date for our Collins Rally with services to begin at 9:00 A.M. Please mark this date on your calendar and come worship with us.

A week after Conference Jim Adams was baptized into the body of Christ by Brother Hubert Yates, who also confirmed him by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, assisted by Brother Jim Yates. The following Sunday Brother Jim Adams received the hand of fellowship from his new brothers and sisters at the Collins Local. Jim and his wife, Annette and family, have recently moved to the Michigan area. Jim is presently looking for work there and I'm sure would appreciate your prayers on this behalf.

We again enjoyed Easter Sunrise Services with the Collins community at the Christian Church. A very nice crowd turned out for such an early service. Later at our own church we enjoyed a volunteer program followed by a sermon by guest

speaker, Brother Loren Bryant of Cowgill.

Other guest speakers we have been blessed to hear are Brothers Randy Sheldon and Nicholas Denham.

With spring in the air, and in between rain showers, at the end of April we organized a cook out in the back yard of the church. Everyone brought a few hot dogs and some hamburger, along with all the trimmings. Allen Kauffman and Terry Cook were our chefs and did a fine Job of getting us all fed.

In closing, here are some sermon quotes I'd like to share with you:

- We're given a choice. Salvation is not forced upon anybody.
- Don't ask God for something if you're too busy to hear His answer.
- There is a difference between joy and pleasure. Don't get the "joy" of the gospel mixed up with the "pleasure" of the world.
- If Satan could draw away and influence a third of the hosts of Heaven, is it any wonder we have trials and troubles?
- "Misery loves company." Can we rest easy because we have 'company' in our sins?

Your reporter
Czerna Kauffman

Christianity
knows
no
truth
which
is
not
the
child
of
love
and
the
parent
of
duty.

Phillips Brooks

FLINT LOCAL NEWS,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hello again from Flint!

Do you think you would be a better Christian at a different point in history? Was it easier then or now? Would you have been the ninth one in the Ark? Would you have shouted Barabas or Jesus? If you can't serve God now, you couldn't of then. The trials are the same. His promises are sure for the good and faithful servant to inherit. This is part of a sermon given by Brother Ed Toulouse wherein I was able to take a few notes on paper and memory.

The prayer list is very long here. It seems many requests for prayers are eminent, of course we are commanded to pray for one another.

Our children's Sunday School class is using their new library, checking out books. They are trying to earn their very own Bible.

On Sunday, June 3, we had a very special sacrament service. Brother Emery Pinder Sr. spoke, telling us to cry unto the Lord for all things - for each others welfare, to be kept from temptation, for the welfare of those souls who know not God. We should look unto him for all our support, Trust in him. The Holy Spirit touched us all during the season of prayer and testimony.

Following services we enjoyed a nice dinner and shower for Carol Johnson who is engaged to be married to Emery Pinder Jr. on June 23rd. Our prayers are given for them to walk together in the Lord, strengthening each other always and to keep his commandments.

May God Bless and strengthen you all.

**Your Brother in Christ,
Adam Porter**

LONE JACK LOCAL NEWS

Greetings to all!

It is a pleasure to report to you that this Church of Christ has grown to include the Lone Jack, Missouri, area. We are meeting in Brother Charles and Sister Jeanne Brantner's home for the present and have finished the lower level into a humble little chapel for all to feast upon spiritual and physical food. We're the first house, on the east side of F hwy, north of 50 hwy.

Come and worship with us in the Gospel of Christ. It is our feeling that the Lone Jack Local serves our Master in Heaven and do ask for all to keep us in your prayers. We make our presence known to all, especially the fragments of the Restoration.

We have truly been blessed thus far and do thank all who fellowship with us. We feel the power of God moving and bask in the hopeful anticipation that we may be found with sufficient oil in our lamps to light our path and draw others to the truth which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our pastor is Elder Andy Brantner (816-566-2059); our assistant pastor is Elder Charles Brantner (816-566-3272); Carol Brantner is our secretary; Jeanne Brantner is our treasurer; Joe Grandchamp is our S.S. Superintendent and Bonnie Grandchamp is our reporter.

Therefore, if you feel to come and worship with us or know of someone in the area who might, please feel free to come or call.

Come with rejoicing, for our Lord is risen and He lives, and we are alive in Him.

Praise be to God!
Amen.

**Watch next month for
another Special Issue:**

**Let's
Do
It
Together!**

It will be dedicated to the new Church Headquarters building soon to go up where the old was burned to the ground just six months ago.

The issue will include updated information on the status of the construction of the building, current financial data, and some excerpts from some very old Church periodicals (like Searchlight) relating some interesting historical perspectives based on the last time a building was erected on the grounds adjacent to the Temple Lot.

Mogollon Local News

Greetings to all who love the name of Jesus Christ.

Tis Sunday, the day before Memorial Day. We had many special people with us in Payson today. What a joy to have a full house. Andy and Debbi Brown, Ed and Sherri Brown from Bullhead City with their new baby Charlotte were there. They helped Elmer rebuild the bridge to his house and did some other road work which will benefit us all. Joel and Jenny Yates brought Sister Annette Whitehead.

We had a special surprise by Bob and Liz Willig. They brought their baby, Leslie Ann, to be blessed. It was good to see them all again, we miss them. Bob's brother Ron was there too. And lastly, our beloved Dave and Debbie Vogel, whom we've missed during her last months of pregnancy. They brought baby Hannah.

It was a good day of fellowship and as always, an appropriate sermon. Our Brother Joel spoke about life. On this day we see the beginning of life in the blessing of a baby. On the morrow, we remember life ending in times of war. In Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, we learn that, to every thing there is a season and a time, to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. We know not when our hour is up. Use your time wisely, cherish moments with your children and brethren. Visit the sick and needy. Afflictions in life are a reality, bear with them and have patience, looking forward to your day of rest. Be content with food and raiment. Be in the service of your fellow man.

If you want to be happy, do something for somebody. Do not neglect your family or your responsibilities to God with the cares of this life. Godliness, with contentment, is great gain. As I was driving to church today I grabbed a tape out of the box and I am sure it was not by chance. I don't know the name of this song, but

these are the words: If tomorrow all the things were gone, I worked for all my life I'd just start again with just my children and my wife I thank my lucky stars to be living here today.

The flag still stands for freedom and they can't take that away. And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free And I won't forget the men that died, who gave that right to me. And I'd gladly stand up next to you, and defend her still today. Because there is no doubt I love this land, God bless the U.S.A.

I am honored and privileged to know Christ and each one of you. To know a people of high standards, to be a part of rebuilding the nobility of this land. To be with those who have returned to the old path, and walk in His ways.

**God bless the needy,
Sister Kathy Cloyd**

August Ministers' Conference 1990

Make plans to come ...

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, August 15 - 17

**Independence East Local
M78 Highway & Holke Road**

Please make the time between now and then fruitful by making this conference a matter of fasting and prayer!



They're ripping, burning, and otherwise desecrating Ol' Glory. While she may be just a symbol, she nevertheless stands for much for which all Christians should be thankful. Yes, I am offended when Ol' Glory is mistreated, as I am offended when my Lord is blasphemed. Both give me freedoms unearned and responsibilities to which I thus far have failed to uphold.

It is a land of free speech, sure, but what connection our nations leaders make to "free speech" that allows a person to legally burn my flag, I will never understand. After all, does it restrict an athiest's freedom of religion not to be able to legally burn down a Christian's church? -- gh

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 (1908 Authorized Edition - Missionary)	5.00
Book of Mormon (1908 Authorized Edition - Leather)	20.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Missionary)	7.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Cloth)	18.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition - Leather)	24.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
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>Mrs. Kenneth J. Smith 2908 Claremont Independence, MO 64052</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.